



Pastor Message
Ellen Gurnon

Dear Members and Friends,

PRACTICE GRATITUDE

I used to find it very tedious to read so many newsletters for the month of November, all with the focus of giving thanks. Not that I disagree with the concept, of course. I just got tired of it. It was all so redundant and so cliché that I often tried to find something else to write about.

But this year, gratitude doesn't feel redundant or cliché at all. This year, with all the changes and suffering and separation and loss from the pandemic.... This year, with a record number of hurricanes along the Gulf of Mexico and massive fires in the West.... This year, with protests and uprisings around racism and quarantines and mask ordinances.... This year, with a heated and historic election and record voter turnout.... This year there has been plenty to complain about, so we need to be ever more intentional about GRATITUDE.

While we are all anxious about the outcome of the election, let's take a moment to be grateful that we have the right to vote and the freedom to voice our disagreement with our government.

We are worried about when life might get "back to normal" (without threat of being infected), but let's also be grateful for medical professionals who put themselves at risk to treat us and scientists who are working to develop a vaccine.

Though we are disappointed to realize we might not be with family for the holidays, let's be grateful for the love we share, the ways we can connect, and the desire to protect each other.

Though some of us are back in church, we're still missing so many. But let's be grateful that we are part of a family of faith, that we have the Holy Spirit to comfort and connect us, and that we have the promise in scripture that nothing in this world can separate us from God's love.

We miss singing in church! But let's be grateful for the wonderful musicians who find creative ways to share the gift of music in worship.

I believe that the more we practice gratitude, the more reasons we will find to be grateful.

This year... "Whatever you do, in word or deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, GIVING THANKS to God the Father through him." (Colossians 3:17)

Health and peace,

Ellen



Lectionary

November 1st

Joshua 3:7–17
Psalm 107:1–7, 33–37
Thessalonians 2:9–13
Matthew 23:1–12

November 8th

Joshua 24:1–3a, 14–25
Psalm 78:1–7
Thessalonians 4:13–18
Matthew 25:1–13

November 15th

Judges 4:1–7
Psalm 123
1 Thessalonians 5:1–11
Matthew 25:14–30

November 22nd

Reign of Christ / Christ the King

Ezekiel 34:11–16, 20–24
Psalm 100
Ephesians 1:15–23
Matthew 25:31–46

November 29th

First Sunday of Advent

Isaiah 64:1–9
Psalm 80:1–7, 17–19
1 Corinthians 1:3–9
Mark 13:24–37

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. (*Presbyterianmission.org*)

Advent and Christian Life

While Advent is certainly a time of celebration and anticipation of Christ's birth, it is more than that. It is only in the shadow of Advent that the miracle of Christmas can be fully understood and appreciated, and it is only in the light of Christmas that the Christian life makes any sense. It is between the fulfilled promise of Christ's first coming and the yet-to-be-fulfilled promise of his second coming that Karl Barth penned these words: "Unfulfilled and fulfilled promise are related to each other, as are dawn and sunrise. Both promise and in fact the same promise. If anywhere at all, then it is precisely in the light of the coming of Christ that faith has become Advent faith, the expectation of future revelation. But faith knows for whom and for what it is waiting. It is fulfilled faith because it lays hold on the fulfilled promise." The promise for Israel and the promise for the church is Jesus Christ; he has come, and he will come again. This is the essence of Advent.



Calendar

November 1st Worship Service

9:15a.m.

Westminster Presbyterian Church
Communion Served

 Livestream Worship Service

10:45 a.m.

November 8th Worship Service

9:15a.m.

Westminster Presbyterian Church
*Congregational Meeting immediately following the service for
the purpose of electing new Elders.*

 Livestream Worship Service

10:45 a.m.

November 15th Worship Service

9:15a.m.

Westminster Presbyterian Church
BRUCE GENTRY PREACHING

 Livestream Worship Service

10:45 a.m.

November 22nd Worship Service

9:15a.m.

Westminster Presbyterian Church
CHRIST THE KING SUNDAY

 Livestream Worship Service

10:45 a.m.

November 29th

Worship Service

9:15a.m.

Westminster Presbyterian Church
1st Sunday of Advent
HANGING OF THE GREENS

 Livestream Worship Service

10:45 a.m.



Charlene Christian Nov. 4th

Pastor Ellen Gurnon Nov. 20th



***Bible Study has been moved
from November 17th to November 10th.***

9:30a.m. Family Room

Please mark your calendars.



Congratulations!!

Walt and Cathy Schroeder became grand-
parents on Oct. 23 to a beautiful baby girl,
Kira Alexandra. The proud parents are Alex
and Kateryna Schroeder.



SESSION NEWS

Missions: We will also be making announcements soon about special Christmas mission projects. Be listening for those in service and check your e-mail for more information coming soon. As you're considering your giving for next year, check out the extended Mission report for 2020 on the next page. God is active in this Church!!

Christian Life: We will be having our annual "Hanging of the Greens" on Sunday, November 29th immediately after service. Since our service is earlier, we will start quickly after worship. We will socially distance, working on different projects as we decorate our church home for the Christmas season. The session will meet to develop more specific plans...stay tuned 😊

Grounds: Stanley Downs has volunteered to help replace the wooden fencing around our dumpster. THANK YOU STANLEY!

Estimates are being gathered for re-surfacing our parking lots. Stay tuned for more information on that front.

Worship: Pastor Ellen will be away on November 15th. Bruce Gentry will be our guest Pastor at Westminster that day. Welcome Bruce!

Stewardship: Pledge cards will be distributed in November. Please prayerfully consider what you may be able to contribute to the church over the upcoming calendar year.



We've been busy! Did you know that over the past year, Westminster Presbyterian Church has donated needed funds to 8 organizations and missionaries in addition to starting our new SEMO PROM MOTHERS/ BECCA's CLOSET mission! We may be small but we are mighty! Our mission committee works hard to provide for a variety of organizations both local and around the world. A big thank you to all who have contributed – You are doing God's work!

<u>Missionaries:</u>	Jeb/Jeannie Kobel (Peru)	\$500
	Scott/EI Marie Parker (Lebanon)	\$500
<u>Christian Hospital</u>	Taxila Punjab India	\$500



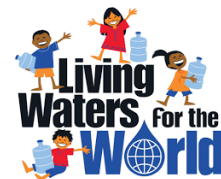
Florence Project (legal aide to immigrants)
\$250

Presbyterian Childrens Service \$500

Cameron House – San Francisco \$500



Living Waters for the World Mission – water project \$500



FISH Cape Girardeau emergency resource \$100

Presbyterian Hunger Project \$100

