

# First Things First

November 2020

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It is funny, but every year, in my recent memory, the church's tradition of celebrating All Saint's Day does not just get under my skin, but also into my heart.

I begin to sing (to myself) the hymn, "For All the Saints" pretty regularly. I sing in gratitude. I can still recall when I first really "heard" the power of this hymn. It was on the first Sunday in November of 1990 when the roll call of the recently deceased was read during a pause between verses 3 and 4. That moment remains deeply embedded in my memory- a moment when God's gift of forgiveness became real and I caught a glimpse of the welcome all the faithful receive when they enter into God's glory.

What continues to catch my attention in that hymn is the phrase "From earth's wide bounds, from ocean's farthest coast, through gates of pearl streams in the countless host". It is a lush image. In fact, it is a way to honor our dead brothers and sisters and their faithfulness to the mission of Jesus Christ through this particular expression of Christ's body here at First Presbyterian of Waukesha. They, during a distinct point in our history, were the ones who invested their time, talent and treasures into this church. They were the ones who pledged their support to keep this church's doors open so that newer members could be welcomed, could grow deeper in their faith and discover where their gifts and the world's great need rhyme in service to our Lord.

On All Saint's Day, we celebrate the fact that we are joined to those who have gone before us in this fellowship divine. In fact, in many ways, we owe them.

They were the ones who welcomed us, who made it possible for us to be here. We owe it to these saints of ours to keep witnessing to the transforming power of Christ in our lives as we bring the deliberate, gracious and gentle forcefulness of Christ into the world. This year we will honor: Edna Churchill and Rosemary Duwel and others. Truly, I am thankful for these saints who have gone before us.

Peace, Pastor Glen

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# November Calendar

## NOVEMBER 1

2:00 AM Daylight Saving Time Ends\*  
10:00 AM Worship  
All Saints' Sunday  
Communion Sunday  
Reception of New Members

## NOVEMBER 2

6:00 PM Session Meeting

## NOVEMBER 8

10:00 AM Worship  
Sanctuary  
11:00 AM Annual Congregational Meeting\*  
Sanctuary

## NOVEMBER 11 (Veterans Day)

6:30 PM Deacons' Meeting  
Oak Room

## NOVEMBER 12 (Zoom Meeting)

4:00 PM Presbytery Meeting

## NOVEMBER 15

10:00 AM Worship  
Sanctuary

## NOVEMBER 18

8:00 AM Men's Breakfast  
Dady-Oh's

## NOVEMBER 22

10:00 AM Worship  
Christ the King Sunday  
11:00 AM Hangin' of the Greenery  
Sanctuary

## NOVEMBER 26 (Thanksgiving)

Office Closed



## NOVEMBER 29

10:00 AM Worship  
Sanctuary

\*see article

## Looking Ahead

## DECEMBER 24

7:00 PM Christmas Eve Service\*

## DECEMBER 25

Christmas  
No Worship at First Presbyterian

## November Birthdays



11/01 Dennis Balzer  
11/02 Charlotte Smith  
11/10 Lois Jacobson  
11/19 Dean Larson  
11/21 Andrew Byschenk  
11/23 Paul Vrakas  
11/25 Duane Jacobson  
11/27 Zaine Radcliff

Please note office hours are  
Monday through Thursday,  
8:30 AM to 1:00 PM.  
Office will be closed  
November 26

## Daylight Saving Time Ends!



Daylight saving time ends on **Sunday, November 1, 2020** at 2:00 AM. Don't forget to set your clocks back 1 hour before you go to sleep Saturday!

# Christ Church Mitten Tree

The Mitten Tree goes up on November 1!  
and will stay up until the first Sunday in Advent.  
This year, items needed include:

- Reading books
- Stuffed animals
- Toys
- Crafts
- Crayons and coloring books
- Winter accessories (hats, mittens, scarves, boots)
- Board games



Items should be appropriate for children between the ages of 1 and 12.

Cash donations can also be made, which will be used to purchase items as needed. Please note on your check or envelope that the donation is for **The Christmas Toy Store**.

## Hebron House of Hospitality Gala

Mark your calendars for **Hebron Housing Services' Annual Gala on Saturday, November 7.**

This annual event celebrates our community support and raises much-needed funds towards our mission of ending homelessness in Waukesha County.

For information about sponsorships or gifts, please email [gala@hebronhouse.org](mailto:gala@hebronhouse.org) or contact us at 262-549-8720

\*Because of COVID-19, our annual gala will be a virtual event this year, and we are producing a wonderful program and online auction for everyone to participate.



## Annual Meeting

We will have our **Annual Meeting of the Congregation** on **Sunday, November 8** after service in the Sanctuary, for the purpose of electing officers, receiving committee reports and the 2021 budget, and for reviewing and voting regarding the acceptance of the minutes of congregational meetings which have occurred since the last annual meeting. Please plan on being present to voice your vote.

## Presbytery Meeting

**Thursday, November 12, 2020**

\*Via Zoom Meeting

Go to: <https://www.pbymilwaukee.org> for details.



## Annual HOPE CENTER

*Denim and Diamonds*

**Thanksgiving Dinner & Auction**

**Thursday, November 19, 2020**

**5:00 PM - 9:30PM**

Brookfield Conference Center  
325 South Moorland Road  
Brookfield, WI 53005

Attire: Your favorite denim and best bling!

RSVP Today!

(262) 549-8726 or

online: <https://hopecenterwi.org/event/denim-diamonds-hope-thanksgiving-dinner-auction/>  
Donations welcomed.

# The Session at Work

## Session Recap

In October the Session discussed the outcome of the Congregational meeting on October 4th. Russ Volmar and Jen Van Essen nominated Judie Berthelson to serve on the Endowment Committee. She was unanimously elected. We also discussed the upcoming Meeting of the Congregation on November 8th to present Annual Reports and elect Officers for 2021. The Session will need to pass a budget ahead of that meeting.

We continue to discern the future of the congregation. Because of the increase in COVID-19 cases, additional scouting activities continue to be on hold.

The church was able to resume celebration of the Lord's Supper. In order to maintain social distancing, it was decided that future Communion services would proceed from front to back. Two of the confirmands from the class earlier this year will be accepted into membership on November 1st. As a gentle reminder, while the words for the hymns are projected on the screen, we ask that members not sing along.

The church continues to be well maintained. The masonry repairs are now complete. The Session approved the repairs for the gutters. While caulking could have been done, it was decided that soldering was a better option. An outside group requested permission to use the sanctuary, but we decided it was not a good idea.



## Advent is Coming!

### Hangin' of the Greenery

**Sunday, November 22**

Stick around after worship for a fun couple of hours decorating the church for the season of Advent. We'll gather together just after **11:00 AM on Sunday, November 22.**

### Christmas Eve Service

**Tuesday, December 24**

Details to be determined and will be provided when available.

**Christmas Poinsettia and Giving Catalog orders are due Monday, November 30.** Please see the attached order form for more details. All ordered poinsettias can be taken home after the Christmas Eve service. Please contact Therese in the office if you have any questions.

## Christmas Eve Readers

As part of our Christmas Eve service of lessons and carols on **Thursday, December 24 at 7:00 P.M.**, we are looking for several volunteers. If you would be willing to read one of the lessons, **please contact David Schultz via email: david@theschultzfamily.us or cell: (262)441-6109 by December 7** so he can get you your reading. Thank you!

Have something for the **combined December 2020/January 2021 newsletter?** Please send it to:

presby1@sbcglobal.net

or drop it in Therese's mailbox by **Tuesday, November 17** to have it included. Any items received after the 17th will be included in the February newsletter.

This is the *Day*  
that the Lord has made,  
let us *Rejoice*  
and be glad in it.  
*Psalm 118:24*



**Psalms 95:1,2,6**

**O come, let us sing unto the LORD: let us make a joyful noise to the rock of our salvation.**

**Let us come before his presence with thanksgiving, and make a joyful noise unto him with psalms.**

**O come, let us worship and bow down: let us kneel before the LORD our maker.**



## **Advent Devotionals and More...**

A team from our Presbytery of Milwaukee has put together a weekly Advent faith formation series- think way beyond Sunday School. The theme of the series is Witness to: Hope, Peace, Joy, and Love. It is based on both the traditional Advent candle themes and the Matthew 25 initiative. It also utilizes the RSL passages.

What's included each week:

-A video intro/devotion for the week with Scripture, reflection, prayer, and challenge. (We've intentionally made the weekly challenge not that challenging ☐, it's a simple invitation to reflect and respond.)

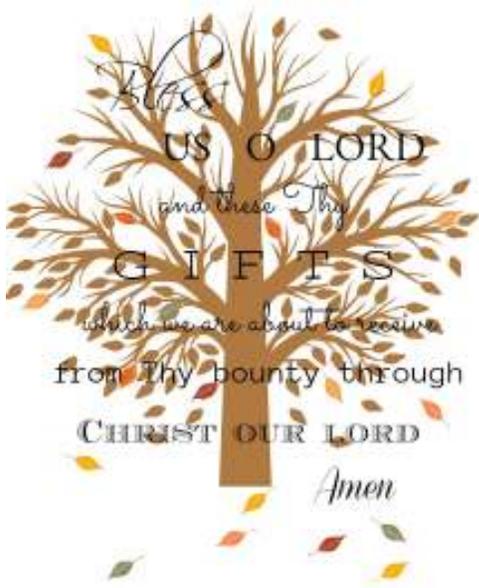
-Then there are opportunities for what we're calling "deeper dives" which include activities for children, families, youth and adults either individually or in small groups. For example: each week there is a children's book which we'll provide a video reading for and questions parents and children can discuss. There is also a weekly Godly play activity inviting children to "play into" the Biblical story of the week. For adults there is Bible study and Matthew 25 studies. And more!

We will be using Constant Contact to create an interactive weekly Advent page with links to all the materials and resources, which can be emailed to members to pick and choose as they like and do when they like.

We'll also have a special Advent page on the Presbytery website where you'll find all the resources and video links. This is free, and you are welcome to use it wholesale or pick components you want to use or adapt for your members. We hope to have the first week available to you by mid-November and the rest by the end of November. Info will be provided in upcoming bulletins as soon as it is available.

As an alternative, there will be Advent Devotionals booklets, **"Our Hope and Expectations: Devotions for Advent and Christmas 2020-2021"** available. As soon as we receive them, they'll be on the entry table.





## Thanksgiving

*Let us give thanks to God above,  
Thanks for expressions of His love,  
Seen in the book of nature, grand  
Taught by His love on every hand.*

*Let us be thankful in our hearts,  
Thankful for all the truth imparts,  
For the religion of our Lord,  
All that is taught us in His word.*

*Let us be thankful for a land,  
That will for such religion stand;  
One that protects it by the law,  
One that before it stands in awe.*

*Thankful for all things let us be,  
Though there be woes and misery;  
Lessons they bring us for our good,  
Later 'twill all be understood.*

*Thankful for peace o'er land and sea,  
Thankful for signs of liberty,  
Thankful for homes, for life and health,  
Pleasure and plenty, fame and wealth.*

*Thankful for friends and loved ones too,  
Thankful for all things, good and true,  
Thankful for harvest in the fall,  
Thankful to Him who gave it all.*

*~ Lizella Augusta Jenkins Moorer*



## Prayer of Thanksgiving

For mother love and father care,  
For brothers strong and sisters fair,  
For love at home and here each day,  
For guidance lest we go astray,  
Father in Heaven, we thank Thee.

For each new morning with its light,  
For rest and shelter of the night,  
For health and food, for love and friends,  
For everything Thy goodness sends.

For flowers that bloom about our feet;  
For tender grass, so fresh, so sweet;  
For song of bird, and hum of bee;  
For all things fair we hear or see,  
Father in Heaven, we thank Thee!

For blue of stream and blue of sky,  
For pleasant shade of branches high,  
For fragrant air and cooling breeze,  
For beauty of the blooming trees,  
Father in Heaven, we thank Thee.

*~ Ralph Waldo Emerson*