



Community Presbyterian Church

November 2019

Dear Members and Friends of Community Presbyterian Church,

“I will give thanks to the Lord because of His righteousness and will sing praise to the name of the Lord Most High.”
Psalm 7:17

As the season of Thanksgiving is quickly approaching, I find myself thinking back to Thanksgivings past. The Norman Rockwell painting of a Thanksgiving dinner often comes to our minds when we remember our feasts, but I have to be honest – I recall great meals with family, yet not quite like the one portrayed in the picture. As a kid, we didn't have a formal dining room so we would set up a large folding table in the living room. Then the key was always 'timing' to try and get all the dishes to be ready at the same time – it usually didn't happen. Then there was also the problem of getting everything on the table, say the blessing and serve everyone before the food got cold – it usually didn't happen. When Debbie and I married we always wanted to spend Thanksgiving with her mom and dad and brother – mom and dad had a formal dining room! When our children came along it was a 'given' that Thanksgiving was at Nanny and Pop's (mom and dad) house. But one year it was different. Nanny and Pops decided to be in Florida at Debbie's brother's condo for Thanksgiving. This was going to be a disaster. It appeared the four of us were going to have to celebrate Thanksgiving without Nanny and Pops! Our kids were distraught – Debbie was depressed and I was nervous. But something miraculous happened....

I was just finishing up my work out in the gym at Peterson Air Force Base on the Monday before Thanksgiving. (Now let me stop here and make a comment. I will be telling this story as I remember the details and they may be off a bit, but they are pretty close.) Anyway, on the radio in the gym I heard an advertisement from United Airlines, that during the holiday, United was offering 'Thanksgiving Fares'. You could fly round trip anywhere United flew for \$50.00 per person. There were limitations – it had to be a non-stop flight out of Denver and you had to fly on Thanksgiving Day and return before Sunday. United flew non-stop from Denver to Tampa where Nanny and Pops and John were staying! I immediately called Debbie to tell her and she got on the line to United and got us four tickets. We would leave Denver at noon on Thanksgiving and return the next day. We didn't tell the children what we were doing. So Thanksgiving morning we all piled into the car along with two pies and overnight clothes (we did tell the kids we were going somewhere for Thanksgiving, but not where.) We started driving and the children had to guess where we were going. They guessed Wyoming, they guessed Northern Colorado – but when we turned toward the airport entrance, they got it! And I must say the car almost exploded with excitement. We arrived in Tampa late that afternoon and had our Thanksgiving dinner at 8:00 pm, but we were all together! We were on the ground in Florida for 18 hours and it was so worth the effort! Good memories of a Thanksgiving past. Debbie and I hope that your Thanksgiving is filled with good remembrances and much gratitude.

Grace and Peace, Bob

Community Presbyterian Church
1940 S. Penrod Lane, Pinetop, Arizona 85935
928-367-4923 — cpcpinetop.org



MONTHLY DEVOTIONS FROM OUR CHURCH FAMILY

These short devotions are a series written by those who worship at CPC. If you would like to contribute to this series please contact Pastor Bob.

DEVOTION TITLE: Traveling With God

AUTHOR: David A. Yost

VERSE: Have I not commanded you? Be strong and of good courage; be not frightened, neither be dismayed; for the Lord your God is with you wherever you go. Joshua 1:9 (RSV)

MEDITATION: My mother was an organized woman. Every step of her day was carefully planned and there were rarely surprises or interruptions to her routines. Except for her mystery trips....

Once a year, she would throw all elements of certainty out the window and join 20 of her peers on a “mystery trip.” Organized by a Mennonite travel agency, the destination of each trip was unknown to the participants until they received their boarding passes at the designated departure airport, typically Los Angeles, New York, or Miami. A few days earlier, the travelers had been given a short piece of packing advice such as “leave your sandals behind, bring your scarves,” but they otherwise knew nothing about their journey. And neither did any of their concerned children. In recent years, we would wait anxiously for an email announcing “We’re at an orphanage in Costa Rica” or “Hello from the Artic Circle.” But when these trips first started in the pre-email and cellphone era, all we could look for was a postcard from Thailand, Turkey, or some equally far-off spot that would often arrive in our mailbox about the time she landed back in Arizona.

One would think that such uncertainty would be anxiety-provoking for someone so orderly. Yet she loved the adventure and it was her children who found themselves biting their nails with worry. Where in the world was mother? What if something happens to her? Doesn’t she know how dangerous the world can be? But when we raised our concerns, her response was reassuring and simple – “Why should you worry? God is with me wherever I go.”

Whether organized intentionally, or happened upon unexpectedly, “mystery trips” dot our lives. Having the courage to trust God when facing the unknown is what allows us to grow from these experiences.

PRAYER: Lord, I trust in your
protection
as I travel. Keep me strong.
Keep me courageous. Keep me
safe.



MINISTRY OPPORTUNITIES



Cup of Joe

Thanks to all who contributed so generously to our **Cup of Joe Fund** for deployed military members! We will continue to collect contributions until **November 10th** and make our donation on Veteran's Day. For more information about this program please go to:

<https://greenbeanscoffee.com/products/cup-of-joe-for-a-joe>



Cookies for Our Service Members

Our cookie collection will also take place on **November 10th**! We would love to send cookies to any family member or friend of the congregation currently serving in the military. They do not need to be deployed to receive a box of cookies. You may send addresses for those you would like to receive cookies to rcleivers@aol.com.

Please bring your cookies to the church on Sunday (10 November) in any container that is convenient for you. On Tuesday (**November 12th**) all the cookies will be divided and packaged for our service members so that everyone gets a variety of treats. If you would like to help package the cookies meet at the church at 10:00 a.m. on November 12th.

Questions? See Debbie Leivers or email her at rcleivers@aol.com.



Hey Veterans! Grab Your Hats and Bring Them To Church.

On Sunday, November 10th, we will be remembering Veteran's Day during our service. If you are a veteran and still have your service cap, please bring it to the service as part of our remembrance of your service to our country.

THE 'ROADMAP' TO A NEW INSTALLED PASTOR

The Pastor Nominating Committee is in place and working hard!

Just as a reminder, below is the 'roadmap' to securing a new installed pastor:

February ~ May 2019 - - Spend time getting to know congregation (**Completed**)

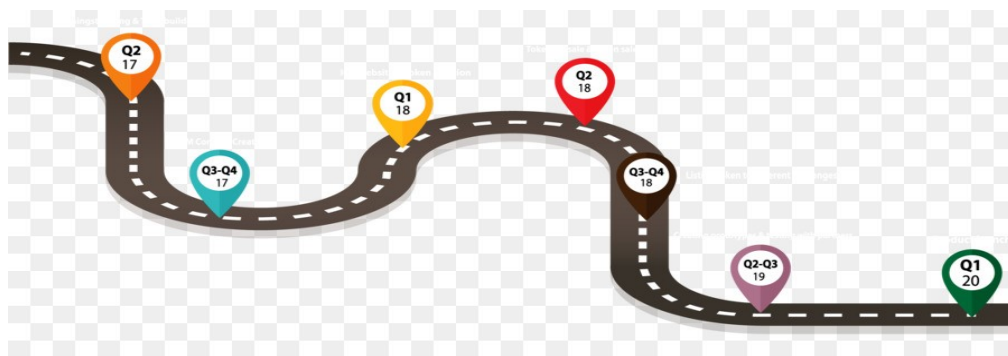
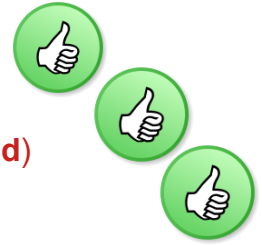
June ~ July 2019 - - Complete congregational mission study (**CHAT**) (**Completed**)

October 2019 - - Elect a Pastor Nominating Committee (PNC) (**Completed**)

October ~ November 2019 - - Complete Ministry Information Form (MIF)(resume of the church)

December 2019 - - Submit MIF for circulation

January ~ August 2020 - - Review Personal Information Forms (PIF) - Interviews - Neutral Pulpit presentation - present candidate to congregation for vote.



Did You Know That You Can Donate To The Church By Using Your IRA?

Because of changes in the tax laws there is now a tax-friendly way to contribute to qualifying charities (like a church). In general, distributions from a traditional IRA are taxable in the year you receive them. But one exception to this rule is the Qualified Charitable Distribution (QCD). A QCD generally is a nontaxable distribution made directly by the trustee of your IRA to an organization eligible to receive tax-deductible contributions. You must be at least age 70½ when the distribution is made. Also, you must have the same type of acknowledgment of your contribution as you would need to claim a deduction for a charitable contribution. (You can't claim a charitable contribution deduction for a QCD not included in your income.)

This provision of the tax code may be of interest to taxpayers who are at least age 70½ and have a traditional IRA. These individuals must take required minimum distributions from their IRA each year. Seniors in this position can now make charitable contributions while at the same time reducing their taxable income by directing the trustee of their IRA to make qualified charitable distributions (QCD), which count towards their minimum distribution.

For more information please call the church office or see IRS Publication 590-B.

The CHURCH MOUSE

Thanksgiving is such a wonderful time of the year. Here are some thoughts I'd like to share as you gather around to share a wonderful meal.

T'was the night of Thanksgiving but I just couldn't sleep.
I tried counting backwards, I tried counting sheep.

The leftovers beckoned, the dark meat and white.
But I fought the temptation, with all of my might.

Tossing and turning with anticipation.
The thought of a snack became infatuation.

So I raced to the kitchen, flung open the door,
And gazed at the fridge, full of goodies galore.

I gobbled up turkey and buttered potatoes,
Pickles and carrots, beans and tomatoes.

I felt myself swelling so plump and so round.
Until all of a sudden, I rose off the ground.

I crashed through the ceiling, floating into the sky,
With a mouthful of pudding, and a handful of pie.

But I managed to yell, as I soared past the trees
Happy eating to all, pass the cranberries, please!!

May your stuffing be tasty, May your turkey be plump.
May your potatoes and gravy, Have nary a lump.

May your yams be delicious, May your pies take the prize,
And May your Thanksgiving dinner, Stay off your thighs!

Love To You All,
Webster

Submitted on behalf of Webster

By Lynda Marble



FELLOWSHIP

Greetings, the fall season is upon us and the trees are in beautiful colors. The Greek philosopher Heraclitus once said, "The only constant is change." Autumn reminds us that our bodies, minds, and surroundings are always developing. It focuses on the impermanence of life, emphasizing how vital it is to embrace the present. By doing so, we can savor what we have before it is gone.

This summer we have seen significant growth and harmony within our Church. Fellowship has been there supporting and encouraging all.

I want to thank all who have signed up for refreshments after our services and encourage new people to help with Fellowship refreshments. When we all help a little the load is not as heavy for others. The signup sheet is at the podium at the entrance to the Fellowship Hall. If you would like to supply refreshments after worship but cannot attend please bring them to the church anytime during the week and we will place them out for you on Sunday.

Next Big Event

Mark your calendars, Sunday November 24th after service is our Thanksgiving Dinner. This year Elders will be providing Turkeys and Deacons will provide Hams. Participants are encouraged to bring side dishes to share. Sign up sheets will be posted in the Fellowship Hall so we get a good all-around meal.

Be kind and compassionate to one another, forgiving each other, just as Christ God forgave you.

Peace,
John Marble



The Bear Tree Project



It is time to prepare for the annual Bear Tree Mission that benefits the children in foster care in the White Mountains. We work in conjunction with Child Protective Services to provide gift bags for those in need.

When we receive the information need from Tammy Skelly-Morales, the CPC director, the bears will be labeled with the information for each child and placed on the east wall of the church. This will be done by Sunday, November 17, 2019 in time for our Thanksgiving Dinner.

One of us will be in the fellowship hall to register your bear (or Bears) so that we can keep track of which bears are gone and to whom. This is very important! The bears need to be back by the first week in December. Please don't wrap the gifts as they have to be checked by CPS Staff. Just put them in a nice Christmas bag and attach the bear to the handle.

If you have any questions you may contact any of the following people:

Arlene Kerr (602) 361-0910

Mary Freeman – (928) 205-8597

Thanks everyone for your generous giving to the Veteran's Food Box project!

We will be packing up the Thanksgiving food boxes for veterans in need on Wednesday, November 20th at 9:30. If you're interested in helping, join us in the Fellowship Hall.



MINISTRY NOTES

Office Remodel Payback: We hit **100%** for our pay-back on the office remodel on Sunday, 29th!! As you will remember, the floor in the offices were 'dry-rot' and had to be removed and refurbished. Funds for this project were taken out of savings and we were

paying ourselves back. Thanks so much for your support and we are VERY grateful for your generosity and the beautiful office space!

100%

100%

Updates on Website: If you haven't checked out our website (www.cpcpinetop.org) recently, please do.

You will see many updates containing different types of material. Some of the information is directed toward folks seeking a church to attend, others is information that you as a member/attender may need to know. The biggest change you will see is the addition of videos of the anthem and sermon from our Sunday services. So if you miss a Sunday and wanted to hear the message, no worries, you can watch it wherever you are!

Get It On The Calendar: If your group has an event/meeting planned at the church, please call the church office and have Tammy put it on the master calendar. Without this information, 'double-booking' could easily happen. Thanks for your help!

