

From under the Redbud Tree.....



The Redbud

*The Newsletter of First Presbyterian Church
Mountain Home, Arkansas*

November, 2020

Strangers No More

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Some people open their holiday meals to strangers, and one host even did so inadvertently. In 2016, Wanda Dench texted 17-year old Jamal Hinton about Thanksgiving dinner, thinking she was contacting her grandson.

When a skeptical Hinton requested a photo and received a selfie of someone with a different skin color, he chuckled— but then asked if he could still come eat! Thus began a new friendship and a new annual tradition, which Hinton documents online. “Family is more than blood,” says Dench. “It’s the people you want to be with.”

This year’s meal will be bittersweet, with an empty chair for Dench’s husband, who died of Covid-19 in April. To show support after that loss, Hinton sent his “grandma” a collection of loving video messages. Strangers worldwide expressed condolences to a woman who’d fully embraced a stranger.

For the Month of November



November 16- Mike & Marty Hasty

Special Dates

| | |
|-------------|----------------|
| November 5 | Jan Clark |
| November 6 | Bob Kearns |
| November 7 | Pete Wells |
| November 11 | Mary Smith |
| November 16 | Beverly Preble |
| November 20 | Norma Iffland |
| November 23 | Nancy Priest |

- November 1- All Saint's Day
November 1- Daylight -Savings Time Ends
November 3- **Election Day!!!!**
November 11- Veterans Day
November 22- Christ the King Sunday
November 26- Thanksgiving Day



Turn your clocks back one hour before you go to bed on October 31st!

Daylight-Savings Time ends on November 1st!



"Why call it Daylight Savings Time when the service feels so much longer?"



Greetings in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ,

It has been such a long time since we have been able to get together in person as a church family. Unfortunately the situation is not getting any better. As we watch the number of cases rising in Baxter county and how the COVID-19 virus has touched our church family, it is worrisome and scary. Many of us are feeling the isolation and loneliness that comes with adhering to the CDC guidelines to stay safe. And yet it is so important to stay safe, wash hands, wear a mask when out or around someone, and keep the recommended safe distance when you are near someone. It is difficult to even know who is safe and who isn't safe as we don't know where our friends and family have been. It seems there is no end in sight. Isolation, and depression are on the rise. To help I have found it is important for me to keep in touch with family and close friends by text messages, phone calls and using that crazy thing on our cell phones called Skype. Seeing our loved ones and talking with them helps. Find a hobby to challenge your mind. I like to spend a few minutes each evening before bedtime doing the "Word search" puzzles. Seems to help get my mind off the craziness of the world and helps me get a good nights rest. My wife is into the Sudoku puzzles. It does the same for her. Too much thinking for me!!!

We are ALL in the process of redefining A NEW NORMAL and we have no idea what that means. Many of us are experiencing periods of grief. One simple definition of grief that I learned a number of years ago is *"the process of redefining normal."* We have lost what we have had for so many years and we don't have any idea what that means in terms of moving on in life.

I am convinced we will find that new normal whatever that may be. It is so important that we allow ourselves to lean on God and Christ Jesus to get through this pandemic. It is about letting go of our worries and pain, our anxieties and turning them over to God. I can't help but hear those words from the Psalmist when he writes: THE LORD IS MY SHEPHERD, I SHALT NOT WANT. HE MAKES ME TO LIE DOWN IN GREEN PASTURES, he restores my soul....It is amazing how God will welcome us and will open His loving arms to our needs and fears.

Holidays are coming! We don't know what that means. We are soon approaching that holiday when we give thanks to God for *All* that we have, including family and friends, church family and good neighbors. We can still do that only in a bit different way this year. If you have found ways to celebrate Thanksgiving this year in different and unique ways send in your "new way" to the church office at fpcmh@centurytel.com or mail in your ideas to the church and we will post them on our website. Stay in touch with each other. We are a people of God and we do need each other.

We will continue to offer virtual Holy Communion the first Sunday of each month during our virtual worship service posted on our church website at www.fpcmh.net. If you would like a communion set, stop by the church this week from 9 am til noon. If you are not able to pick up the communion set call the church office and we will try and get someone to deliver the set to you. See the separate article in this month's REDBUD on session actions and news.

Be at peace. Stay safe. And stay in touch. God loves you and so do I!!!

Pastor Mike

Church Family



I want to thank all of my wonderful church family for being there for me during this very scary and stressful time. For those who don't know, I experienced a heart attack at home; but for the grace of our loving God, my oldest son and his wife (a nurse) were there. Lora took my pulse which was fine, my oxygen level was fine, but my blood pressure was 260/128 and my chest hurt so bad I couldn't breathe. She didn't want to scare me so she just looked at my son and said take her to the hospital NOW! After three rounds of nitro it started to come down, but they couldn't get my pressure regulated. I was not a good candidate for bypass because of my height and because of my mom's history of having a massive stroke due to plaque, so now I have 3 stents. They think they can control the other 3 with medication. With Covid-19, and no visitors, it was easier to keep everyone informed on line. Thank you all for your prayers, cards and calls! I hope I didn't drive you all crazy with texting on Facebook. I was so scared because they couldn't make up their minds which was the best and safest approach. Every time they got another test back it would affect their decision. I put myself in God's loving hands and had wonderful nurses that would pray with me; as well as all of you. I love you all!! Note: If your doctor keeps telling you that your chest pain is just acid reflux (for a year), but you have the pain everyday, and you can't climb more than 6 steps without being out of breath, go to the hospital! - Sandy Kidd



ESTATE SALE FOR THE FAMILY OF REV. SAM & JOYCE HOFER

NOVEMBER 20TH AND NOVEMBER 21ST

610 HICKORY HOLLOW DRIVE

MOUNTAIN HOME



The Church at Work



OCTOBER SESSION NEWS

[1] At the October Session meeting a vote was taken again as to whether we should open for “in person worship service” and the vote was unanimous that we hold off for another month.

[2] The nominating committee reported the names of those who are willing to serve the Lord as an elected member of the Session for the class of 2023. Those willing to serve are: Ralph Gillespie to serve a second 3 year term; George Hove to serve a three year term as Elder; Pete Wells to complete a three year term vacated by Gale Newman. Also Sarah Kelly and Loweta Rogers have agreed to serve as Deacons for a three year term. These nominations were presented to the Session at the October meeting and approved.

[3] A letter will be sent out within the next week to ALL members of the congregation for the purpose of electing new elders and deacons. You will be asked to return the letter with your vote and signature. This will serve as an official election so we do not have to meet in person for a congregational vote.

[4] We are still in need of someone who is willing to serve as Clerk of the Session. It was suggested by Leslie Belden, Clerk of the Arkansas Presbytery that two people could serve in that capacity, sharing the different responsibilities.

[5] The results of the congregational vote to reduce the number of session members from nine to seven were unanimous. Beginning 2021 we will have a seven member session.

[6] The results of the issue of whether members would participate in “in-person” worship was 23 votes for and 23 votes against.

Pastor Clark



Treasurer's Report, as of 30 Sept. 2020

| | |
|--|--------------|
| Donations for Sept. 2020 | \$4,855.00 |
| Checks cashed for expenses | \$8,397.51 |
| Checks not cleared | \$4,673.44 |
| Checking account balance: | \$32,194.64 |
| Adjusted Balance: | \$27,505.75 |
| (available funds) | |
| TPF Investments Balance, 3 rd Qtr: | \$269,904.26 |
| Gain of \$13,250.27 from 2 nd Quarter | |



The Lowdown on the Great Autumn Gourd

Corn might be the king of the U.S. crops, but pumpkins are always in demand this time of year by kids and others celebrating fall's festivities. Here are several interesting tidbits about one of America's favorite fall gourds.

Germany boasts the world's largest pumpkin! The world's largest pumpkin was presented in 2016 at the Giant Pumpkin European Championship, officially weighing in at a stout 2,624.6 pounds. Steve Geddes of New Hampshire is the owner of the largest U.S. pumpkin, weighing 2,528 pounds at the 2018 Deerfield Fair.

Illinois is the U.S. pumpkin leader. Pumpkins are grown in all 50 states, but Illinois is by far the leader with about 600 million pounds of pumpkins harvested each year.

Pumpkin beer has plenty of fanfare. Pumpkin beer was actually a thing hundreds of years ago when the Pilgrims arrived in America as pumpkins were plentiful and provided an easy source of fermentable sugar. Who knew??

Pumpkin carving started with the Irish. Jack-o'-lanterns were first carved by the Irish and Scottish using turnips and potatoes. They used the carved vegetables as part of their Celtic celebrations. Immigrants brought their carving traditions to America, but found that pumpkins were an easier vegetable to carve.

There are more than 40 varieties of pumpkins. Two of the best pumpkins to use for cooking are the Cinderella and the Fair Tale. Most of the pumpkins you see on roadside stands are for decoration only and not very tasty!

It is time for Samaritan's Purse Christmas shoeboxes. A display is set up in the nursery with boxes to be filled and instructions. If you do not feel comfortable packing a box, I will be happy to take your money and fill a box for you. Please make your \$20.00 check out to First Presbyterian Church and designate it for Christmas Shoeboxes. Mail it to the church or place in the offering basket outside of the office. The deadline for turning in boxes will be **Sunday, November 15th!**

Let's **make** lots of
boxes!

Thank you,
Sarah Kelly



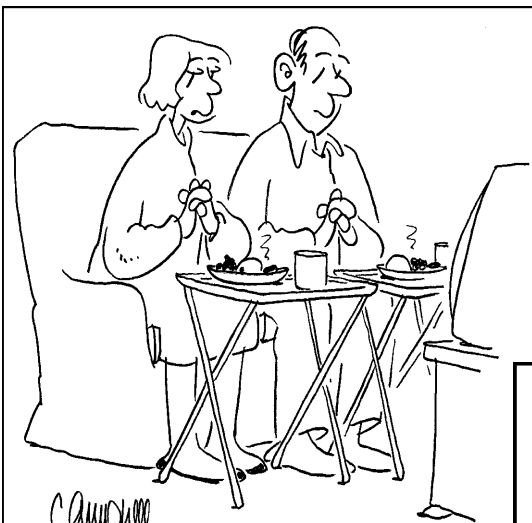
*the power of
a simple gift*

Just For the Fun Of It!

Books of the Bible

Can you find 15 books of the Bible in this paragraph?

In these remarks are hidden names of 15 books of the Bible. It's a real lulu. Kept me looking so hard for facts I missed the revelation. I was in a jam, especially since the names were not capitalized. The truth will come to numbers of our readers. To others it will be a real job. For all it will be a most fascinating search. Yes, there will be some easy to spot; others, hard to judge. So we admit it usually results in loud lamentations when we can't find them. One lady says she brews coffee while she puzzles over it. One book is underlined to help you start. Can you find the other 14? (Good luck. The answers will be in next month's Redbud!)



"Please bless these chops, these peas and these potatoes, both actual and couch."



"Mr. Harris couldn't make it, but he did send his laptop."



Scripture for November



You will be enriched
in every way to be
generous in every way,
which through us will
produce thanksgiving
to God.

2 Corinthians 9:11



Sunday, Nov. 1st

All Saints Day

Revelation 7:9-17
Psalms 34:1-10, 22
1 John 3:1-3
Matthew 5:1-12

Sunday, Nov. 8th

23rd Sunday of Pentecost

Wisdom of Solomon 6:12-16
Psalms 70
1 Thessalonians 4:13-18
Matthew 25:1-13

Sunday, Nov. 15

24th Sunday of Pentecost

Zephaniah 1:7, 12-18
Psalms 90: 1-8 (9-11), 12
1 Thessalonians 5:1-11
Matthew 25:14-30

Sunday, Nov. 22

Reign of Christ

Ezekiel 34:11-16, 20-24
Psalms 95:1-7a
Ephesians 1:15-23
Matthew 25:31-46

Sunday, Nov. 29

1st Sunday of Advent

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



1ST SUNDAY OF Advent

REDBUD CALENDAR NOVEMBER, 2019

| Sunday | Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday | Fri | Sat |
|---|-----------|--|--|---|--|-----------|
|  | | |  | | | |
| 1 Virtual Communion Service www.fpcmh.com  <i>All Saints' Day</i> | 2 | 3 ELECTION DAY!  | 4 | 5 | 6  | 7 |
| 8 Virtual worship Service www.fpcmh.com | 9 | 10 | 11  | 12 | 13  | 14 |
| 15 Virtual worship Service www.fpcmh.com | 16 | 17 10 am  1 pm  SESSION MEETS | 18 | 19 | 20  | 21 |
| 22 Virtual worship Service www.fpcmh.com  | 23 | 24 | 25 | 26 Thanksgiving Day  | 27  | 28 |
| 29  Virtual worship Service www.fpcmh.com | 30 | |  | | | |

THANK YOU!

In the English language, it is common to hear "thank you" or "thanks" as a polite response. Whether you are planning a trip to a foreign country, have a friend who speaks another language, or are looking for a unique way to say thanks, there are many ways to express your appreciation.

The following are examples of how to say thank you in 20 languages other than English:

- Arabic - **shukran** (shoe-kran)
- Chinese - **xie xie** (she-eh she-eh)
- Croatian - **hvala** (HVAH-lah)
- Danish - **tak** (tahg)
- Dutch - **dank u** (dahnk oo)
- Finnish - **kiitos** (key-toss)
- French - **merci** (MEHR-see)
- German - **danke** (dahn-kah)
- Greek - **efharisto** (ef-hah-rees-TOH)
- Hawaiian- **mahalo** (ma-HA-lo)
- Indonesian - **terima kasih** (Tur-EE-mah KAH-see)
- Italian - **grazie** (GRAHTS-yeh)
- Japanese - **arigato** (ah-ree-GAH-toh)
- Korean - **kamsahamnida** (KAM-sah-ham-NEE-da)
- Norwegian - **takk** (tahk)
- Portugese - **obrigado** (oh-bree-GAH-doo)



In addition to speaking the words thank you, you can also sign the words in American Sign Language. To do this, start with the fingers on your prominent hand and place them near your lips. Keep your hand flat and move your hand forward and down in the direction of the person you want to thank.

It's Time to Update our Church Membership Information!



It's that time of year again when we start looking forward to a **brighter new year!**

We would like to make sure that we have the correct information for ALL of our First Presbyterian members & friends in the computer to avoid leaving someone out of a birthday wish, or an important letter or email.

We would like to get this information back from EVERYONE.

You may return this slip to the church office by mail, **email**, or in person. It can be dropped off in the marked box in the office hallway.

Sending an email with your current information should be the most convenient method for most, just be sure to include all of the information below. In the subject line please put "membership information." **Thank you so much** for being co-operative! It makes my job so much easier!

Name (s): _____

Address: _____

Land Line Phone Number: _____

Cell Phone Number: _____

Email address: _____

Birthdate (s): _____

Anniversary Date: (if applicable) _____

**FEEL FREE TO CHANGE THIS FORM TO FIT YOUR
FAMILY!**

**First Presbyterian Church
1106 Spring Street
Mountain Home, AR 72653**

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED



**Church Office Hours
9:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m. /Monday - Thursday**

**Church Mailing Address:
1106 Spring Street
Mountain Home, AR 72653
870-425-3799**

**fpcmh@centurytel.net
Website: www.fpcmh.net**

**Rev. Mike Clark,
Transitional Pastor**

**Adult Sunday School: 9:00 a.m.
Sunday Worship: 10:00 a.m.
Fellowship Coffee: 11:00 a.m.**

**Secretary: Kristi Nelson
Bookkeeper: Nancy Priest**