

NEWS from the PEWS

A PUBLICATION OF FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH ~ CHEYENNE, WYOMING

Rev. Bob Thomson
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November 2023

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Giving Thanks

1 Thessalonians 5:16-18, "Rejoice always, pray without ceasing, give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you." November is the month when we take time to give thanks. We give thanks for the blessings we have received, the blessing we receive from our family and friends, and more importantly, the blessing we receive from God.

The first Thanksgiving was celebrated by the Plymouth colonists from England and the Native American Wampanoag people in October of 1621. It was a time to celebrate the harvest that had just been completed. According to Google, "the event was attended by 90 Native Americans and 53 survivors of the Mayflower." In the Thanksgiving celebration, the Plymouth colonists gave thanks to God for the provisions God provided for their survival and their lives. The Native Americans at the celebration were key to the Colonists' survival that first year.

Today, 400 years later, it is still important for us to take time to give thanks for what God has provided us. God has provided for our physical needs, our relationship needs, and our spiritual needs.

God has provided for our physical needs, food, water, air, and the basic necessities of life. For most of us, we can celebrate that we have our basic needs in abundance. As we give thanks to God for meeting our needs, we realize that there are people in the world who face food and water insecurities. It is not that God hasn't provided

for all people, but the sin and darkness of the world have disrupted the availability of the earth's resources for all people. In our giving thanks, it is a requirement of our faith that we help provide and secure the basic needs of life for all people. Two of the ways we help with this in our ministry are through our extended table collection each Communion Sunday and our supplying food at COMEA.

God has also provided for our relational needs. We are created to live in a relationship with one another.

The first Thanksgiving recognized the blessing the Native Americans were to the Plymouth colonists. As we give thanks this season, let us remember the people that God has put in our lives and the blessing they are to us. Our family, friends, co-workers, neighbors, and the family of faith, our sisters and brothers in Christ who surround us as a family of God's love.

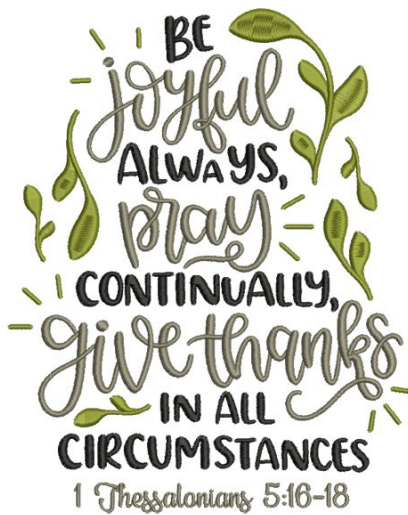
Finally, along with our physical and relational needs, God has provided for our spiritual needs. God sent his son, our Lord and Savior, so that we might fully experience God's love. In the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus Christ,

God has demonstrated his love, grace, and mercy. Through Christ, we have received forgiveness, and in Christ, we are adopted into the family of God. Let us give thanks for God's presence in our lives.

We set aside one day this month to give thanks. Take time daily, every day of this month, and every day of our lives to give thanks. Give thanks to God for meeting our physical, relational, and spiritual needs.

May you have a Happy Thanksgiving.

Pastor Bob



Stewardship Sunday

November 19



Peace and Global Witness Offering:

Your generosity will help people around the world!

-Mission Ministry

When we hear about such catastrophic situations as human trafficking, whole villages living in dangerous conditions, governments forcing landowners to cede their property for state use, and children living in such dangerous situations that they cannot venture outside to play, we tend to say, "Somebody needs to do something about that." The heartwarming news with this article is that our congregation members decided to do something about that themselves and responded so generously in support of the Peace and Global Witness Offering that we will indeed be making a difference locally and around the world.

Mission Ministry sends a big thank-you to all who contributed to this offering. You helped bring the peace of Christ to those who will benefit from our donations! Locally, we will send 25% of the offering and its match to Safehouse, which works so hard in Cheyenne to help victims of abuse. We will send this same amount to Presbytery so we can get help to those in need beyond Laramie County. Then, of course, the 50%, plus match, which will go to PC(USA) may go to any of hundreds of projects in the works worldwide.

After World Communion Sunday, the official date of the Peace and Global Witness Offering, we had already received \$800. At the deadline for this newsletter, we had a grand total of \$1,031.50, with donations made by credit card coming in on November 1. In this and our other efforts to facilitate mission work beyond Laramie County, Mission Ministry members often comment on what a generous, loving congregation we have. Thank you for being part of our work!

Happy Thanksgiving

Thanksgiving is coming and I always like to have my boys look up Bible verses that have to do with being thankful. So, I decided to do something a little different this year. I have found 10 verses (I know there are a lot more) from the Bible for them. I am going to write them on index cards. I am then going to put the index cards in the center of our dining room table. I will have one child grab a card and read it aloud. I will write the following questions on the board or a piece of paper for the boys to look for in their verse to better understand what it is saying. (Note they will not be able to answer every question with each verse.)

Who is being thankful?

Who are they thankful for? (this will be in every verse)

Why are they thankful?

What are they doing because of their thankfulness? (example: praising)

The boys can answer the questions and write the answers on the cards. After all the verses have been looked up and questions answered, I will have the boys sort their cards between being thankful for/to God and being thankful for others.

Another idea to use these verses is to write the references on leaf cutouts. Then the children can answer the questions on the leaf and then the leaves could be used on a bulletin board.

Thankfulness Bible Verses

2 Samuel 22:50 – Therefore I will give thanks to You, O Lord, among the Gentiles, and sing praises to Your name.

1 Chronicles 16:8 – Oh, give thanks to the Lord! Call upon His name; make known His deeds among the people!

1 Chronicles 29:13 – Now therefore, our God, we thank You and praise your glorious name.

Ezra 3:11 – And they sang responsively, praising and giving thanks to the Lord: "For He is good, for His mercy endures forever toward Israel." Then all the people shouted with a great shout, when they praised the Lord, because the foundation of the house of the Lord was laid.

Psalms 7:17 – I will praise the Lord according to His righteousness, and will sing praise to the name of the Lord Most High.

Psalms 13:6 – I will sing to the Lord, because He has dealt bountifully with me.

Psalms 26:7 – That I may proclaim with the voice of thanksgiving, and tell of all Your wondrous works.

Psalms 30:4 – Sing praise to the Lord, you saints of His, and give thanks at the remembrance of His holy name.

Psalms 30:11&12 – You have turned for me my mourning into dancing; You have put off my sackcloth and clothed me with gladness, to the end that my glory may sing praise to You and not be silent. O Lord my God, I will give thanks to You forever.

Psalms 35:18 – I will give You thanks in the great assembly; I will praise You among many people.

I hope you will enjoy this Thanksgiving activity! You could also place all the cards or leaves on your Thanksgiving table.

Wishing everyone a very Happy Thanksgiving!

Blessings,

Ashley Braisted

Children and Youth Ministry Director



In *Putting Faith to Work*, Robert McCracken describes faith, our relationship to God, and how faith relates to everyday life. He talks of the importance of faith, and Sunday, and public worship. He asks if our faith, view of God and prayer life have grown or are they still on a childlike level. Our problems and trusting God as he helps us through them can deepen our faith. McCracken then covers many types of problems we might face and ways we can meet them and grow stronger.

Also in this volume is a second book, *Strengthening the Spiritual Life* by Nels Ferre'. Ferre' covers ways we can use worship, prayer and private/family devotions, the Bible and work to deepen our inner spiritual life.



Extended Table Donations

Our Extended Table donations for the 5th of November will go to Needs. They need non-perishable items to include in their Thanksgiving boxes: stuffing mix, canned green beans and mushroom soup, canned pumpkin, etc.



We will be cooking and serving at the Comea Shelter on Tuesday, 12 November. We need 2-3 people to come at 1:30 pm to cook and 5-6 people to serve at 5:30 pm to serve. A sign-up sheet will be in the Fellowship Hall.



Angel Tree

Yes, it's time for the Angel Tree project to begin. The name tags will be available on the tree to sign up for on Sunday, 17 November and the gifts must be returned by Sunday the 10th of December. You MUST print your name and phone number on the sign-up sheet when taking tags. This sheet will be available on Sundays for both services; see the Deacon to sign up. During the work week, the sign-up sheet will be in the church office.

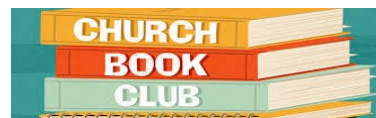
Please do not take a tag without signing the sheet. Gifts are to be individually wrapped and then placed in a large gift bag or in a box that is wrapped. There will be a label inside the tag that must be securely attached to the bag or box. We ask that you send between \$40-\$60 for each child's requested items. You may return gifts on Sundays or during the work week during normal

business hours until the 10th of December.

We are so very grateful for your generous participation in all of the local mission projects the Deacons sponsor.

If have any questions about any of these projects, please contact Belinda Smith at 307-421-4896 or by email at belajea2@gmail.com.

Belinda Smith, Deacons Local Mission Chairperson



The Church Book Club will meet on Thursday, November 16, at 4 PM in the Church Library. We will be discussing "A Fever in the Heartland," by Timothy Egan. A Zoom option will also be available. For further information, contact Phyllis O'Connor at 307-630-3997 or phyloconn@msn.com.



11/5

Daylight Saving Time Ends

11/10

Office Closed for Veteran's Day

11/11

New Officer's Training

11/14

Cook & Serve at Comea House

11/15

Dec. AND Jan. Newsletter Deadline

11/17

Angel Tree Goes Up

11/18

PW Brunch

11/23 & 24

Office Closed for Thanksgiving

11/26

Hanging of the Greens

November 2023 Calendar

Date	Day	Time	Event
Weekly Meetings:			
	Mondays	6:30 pm	Boy Scouts Troop 116 (Activity Center)
	Tuesdays	9:30 am	Staff Meeting (Library)
		5:15 pm	Chancel Choir Rehearsal
	Wednesdays	5:30 pm	-7 Bell Choirs (Rehearsals) (Not Nov. 22)
	Thursdays	7:00 pm	APNC (Library)
<i>See specific date for any weekly updates:</i>			
WORSHIP:		8:00 am	Worship – Chapel / Fellowship
		9:00 am	Adult Sunday School
		9:30 am	Nursery
		10:00 am	Worship – Sanctuary and Live Stream
		10:00 am	Children's Sunday School
		11:00 am	Fellowship
		11:15 am	-11:45 Children's Choir & Chimes (Not on Nov. 26)
November 1	Wednesday	6:00 pm	Friendship Mariners (Fellowship Hall)
November 4	Saturday	10:00 am	Hearts & Hands and Stitch by Stitch (Fellowship Hall)
November 5	Sunday		Daylight Saving Time Ends
			<i>See Worship Schedule at the Top</i>
November 6	Monday	5:15 pm	Worship & Music (L)
		5:30 pm	Christian Ed (Christian Ed)
November 7	Tuesday	1:00 pm	Mission Ministry (Library)
		7:00 pm	Boy Scouts OA (Stage Room)
		7:00 pm	Casket Empty Bible Study (Fellowship Hall)
November 9	Thursday	5:30 pm	Sarah Circle (Fellowship Hall)
November 10	Friday		Office Closed for Observance of Veteran's Day
November 11	Saturday	8:00 am	Men on a Mission (Fellowship Hall)
		10:00 am	-2 pm Officer's Training (Youth Room)
November 12	Sunday		<i>See Worship Schedule at the Top</i>
November 13	Monday	1:30 pm	Building & Grounds (Fellowship Hall)
		5:30 pm	New Life (Library)
		7:00 pm	PEO (Parlor & Library)
November 14	Tuesday		Cook & Serve at Comea House
		1:15 pm	Personnel (Library)
November 15	Wednesday		December AND January Newsletter Deadline
		2:00 pm	Finance (Library)
November 16	Thursday	10:30 am	Coloring & Caring (Fellowship Hall)
		4:00 pm	Church Book Club (Library)
November 17	Friday		Angel Tree Up
		1:00 pm	Ruth Circle (Library)
November 18	Saturday	10:00 am	PW Brunch (Fellowship Hall)
November 19	Sunday		<i>See Worship Schedule at the Top</i>
November 20	Monday	10:00 am	Genealogy (Family History Center)
		7:00 pm	Session (Fellowship Hall)
November 22	Wednesday	9:30 am	Walk, Pray, Love (Library)
November 23	Thursday		Office Closed for Thanksgiving
November 24	Friday		Office Closed for Thanksgiving Holiday
November 26	Sunday		<i>See Worship Schedule at the Top</i>
			Poinsettia Form is Available

November 2023 Calendar

Date	Day	Time	Event
		11:30 am	Hanging of the Greens
November 27	Monday	1:00 pm	Rebecca Circle (Library)
		6:30 pm	Local Missions (Fellowship Hall)
		7:00 pm	Deacons (Fellowship Hall)
November 28	Tuesday	1:30 pm	PW Coordinating Team (Fellowship Hall)

Dear Friends,

Thank you so much for your encouragement and support these past few months! I have appreciated your cards, prayers, and offers of assistance so very much! I am truly grateful for my church family!

*In friendship,
Mary Lou McMIndes*



Dear First Presbyterian Church,

Thank you for hosting my Eagle Scout blood drive. We collected 18 pints of blood.

*Thank you,
Ben Woolsey*

Dear First Presbyterian Church Family,
Thank you very much for the lovely birthday card and verse! I appreciate our thoughtfulness! I do appreciate watching the live-stream services. I can sing along with so many familiar hymns and only my kitty hears me sing off-tune! I enjoy the walk/pray group and I do plan to return to the stitch group. Thank you, again, very much.

*Sincerely,
Evelene Rabou*

I want to thank Rev Thomson for the beautiful service he gave for Matthew. He had never met Matthew, but through the boys and me visiting with him, he gained enough insight to deliver the perfect service – My Grateful Thanks.

I also want to thank my Presbyterian family for the many cards and messages I received. It made such a difference to know my church family was thinking of me. I appreciate your thoughtfulness so much.

Connie Davis

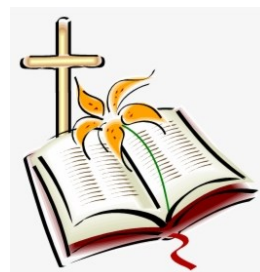


Meryl Adams
Nadine Amen
James Anderson
Max Arrowsmith
Guy Beardsley
Gail Blackwell
Dr. Richard Brown
Minnie Bunley
Chuck Burke
Rose Burrows
Olivia Campbell
Rachel Campbell
Debbie Confortini
Gina Courtade
Paislee Delany
Karen Denniston

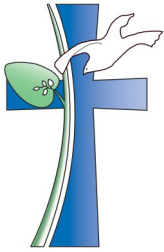
Donna DiNino
Kevin Gallagher
Adam George
Melissa Gilespi
Lyle Ginter
Patricia Goss
Carmen Grubbs
Patricia Hamil
Tamiecta Hamm
Hart Family
Patricia Hawke
Geraldine Hayes
Sherry Hayes
Gail Heimback
Ray Hernandez
Jamie Herrera
**Angela James
Jessica Jessen
Jim Keen
Debbie Lenhart
William Loftus
Linda McGuire
Pat McLlwain

Mary Lou McMIndes
Tom Milholland &
Children
Kathy Lee Montgomery
Connor Moyer
Tom Muhlback
Kari Murdoch
Stephanie Oakland
Kim Olson
Susan Payne
Dale & Aurthur Petersen
Catherine Pacheko
Amanda Pierce
Dorothy Pontillo
Loren Pulley
Paula Qualls
Mary Rapp
Carol Rieser
Gail Salzburg
Frank & Belinda Serrano
Del Shortliffe
Jeannie Smith
Karen Smith

Marilyn St. John
Christie Stowe
Don Stang
Diana Stevens
Paula Stevens
Vicky Stone
Carol Ann Strader
Mary Tolle
Larry Twidwell
Dorothy Tyrell
Georgia Valdon
Sarah Wacker
Javen Westby
Lexie White
Brenda Williams
Jennifer Wulf



Let us know when people are well and can be taken off our prayer list. Thank you!

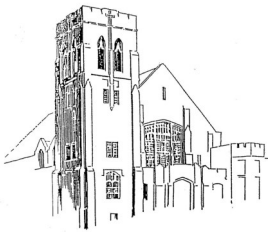


First Presbyterian Church

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CHANGE SERVICE REQUESTED



11/2023



WORSHIP MATERIALS

*are accessed on the first page of our website:
firstprescheyenne.org*

LIVE-STREAMED WORSHIP SERVICES

*are accessed on the first page of our website:
firstprescheyenne.org and on our YouTube channel.*

THANK YOU VETERANS

NOV. 11



Happy Thanksgiving!

