
~FOR HEAVEN'S SAKE~

Volume 18 Issue 10

November 2025

Dear Church Family,

November is always a month that seems to be filled with lots of emotion. There's this sense of the winter coming-on with most of the leaves having fallen. The heat is now often on throughout the day, and the feeling can be one of wanting to burrow into our homes and watch the world from our own nest. Or it can be a feeling of excitement. We're now getting ready to gear-up for the Christmas holidays, with that including Thanksgiving, which is always seen as the start to the Christmas season. There's the busy-ness in thinking about gifts and for who. Winter sports are clearly also a fan favorite for many, and as annoying as it can be, we do have to admit that the beauty of the snow that could start this month is always something to behold. (Not that I'm desiring any of the white stuff...) All of this to say, we also need to take breaks now and again, and just step back and think about how blessed we really are.

But then there's All Saints Day that starts us off at the very beginning of the month. I know that we often associate All Saints Day with Halloween, and they are connected from way back in Halloween's origins, even though they're pretty far apart in meaning and practice today.

All Saint's Day was originally established in the Catholic Church around the year 600 in order to honor all of the martyrs that had lost their lives due to their faith in Christ as their Savior. A couple hundred years later, another pope dedicated a chapel in St. Peter's Basilica to All of the Saints of the church, not just the martyrs, doing that on November 1st, and thus, establishing the day that it would from there on be recognized as a holy day in the church.

But when the Reformation was discussing all of these topics, there was a very interesting conversation that took place about just what exactly a 'saint' of the church was and how one might fit into such a definition. The official definition of a saint is a person who is known as having been virtuous and would be logically assumed to be in heaven, verses hell.

And one thing that the Reformation really highlighted, is that you don't have to be a clergy person to be a saint of the church, for all those of faith, and who live by that faith, are therefore doing as God's will wants for them, and therefore they are living virtuously, which does lead us to logically assume that they must be in heaven. And so how are they not also saints to be remembered and celebrated. That's what All Saints Day in the Reformed Church became, affirming that we are all one in the priesthood of believers, each of us having a role to play.

And then, in connection to All Saints Day, I especially want to give a shout out to Betsy's organizing of the WMPC Cemetery committee and all of the workers and work that have gone into this project over the last two years. I think it makes a true difference to the face of the church. Some of those graves even had to be completely uncovered, graves going on 200 years in age. But by uncovering them, and giving the possibility to imagining their story while here in this area, however many years ago, that is doing something wonderfully virtuous, in remembering and caring for those who went before us, people who built the foundations of what we have afforded to us today. Honoring them and thanking them and their memories will be at least some of the focus

the second Sunday of the month, as our first Sunday of the month was a joint service in Oak Ridge. Truly, it's always such a joy when we come together as a bigger church family. And that is a lovely blessing, being only all of eight (8) miles apart.

See ya at church!

Be Good & Do Good,

Pastor Chris



SESSION'S REFLECTIONS

NOVEMBER 2025

SUBMITTED BY BETSY ENGELHARDT, CLERK OF SESSION

One of the largest concerns discussed during our October Session meeting was the decline in the weekly collections along with the dangerously low balance in the church checking account. Rich Hepp did an excellent job during Consecration Sunday outlining the finances of the church and the urgent need to increase giving. If you could not attend the worship service on October 26, please consider going to the church website (www.wmpchurch.org) and click on the Facebook link on the main page to view that service. It holds a powerful message everyone should hear.

Another concept discussed was initiating STORY TELLING by our congregation. We would encourage people to write memorable moments, significance the church has meant in our lives, or facts we want to carry forward to future generations. They could be anonymous entries if so desired. These could be gathered into a booklet and become a token for our love for this church to be shared with others. This concept ties in so nicely with Pastor Chris' sermon on October 26 – that generations of church members before us have made it possible for us to call this church our home today.

The Outdoor Blessing of the Animals on October 4 was deemed a success. Attendance included 23 humans, 26 dogs, 1 cat, and plenty of pet pictures to be blessed. With Pastor Chris being such a dog lover, it was very evident he enjoyed helping to host the event.

There are plenty of details posted around church on how to fill a Christmas Showbox for the Samaritan Purse project. All donations should be at the church by November 7th. Also, a donation for mailing expenses of \$10/box is much appreciated.

Our music director Greg Nappa is working on special music for Christmas Eve. He is also excited about a possible worship service featuring music relevant to Epiphany at the beginning of the new year. Donations towards the music budget would help encourage more of these types of events throughout the year.

Cemetery Committee would like to have a rededication of our historic gravesite during the November 9th worship service. They have spent 3 years of hard labor making sure every gravestone is honored by clearing, digging, and cleaning each gravesite. If only they could talk and provide their own STORY TELLING to share with future generations!

Summary of the Church Financials.

| Major expenses... | yearly | Avg Monthly |
|-----------------------|-----------|-------------|
| Staff Salaries | \$ 96,718 | \$ 8,060 |
| pastor | \$ 65,804 | |
| secretary | \$ 18,914 | |
| organist | \$ 12,000 | |
| insurance | \$ 17,811 | \$ 1,484 |
| payroll taxes | \$ 2,566 | \$ 214 |
| repairs / maintenance | \$ 18,000 | \$ 1,500 |
| landscaping | \$ 3,700 | \$ 308 |
| snowplowing | \$ 5,000 | \$ 417 |
| property cleaning | \$ 6,600 | \$ 550 |
| utilities | \$ 17,000 | \$ 1,417 |
| other remaining costs | \$ 14,000 | \$ 1,167 |

total \$ 181,395 \$ 15,116

| Major Income | Budget (YTD) | monthly |
|---------------------|--------------|-------------|
| General | \$ 94,166 | \$ 9,416.60 |
| Building fund | \$ 7,166 | \$ 716.60 |
| Eckhardt Trust | \$ 11,000 | \$ 1,100.00 |
| Fundraising Auction | \$ 14,000 | \$ 1,400.00 |
| Script profit | \$ 958 | \$ 95.80 |
| Plate | \$ 2,333 | \$ 233.30 |
| hall rental | \$ 2,250 | \$ 225.00 |
| restricted donation | \$ 7,000 | \$ 700.00 |
| snow plow fund | \$ 200 | \$ 20.00 |
| Thrivent grant | \$ 300 | \$ 30.00 |
| Womens Association | \$ 10,900 | \$ 1,090.00 |

totals \$ 150,273 \$ 15,027.30

| | Actual (YTD) | Received monthly | Actual (YTD) | Remaining monthly |
|--|--------------|------------------|--------------|-------------------|
| | \$ 70,133 | \$ 7,013.30 | \$ 70,133 | \$ 7,013.30 |
| | \$ 5,780 | \$ 578.00 | \$ 5,780 | \$ 578.00 |
| | \$ 11,000 | \$ 916.67 | \$ 11,000 | |
| | \$ 15,628 | \$ 1,302.33 | \$ 15,628 | |
| | \$ 2,375 | \$ 237.50 | \$ 2,375 | \$ 237.50 |
| | \$ 1,722 | \$ 172.20 | \$ 1,722 | \$ 172.20 |
| | \$ 600 | \$ 60.00 | \$ 600 | \$ 60.00 |
| | \$ 7,000 | \$ 583.33 | \$ 7,000 | |
| | \$ 971 | \$ 97.10 | \$ 971 | \$ 97.10 |
| | \$ 244 | \$ 24.40 | \$ 244 | |
| | \$ 18,889 | \$ 1,574.08 | \$ 18,889 | |

totals \$ 134,342 \$ 12,558.92

totals \$ 150,273 \$ 15,027.30

totals \$ 181,395 \$ 15,116

totals \$ 150,273 \$ 15,027.30

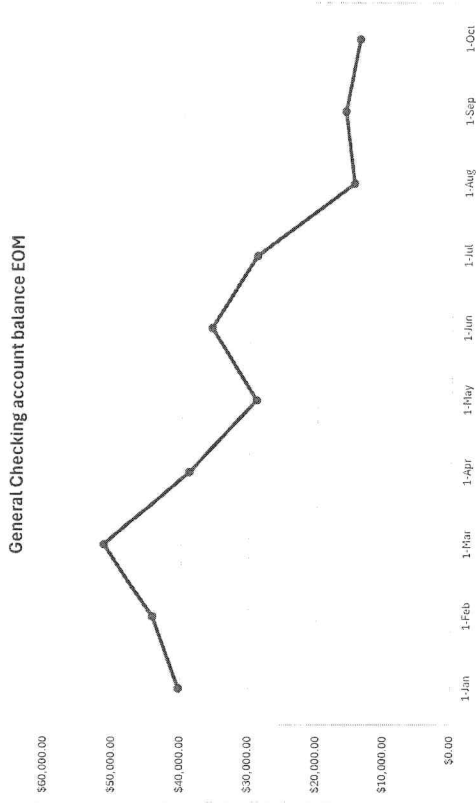
totals \$ 150,273 \$ 15,027.30

totals \$ 181,395 \$ 15,116

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Ending Checking Account Balance

| | |
|--------|--------------|
| 25-Jan | \$ 40,302.00 |
| 25-Feb | \$ 44,207.00 |
| 25-Mar | \$ 51,305.00 |
| 25-Apr | \$ 38,918.00 |
| 25-May | \$ 29,018.00 |
| 25-Jun | \$ 35,595.00 |
| 25-Jul | \$ 29,011.00 |
| 25-Aug | \$ 14,733.00 |
| 25-Sep | \$ 16,106.00 |
| 25-Oct | \$ 13,975.00 |



The operational cost of this church is approx \$15,000 per month

The income we have received thru the year is approx \$12,500 per month

Since large one-time paymnts have already been received, The average expected income for the remaining two months is approx \$8500 per month.

This represents a SHORTFALL of \$6500 per Month

Possibilities for financial recovery....

- 1. Make up any missed donations**
- 2. Make a legacy donations in remembrance of a family or past member**
- 3. Increase your weekly contribution starting today**
- 4. Increase your pledge for 2026**
- 5. Make one time donations , for Birthdays, Anniversaries, Thanksgiving & Christmas**
- 6. Make sure you pay your per capita, \$48/per member**

SUNDAY SCHOOL DOINGS

Both Sunday School classes are continuing to explore the New Testament after Pentecost. This month we will be hearing of some of Paul's epistles (letters) to early Christian communities, giving us insights on how we should live our lives as followers of Jesus.

Once again, our Sunday School classes will be participating in Samaritans Purse-Operation Christmas Child. Last year, our children had so much fun contributing items and packing the boxes. If you are able, please consider donating due back to class Sunday November 7. Suggested items: puzzles, coloring books, small Lego sets, small pack or purse, stuffed animal, toothbrush, flashlight, school supplies, winter hat, scarf, Mittens, sunglasses. PLEASE do not include any used or damaged items. NO food, candy, gum or toothpaste.

This year, our children will also be writing personal letters to be added to the boxes. This is such a wonderful way for the children to spread God's love. The confirmation class, led by Pastor Chris, has begun meeting Wednesday afternoons. The confirmands are currently viewing videos-"The Bible Project"-of the Old Testament answering questions which are discussed in class. The confirmands will also be meeting with their sponsors, exploring the PCUSA Book of Order, the history of the Presbyterian Church and of WMPC. This is just to name a few of the things the class will be studying!

The class will also be doing fun activities, TBA!

IMPORTANT DATES

- | | |
|--------------|--|
| November 2, | Family Service, 10:00 at OakRidge, No Sunday School |
| November 7, | Samaritians Purse items due |
| November 16, | Older class-collection and Coffee Hour |
| November 30, | Family Service, 10:00 At West Milford, No Sunday School |





WA November Newsletter

The Harvest Festival was a lovely day at Bubbling Springs. We sold 39 cotton candy cones and 15 bags of popcorn. This annual event is really great day for families.

The Women's Association is busy at work on the Christmas Bazaar and craft fair on November 22nd from 10-4. The Sweet Stop in the Parish House can use lots of homemade goodies-contact Bonnie for info.

The Deacons Cafe will be up and running with dining on the stage.

We have some new vendors this year plus your favorites from previous years. Come do your Christmas shopping before the rush and get some unique gifts.

Check out the beautiful poster in Fellowship Hall that Sandy made with all our upcoming events plus our regular activities. Thank you Sandy.

After the bazaar we will be concentrating on the Christmas season.

Aunt Jenny's Attic has been having a lot of visitors. We have gotten some really beautiful donations, some barely get in the door and they are sold. It is truly a happy place to be.

We will be packing up before the bazaar so come in and check us out.

Here's wishing everyone a beautiful Thanksgiving and remember it's the month to gobble till you wobble.

Blessings. Linda



Deacons Doings

October 22, 2025

World Wide Communion. Three congregations gathered to share and celebrate this very special day. Three choirs joined to sing praise. The Passing of Peace extended for several minutes as we wanted to reach out and say "Peace be With You" to every member of the congregation. Later, we shared time at Coffee Hour.

Each windowsill had decorations depicting many countries, all donated by members of the congregation whose roots began in these countries. Scarves, sweaters, mementos, all were there.

As we gathered, I was reminded of the list of those who were not with us. Many have chosen not to come to church; many may not be able to come. There are other reasons. The Deacons are reaching out to them. "You are not forgotten."

Another "reaching out" can be just saying a simple "hello" to those we meet at the store, in the parking lot.

Sometimes we see or read something that sets off a spark in our brain. I'd like to share my recent "special spark," paraphrased.

It was at the end of the day. I boarded the subway at lower Manhattan. There was one seat left, which I took. It was beside an older lady. Her cloth coat was thin, she had her pocketbook and two small bags on her lap, two larger bags on the floor beside her. I said "hello". No response. We rode uptown in silence. Near the top, she got up, gathered her bags and stood by the pole, ready to exit. As she left, she looked at me and said, "Thank you."





We all are thankful that we can make a difference in the lives of others. We invite you to make one difference in the lives of many in our community by bringing them a measure of joy this Thanksgiving through donating the nourishing items they can serve their families for the holiday on November 27th. The list of suggestions for donating is in the church bulletin and can be dropped off at the pantry or in the bin outside of Fellowship Hall. You can be a part of putting together the bags that will be used by the families, on Nov 17th at 9:30 in the morning in Fellowship Hall. You can help to hand out the bags to the families as they stop by the church on November 18th and 19th for pick up. If you would like to be involved please talk to anyone that works in the pantry and let them know you're interested. Members of the pantry are Pat Wright, Rose Bates and her mom, Roberta Schmidt, Helen Kershaw, Marty Tappan, Dale Hamilton, Carol Stanhope, Kathy McGurr, Morgan Miller, Heide and Bob Jandura, Kathy Holley, Bonnie Seufert. If you find you don't need to use the free turkey you get from your supermarket please consider taking it and bringing it to the pantry. Thank You!!!



| Sun | Mon | Tue | Wed | Thu | Fri | Sat |
|---|--|---|--|--|--|---|
| 26 9am - Worship 1pm - Girl Scouts Line Dancing 6pm - Scouts | 27 5pm - WM Players Tech 7:30pm - Zoom Bible Study | 28 November 2025 | 29 11am - Bible Study @ WMPC 1pm - Aunt Jenny's Attic 3pm - Farmers Market 5pm - WM Players Tech | 30 9am - Community Food Pantry 9am - Sr. Saints 5pm - WM Players Tech | 31 11am - Aunt Jenny's Attic 5pm - WM Players Show | 1 8am - food pantry 11am - Aunt Jenny's Attic |
| 2 Daylight Saving Time ends 9am - Worship 6pm - Scouts | 3 5pm - WM Players Tech 7:30pm - Zoom Bible Study | 4 Election Day 9am - Community Food Pantry 5pm - WM Players Tech | 5 11am - Bible Study @ WMPC 1pm - Aunt Jenny's Attic 3pm - Farmers Market 5pm - WM Players Tech | 6 9am - Community Food Pantry 9am - Sr. Saints 5pm - WM Players Tech | 7 11am - Aunt Jenny's Attic 5pm - WM Players Show | 8 8am - Winter Farmers Market 9am - Community Food Pantry 11am - Aunt Jenny's Attic 12pm - WM Players |
| 9 9am - Worship 6pm - Scouts | 10 6pm - WM Players Tech 7:30pm - Zoom Bible Study | 11 Veterans Day 9am - Community Food Pantry 6pm - WM Players Tech 7pm - Session | 12 11am - Bible Study @ WMPC 1pm - Aunt Jenny's Attic 6pm - WM Players Tech | 13 9am - Community Food Pantry 9am - Sr. Saints 6pm - WM Players Tech | 14 11am - Aunt Jenny's Attic 5pm - WM Players Show | 15 NEWSLETTER DEADLINE 11am - Aunt Jenny's Attic 12pm - WM Players Show |
| 16 9am - Worship 1pm - Girl Scouts Line Dancing 6pm - Scouts | 17 9:30am - Thanksgiving Bagging 7:30pm - Zoom Bible Study | 18 9am - Community Food Pantry 9am - Thanksgiving Bags | 19 9am - Thanksgiving Bags 11am - Bible Study @ WMPC 1pm - Aunt Jenny's Attic | 20 9am - Community Food Pantry 9am - Sr. Saints | 21 Christmas Bazaar Set-Up 11am - Aunt Jenny's Attic | 22 8am - Christmas Bazaar 8am - Community Food Pantry 11am - Aunt Jenny's Attic |
| 23 9am - Worship 6pm - Scouts | 24 7:30pm - Zoom Bible Study | 25 9am - Community Food Pantry | 26 11am - Bible Study @ WMPC 1pm - Aunt Jenny's Attic | 27 Thanksgiving Day 9am - Community Food Pantry 9am - Sr. Saints | 28 Black Friday 11am - Aunt Jenny's Attic | 29 11am - Aunt Jenny's Attic |
| 30 9am - Worship 6pm - Scouts | 31 9am - Worship 6pm - Scouts | 1 9am - Worship 6pm - Scouts | 2 9am - Worship 6pm - Scouts | 3 9am - Worship 6pm - Scouts | 4 9am - Worship 6pm - Scouts | 5 9am - Worship 6pm - Scouts |

