



BELL TOWER NOVEMBER NEWSLETTER

First Baptist Church in Hope Valley
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The Hope Valley First Baptist Church family makes followers of Christ and worships God through prayer, fellowship, service and the study of the Holy Bible, testifying to the glory of His Name.

Pastor's Note

“Hebrew Worship” Selected Texts

Someone once asked Winston Churchill what he thought about wartime Russia. Churchill never quite understood Russia or how to predict what it might do next. After thinking a moment he said, “It is a riddle, wrapped in a mystery, inside an enigma.”

A riddle, wrapped in a mystery, inside an enigma might well describe how some Christians today describe the New Testament book of Hebrews. Dr. Robert Ross, a scholar who has spent much of his life studying Hebrews comments, “The student of this epistle must understand its uniqueness. It is like no other NT epistle, and it poses problems that are peculiar to itself. In form of construction, in style, in argument, and in relation to other books of the Bible, Hebrews stand apart.” A challenging summary from someone who knows Hebrews well.

No one is even sure who actually penned the letter. The third-century scholar Origin said it best: “But who it was that really wrote the epistle, God only knows.” Not knowing *who* wrote it means we’re also not sure *when* it was penned or *where* the author was living at the time.


But when it comes to *why* it was written, we have an answer. Near the end of the book the author says, “But I urge you, brethren, bear with this word of exhortation, for I have written to you briefly.”

Notice two things:

First, the letter is referred to as being brief. This is an interesting word about a book of thirteen chapters and over three hundred verses! But I think “briefly” implies there was more to say. You know how it goes, you’re talking about something important and it’s time to go with more left unsaid. The time flew by.

Second, notice the letter is called a “word of exhortation.” Isn’t that refreshing? What better message does the church need than a word of encouragement? Whenever you read Hebrews, begin with this purpose of the book. Realize you are reading a brief word of exhortation.

As we continue our series on public and private worship, I want to have us consider what this brief word of exhortation says about the subject.



Hebrews is, in some ways, a New Testament commentary on the Old Testament economy. This makes it one of the best books to refer to when thinking about worship in both Testaments. The author, whoever it was, was well-versed in the OT way of life, but Christ had transformed him. And this change resulted in his being able to see the Old Testament through New Testament eyes.

For our purposes, I want to limit our thoughts to just a few passages in Hebrews 9. We will consider two passages this month and touch on our final observation in the next issue.

By way of review, for the last few issues of the *Bell Tower* we have been reflecting on one of the keywords used in the New Testament for worship, the Greek word, *latreuein*. A word used in the New Testament about 21 times. And as one might guess, it comes up often in Hebrews (8:5; 9:9, 14; 10:2; 12:28; 13:10). Let's notice a couple of these verses beginning with 9:8-10.

The word translated as "worshipper" in verse 9 is *latreunonta*. The author's point is that all the sacrifices of the OT were ineffective in addressing the conscience.

You see, the OT ritual was all outward, everything is limited to the physical. It consisted of animals you could see and hear, priests you could talk to, and a temple you could walk into. Everything existed in the physical realm. And because it was all outward it couldn't address the inward condition; because it was physical it couldn't address the spiritual. It was meant to symbolize the spiritual, but many people missed that point and thought that going through the motions was all God ever wanted. Many people make the same mistake today. They conclude that as long as they go through the motions of going to church, giving some money, etc. they have worshipped God. But those practices alone are not worship.

But what the Old Testament sacrifices couldn't do, Christ's sacrifice did. And this brings us to our second passage, Hebrews 9:14. Here "serve" is the same word translated as "worshiper" in 9:9.

When Christ enters your life, you are to begin living a life of worship by having your entire life become a life of service. Christ works to cleanse your conscience, to make you "right with God." This is something only He can do. But from that point on you are to serve Him. This further confirms what we've been saying throughout this series, that worship means to serve; to serve God and to serve others.

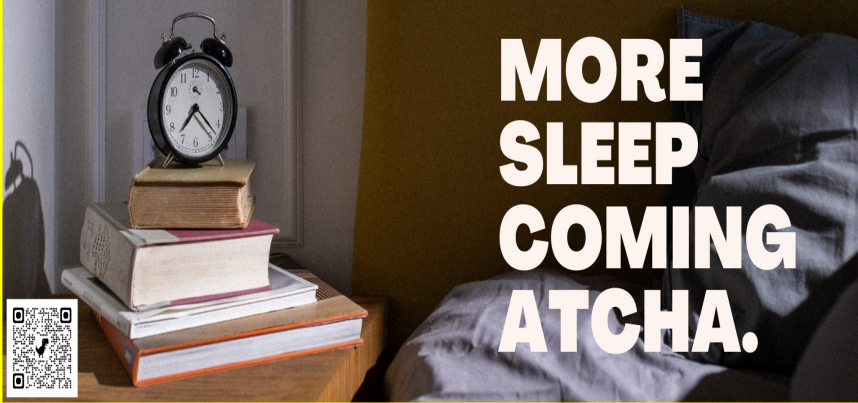
Next month we will review what we said here and we will look at one more passage in Hebrews that ties all this together. For now, let me leave you with this word of encouragement from Philippians 3:15-16, "Let us therefore, as many as are perfect, have this attitude; and if in anything you have a different attitude, God will reveal that also to you; however, let us keep living by that same standard to which we have attained."

jim



DAYLIGHT SAVING TIME

ON NOVEMBER 2, SATURDAY NIGHT, DON'T FORGET TO SET YOUR CLOCKS BACK 1 HOUR.



MORE SLEEP COMING ATCHA.



LBS - Women's Kitchen

SOUPER TAKE-OUT LUNCH HOMEMADE SOUP & FRESH-BAKED BREAD

Pick up on Sunday, November 17th, 2024
after the church service in the Fellowship Hall.

Proceeds to benefit the Missions Committee programs.

ORDER FORM

CORN CHOWDER _____ \$10.00/QT	CHICKEN NOODLE SOUP _____ \$10.00/QT
#ORDERED _____	#ORDERED _____
AMOUNT PAID \$ _____	AMOUNT PAID \$ _____
VEGETARIAN LENTIL _____ \$10.00/QT	HOME BAKED BREAD _____ \$5.00/LOAF
#ORDERED _____	#ORDERED _____
AMOUNT PAID \$ _____	AMOUNT PAID \$ _____

Name _____ Tel# _____

PLEASE GIVE THIS FORM TO GAYLE ASHWORTH OR KARIN HUTCHINSON
OR LEAVE AT THE CHURCH OFFICE BY NOVEMBER 10TH, 2024
LBS follows COVID-19 best practices on food handling and safety.

A CHRISTMAS CANTATA
ETERNAL WONDER
THE WORD REVEALED
SUNDAY
NOVEMBER 17, 2024
6:00 PM
FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH HOPE VALLEY,
1059 Main Street, Hope Valley, RI 02832
Music & Lyrics by
Paul D Mills & Pam True Szaro

Thanksgiving
Food Drive
Let's Share & Care
Join us helping community in need!
Items needed:
Stuffing Mix, Canned Vegetables,
Instant Potatoes, Cranberry Sauce,
Turkey, Apple Pie.
Drop-off location:
First Baptist Church in Hope Valley
1059 Main Street
Hope Valley, RI 02832
Other non-perishable food items are always welcome!
You can also make a check to FBHV with New Hope Food Pantry on the memo line.



BOARD MEETINGS

Tuesday — November 5, 2024

6:00 PM — Trustees

Tuesday — November 12, 2024

6:00 PM — Deacons

6:30 PM — Christian Ed.

Wednesday — November 13, 2024

10:00 AM — Nichols Board

Friday — November 15, 2024

9:00 AM — Missions

Friday — November 15, 2024

9:00 AM — LBS Women's Soup &
Bread Cooking Day

THE OFFICE IS CLOSED.


★ THANK YOU ★
veterans

NOVEMBER 11TH

NOVEMBER 28

HAPPY
Thanksgiving
DAY

THE OFFICE IS CLOSED.

November



HAPPY birthday

2 – Terry Sheldon

7 – Maria Gill

8 – Loren Andrews Jr.

21 – Rebecca Stephenson

22 – Raymond R. Bader

23 – William Ciesielczyk

23 – Richard Kenney

26 – Robert Bruce

27 – Barbara Palmer

30 – Linda Krogg



JOIN THE COOKIE CLUB

YOU CAN SIGN UP ON THE
CLIPBOARD IN THE KITCHEN
TO BRING TREATS,
EITHER HOMEMADE
OR STORE-BOUGHT,
UNTIL THE END OF
NOVEMBER.



 **DEACONS**
Ministers of Mercy

YOU CAN DROP YOUR CASH
DONATION IN THE DEACON'S BOX
BY AN ENTRANCE TO HELP
FULFILL THE MINISTRY OF
HELPING OTHERS.

FALL/WINTER CLASS

WITH PASTOR JAMES MENZIES

9:00 AM & 7:00 PM

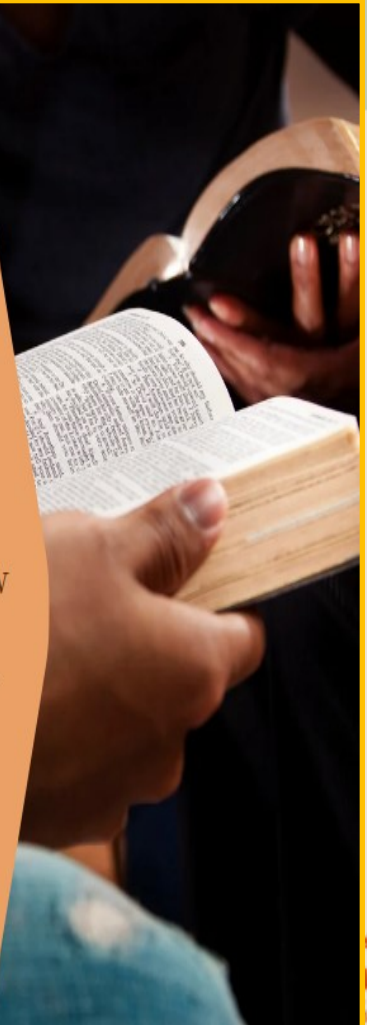
“UNITY OF THE
SCRIPTURES”

▶ INTRODUCTION AND OVERVIEW
OF THE ENTIRE BIBLE

▶ STUDY OF GOD'S GREAT WORK OF
SALVATION IN HUMAN HISTORY

No textbook is necessary,
only a bible and a notebook.

FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH IN HOPE VALLEY
1059 MAIN ST., HOPE VALLEY, RI 02832



Hanging of the Greens
SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 24
 AFTER CHURCH SERVICE.

CHRISTMAS CANTATA PRACTICE
CALLING ALL SINGERS!

WEDNESDAYS. AT 7 P.M.
SEVENTH-DAY BAPTIST CHURCH IN ASHAWAY
8 CHURCH STREET, ASHAWAY, RI 02804
CONTACT KATHY HUGHES TO JOIN.

Jan Boyer getting ready to work around the church ground.

We thank you for all you do!

SHOWING

EVERY WEDNESDAY AT 5 PM

LIGHT REFRESHMENTS WILL BE PROVIDED (WATER AND POPCORN)

One episode per week, followed by a brief discussion.

The CHOSEN SEASON 3

FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH IN HOPE VALLEY
 1059 MAIN STREET, HOPE VALLEY, RI
 401-539-7553

BIBLE STUDY ON EXODUS

You will need a Bible and a copy of the Seven Steps for Bible Study Handout and meeting schedule available in the church sanctuary.

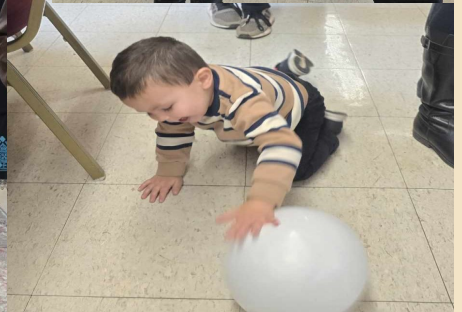
EVERY WEDNESDAY | 7:00 PM | PARLOR

JOIN NOW

FBHV.org | 1059 Main Street, Hope Valley, RI

PASTOR APPRECIATION SUNDAY

OCTOBER 20, 2024





**PASTOR APPRECIATION SUNDAY
DECORATING TEAM**



LADIES' CORNER



The ladies making necklaces and bracelets for Operation Christmas Child.

Elaine Kenney, Judy Noel and Maria Gill cranberry picking at Blue Pond Trail.



OCC PACKING PARTY

October 18, 2024



**Thank you all
for
participating!**



Children's Corner

Devotional: Being Thankful Children's Devotion on Thankfulness

How often do we forget to say, 'Thank You'? Just two little words that say so much. Imagine what it would feel like to give a present to someone, but all they did was grab it and rip the wrapping off without as much as a 'thank you'. That's how God must feel when we don't say thank you to Him. But there is so much to be thankful for if we'd only stop and look. Here are just a few ways we can say thank you to God each day:

- Each morning thank Him for the new day.
- Thank Him for the little things so often missed throughout the day.
- Thank Him for answered prayers.
- Thank Him for all He's yet to do in your life.

Thank Him for the simple fact that He loves you. Every little thing you have in your life is a blessing from God and something to be thankful for. If you take some time to think about all you have, you'll be surprised at how much there is to be thankful for—because it's not about how much you have or don't have. You may have very little worldly possessions, but still have much to be thankful for. God loves it when we have thankful hearts and will honour that. He looks at the heart, not the outward circumstances. So, give God the thanks He deserves.

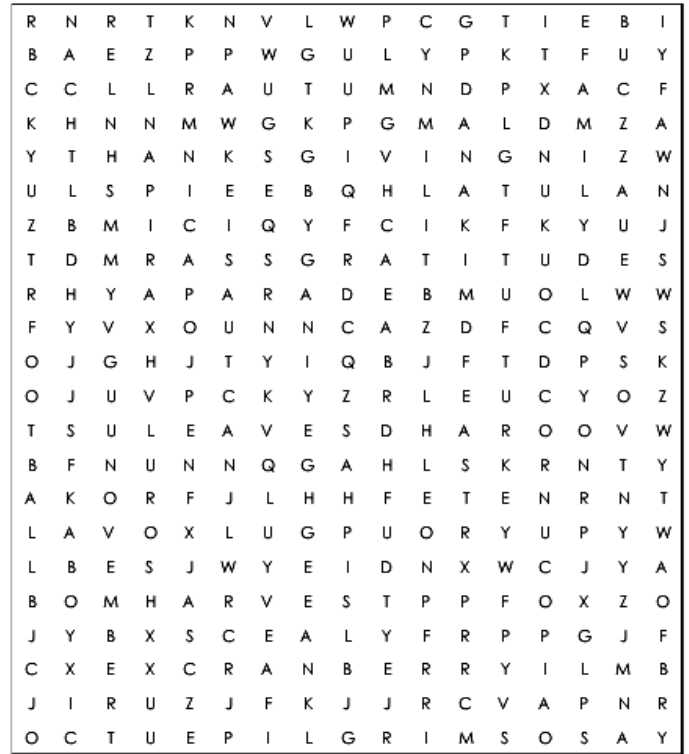
In everything give thanks; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you. - [1 Thessalonians 5:18](#) (NKJV)

*Lord, I pray I'll always have
A thankful attitude
And see your blessings every day
With a heart of gratitude*

© By M.S.Lowndes



November Word Search



- | | | |
|--------------|---------|------------|
| NOVEMBER | FAMILY | FOOTBALL |
| THANKSGIVING | HARVEST | CRANBERRY |
| TURKEY | AUTUMN | CORNUCOPIA |
| PILGRIMS | FEAST | PARADE |
| GRATITUDE | LEAVES | PIE |

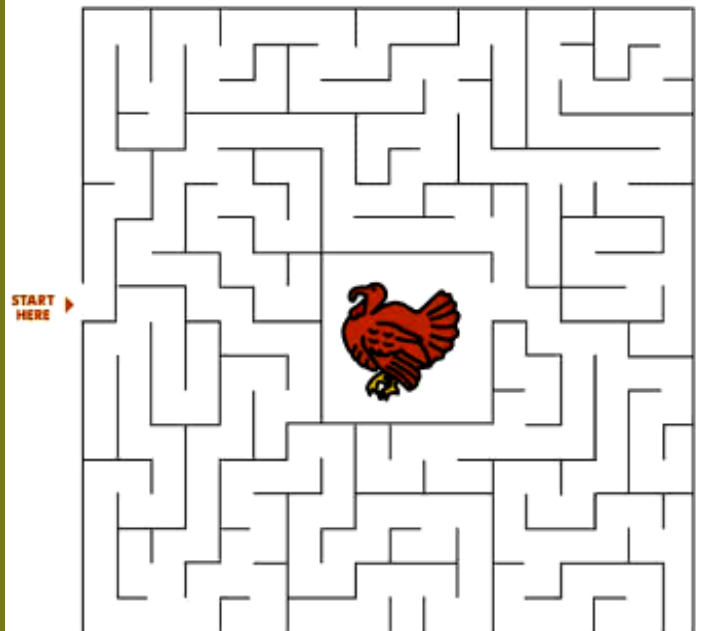


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THANKSGIVING MAZE

Find your way through the maze to reach the turkey in the center.

Happy Thanksgiving!



DOWNLOAD MORE FREE PRINTABLES AT WWW.PJSANDPRINT.COM

AUTUMN

By Elaine Kenney

So many changes the seasons bring
Cooler temperatures now as the Katydid's sing
Fall has shorter daylight hours
Bare stalks that once were flowers
Now have seed heads for our feathered friends
Differences happen as summer ends
Leaves no longer have their green hue
Turn to red, yellow, orange and purple too
A time for everything and all
Let us cherish the beauty of the fall

So many seasons also in our life
Help us deal with the stress and strife
Accept the changes that we face, and to embrace
What God provides to take their place

