



410-289-9340

November 2025

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Next Issue
Please consider
adding content to
this newsletter.
Thank you!
Deadline November
23, 2025



November 2025



From the Pastor

Happy All Saints' Day! Happy Veterans' Day! Happy Thanksgiving! Happy New Year! (November 30-Advent begins the liturgical year in the church) Gosh, there are a lot of holidays in the month of November, some secular and some liturgical, but still..... a lot.

All Saints Day occurs on November 1, and it is the day that we remember all of our saints, both known and unknown, who have formed that great cloud of witnesses in heaven. On Veterans Day we honor living and deceased men and women who have served in any branch of the U.S. Armed Forces. When we celebrate Thanksgiving, we generally think of the Pilgrims who landed in Plymouth in 1621 and their shared meal with the Native Americans, but today it also a time when most of us gather with friends and family and share times of gratitude and blessing. Finally, Advent is the beginning of the Church's liturgical year, and we change to a new year in the Lectionary. (there are years A, B, and C). It begins the time of waiting for the Savior and spans the 4 Sundays before Christmas.

When I was a chaplain in a retirement community, we listed all the names of all residents who had passed away in the last year in the Vespers bulletin and often lit candles or rang a bell after each name. Because of the setting, there were always 12-20 names each year. It was a nice way to remember those who went to join the Church Triumphant.

My father was a Navy Veteran, and I admit that I don't pay as much attention to this holiday as I should. He never served in a war, but he was awfully proud of his service, especially as he got older. And as I get older and my father is now gone, I appreciate this day so much more.

Thanksgiving is one of my favorite holidays, and I am always in PA with my brother and his family and my now 94-year-old mother. We don't cook a big meal as we once did, but it is so much fun just being together. My 3 children and their families are also in PA at that time, so we all get together too.

I used to say that Christmas was my favorite holiday, but it is actually the time of Advent, the weeks leading up to December 25 that bring me the most joy. I love getting ready for the big day!

My wish for all of you for November is to celebrate all of the holidays, or at least mark them in some way. "I thank my God upon every remembrance of you, Always in every prayer of mine for you all making request with joy, For your fellowship in the gospel from the first day until now; Being confident of this very thing, that he which hath begun a good work in you will perform it until the day of Jesus Christ." Philippians 1: 3-6- King James Version

Pastor Debbie

Blessing Box

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We have a new addition to the neighborhood and a first for the Ocean City area. Behind the church near the parking lot is a wooden structure, designed by a local boy scout for his Eagle Project. It is a Blessing Box and is for the people in our community who have food insecurity, whether they be homeless or of low income.

The Deacons have taken over this wonderful project and will be continuing to make sure that there are non-perishable foods supplied in the box. If you know of someone who could benefit from our new project please pass on this information. While grocery shopping, if you feel lead please buy a few extra non-perishables and leave them in fellowship hall. The Deacons will make sure that the box is well supplied.

If you are artistic and would like to decorate the box and letter it, that would be most appreciated. Please consult a deacon for approval.



30+ BEST *Family Game Night* Games

WHAT:.....Game night

WHEN:.....Tuesday November 4th 6:30 p.m.

WHERE:.....Home of Mabel Rogers

11238 Adkins Road Berlin, MD

410-641-5883 (h) 410-430-1909

WHY:.....We enjoy playing games and each other's company

Women of Worship (WOW)

The next WOW meeting will be Tuesday, November 18, at 11:00am. The bible study, led by Jackie Bates, will be "Jesus is Tested", Luke 4:1-13, as we continue our study on resilience and how it helps us survive difficult challenges. Jesus was tested, and so are we. His wilderness experience shows us that when our lives are dangerous and frightening, we are not alone. Please consider joining the WOW ladies, and feel free to bring a lunch for fellowship after the meeting. [Betsy & Nancy, co-chairs]

The Grace Parker Breakfast will be held on Wed. morning Nov. 5 in the church fellowship hall. The hours, costs, and food choices will be the same as last year. Please come and join us in fellowship and have a hearty breakfast-you won't go home hungry! Help is always needed in the kitchen, waiting tables, setting up and cleaning up! See Chris Greenwood to volunteer.



Please don't forget our 3rd Sunday collection for Samaritan Shelter!

We will be collecting household supplies on Sunday, November 16th to take to Samaritan Shelter in Pocomoke City. This has been a monthly activity of our church for quite some time. Household items such as dish soap, laundry soap, bath tissue, paper towels, zip loc bags, aluminum foil, etc. Anything that you need to maintain a household will be welcome. So please remember this when you are grocery shopping. Nancy and Rich Wright will be taking the items to Pocomoke to the Samaritan Shelter.. Thank you Nancy and Rich!

Happy Thanksgiving, Everyone!

Page 3

Thanksgiving began with a 1621 harvest feast shared by Plymouth colonists and the Wampanoag people, but it wasn't a national holiday until President Abraham Lincoln proclaimed it as one in 1863. Before 1863, individual colonies and states held their own thanksgiving days for various reasons, and it wasn't until 1941 that Congress passed a law officially establishing it as the fourth Thursday in November.



WHAT..... Church Family Thanksgiving Covered Dish Dinner

WHEN.....November 9th....After Worship Service

WHERE.....Fellowship Hall

WHY.....It's an annual event and we enjoy the sharing of fellowship and good food

Sign up sheet will be available Sunday, the 26th of October

First Presbyterian of OC Is Hosting the Community Thanksgiving Service!

On Sunday, November 23 come and join the community for an ecumenical Thanksgiving service to be held at our church beginning at **6 PM**. Several local pastors will be participating in this service. Cookies and beverages will be served following the service to give community folks an opportunity for fellowship.

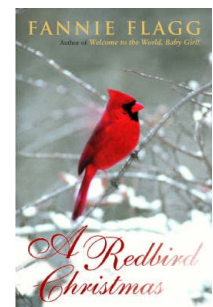
What is the meaning of Christ the King Sunday?

Each year on the Sunday before Advent begins, we in the church celebrate the liturgical day known as Christ the King Sunday. This year we will mark that day on November 23.

What is it exactly? Christ the King Sunday celebrates Jesus Christ's spiritual kingship and dominion over all creation. It was instituted by Pope Pius XI in 1925 to counter growing secularism and remind believers of their ultimate allegiance to Christ rather than to earthly powers. The feast is celebrated on the last Sunday of the liturgical year before Advent, emphasizing that Christ's reign is both a present reality in the lives of believers and a future hope for the ultimate culmination of his kingdom.

Book Club December 16, 2025 at 12N Bring bagged lunch!

Our next book club read will be *A Redbird Christmas* by Fannie Flagg on December 16, 2025 at 12N. Oswald T. Campbell, aged 52, down-and-out in a Chicago winter, is given only months to live unless he moves South...He finds himself in the small-town of Lost River, Alabama, where the residents are friendly if feud-prone and eccentric to a fault.



MEMBER OF THE MONTH

Beth Fisher:

By Dawn Butler



I truly enjoyed interviewing Beth for our newsletter this month. She has a fascinating story to tell. Thank you Beth for allowing me to interview you!

Beth told me she grew up in the church as she attended with her parents. As a teenager she lost interest, and many years passed when she didn't attend church at all. Her daughter, Stephanie, who was her only child, passed away on April 23, 2020. She was completely devastated and realized she needed to get closer to God. She returned to First Presbyterian in September 2020. She met Pastor Dan for the first time at her daughter's funeral.

Beth grew up right here in Ocean City and had a wonderful childhood back then. She told me OC was a much better place for a child to grow up. Her and her friends would ride their bikes over the 50 bridge to spend the day. Beth told me her Mom taught Sunday School and her Dad was an Elder. Additionally, when First Presbyterian moved to its present location in the 1960's and purchased

their first set of chimes, her Dad built a wooden box to house them.

Beth's favorite Bible verse is; Revelation 21:4 "He will wipe every tear from their eyes, and death shall be no more, neither shall there be mourning, nor crying, nor pain anymore, for the former things have passed away."

Beth's hobbies and interests are beadwork and jewelry design, just for fun. Also, she's a member of the Ocean City Jeep Club group which participates in several charity events for the community. Beth shared with me she has a doll collection because she's still a kid at heart. One doll in her collection is very special to her; it is an American Girl doll that resembles her daughter, Stephanie. This particular doll is a unique and beautiful way to memorialize her daughter.



She is currently a deacon and attends WOW meetings when she's not working. Beth told me the thing she loves the most about our church is the many friendships she's acquired since returning to it. At first she felt like a prodigal but she was so warmly welcomed and accepted just as she is. Her favorite hymn to sing at our church is "They Will Know We Are Christians By Our Love."

When I asked Beth if she had any pets she quickly replied, "Oh yes!" Turns out she has four cats, 8 birds, most of which belonged to her daughter Stephanie.

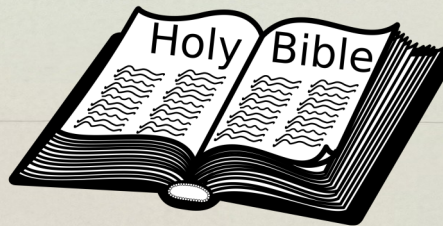
Finally, Beth told me she works at the Ocean City Golf Club where she helps to keep the golf course looking pretty. She loves her job so much that it never feels like work.



"They'll Know We Are Christians by Our Love" is a well-known Christian hymn written by Fr. Peter Scholtes in the 1960s. The central message is taken from John 13:35, where Jesus says:

"By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another."

The hymn emphasizes unity, love, and service as the marks of Christian community. Here's a commonly sung version of the **first verse and chorus:**



Verse 1:

We are one in the Spirit, we are one in the Lord
We are one in the Spirit, we are one in the Lord
And we pray that all unity may one day be
restored

Chorus:

And they'll know we are Christians by our love,
by our love
Yes, they'll know we are Christians by our love

Lunch Bunch Do you enjoy having lunch with friends? If so, plan on joining the Lunch Bunch on Tuesday, December 2, 2025 at the Taphouse on the corner of Rt. 50 and Keyser Point Rd. at 12Noon. (They do not open til 12)

Jan Phillips will be making the reservations. So give Jan a call at 410-600-5631 and plan on being there. Bring a friend and join the lunch bunch on December 2, 2025 at 12N. All Welcome- men also!

Prayer Alert

Don't ever forget it is a wonderful privilege the Lord has given us, to lift anyone in prayer in the Name of Jesus, Who is the GREAT Physician. Praise His Holy name!

Our Lord wants to hear from us daily, remember our prayer list as you pray daily! If you have a prayer request (no prayer is too big or too small for our Lord and King) please contact Pastor Debbie at 843-568-6480 or email djh3675@gmail.com



Blessings, Pastor Deb and Beth

This month I want to share the story of how I became a member of First Presbyterian Church of Ocean City, Maryland....

In 2019, OC Buddy and I were living in downtown Ocean City on 10th Street. My precious Mama passed away in 2018 and we were all alone.

We loved our new apartment on the second floor with a huge porch overlooking downtown OC. Buddy loved to sit on my chaise lounge while keeping watch over the city.

One morning on our walk, OC Buddy and I heard what sounded like church chimes (something that has always filled my heart with joy). We decided to "follow the music" until we discovered where it was coming from. We began on 10th Street and proceeded down the back alley as we followed the melody of the chimes. Finally, as we approached 13th Street we saw a large brick church on the corner. The chimes were even more beautiful the closer we walked.

As OC Buddy and I approached the church door to enter First Presbyterian, we found it unlocked. As we entered the hallway, I could hear voices coming from the pastor's office. I introduced myself and OC Buddy to Pastor Dan and he offered us a seat. Then he asked, "What is it I can do for you today?" I started rambling and crying as I recounted the horrors of my past two years. He offered to pray with me and told us about the church services and activities available. Pastor Dan also graciously told me I could bring Buddy to church anytime I feel I needed his presence and assistance. I believe God used OC Buddy to lead me to First Presbyterian Church that morning.



After my meeting with Pastor Dan, I began to attend First Presbyterian sporadically until one day God got my undivided attention. I was still selfishly doing my own thing. I realized the longer I disobeyed God's calling on my life, the longer I would be tossed to and fro in my daily life. I knew God was telling me to start going to church weekly, not sporadically, and so I began attending church on a regular basis. I have met so many new, dear friends at First Presbyterian and I now serve as a Deacon for the church body.

God patiently waited for me to come to terms with His calling on my life. He began to reveal to me the reason I survived death 8 years ago and the plans He has for my life. I am forever grateful that God is a God of second chances.

God Is Good,
Dawn Eve Butler

Have You Ever Thought About Learning to Ring Handbells?

Did you know that it wasn't until the 20th century that handbells gained traction in churches, schools, and other organizations, largely due to the efforts of a woman named Margaret Shurcliff and the American Guild of English Handbell Ringers (AGEHR)? Ringing is lots of fun and we have a great group of ringers here at First Presbyterian.

And, the First Presby Ringers could really use 1 or 2 more ringers. We practice at 5pm on Wednesday evenings at 5PM. Knowing how to read music does help, but it isn't absolutely necessary. We are a fun group of ringers that practice for 45 minutes each Wednesday, 5-545pm. If you would like to learn to play and join our group, please talk to Barbara or Betsy Kipila at church -- or call/send an email. Both Men and Women are welcome and needed!





November 2025

Sun

Mon




Tue

Wed

Thu

Fri

Sat

						1
2 Worship 10:30AM	3	4 Game Night 6:30PM Rogers Residence	5 Grace Parker Breakfast 7-11 Choir 6P<	6	7	8
9 Worship 10:30AM Covered Dish following wor- ship	10	11	12 Handbell Choir 5P< Choir 6P<	13	14	15 Olive Hanes BD
16 Worship 10:30AM	17	18 Pete and Olive Anniversary WOW 11AM Session 1PM	19 Jan and Bill Anniversary Handbell Choir 5P< Choir 6P<	20	21 Pete Hanes BD	22
23 Worship 10:30AM Community Thanksgiving Service 6:30PM	24	25	26	27 	28	29
30 Worship 10:30AM						

New Bible Study to Continue in November

Pastor Debbie will be continuing a new Bible study for most of this month using the book by Luci Swindoll titled “Celebrating Life! Catching the Thieves That Steal Your Joy.” Let’s start a Season of joy in this community of faith! The current WOW curriculum is about resilience and joy. We have every reason to be joyful!

New Advent Bible Study

With the coming of Advent comes a new Advent Bible study titled, “Blessings of the Manger” in which we will take a look at the Lectionary Bible texts for each Sunday of Advent and Christmas Eve. Come and join us as we look forward to the coming of our Lord and Savior.

UPCOMING REVISED COMMON LECTIONARY TEXTS FOR NOVEMBER

Revised Common Lectionary Readings for Sunday, November 2, 2025, 21st Sunday after Pentecost (Year C) · First Reading Isaiah 1: 10-18 · Psalm 32: 1-7 · Second Reading 2 Thessalonians 1:1-4, 11-12 · Gospel Luke 19:1-10

Revised Common Lectionary Readings for Sunday, November 9, 2025, 22nd Sunday after Pentecost (Year C) · First Reading Job 19: 23-27a · Psalm 17: 1-9 · · Second Reading 2 Thessalonians 2:1-5, 13-17 · Gospel Luke 20:27-38

Revised Common Lectionary Readings for Sunday, November 16, 2025, 23rd Sunday after Pentecost (Year C) · First Reading Malachi 4: 1-2a · Psalm 98 · Second Reading 2 Thessalonians 3:6-13 · Gospel Luke 21:5-19

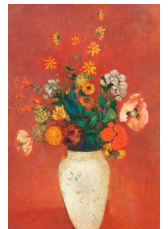
Revised Common Lectionary Readings for Sunday, November 23, 2025, Christ the King (Reign of Christ) Sunday (Year C) · First Reading Jeremiah 23:1-6 · Psalm 46 · Second Reading Colossians 1:11-20 · Gospel Luke 23:33-43

Revised Common Lectionary Readings for Sunday, November 30, 2025, the First Sunday of Advent (Year A) · First Reading Isaiah 2:1-5 · Psalm 122 · Second Reading Romans 13:11-14 · Gospel Matthew 24:36-44ans 2:1-5, 13-17 · Gospel Luke 20:27-38

Sanctuary flowers are available for dedication in honor or in memory of a loved one. Contact Marty with any questions. 410-213-1592

Chancel vase \$30.00 each Basket \$40.00 Bud vase (3 roses) \$24.50

Chancel vases open for dedications November 2-2 (two), November 9-1 (one), November 16-1 (one), November 23-2(two).



The first Sunday in Advent is November 30, 2025. Following is the schedule for Advent flowers:



November 30	2 large red poinsettias
December 7	2 large red and white poinsettias
December 14	2 large white poinsettias
December 21	Individual poinsettias (6" pots to be taken home Christmas Eve)
December 28	Remaining poinsettias

Prices for poinsettias will be posted as soon as they are available from the florist.

First Sunday of Advent is November 30—This is the start of our “new year” in the church.

What Is the Meaning of Advent? by Rick Hamlin for Guideposts

For the longest time I figured Advent meant “to wait.” Waiting for Christmas to happen, waiting (as a kid) for Santa Claus, waiting for the Christmas tree to go up, waiting for all those presents I hoped to get (and hoping I wasn’t too greedy). Was this the true meaning of Advent?

The Meaning of “Advent”

The root of the word Advent isn’t “to wait,” it’s “to come.” And doesn’t that make more sense, not just from a logistics standpoint but from a spiritual one?

What is Advent? Advent is the celebration of the coming of Christ. Whether you open windows on an Advent calendar or light candles every evening or look at the Christmas decorations going up around town—unspeakably early it seems to me—you’re celebrating the upcoming arrival of a huge holiday.

When is Advent?

Advent officially starts the Sunday after St. Andrew’s Day or, better put, the first of the four Sundays before Christmas (not counting Christmas). That puts it Sunday, November 30, 2025, giving us time to pray, look at Scripture, sing, set up our creche, all those things you do to honor the season.

Why Celebrate Advent?

‘Tis the season, indeed, to be jolly. Why? Because we’re looking at not just one coming, one that’s already happened, but another that we wait for with great anticipation and joy, the Second Coming.

God stepped down and came to the earth in the form of Jesus, the very Son of God, born to a humble couple from Nazareth, in even humbler circumstances—as the gospel writer Luke showed us—in a stable with a manger for a bed.

We don’t have to wonder if it’s going to happen because we know it happened already from the accounts we’ve read. Like celebrating your birthday—it’s the Lord’s birthday. You know it’s coming, that red-letter day marked in the calendar, and you’re filled with anticipation of its arrival.

As for Christ’s return and the coming of the kingdom of God, there’s no human certainty of exactly when that’s to happen, only gleaning it from the prophecies in Scripture, and what we do here on earth to further that coming. The sharing of God’s love through warmth, kindness, generosity and service.

The very uncertainty of exactly “when” strikes me as a gift. You read Paul’s letters and can tell he thought it would happen any moment, and it led to his commitment and devotion and witness. Can we not follow his model? “O come, o come, Emmanuel,” we sing at Advent, all our yearning for that good news. And because Christ did come, our yearning is not empty or vain. It bubbles along with the joy of the season. See that star in someone’s front yard, shining in the darkness. A reminder of the star that did come, guiding the wise men to the Christ Child.

This is the true meaning of Advent. Christmas is coming. And every decorative reminder out there can speak to our hearts, giving cause for hope and joy.

October 19, 2025

The session wanted to celebrate Pastor's Appreciation Month with a small gift and a cake. Much to our surprise, it was also the pastor's birthday! Happy Birthday, Pastor Debbie! We do appreciate you, most of the time! When we don't, it is because you are doing your job as an interim pastor and I doubt if we would like it from anyone's instructions.

A quote from a recent email from Pastor Debbie:

He has told you, O mortal, what is good, and what does the Lord require of you but to do justice and to love kindness and to walk humbly with your God? Micah 6: 8

