

*First Presbyterian Church  
South Charleston, West Virginia*

*November 2024*

"Everyday...is the day the Lord has made— Rejoice! and be glad in it!"



## **A Note from Your Pastor:**

I think about all that we have to be thankful for, and I feel that we are extremely blessed. Our church has the friendliest attributes of any church that I have visited. We naturally embrace all people who come to worship, and that is a blessing that we give to our community, as well. When we say, 'everyone is welcome', we put those words into practice. Embrace all people, and then invite all people to join with us each Sunday morning.

Coming up in November we have several special worship Sundays. On November 3<sup>rd</sup> we will celebrate All Saint's Day, where we celebrate all of the saints that have gone before us. We have Christ the King Sunday on November 24<sup>th</sup> which is the last day of our liturgical year. Advent is almost upon us!

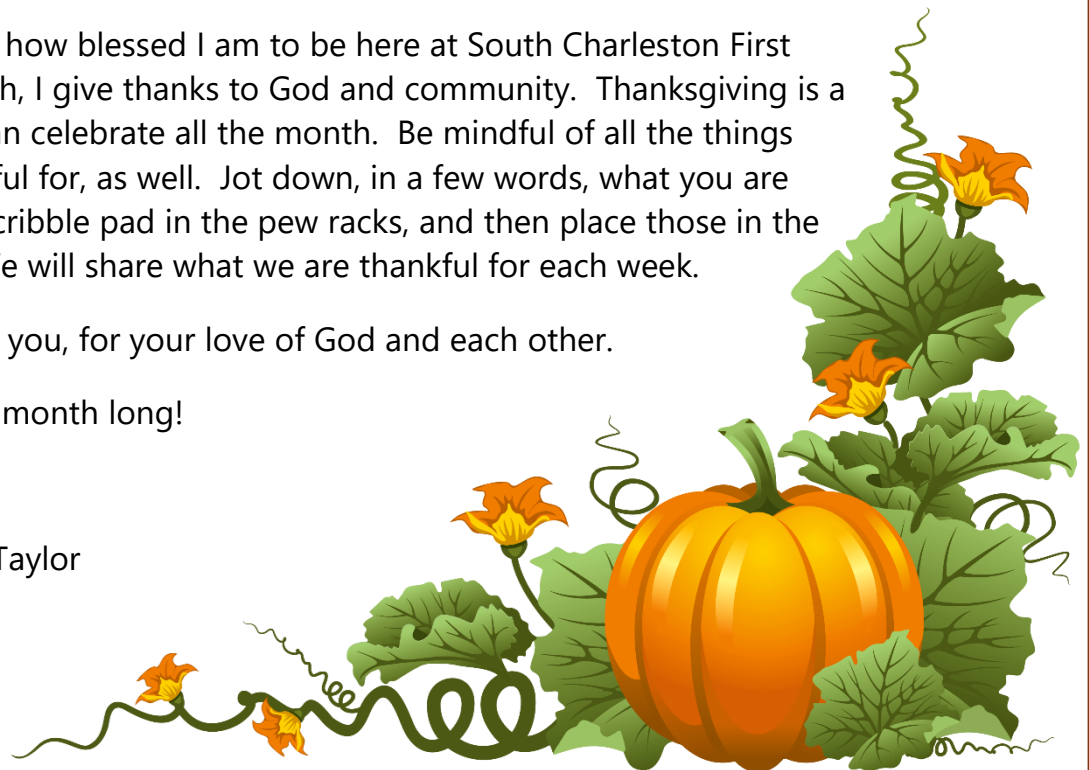
And in thinking on how blessed I am to be here at South Charleston First Presbyterian Church, I give thanks to God and community. Thanksgiving is a blessing that we can celebrate all the month. Be mindful of all the things that you are thankful for, as well. Jot down, in a few words, what you are thankful for on a scribble pad in the pew racks, and then place those in the offering basket. We will share what we are thankful for each week.

Being thankful...for you, for your love of God and each other.

Being thankful...all month long!

Blessings and love,

Pastor Ginna Taylor





 **SKY ZONE**

# Youth Event!



## November 17th

### 1:30p-3:30 p

# BINGO NIGHT!!



## November 23 rd

### Saturday 6 pm

Fellowship Hall



**EVERYONE  
IS INVITED  
TO  
JOIN US  
FOR  
BINGO!**



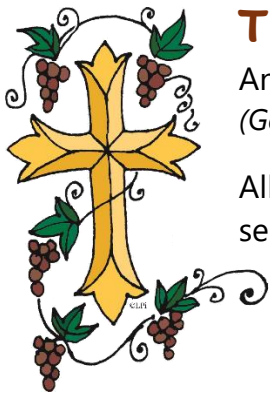


## ALL SAINTS SUNDAY

All Saints' Day has been celebrated on November 1 since the year 835. This year, we will observe All Saints' Sunday, on November 3<sup>rd</sup>.

In early Christian tradition, saints' days began as a way to mark the anniversary of a martyr's death — his or her "birthday" as a saint. By the middle of the church's first millennium, there were so many martyrs that it was hard to give them all their due. All Saints' Day was established as an opportunity to honor all the saints, known and unknown.

All Saints' Day has a rather different focus in the Reformed tradition. While we may give thanks for the lives of particular luminaries of ages past, the emphasis is on the ongoing sanctification of the *whole* people of God. Rather than putting saints on pedestals as holy people set apart in glory, we give glory to God for the ordinary, holy lives of the believers in this and every age. This is an appropriate time to give thanks to members of the community of faith who have died in the past year. We also pray that we may be counted among the company of the faithful in God's eternal realm.



### The Faithful of Every Generation

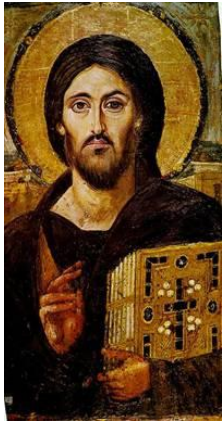
An excerpt from the *Companion to the Book of Common Worship* (Geneva Press, 2003, 150-151)

All Saints' Day is a time to rejoice in all who through the ages have faithfully served the Lord. The day reminds us that we are part of one continuing, living communion of saints. It is a time to claim our kinship with the "glorious company of apostles ... the noble fellowship of prophets ... the white-robed army of martyrs" (Te Deum).

It is a time to express our gratitude for all who in ages of darkness kept the faith, for those who have taken the gospel to the ends of the earth, for prophetic voices who have called the church to be faithful in life and service, for all who have witnessed to God's justice and peace in every nation.

To rejoice with all the faithful of every generation expands our awareness of a great company of witnesses above and around us like a cloud (Hebrews 12:1). It lifts us out of a preoccupation with our own immediate situation and the discouragements of the present. In the knowledge that others have persevered, we are encouraged to endure against all odds (Hebrews 12:1-2). Reminded that God was with the faithful of the past, we are reassured that God is with us today, moving us and all creation toward God's end in time. In this context, it is appropriate for a congregation on All Saints' Day to commemorate the lives of those who died during the previous year.





## Christ the King / Reign of Christ

At the conclusion of the Christian year, the church gives thanks and praise for sovereignty of Christ, who is Lord of all creation and is coming again in glory to reign (see Revelation 1:4-8).

This festival was established in 1925 by decree of Pope Pius XI. Originally it took place on the last Sunday in October, just prior to All Saints' Day. Now it is celebrated on the last Sunday of the Christian year, a week before the season of Advent begins.

### Christ Reigns Supreme

An excerpt from the [Companion to the Book of Common Worship](#) (Geneva Press, 2003, 151)

The festival of Christ the King (or Reign of Christ) ends our marking of Ordinary Time after the Day of Pentecost, and moves us to the threshold of Advent, the season of hope for Christ's coming again at the end of time.

The day centers on the crucified and risen Christ, whom God exalted to rule over the whole universe. The celebration of the lordship of Christ thus looks back to Ascension, Easter, and Transfiguration, and points ahead to the appearing in glory of the King of kings and Lord of lords. Christ reigns supreme. Christ's truth judges falsehood. As the Alpha and Omega, the beginning and the end, Christ is the center of the universe, the ruler of all history, the judge of all people. In Christ all things began, and in Christ all things will be fulfilled. In the end, Christ will triumph over the forces of evil.

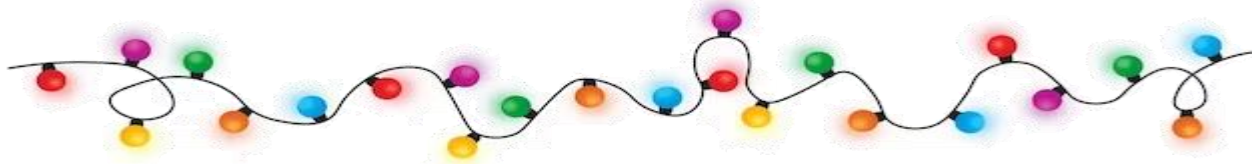
Such concepts as these cluster around the affirmation that Christ is King or Christ reigns! As sovereign ruler, Christ calls us to a loyalty that transcends every earthly claim on the human heart. To Christ alone belongs the supreme allegiance in our lives. Christ calls us to stand with those who in every age confessed, "Jesus Christ is Lord!" In every generation, demagogues emerge to claim an allegiance that belongs only to God. But Christ alone has the right to claim our highest loyalty. The blood of martyrs, past and present, witnesses to this truth.

### A Prayer for Christ the King Sunday

Holy One, enthroned in glory over all creation, you are a shepherd to the lost and the least. Teach us to see your face among the poor—feeding the hungry, giving drink to the thirsty, welcoming the stranger, clothing the naked, and visiting those who are sick or in prison— so that we may share in your eternal realm prepared from the foundation of the world; through Jesus Christ, who is coming indeed, to reign with justice, compassion, and love.

-Matthew 25:31-46

*Behold the glory of the eternal Christ!  
From the beginning of time to its ending,  
Christ rules above all earthly powers!*



## Christmas Basket Luncheon for All! Sunday, November 17<sup>th</sup>

Please join us for a wonderful luncheon after the worship hour on Sunday, November 17. Hosted by the Missions Committee, we will share a delicious meal prepared by Cathy Johnson. There is no charge for the luncheon, but donations will be accepted to help provide Christmas Baskets for less fortunate families in our community.

There are a number of children in the families we are providing for this Christmas. If you'd like to sponsor a child/children, please contact Cathy Johnson for all the details.

You are invited to help assemble Christmas Food Baskets on Friday, December 20, at 6pm in the Fellowship Hall. Food Baskets will be given out on Saturday, December 21, starting at 8am. If you would like to help assemble and/or distribute the baskets, please join us as we share in the joy of giving this Christmas.

Last year we provided 50 baskets at a cost of \$ 4,400!

### A note from the Administration & Stewardship Committee

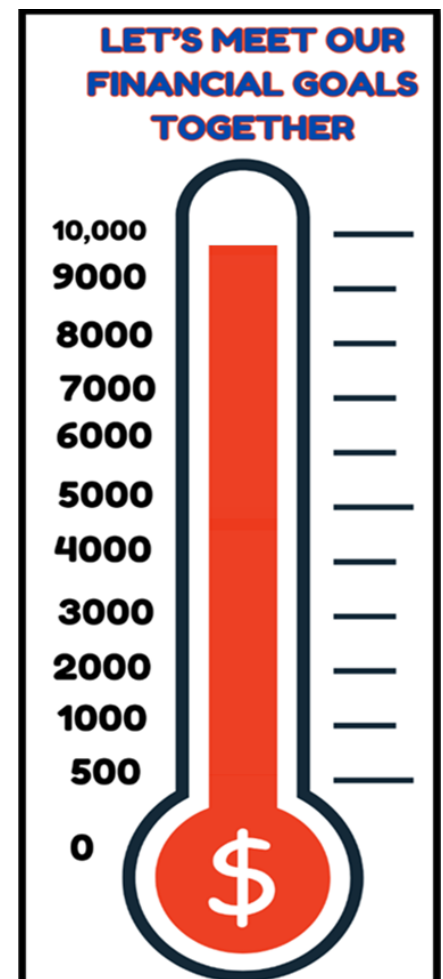
Our **THERMOMETER FUND CAMPAIGN** continues. We hope you will prayerfully consider supporting this fundraising effort. Watch the Thermometer in the sanctuary to follow our progress.

*Thermometer Fund giving envelopes are available in the pews.*

Bob Lilly, Chair

#### October Budget Report

October Income	\$14,062.39
less October Expenses	-\$16,387.98
Monthly Deficit – October 31	\$2,325.59
YTD Income	\$107,466.60
less YTD Expenses	-\$123,854.98
YTD Deficit as of October 31	\$16,388.38



*"Each of you should give what you have decided in your heart to give, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver."*

2 Corinthians 9:7



## Presbyterian Women's November Gathering

It's once again time for our monthly Circle/Bible Study. We will gather at 2 pm, on Thursday, November 14, in the Church Parlor. Becky Nelson will present our Bible lesson this time. We have such a wonderful time at our monthly Circle meetings and it is always so nice to each other. We hope you will join us on November 14.

—Joan Eads, Moderator

## A Salute to Our Veterans

After fighting in World War II, Luther Bergeland wasn't done serving his country — or his God. The Minnesota farm boy, who "came back to faith" during combat, later served for decades as a military chaplain.

For his actions in the field in Korea, Bergeland was awarded the Bronze Star. Then during Vietnam, he served in the Army Reserves in Colorado, tasked with informing family members about soldiers' deaths.

Despite the challenges, Bergeland embraces the special role he was able to play for four decades, sharing Jesus and his love with countless people. "That's what we did, preaching and reaching out to people," he told a reporter. "I always liked the military very much because it just did a lot for me, and I hope I did a lot for it."

On Veterans Day, we salute Bergeland and all the men and women who selflessly serve.



## What Your Heart Clamors to Do

We often speak of pastors as having a divine "calling." God gives them a strong sense of purpose for a specific holy role, like how Old Testament prophets were called to bring messages to God's people. But what about the rest of us? Is teaching, practicing medicine, being a plumber, writing or another non-church job also a "call"?

Martin Luther and others have said we should seek work that benefits others and for which God has given us talent. We should also treat any good work we do as a calling — be it cleaning a house or school, mending a broken leg or torn garment, or (as Luther mentioned a *father* doing — in the 1500s!) changing a baby's diaper.

Dorothy Sayers wrote that "work is not primarily a thing one does to live, but the thing one lives to do," and that "we should clamor to be engaged in work that [is] worth doing, and in which we [can] take pride." What work does your heart clamor to do? In other words, what is *your* divine call?



*"Cents-Ability is one way that families, congregations, and presbyteries can support the battle against hunger and poverty. Everyone is invited to contribute 5¢ at every meal. Funds are then used to support local hunger ministries, as well as national and international projects through the Presbyterian Hunger Program."*

We receive our offering on the Second Sunday of each month during the Time with Children. The next offering will be received on **Sunday, November 10**.

Start collecting your 5¢ per meal each day. Please remember people who are less fortunate by donating to this, and all Cents-Ability offerings.

## Missions Committee Update

**We continue our support of the Food Pantry at Heart & Hand during the month of November.** Please remember to pick up just a little something every time you go to the store. Here are the items specifically requested by Heart & Hand for the month of October:

Nov. 3

Nov. 10

Nov. 17

Nov. 24



### You Can Tithe or Donate Online, Safely & Securely!

We have made it easier to support the life and work of our church through online giving. You may also support our many (more than twenty!) community programs, regardless of where you are in the world. From near or far, you can make sure your precious financial resources are supporting people you know and trust doing important work in our local, regional, national, and global communities.

From feeding the hungry on our doorstep to clothing children and families in need, your financial support allows us to continue being just where God wants and needs us to be.

To make an online contribution, simply go to our website: [fpcscwv.org](http://fpcscwv.org)

Click on the "give" button on the menu bar.

Scroll down the bottom of the page to the blue bar.

CLICK HERE to tithe or donate using your **debit card, credit card, VENMO, or PayPal** and follow the instructions.

*"The place God calls you to, is the place where your deep gladness and the world's deep hunger meet."*

--Frederick Buechner, *Wishful Thinking: A Theological ABC*



## Heart & Hand News

### **Foster Bed Program**

Heart+Hand Outreach Ministries is proud to announce our latest initiative aimed at providing new twin size beds and bedding for families with foster children. Recognizing the importance of having a personal space to call their own, especially during the challenging process of a home study for DHHR, we are committed to ensuring that every child feels comfortable and safe. Through the generous sponsorship of churches, clubs, and community members, each complete bed/bedding setup, costing \$250, is made possible. This initiative not only fulfills a practical need but also extends a message of care and support to foster children and their families. At Heart+Hand Outreach Ministries, we believe that every child deserves a nurturing environment, and we are honored to play a part in making that a reality.

To apply for a bed, please call social services, at 304-744-6741.

### **Ring Bells for Children in Need at Riverwalk Kroger!**

The holiday season is fast approaching, and what better way to embrace the spirit of giving than by coming together as a community to make a difference in the lives of children in need?

We cordially invite families, students, churches, and groups from all walks of life to join us at the Riverwalk Kroger in South Charleston for a heartwarming event that promises to fill the hearts of both givers and recipients with joy.

*Please contact  
Tom Titus  
to sign up  
to ring  
bells for  
Heart &  
Hand!*



### ***Please Remember to Update Your Information!***

- Have you moved?**
- Changed your phone number or email address?**
- Want to add a cell or work phone number to your listing?**
- Want to add your birthday to our list?**

Updated information is critical to providing better communication to our members from Pastor Ginna and committee heads so we all stay well informed.

You may send your information to Becky via  
Email: [becky@fpcscwv.org](mailto:becky@fpcscwv.org) OR Phone: 304-744-2333

Thanks so much!





## Thanksgiving Humor

Need to lighten the mood at your holiday dinner table? Share some laughter with these Thanksgiving-themed jokes.

- *Why did the turkey decline dessert?*  
Because it was stuffed.
- *Why did the turkey cross the road twice?*  
To prove he wasn't a chicken.
- *What smells the best at Thanksgiving dinner?*  
Your nose.
- *Why didn't the chef season the turkey?*  
There wasn't enough thyme.
- *Why did the turkey leave the band?*  
People were fighting over the drumsticks.

## A New Thanksgiving Tradition

At Thanksgiving, we give thanks for things (food, home, clothing, work) and loved ones (family, friends, pets). But if the people we name aren't present, they may never know how precious they are to us. This November, start a new tradition by writing notes of thanks to people you appreciate.

Follow Paul's model of starting letters with thanksgiving: "First, I thank my God through Jesus Christ for all of you, because your faith is being reported all over the world" (*Romans 1:8, NIV*). Notice how he thanks his addressees by thanking God for them. Paul is specific too, not writing, "Thanks for everything!"

Expressing genuine thanksgiving to God and another person, you might write something like:

*Dear Judy,  
This Thanksgiving I'm thinking about special people in my life. You are one! I thank God for our friendship, for your strong witness for Jesus and for your willingness to lend a hand as a substitute teacher. (Your chocolate cookies are icing on the cake!) I praise God for you! Sincerely, Joan*

## First Presbyterian Church

508 Second Avenue  
South Charleston, WV 25303  
PHONE: 744-2333  
FAX: 746-9948

### **Ministers:**

#### **EVERY MEMBER OF THE CONGREGATION**

GINNA TAYLOR, *Pastor*  
MARY ELLEN LOGSDON, *Master of Music*  
COLLIN NELSON, *Worship Assistant*  
BECKY SMITH, *Office Manager*  
DAVID SMITH, *Custodian*

### **Office Hours:**

7:00 AM - 3:00 PM  
Monday through Thursday

### **Pastor's Hours:**

9:00 AM - 12:00 PM  
Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday

### **E-Mail Addresses:**

pastor.ginna.fpscswv@gmail.com  
becky@fpscswv.org

### **Web Address:**

fpscswv.org

### **WIFI Network:**

1stPresby SC - Guest

### **WIFI Password:**

PresbyGuest

### **Elders on Session:**

Hersha Brown	Bob Lilly
Sarah Clemente	Mark Lovin
Cheryl Eary	Rick Smith
Joe Fuller	Owen Walker
Bill Kimmons	

# NUTURING FAITH IDEAS from the Presbytery of WV

*Please use these suggested scriptures, questions, and activities to help you explore your faith.*

## **November 3 – Nineteenth Sunday after Pentecost: Read Mark 10:2-16**

Jesus told the disciples that whoever does not receive the kingdom as a little child will never enter it. We must disregard our goals of fame and fortune and turn to God as powerless children. How do you need to change your thinking to make this happen?

## **November 10 – Twentieth Sunday after Pentecost: Read Mark 10:17-31**

It is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle than for someone who is rich to enter the kingdom of God. Wealth and honor will not get you into the kingdom. How do you prioritize your need for wealth and your desire to enter the kingdom of God?

## **November 17 – Twenty-First Sunday after Pentecost: Read Job 38:1-7**

Job has suffered greatly, and his friends give advice. Elihu puts Job in his place, so to speak, declaring his unworthiness to question God. God's response is a rebuke to Elihu and friends who speak without knowledge. Job, in his anguish, yells at God; do you ever do the same? How does God respond?

## **November 24 – Twenty-Second Sunday after Pentecost: Read Mark 10:46-52**

Jesus heals Bartimaeus' eyesight because of the faith with which he shouted out to Jesus, and he becomes a follower of Jesus. Bartimaeus did not fear the rebukes of the disciples but continued to call out in faith. How can you and your family work to strengthen your faith considering your trials and suffering so you can call upon Jesus for help?



## **With Gladness and Thanksgiving**

*by Kate Seymour Maclean (1829-1916)*

... The long day of the year is almost done,  
and nature in the sunset musing stands,  
gray-robed, and violet-hooded like a nun,  
looking abroad o'er yellow harvest lands: ...

Empty and folded are her busy hands;  
her corn and wine and oil are safely stored,  
as in the twilight of the year she stands,  
and with her gladness seems to thank the Lord.

Thus let us rest awhile from toil and care,  
in the sweet sabbath of this autumn calm,  
and lift our hearts to heaven in grateful prayer,  
and sing with nature our thanksgiving psalm.





## The Origin of Our Cross

Shared by The Gary Family and Cheryl Eary

The Gary Family messaged me on Facebook in 2020 requesting access to our church sanctuary. It was during COVID. At their request, I met them at the church and together we visited in the Sanctuary. We sat down on the first pew and it was there that they shared the story of their family and how they worked together to create the beautiful cross that hangs in our Sanctuary.

Bill & Petey Gary lived in South Charleston from 1958-1965; three of their four children were born there (middle child Sue was born in Baltimore when Bill was called into Army service as a reservist). Petey had four children in 5 years: Laura is eldest, then Kip, Sue, and Becky. Both Laura and Kip attended kindergarten at South Charleston First Presbyterian Church. Petey sang in the choir and was often seen helping in the kitchen. Laura remembers learning the Lord's prayer in that sanctuary at 6 years of age and can remember the pew she sat in.

Bill was transferred by Columbia Gas to Columbus, Ohio in 1967. Leaving South Charleston's mountains and neighborly community was hard for the family! Bill wanted to leave a lasting gift to the church that had been such an important part of this young family's life. An engineer by trade and talented woodworker by hobby, Bill designed and crafted the cross that hangs in the sanctuary of South Charleston's First Presbyterian Church. He wanted every member of the family to have a part in its creation; while Sue and Becky were too young to remember much of it, all four children helped sand the cross.

Years passed, and the family moved again, this time to Texas, in 1976. Bill passed away in 2000; Petey is still living (at 90!) and thriving in The Woodlands north of Houston. A small replica of the cross has hung in every family home since we left Charleston. Various family members have had the opportunity to visit First Presbyterian through the years, sometimes even attending church there. It's an amazing and remarkable testament to our family's love of this church to find our cross still hanging where it was designed to hang, fifty-five years after it was built with loving hands! We know it would mean the world to our Dad.

In October 2020, Sue, Laura and Petey drove from Texas to visit Becky and her family in their new home in Albany NY. The route back home to Texas took us back through Charleston, a real treat for Petey (who thought she'd never be there again), Sue (who remembers bits and pieces of our time there) and Laura (who remembers the most as the eldest). We messaged Cheryl, who met us at the church and allowed us in to see Dad's cross and revisit familiar places in the church. Thank you Cheryl!

Laura and Petey last visited First Presbyterian in the fall of 2016 and attended services there. We were thrilled to find an old photo in the kitchen that had Mom in the choir all those years ago! At that time, she was more ambulatory and we went to the balcony to touch and admire Dad's cross.



Gary Family, 1965

# Kid's Page



## BECAUSE OF WHO GOD IS

Thanks to who God is, we can talk to him in prayer.

*Directions: Unscramble the descriptions of God, using the Bible references as clues. Then write the circled letters below to complete Psalm 109:26, NIV*

Psalm 145:8	SGAICURO	<input type="checkbox"/> _ _ _ _ _
Job 36:5	HGIYMT	<input type="checkbox"/> _ _ _ _ _
Psalm 90:2	LTAVREENISG	_ _ _ _ _ <input type="checkbox"/> _ _ _ _ _
2 Peter 3:9	INETTPA	_ _ _ _ _ <input type="checkbox"/> _ _ _ _ _
1 Thessalonians 5:24	FUFHIATL	<input type="checkbox"/> _ _ _ _ _
Isaiah 40:25	OYHL	_ <input type="checkbox"/> _ _ _

Help me, Lord my \_\_\_od;  
save \_\_\_e \_\_\_ccording \_\_\_o  
your un\_\_\_ailing l\_\_\_ve.

*Psalm 109:26, NIV*

# GOD ROCKS!



Make decorative stones as reminders of God's many great attributes.

### What you need:

- Flat, smooth stones
- Printed, decorative napkins
- Paintbrush
- Clear-drying craft glue
- Scissors
- Permanent marker



### What you do:

1. Unfold the napkin, carefully separating the printed side from the solid side.
2. Brush a thin layer of glue atop a stone. Lay the napkin (printed side up) on the glue and press down. Paint more glue over the napkin. Let dry.
3. Turn the stone over and paint more glue on the back. Wrap the napkin edges around the stone, trimming as needed. Paint more glue over the napkin. Let dry.
4. On the stone, write an attribute of God (loving, wise, powerful, merciful, etc.).
5. Repeat with more stones. Use them as gifts, paperweights, table decorations, etc.









## DAYLIGHT SAVINGS TIME ENDS

Saturday, November 2<sup>nd</sup>

Don't forget to set your clocks  
back one hour before going to bed!

## Wishing Happy November Birthdays to...

Nov 1	Jessica Luzier	Nov 20	David Smith
Nov 7	Ann Wilburn	Nov 24	Chace Boland
Nov 8	Shirley White	Nov 26	Lisa Calderwood
Nov 9	Nancy Knurek	Nov 28	Chris Luzier
Nov 18	GINNA TAYLOR		

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
					1 All Saints' Day	2
					1:00 pm Senior Games (Mizpah Room)	Set your clocks back 1 hour tonight!
3 Communion	4	5 Election Day!	6	7	8	9
9:00 Handbell Choir Practice 9:30 Sunday School <i>In person/conference call</i> 10:00 Adult Choir Practice 10:50 Children's Choir Practice 11:00 Worship <i>In person/online</i> 7:00 Al-Anon		7:00 pm Committee Night   <i>Church Office Closed</i>			1:00 pm Senior Games (Mizpah Room)	
10	11 Veterans Day	12	13	14	15	16
9:00 Handbell Choir Practice 9:30 Sunday School <i>In person/conference call</i> 10:00 Adult Choir Practice 10:50 Children's Choir Practice 11:00 Worship <i>In person/online</i> 7:00 Al-Anon	<i>Church Office Closed</i>			2:00 pm Presbyterian Women's Circle Meeting	1:00 pm Senior Games (Mizpah Room)	
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
9:00 Handbell Choir Practice 9:30 Sunday School <i>In person/conference call</i> 10:00 Adult Choir Practice 10:50 Children's Choir Practice 11:00 Worship <i>In person/online</i> 12:00 Luncheon for All! 1:30 Youth Group @ SKYZONE 7:00 Al-Anon		6:00 pm Stated Session Meeting		Presbytery Meeting First Presbyterian Church Fairmont	1:00 pm Senior Games (Mizpah Room)	 6:00 pm Bingo & Hot Dogs For All!
24 Christ the King Sunday	25	26	27	28	29	30
9:00 Handbell Choir Practice 9:30 Sunday School <i>In person/conference call</i> 10:00 Adult Choir Practice 10:50 Children's Choir Practice 11:00 Worship <i>In person/online</i> 7:00 Al-Anon				 Happy Thanksgiving!		