

First Christian *focus*

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER | NOVEMBER 2022 VOLUME 4

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Living a Life Filled With Thankfulness

November Food Staples and Canned Food Drive

THE SHELVES ARE BARE at the Virginia Peninsula Food Bank. The shelves in our own pantry are better stocked but we rely heavily on what Carolyn and Dave Boyer bring each week from the Food Bank to plan and prepare the meals that are made each Wednesday. Currently, we are fixing 70 hot meals that are picked up by Four Oaks Day Service Center for delivery to the homeless of Newport News and an additional 20 hot lunches and 36 breakfasts that Connie delivers to HELP. (Hampton Ecumenical Lodging and Provisions)

As we move into the month of November and our thoughts are more focused on our blessings and being thankful for all we have we will be collecting food supplies to ensure that valuable ministry can continue.

Please look over the insert that you will find in the upcoming bulletin and think about how you might help. If you bring items that need to be refrigerated, please put them in the refrigerator in the small kitchen but let Connie or Linda know so they can be moved to the big kitchen. All other items can be placed on the table to the left as you enter the narthex from outside.

As you consider how you can help, please remember Jesus's words from John 21:15: "Simon, son of John, do you love me? Peter replied, "Yes, Lord, You know I love You." Jesus said, "Feed My lambs."

Thank you for your support!

Church Events

- Nov 2 –Executive Committee Meeting
- Nov 3-CMF
- Nov 6-DST ENDS
- Nov 6-All Saint's Day
- Nov 9-Elder's Meeting
- Nov 10-CMF

A huge thank you to all who participated in making the Crop Walk successful! First Christian Church donated \$1,065, four large bags of shoes for THRIVE, and food for the Food Bank. Our walkers were John and Barbara Mathews, Brenda Wilkerson, Chris and Cynthia Heier, Dave and Carolyn Boyer and Kimberly McIntosh.



Daylight Saving Time Ends Nov 6th

Daylight Saving Time (DST) is the practice of advancing clocks during warmer months so that darkness falls at a later clock time. Typically we set our clocks forward one hour in the spring ("spring forward"), and set them back by one hour in the autumn ("fall back") to return to standard time. As a result, there is one 23-hour day in late winter or early spring and one 25-hour day in autumn.

Virginia first observed Daylight Saving Time in 1970, that's 53 years now. But, the Senate recently passed a bill to make Daylight Saving Time permanent in November of 2023. The bill, known as the Sunshine Protection Act, earned 17 cosponsors from both parties in the upper chamber and was passed by unanimous consent. Senator Marco Rubio of Florida, has long been a proponent of making the clock change permanent and led the push to pass the bill.

Daylight Saving will end at 2 a.m. local time on Sunday, November 6 and will begin again for the final time at 2 a.m. on Sunday, March 12, 2023.



Let us come before His presence with thanksgiving;

Let us shout joyfully to Him with psalms.

For the Lord is the great God,

And the great King above all gods.

Psalms 95:2-3

Be encouraged with Scripture on why we should give thanks and how to express our gratitude. It's so easy during the holiday season (or any time of the year!) to be overwhelmed with all the tasks and activities to do that we forget to stop and reflect on why we should be celebrating. Take a minute to stop and read these thanksgiving Bible verses as you meditate on all the ways God has blessed you! Read these verses and say a Thanksgiving prayer out loud to thank God and praise Him for the good that surrounds you.

"Oh give thanks to the Lord, for he is good, for his steadfast love endures forever!" (Psalm 107:1)

"I will give to the Lord the thanks due to his righteousness, and I will sing praise to the name of the Lord, the Most High." (Psalm 7:17)

"Give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you" (1 Thessalonians 5:18)

"Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God." (Philippians 4:6)

"And let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, to which indeed you were called in one body. And be thankful." (Colossians 3:15)





Pastor's Pen

Encouraging Words from Pastor Debbie

When the time is right ...

I recently looked up the definitions of "time" and "when" in the Oxford Dictionary. Here is what I found. As a noun, time is defined as the indefinite continued progress of existence and events in the past, present, and future regarded as a whole. As a verb, time is defined as, plan, schedule, or arrange when (something) should happen or be done. The word when, which is used as an adverb, means, at what time.

It seems that from the very beginning of our existence, we humans have been preoccupied with time or at least the timing of things. For centuries we have tried to figure out when God will do something. For example, when was the Holy Spirit going to descend on the disciples? When were the Israelites going to be set free? When is Jesus going to return to earth?

For whatever reason, we are obsessed with having some sort of time frame. Perhaps we find comfort in knowing when a monumental event will happen. Particularly when it pertains to Christ. This month I want to challenge each of us to shift our focus away from "when" or "time". Instead, I encourage you to focus on the adjective knowing, defined as showing or suggesting that one has knowledge or awareness that is secret or known to only a few people.

Friends, I believe that God is preparing to do amazing things at First Christian Church, Disciples of Christ. Let us not be concerned with when God's plan will come into fruition. Instead let us walk knowing that God is alive through his son Jesus Christ, who is present, and is working on our behalf.

Pastor Debbie

Office Hours: M, W, F 9:00 a.m.—12:00 p.m.

Cell Phone: 757-846-8273

Dinner Plans?

Reflecting on the First Thanksgiving

In September 1620, a small ship called the Mayflower left Plymouth, England, carrying 102 passengers. After 66 days at sea, they finally dropped anchor near the tip of Cape Cod, further north than the intended destination at the mouth of the Hudson River. One month later, the ship crossed Massachusetts Bay where the passengers, now colonists, began settling Plymouth.

Most of the colonists remained onboard the ship during their first brutal winter, where they suffered from exposure, scurvy and outbreaks of many contagious disease. Sadly, only half of the Mayflower's original passengers and crew lived to see their first New England spring. In March, the remaining settlers moved ashore, where they received a visit from a members of the Abenaki and Pawtuxet tribes who greeted them in English. They taught the settlers how to cultivate corn, catch fish and avoid poisonous plants.

In November 1621, after the Pilgrims' first corn harvest proved successful, Governor William Bradford organized a celebratory feast and invited a group of the Native Americans. This is now remembered as America's "first Thanksgiving" and the festival lasted for three days.

History tells us that they probably ate fowl and deer, a variety of seafood, and the fruit of their harvest to include corn, pumpkin, squash, and carrots, and that many of the dishes were likely prepared using traditional Native American spices and cooking methods. Because the Pilgrims had no oven and the Mayflower's sugar supply had been depleted by the fall of 1621, the meal probably did not feature pies, cakes or other deserts which has become part of our tradition.

So, as you feast on your Thanksgiving dinner this year, spend a few minutes reflecting on the settlers and their "first Thanksgiving".



The mission of Operation Christmas Child is to demonstrate God's love in a tangible way to children in need around the world. Through this project, Samaritan's Purse partners with the local church worldwide to share the Good News of Jesus Christ and make disciples of the nations.

Every year since, Samaritan's Purse has collected shoebox gifts filled with toys, school supplies, and hygiene items for children around the world. Since 1993, more than **198 million children** in more than 170 countries and territories have received an Operation Christmas Child shoebox. The project delivers not only the joy of what, for many kids, is their first gift ever, but also gives them a tangible expression of God's love.



"Let the children come to me; do not hinder them, for to such belongs the kingdom of God."

Mark 10:14 ESV

READERS MINISTRY SCHEDULE

Nov 6th	Ron Milovac
Nov 13th	Connie Herring
Nov 20th	George & Jacque White
Nov 27th	Janice Fulbright

Please mark your date on your calendar and in the event that you cannot lead on your scheduled date please contact someone else on the list to arrange a trade of dates or contact Linda Kuster to make a substitute plan for you.

PLEASE read over your scripture before Sunday so you are familiar with the reading. There is a pronunciation guide at the lectern if you should need it. If you have any questions at all about the scripture itself or anything else connected with this ministry, please do not hesitate to call Linda.

On the day, you lead you should meet in the library at 10:30 with others participating in worship that day. Thank you, so much, for your continued willingness to support this ministry.



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Regional Church Website & Regional Blog

<https://www.ccinva.org/about>

District Website

(Tidewater/Hampton-Roads Area
Disciples of Christ)

<https://thradisciples.weebly.com/>

November Celebrations! **Birthdays**

- Nov 2 Debbie Ott
- Nov 7 Don Fail
- Nov 10 Ernie Garrett
- Nov 10 Webb Bell
- Nov 11 Sharon Mills
- Nov 18 Brenda Wilkerson
- Nov 23 Greg Campbell

Anniversaries

- Nov 6 Greg & Debbie Ott
- Nov 18 Gene & Sudie Stultz
- Nov 26 Dick & Marsha Garrett

Need to Know

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