



# Community Presbyterian Church

## October 2019

Dear Members and Friends of Community Presbyterian Church,

When I was young I used to think things in life were static. The impression I had was the folks who lived on your block were going to live there always. Then I realized folks move in and out of the houses – things change. When I got out of seminary and went to my first church, I thought the members who were there would always be there. Then I realized folks move to other churches – things change. So eventually, I came to realize things in life that seem static are often fluid. Two items I talked about in last month's newsletter that I thought were static, were in fact, fluid.

First, I was sure the Committee on Ministry (COM) of the Presbytery of Grand Canyon would approve our mission study and we could move to electing a Pastor Nominating Committee (PNC) on September 15<sup>th</sup>. Well what I thought was 'static' was in fact 'fluid' and the COM asked us to submit our study in a more narrative form. We did submit our study in the requested form and have been approved to elect a PNC. On Sunday, October 6<sup>th</sup> following worship, the Session has called a congregational meeting for this purpose.

Second, I had worked on planning my sermons for the Fall season ('static', I thought), but then the CHAT mission study showed a strong interest in learning more about the traditional Spiritual Practices. Thus my sermon plans suddenly became 'fluid'! So for the Fall until Advent we will be exploring Spiritual Practices. The series is entitled "**Interacting with God's Spirit**" and is based information shared in the book 'Celebration of Disciplines' by Richard Foster. Below is the listing of revised (fluid) sermon topics for October:

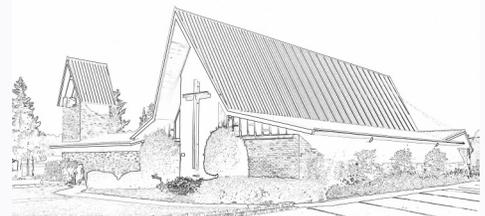
- \* October 6: **World Communion Sunday** – Corporate Practices: Celebration
- \* October 13: Corporate Practices: Worship
- \* October 20: Corporate Practices: Guidance
- 1. October 27: Yet to be determined

So what do we learned from these changes? Well, it is a good reminder to be open to the Holy Spirit's movement in our lives. God's Spirit is 'fluid', not 'static'.

Grace and Peace, Bob

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# 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:** Give Thanks for the Angels

**AUTHOR:** Debra Leivers

**VERSE:** *See that you do not despise one of these little ones; for I tell you that in heaven their angels always behold the face of my Father who is in heaven. Matthew 18:10 (RSV)*

**MEDITATION:** Our grandson, Ben, asked me one day if Nanny and Pops (my parents who are no longer living) were watching out for him in heaven. I told him that they were and he responded, "Good! Because I think sometimes my angels get really tired." His desire for some backup for his angels made perfect sense to me and if you've spent time around 4<sup>th</sup> grade boys, it might make sense to you as well.

Children were important to Jesus. Earlier in Matthew chapter 18, Jesus told the disciples whoever becomes like a child is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven and that those who welcome a child in his name welcome him. Jesus rebuked the disciples when they tried to keep the children from coming to him, telling us that we must receive the kingdom like a child (Luke 18:15-17).

Why is it so important for us to become like children? I know that Ben trusts that God and his angels (and his great-grandparents) are watching out for him. I know that Ben will respond with empathy and kindness to any injury to someone else, whether it is another hockey player on either side of the puck in a game he is in, or a refugee from a country that is no longer safe for them. I know that on a hike in the woods he will thrill to rocks and twigs, water and birds, things that I would have missed taking the same walk by myself. His prayers are concrete and to the point. And he expects them to be answered! Maybe some of these same characteristics are things Jesus knew were essential to our faith. Having spent much of my life in the company of children, I think that trust, compassion and an appreciation of the world we live in are some of the many wonderful attributes of all children. They are in so many ways fully alive.

As we try to understand what elements of the faith of a child we are called to emulate, let us also strive to be angels here on earth to those God places in our lives, both children and adults, while giving thanks for the angels who minister to us each day both in heaven and on earth.

**PRAYER:** (from Sounds of the Eternal by John Philip Newell)

For the life that was in the beginning and is now,  
thanks be to you, O God.

For the life that is now and will always be,  
thanks be to you.

For those who have gone before us and the men and women of every  
nation,

for the vitality of children and earth's life-forms still to be born,  
thanks be to you.

In this great river of life that flows behind us and before us,  
let us know that we are carried by you.

In this great river of life that flows around us and through us,

let us know that we carry you and can reverence you in all that has life.

Have  
Faith  
in  
GOD

## PW HAPPENINGS

The Presbyterian Women's Group had their final fall meeting on September 24<sup>th</sup> at which time we completed Lesson 9 of our Bible Study, God's Promise. At that meeting with all individuals present we held the drawing of the winning ticket from our quilt raffle. We are pleased to announce that Gwyn Gill was the winner of the quilt lovingly made by Chase Rawak. Presentation of that quilt took place in front of the congregation on Sunday, September 29<sup>th</sup>.

We have had many ladies join us throughout the past few months which allowed us to form wonderful friendships and gave us the opportunity to have discussions representing our various life experiences.

On September 25<sup>th</sup> we hosted an "Appreciation Luncheon" for Living Hope Center at which they thanked their volunteers and contributors for their service. At that luncheon we were able to present the various diaper and paper items that Community Presbyterian Church graciously provided. Linda Lewis and Marty Hayse devoted

much time and energy decorating, providing table settings, and then cleaning the hall following the luncheon.

The Presbyterian Women's Group here in Pinetop has embraced the national effort of the United Presbyterian Women in the United Presbyterian Church of the USA to raise funds through the annual "Thank Offering" to fund a multitude of groups and activities that assist many in need internationally. We will be inserting an envelope in an early November bulletin and trust that you will join us once again in supporting this effort.

I wish to thank the many participants who have aided us in our many fundraising activities. It has allowed us to distribute over \$6,100.00 to our missions and causes.

With a joyful heart,

Georgia Merrick, PW Moderator

## DEACON'S CORNER

Just a reminder: the **Bear Tree Project** will be starting up in November.

The Bear Tree will be up on the wall by November 17, 2019. Watch for more details later!



We will also be sorting and packing groceries for the Thanksgiving boxes at a later date.

"Each day I ask God what I can do to help someone else."

Peace, Mary Freeman

# THE 'ROADMAP' TO A NEW INSTALLED PASTOR

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**)

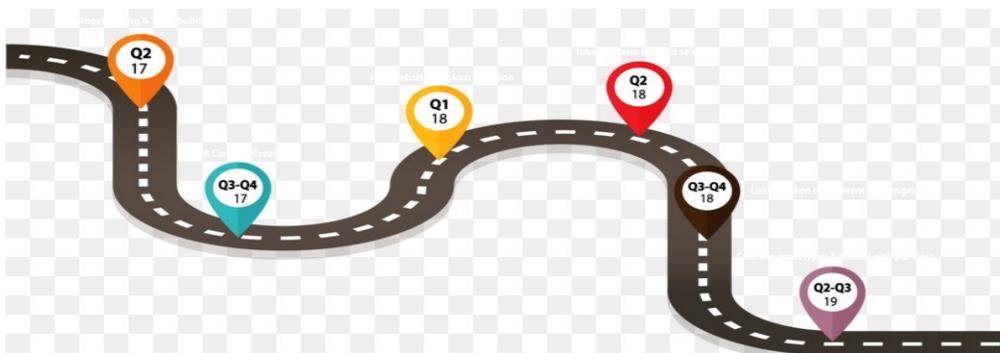


**October 2019** - - Elect a Pastor Nominating Committee (PNC)

**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.



## FOOD DRIVE FOR VETERANS

For a number of years, the deacons of the church have taken on the mission of organizing holiday food boxes for veterans in need in our community. We have been working with three organizations: the Pinetop VFW, Fishers of Men for Veterans, and Walking Down Ranch. Last year we donated 45 food boxes at Thanksgiving, and for Christmas, Tom and Liz Jernigan put together another 45.

It is time to begin the process of planning and then collecting food for this project. We typically collect a different non-perishable food item each week from September through October, as well as donations by check for the later purchase of perishable food items.



We can also use other nonperishable food items, besides those on our list. So if you're cleaning out your pantry in preparation for returning to a warmer climate, we'll be happy to make use of those items. Below is our planned schedule for collecting food.

October 6	Instant potatoes
October 13	Stuffing mix
October 20	Jello and/or instant pudding
October 27	Spaghetti and spaghetti sauce

## OFFICE REMODEL

At the time of this writing (9/26) we currently have approximately \$11,000 (83%) toward our goal of \$13,000 – with one Sunday to go! By the time you read this, it could be all paid back for the remodel. 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 are paying ourselves back. Next month we will supply a final report concerning this project. Thanks so much for your support and we are VERY grateful for your generosity and the beautiful office space!

## SPRUCING UP THE BUILDINGS

We are sure you have noticed that the flower beds/sprinkler systems have been reworked as well as all of the buildings have been painted. These two projects were possible through the generous donations of members who made these efforts their special interest. We were able to complete both projects before the bad weather settled in and we are most appreciative to the donors and the Buildings and Grounds leadership.

## THE CHURCH MOUSE

The other day I was doing some cleaning in my house (believe me a mouse house can get mighty cluttered). I found several interesting things that I had forgotten about. One thing I found was a telephone book that I have had for many years. It is entitled “Emergency Phone Numbers”. As I browsed through this book, I realized there are many times that these numbers could have helped me, but I had forgotten about them. I want to share some of these ‘Numbers’ with you. Keep them close by so you’ll have them in case of an ‘emergency’.

- When in sorrow, call John 14
- When people fail you, call Psalm 27
- If you want to be fruitful, call John 15
- When you have sinned, call Psalm 51
- When you worry, call Matthew 6:19-34
- When you are in danger, call Psalm 91
- When God seems far away, call Psalm 139
- When your faith needs stirring, call Hebrews 11
- When you are lonely and fearful, call Psalm 23
- When you grow bitter and critical, call 1 Cor. 13
- For Paul’s secret to happiness, call Col. 3:12-17
- For idea of Christianity, call 1 Cor. 5:15-19
- When you feel down and out, call Romans 8:31-39
- When you want peace and rest, call Matthew 11:25-30
- When the world seems bigger than God, call Psalm 90
- When you want Christian assurance, call Romans 8:1-30
- When you leave home for labor or travel, call Psalm 121
- When your prayers grow narrow or selfish, call Psalm 67
- When you want courage for a task, call Joshua 1
- If you are depressed, call Psalm 27
- If you find the word growing small and yourself great, call Psalm 19



I hope you will find comfort, peace and love in these ‘Emergency Phone Numbers’. Until next time – be happy, do good deeds, and keep love in your heart.

Love To You All, *Webster*