



THE VISITOR

NOVEMBER 2024

The newsletter of the Presbyterian Church of Kane

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Giving Thanks and Expressing Gratitude

This month we celebrate the national holiday of Thanksgiving. A day intended to give thanks remembering the first thanksgiving in 1621 when the surviving Pilgrims shared a meal with their Native American neighbors.

As Christians, our thanksgiving goes beyond a national holiday. Giving thanks and expressing gratitude is a part of Christian life. In his book, *Gratitude*, Cornelius Plantinga makes the point that being created in the image of God has a direct impact on how we should think about gratitude. Plantinga writes "[w]e are like God when we clothe ourselves with the virtues of Christ - compassion, kindness, love, peace, and gratitude (Col. 3:12-17)." How might we do this, Plantinga offers the following suggestions:

- By weeping with a friend who has been humiliated by losing a much needed job.
- By commending a timid colleague for work about which they feel incompetent.
- By meeting others as a fellow traveler, not a prima donna.
- By meeting a hard word with a soft one.
- By absorbing irritants without becoming irritated.
- By putting up with people who drive us nuts.
- By dropping anger against someone even when we have a right to it.
- By pursuing social justice for people we don't even know.
- By serving as a mediator between two friends who need to be reconciled.
- By thanking God for Everything good in our lives.

As we gather this month, around the table with family and friends, may we do so expressing thanks to God and sharing our gratitude with others.

Extended Advent Begins November 10th

Advent is supposed to be a season of waiting and anticipation, yet it is often overshadowed by the "countdown" to Christmas and our secular celebration of Christmas. A group called the "Advent Project" formed some years ago with the purpose to re-imagine Advent -- to re-imagine Advent as the season of anticipation of the full manifestation of God's Reign and consider how it might be observed within our 21st century world.

In partnership with St. John's Episcopal Church and the Rev. Rebecca Harris, we will be using materials produced by the Advent Project and celebrate Advent as a seven-week season with a weekly Sunday evening short contemplative service followed by a time of discussion. Please consider attending one or more of these services.

News from the Worship Committee

In November we will have two worship and fellowship opportunities as well as our standard worship services.

November 17 - Our teens and chaperones who went to the Montreat Retreat this summer will be joining us in worship to share the incredible experience they had there. We will worship together and then have a pot-luck noon meal in Fellowship Hall. So, bring a dish to pass, a place setting and come and worship and hear some wonderful stories. There will be a sign-up sheet on the Bulletin Board in the Narthex so you can record what you will be bringing.

November 24 - We will be worshipping with St. Matthews in Mt. Jewett followed by a Thanksgiving Dinner as we did last year. Lynda will be cooking one of the birds and we are asked to bring Thanksgiving side dishes as well as our own place settings. This is a joyful time to share worship and fellowship, so we hope you'll come! There will be another sign-up sheet for you to let us know you are coming and a place to mark if you'd like to car-pool from Kane to Mt. Jewett

Congregational Meeting

A meeting of the congregation of the Presbyterian Church of Kane is called for Sunday, November 10, 2024, immediately following the 11:00 am worship service. The purpose of this meeting is to hear the report of the Nominating Committee and to elect officers for the class of 2027, members of the 2025 auditing committee and at-large members of the 2025 Nominating Committee. As ordered by the Session at their meeting on Monday, October 21, 2024.

The nominating committee submits the following individuals for these roles:

Ruling Elder, Class of 2027: Lori Fiscus, Lynda Karger

2025 Auditing Committee: Diane Humphrey, Marie Larson, and Audrey McLaughlin

2025 Nominating Committee Members-at-large: Ginny Coppersmith and Matt Gayley

Your Opinion Matters ...

Last month the Mission Committee shared results from our guided conversation about our mission statement and they had one more question to ask:

"How would you like to keep this conversation going?"

- After church group get together
- Church luncheon/potluck dinner
- Any other way you can think of

Please consider sharing your thoughts with Mission Committee members Marie Larson or Bill Ryding

**FOOD, FRIENDS,
WANDS
THANKS**

JOIN US FOR A POTLUCK
AS THE MONTREAT YOUNG ADULTS &
CHAPERONES SHARE STORIES FROM THEIR
RETREAT.

Sunday, Nov. 17th
Following Worship in Fellowship Hall
Bring a dish to share!

Kane Area Food Pantry

For the month of November, the Food Pantry is asking for donations of pumpkin, pie crust mixes, and cranberry sauce. Please consider donating items or making a monetary donation to the Food Pantry.



Items can be placed on the table in the hallway by the Chase Street entrance. Monetary donations can be made directly to the Food Pantry or to the church with "Food Pantry" in the memo field of your check.

Your donations matter. Statistics shared for the most recent fiscal year (July 2023 - June 2024) report the Food Pantry serving 1,418 households with 222 new households being served during the year. Households vary in size ranging from a single individual to a multi-generational family unit. The size of the box given to each household is based on number of members in the household. During the most recent fiscal period 964 large boxes, 378 medium and 76 small boxes were distributed.

Brief Updates

- ✓ The annual community Thanksgiving Service will be held on Thursday, November on Tuesday, November 26th at 7:00 pm at Grace Bible Church.
- ✓ In response to hurricanes Helene and Milton, PDA, is currently working with three synods and 14 presbyteries. PDA provides both immediate and long-term support. Please keep their work in your prayers and consider supporting their work with your financial gift.

Stewardship Corner ... *A personal reflection on Spiritual Stewardship*

For me, Spiritual Stewardship is participating in the life of the church. It is a call to be generous, but it is not all about the numbers. It is a call to join us for worship. It is a call to write a note of thanks, offer up a meal, listen to someone pour their heart out, be sympathetic, offer your talents, be it technological, musical or as a volunteer. I have been contemplating this; how do I experience faithful living and the joy of giving? I look around my house and I have too much stuff! Let's be clear, I don't mean baggage. I'm talking about stuff. I have old stuff, new stuff, beautiful stuff and tacky stuff. I have stuff that has fond memories attached and stuff that I can't recall why I have it. Most of this stuff I can't even give away. Our children don't want it. I ask myself "Am I a slave to my stuff"?

The task of the Finance Committee is to assess the Church's monetary needs and set a financial goal. That is all about the numbers!

I believe when experiencing faithful living, the Joy of Giving will come naturally.

Lori

God has the power to provide you with more than enough of every kind of grace. That way, you will have everything you need always and in everything to provide more than enough for every kind of good work. 2 Corinthians 9:8

The 2024 Leadership Team of the Presbyterian Church of Kane

<u>Session</u>		<u>Mutual Ministry</u>
John Cleland	Marie Larson	John Cleland
Lori Fiscus	Peggy Luck	Jim Coppersmith
Curt Hartman	Kal Lyons	Jody Larson
Lynda Karger	Dale McLaughlin	Sue Zook-Wilson
Clerk of Session: Matt Gayley		Pastor: Rev. Carol Sharp

THE VISITOR is the newsletter of the Presbyterian Church of Kane.

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