

Dear Friends,

What does Thanksgiving mean to you? I hear one young man say, "It means a big dinner." I think we all might agree with him. Who doesn't welcome a great meal to enjoy? I hear a little girl say, "Thanksgiving means a day off from school." She's right too. School is never that good where a child wouldn't rather choose a day off. I also hear a successful workaholic person say, "Thanksgiving means a day away from the office." That person is at the office every day except Sunday. This person appreciates a day that they can really call their own. One says,

"It's a day to watch parades and a great football game." I'm on board with that. Then there is that person who is in sales, a traveling salesman. What does Thanksgiving mean to that person? He or she says, "It is a day at home." Last year this person spent one hundred and sixty-nine nights away from home. "I have three children. I should like to see them much more often. There are times when many days pass and I don't see them. Thanksgiving week I plan to be at home."

There are others I could ask. Each has his or her answer. But Thanksgiving has a special meaning for us. It is the Harvest time. Think about holding a delicious apple in your hand. It's a beautiful apple. It's a marvelously red apple. Who gave this apple such an appetizing appeal? God. God in his infinite love and wisdom, has provided, through the unfailing laws of nature, for the growth, sweetness, coloring and beautifying of all the products of the fields. Yet, the apple is but one of many kinds of fruits.

So, what does Thanksgiving mean? It means giving praise to God. Praise is the meaning of Thanksgiving. God, our heavenly Father, sends us every good gift. From God's bountiful hand come our daily and nightly mercies. We should praise him every day. But the united chorus of praise must come at Thanksgiving.

As the psalmist wrote these all too familiar words, let us, like the psalmist...

"Shout with joy to the Lord, all the earth!

Worship the Lord with gladness.

Come before him, singing with joy,

Enter his gates with thanksgiving;

go into his courts with praise.

Give thanks to him and praise his name."

(Psalm 100:1-2,4)

Have a Blessed Thanksgiving,

Pastor Jim

Mark Your Calendar

Needle & Pins 10:00am.....Nov 1
 Church School/Bible Study 9:00am/Worship/Communion.....Nov 2
 Facebook Live 10:30 am.....Nov 4
 Facebook Devotions 8:30am/Brown Bag Bible 11:30am.....Nov 5
 Facebook Devotions 8:30am.....Nov 6
 Facebook Devotions 8:30am.....Nov 7
 Church School/Bible Study 9:00am
 Worship/Facebook Live 10:30 am/Ornament making.....Nov 9
 Facebook Devotions 8:30am.....Nov 11
 Facebook Devotions 8:30am/Brown Bag Bible 11:30 am.....Nov 12
 Facebook Devotions 8:30am.....Nov 13
 Facebook Devotions 8:30am.....Nov 14
 Church School/Bible Study 9:00amWorship
 Facebook Live 10:30am/Battle of the Sexes.....Nov 16
 Facebook Devotions 8:30am.....Nov 18
 Facebook Devotions 8:30am/Brown Bag Bible 11:30am.....Nov 19
 Facebook Devotions 8:30am.....Nov 20
 Facebook Devotions 8:30am.....Nov 21
 Church School/Bible 9:00 am
 Worship/ Facebook Live 10:30 am/Ecumenical Service 7pm
 St. Lukes Lutheran Church.....Nov 23
 Facebook Devotions 8:30am.....Nov 25
 Facebook Devotions8:30am/Brown Bag Bible Study 11:30am...Nov 26
CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED HAPPY THANKSGIVING
CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED
 Worship/ Facebook Live 10:30 am.....Nov 30

Local Mission Emphasis for November 2025: White Gift Sunday

The tradition of White Gift Sunday has its roots in a small Methodist church in Ohio in 1904. What began as a humble way to reflect on the love and devotion of the giver and not the value of the gift has grown into today's white gift services in many churches across several denominations. Our White Gift Service this year will be on December 8th. *In advance of this service, during the month of November, the benevolence committee will be collecting monetary donations to be used to purchase gift cards to supplement the white paper wrapped gifts. Please prayerfully consider contributing.*

Checks should be made payable to the "First Presbyterian Church" with "White Gift" in the Memo. Your contributions will be matched by the Kathleen Smith Fund. Blessings to All, The Stewardship and Benevolence Committee

First Presbyterian Church

Phone 908-689-2547 Fax 908-689-7911
 Web site: www.washingtonfpc.org

Pastor, James Scovell;
 Directors of Music, Peter & Julie Stevenson;
 Administrative Assistants Kerri Caldaro
 Church School Coordinator, Jean Bowers.
 Worship: 10:30 a.m.

The December issue will be published on the November 28th. The deadline is November 23rd. Please submit articles to the church office or by email to: office@washingtonfpc.com

2026 Pledge Update &

Reminder: The Stewardship Committee would like to extend a "thank you" to all who have submitted their 2026 pledge cards. Through October 31st, there has been \$ 112,600 pledged toward the \$125,000 budgeted amount. If you have not yet submitted your pledge card, you can still mail it, drop it off or put it in the offertory plate. Thank you again and may God bless us all.



Prayer: Loving God, we see the needs around us as great, and we recall that you are the Great Provider and Sustainer. As we pray for our loved ones and friends, help us, by the power of your Holy Spirit, to bring healing and comfort to all those in need.

Those ill or recuperating at home: Peggy Westlake, Jim Vlossak, Janet Young, Nancy Vlossak, Vicki Morgan, Eleanore Jensen, Doug Foley. Kerry & Lynn Webb, Charlene Jones, Linda Walsh, Joyce Parsons, Ronald & Joan Weber, Michael Housman, DJ Pesaniello, Tempe Schramm, Grace Murphy.

Relatives of church members: Penny Atkinson's brother David Jayne, Pauline Albrecht's cousins Kathy & Bill, Harold Teabo, Judy Ours cousin Aurelius Newbold, Jim Morgan, Joe Kresser's brother John, Charlie Kugelmeyer, John & Elaine Boreman's daughter & son in law Jill & Ross Duncan, Joe Caldaro, Peggy Westlake's son-in-law Travis Jablonski, Barbara Miller's daughter in-law Julie, Patricia Handlos's great nephew Bear Shaw, Barbara Miller's cousin Kayla Norvis, Robert Stacie Ullrich's dad, Dorothy Thoms son Don, Bob Pesaniello, Pauline Albrecht's cousin Pete Lekousis, Laura Housman's mother Betty Machauer, Fred Kulick's brother in-law Jon, Tami Phelps cousin Jimmy, Joan Miller's sister in-law, Nancy Vlossak's niece, Vicki Tensfeldt's mother & niece; Kerri Caldaro's mom & dad Gail & Fred Mosher.

Those in care centers: Connie Allen, Joan Vasko, Bob Pesaniello, Joan Miller.

Friends of the church: Kerri Caldaro's friends Mary Mason & Jason Leonard, Pat Hawkins sister Susan and her husband John, Stuart Ours friend Don Walker, Diane Van Dongen and family, Grace Sweet, Fred & Karen Graf's friend Renee Wise, Karissa Caldaro's friend Annabelle, Carol Kain's friend John Vybihal. Joe Groff friend of Doug & Jolene Foley, Melinda Velez friend of Don Johnson, Gale Soler & Ellen Gulick friends of Joan Miller, Barbara Miller's friend Patrick O'Malley, Carol Novak, and Vlossak family's friend Hallie.

Those in Mourning: The family and friends of Elinor Bettis.

Also, pray for our servicemen and women and their families: Albrecht's nephew Captain Kyle Mogensen, Vimp Smith's grandson Cory, Stephanie Farley's nephew John, Kathy Perry's nephew Jimmy, Linda Darwin's friend Sean Devine.



BIRTHDAY

THIS MON



Nov 3

Nov 8

Nov 9

Nov 16

Nov 19

Nov 21

Carol Kain

Dot Decker
Stephen Scovell

April Phelps

Linda Walsh

Bradley Murphy

Drew Fargo

Nov 22

Nov 24

Nov 26

Nov 27

Nov 28

Nov 30

Summer Sozanski

Bruce Wilson

Nevin Albrecht

Patrick Kain

Erik Forsbrey

Rick Perry



NOVEMBER 2025

*Now thank we all our God, with heart and hands and voices,
Who wondrous things has done, in whom this world rejoices;
Who from our mothers' arms has blessed us on our way
With countless gifts of love, and still is ours today.*

*O may this bounteous God through all our life be near us,
With ever joyful hearts and blessed peace to cheer us;
And keep us still in grace, and guide us when perplexed;
And free us from all ills, in this world and the next.*

Text: Martin Rinkart, 1663

Music: Johann Cruger, 1647

Gratitude for God's goodness is always in season! Every day presents new challenges and every day should be a day of THANKSGIVING no matter what is going on in the world and in our lives. I particularly love the second verse of this beloved Thanksgiving hymn. "Guide us when perplexed" is very meaningful to me just now and I cling to God closer than ever these days.

I value the wisdom of people like **Elie Wiesel** (Nobel Prize-winning author, Holocaust survivor, teacher, human rights activist) and **John Wesley** (founder of the Methodist church) and **Mother Teresa** and many, many others who have lived through tumultuous times and yet made a real difference in the world because of how they chose to live out their earthly lives. Elie Wiesel said *"The opposite of love is not hate, it's indifference."* We are called as Christians to love, love, love. Part of loving is caring and acting to make our world a better place for all of humanity (a.k.a. our neighbor). Wiesel also said *"Hope is the anchor that keeps us grounded in turbulent times."* These are most certainly turbulent times! Our hope is in God and following the example of Jesus Christ.

John Wesley believed that we should *"Do all the good you can, by all the means you can, in all the ways you can, in all the places you can...to all the people you can."* AMEN brother Wesley!

Mother Teresa has so many quotes that are meaningful to me, but this one stands out today:

"Once we take our eyes away from ourselves, from our interests, from our own rights, privileges, ambitions - then they will become clear to see Jesus around us."

I hope that you will join me on Tuesday, November 18th at 11:00 in the sanctuary for a program of BEAUTY THROUGH ADVERSITY. I will be sharing stories of courage of people who have gone through adversity and come out of it to create beauty and performing music written by composers who had very difficult challenges to face in their lives. It is my intention to inspire and give you hope.

Peace in Christ,
Julie Stevenson

**20th ANNUAL CHRISTMAS CANTATA
SUNDAY, DECEMBER 21**

10:30 worship

Mark your calendars and invite your friends and neighbors to join our enhanced choir and orchestra in worship on December 21 for A CELEBRATION OF CAROLS by Joseph Martin, under the direction of Peter Stevenson.

Even though Thanksgiving is still on the horizon, the stores are filling up with Christmas decorations already! I believe that it is important to soak in each day as it arrives and celebrate the moment (which I realize is very counter culture!) but, knowing how hectic the Christmas season can become, I also think it is important to mark up your calendar in advance so you don't miss out on the blessings yet to come.

In the words of Joseph Martin:

"As Advent approaches, we begin to decorate our days with sights and songs of this blessed season and prepare our hearts for the warming candle of Christ's birth. With reverence we take from the closets of our heart the special memories of Christmases past and place them thoughtfully in our homes like sacred relics. Our places of worship reverberate with the time-honored carols of our faith and we remember that we are loved. As you hear and sing along on the celebration of carols, may you be reminded of Christ's mercy and grace. And as you hear the timeless story, may you grasp hope with all of your heart and experience the rich abundance that is the true gift of the season. May joy and peace surround you."

Julie



FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

40 East Church Street

Washington, NJ

Enhanced Choir and Orchestra presents:

20th ANNUAL CHRISTMAS CANTATA

Sunday, December 21, 2025

10:30 A.M.

All are welcome!

Come for the music!

Come for the door prizes!

Come for the free luncheon!

Come to be blessed this Christmas season with

A CELEBRATION OF CAROLS

By Joseph Martin

Under the direction of Peter Stevenson



Christmas Card Tree

By Sandy Archer, Membership Committee

This week, I was in my attic looking for autumn decorations for my door. I came across my box of Christmas cards and was struck by the realization that this year, I need to cut down on the number of cards I send out! I was thinking about the \$1.00 plus it will cost per card—also about the joy I will miss sending Christmas greetings to friends and family. Being a card person, this was unsettling! I started thinking of how I could solve this problem while bringing joy to friends and family...and to me as I prepare greetings.

I recalled churches I've previously attended and how I send a card to each congregation. These churches let members know cards had been sent by friends of the church. My Christmas greeting was passed on to everyone! My card, and many others, were attached to a tree for all to see and enjoy, knowing friends were fine and wishing each member a blessed Christmas. What a great idea!

So, WE will start a Church Christmas Card tree this year! There will be a tree in the back of the sanctuary for the display of Christmas cards sent to the church family. On your card, be sure to add your signature and a note if you like! Please bring your cards to church anytime on or after November 30th for inclusion on our tree. We will add your card to the tree...and you will have shared your Christmas greeting to our entire church family with just one card/message!

Save postage and spread Christmas Joy to everyone! We hope you will participate in this new Membership Committee initiative!

AND, be sure to stop by the tree to read the cards and notes left by others each week!

Any questions, please see Sandy Archer, Membership Committee, or any committee member.



All Church Christmas Card Tree

*Wish a joyous Merry
Christmas to everyone with
just 1 card!*



*Save a stamp &
join the fun
starting Nov. 30*

Bring a card with your holiday
message/signature to church & the
Membership Committee will hang it on the tree!

Be sure to look at the tree each Sunday to read
the holiday messages from members
and to admire the beautiful cards!

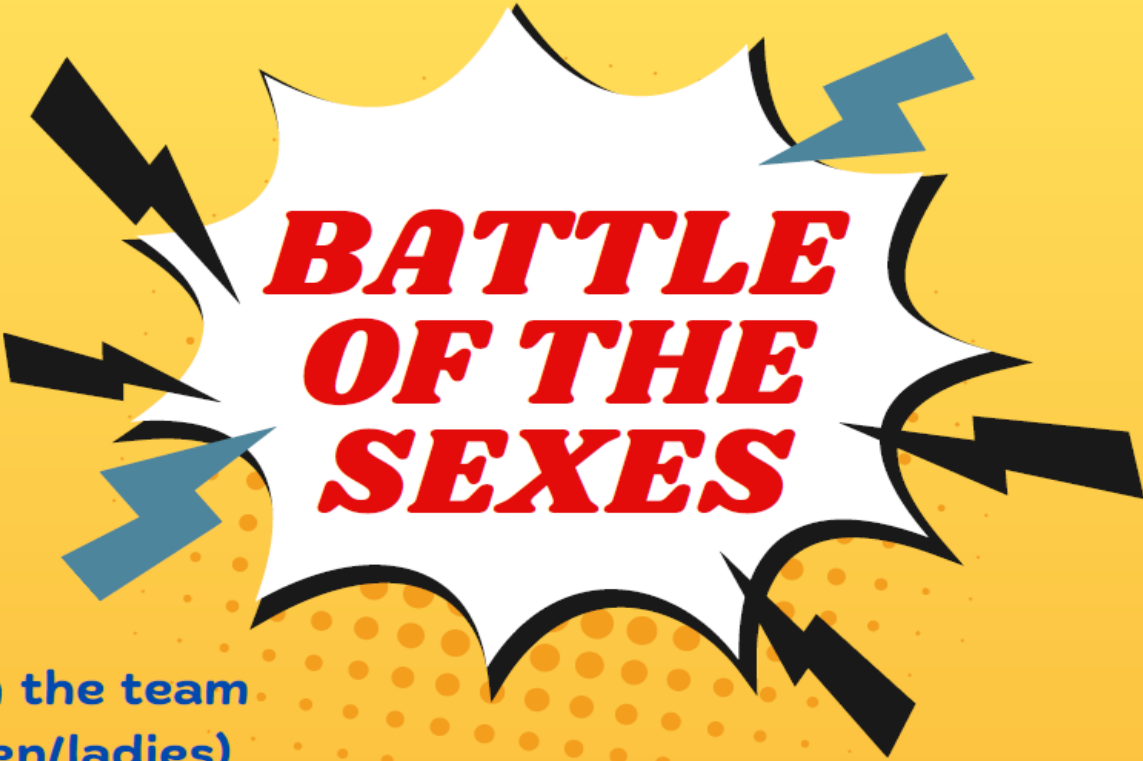


You're Invited
to join us right after church (11:30am)
MAKE & TAKE
A CHRISTMAS ORNAMENT
November 9th, coffee room

First Presbyterian Church, Washington NJ

Led by Linda Watters & Kerri Caldaro
sponsored by the Membership Committee





BATTLE OF THE SEXES

Join the team
(men/ladies)
to play the
game
or
to cheer on
your team!

**Sunday, Nov. 16
11:45am
following
worship service
in Fellowship
Hall**

**Combined
Men's
&
Ladies'
Event**



**If you are able, please bring a snack or
dessert or side dish to share**

PIZZA LUNCH SERVED

NOVEMBER 2025

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						1 Needles & Pins 10:00am
2 Church School/ Adult Bible Study 9:00am Worship/ Communion 10:30 am Facebook Live	3	4 Facebook Devotions 8:30 am Deacon's Meeting 7pm	5 Facebook Devotions 8:30 am Brown Bag Bible Study 11:30 am Carillonnaires 7:00-7:45 pm Chancel 7:45-8:45 pm	6 Facebook Devotions 8:30 am	7 Facebook Devotions 8:30 am	8
9 Church School/ Adult Bible Study 9:00am Worship 10:30 am Facebook Live Make and Take Ornaments 11:30am	10	11 Facebook Devotions 8:30 am PW 1:00 pm	12 Facebook Devotions 8:30 am Brown Bag Bible Study 11:30 am Carillonnaires 7:00-7:45 pm Chancel 7:45-8:45 pm	13 Facebook Devotions 8:30 am	14 Facebook Devotions 8:30 am	15
16 Church School/ Adult Bible Study 9:00am Worship 10:30 am Facebook Live Battle of the Sexes 11:30am	17	18 Facebook Devotions 8:30 am	19 Facebook Devotions 8:30 am Brown Bag Bible Study 11:30 am Carillonnaires 7:00-7:45 pm Chancel 7:45-8:45 pm	20 Facebook Devotions 8:30 am Session 7:00 pm	21 Facebook Devotions 8:30 am	22
23 Church School/ Adult Bible Study 9:00am Worship 10:30 am Facebook Live	24	25 Facebook Devotions 8:30 am	26 Facebook Devotions 8:30 am Brown Bag Bible Study 11:30 am Carillonnaires 7:00-7:45 pm Chancel 7:45-8:45 pm	27 HAPPY THANKSGIVING CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED 	28 CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED	29
30 Worship 10:30 am Facebook Live						