

*“Pastor, please come bless the food.”*

I, along with every pastor I know hears this on a regular basis. When you are used to praying in public, people often ask you to “bless the meal,” i.e., pray before we eat. It happens at church events, family dinners, and all sorts of occasions. I am always happy to be the one to lead others in giving thanks to God for a meal, but in the back of my head, I always hear on my seminary professors. He would say, “We bless things that are alive. No matter how much you *bless* the Thanksgiving dinner, that turkey is still going to be dead.”

Of course, when we “bless the food,” or “say the blessing,” we are not expecting God to form any miracles on the stuffed bird. We usually want to take a moment to thank God for providing the meal and move on to pass the mashed potatoes.

But I wonder what would happen if instead of saying a “blessing” over the food this Thanksgiving, we might say a blessing over the people with whom we gather. What if we took a time to share how others had been a blessing to us? How has each person enriched your life? How has each person taught you more about life? Love? God?

*“Don’t just count your blessings. Be the blessing someone else can count on.” - Anonymous*

What if, during this season when we reflect on all we have to be thankful for, we started to think of how we might be a blessing to someone else? How might our focus change this month if we spend less time thinking about blessing a meal, and more time thinking about blessing one another?

*Sharon*



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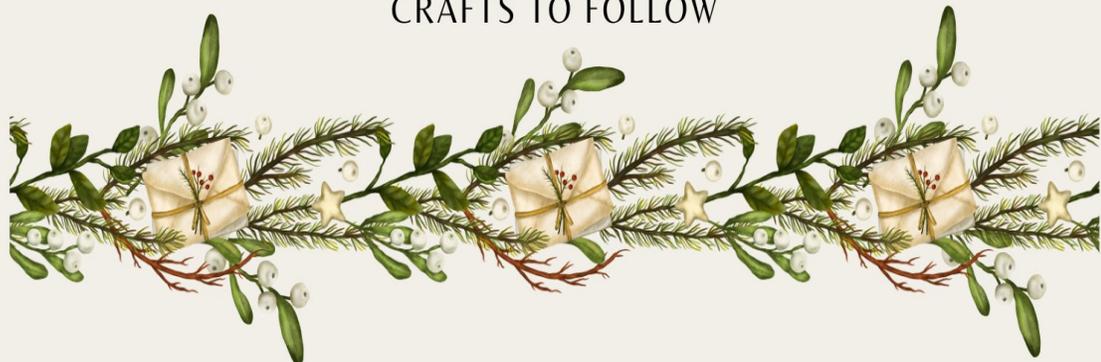


DECEMBER 7, 2022

# CROCKS, COOKIES AND CRAFTS

BRING A CROCKPOT OF SOUP  
OR COOKIES TO SHARE  
AND JOIN US  
FOR AN EVENING OF  
MAKING CRAFTS FOR  
OUR HOMEBOUND  
MEMBERS.

DINNER STARTS AT 6:00  
CRAFTS TO FOLLOW



# November Newsletter



Here's a calendar of what's going on in November,  
hopefully you'll be able to come to some of the fun!

In addition we also have

Sunday School at 10:00 and church at 11:00 every week.

There is also a Youth Retreat at Bluestone

Nov 18-20 for middle and high school.

I'll send the flyer with this letter.

Let me know if you want to come, the deadline for registering is Nov 7.

- Nov 2: Wednesday Night Dinner 6:00
- Nov 6: Youth Group 12:00-2:00
- Nov 13: Youth Group 12:00-2:00
- Nov 18-20 Youth Retreat at Bluestone
- Nov 20: No Youth Group - traveling back from Bluestone
- Nov 27: No Youth Group - Happy Thanksgiving!
- Dec 4: Youth Group 12:00-2:00
- Dec 7: Wednesday Night Dinner 6:00
- Dec 11: Youth Group 6:00
- Dec 18: Joy Gift Dinner

See you soon,

*Sarah Specht*

304-690-6667

## *CELEBRATING SABBATH*

That's the title of the Presbyterian Women's Bible Study this year.

The Presbyterian Women at Highlawn continue their study of "**Celebrating Sabbath**" on **November 10, 2022**. We have two groups.....they both meet on the second Thursday of each month from September thru May. Neva Baldwin is the moderator for the afternoon group....they meet at 1:00 in the Fellowship Hall. And Sally Lowe is the moderator for the evening group which also meets in Fellowship Hall at 7:00 p.m.

### Lesson Three: *Sabbath and Sunday*

This month's lesson "key idea" .... "Over the centuries, Christians began to celebrate the Sabbath on Sunday, but we still haven't come to an agreement on quite what that means.

This uncertainty may be an opportunity."

This month we will look at the books of Luke and Acts.

If you enjoy a good mystery, then this is the lesson for YOU! We know that both Jesus and the early Jewish Christians observed the Sabbath on the seventh day of the week (Saturday) as part of their weekly rhythms of work and worship. But how did the day called "Sabbath Day" get moved to Sunday? To get the answer to that question, we are going to play a game of "Christian Clue". We are going to collect clues from across the centuries to see how we got to where we are today. It won't be nearly as hard as you might think!

The bigger mystery, though, might be the one that is still waiting to be solved:

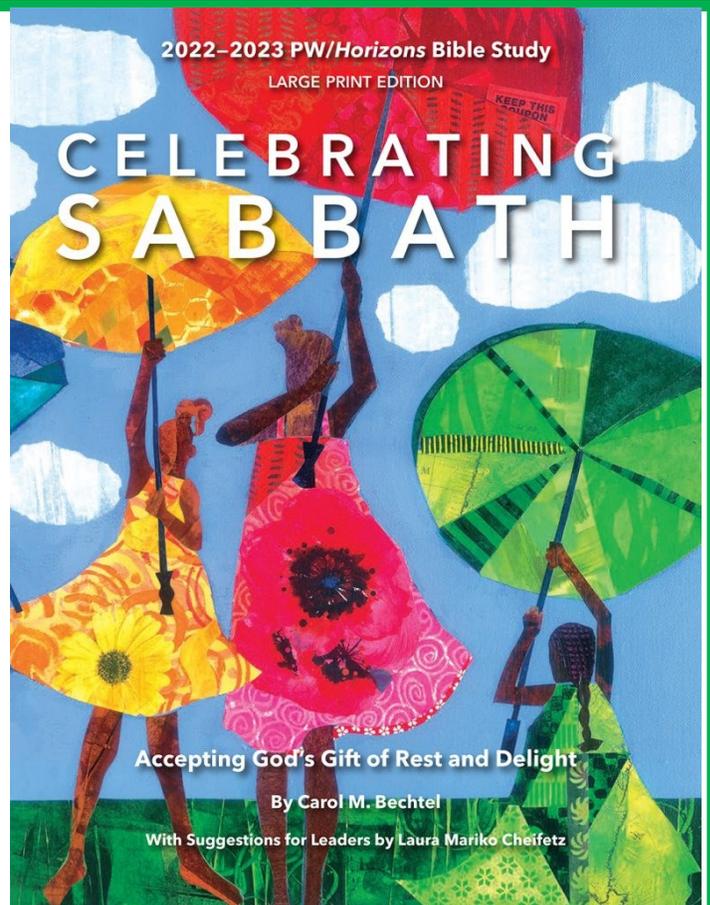
What does it really mean for Christians to celebrate the Sabbath?

We invite you to come and enjoy our conversations and study with us as we learn together.

Shelia Brownfield—Moderator



**Key quote**..... "Over the centuries, Christians began to celebrate the Sabbath on Sunday, but we still haven't come to an agreement on quite what that means. This uncertainty may be an opportunity."





## **FRUITING OF THE TABLE**

**Sunday, November 20, 2010**

**The ENTIRE CHURCH FAMILY is invited to participate as we begin our Thanksgiving celebration focused on God's good harvest of gifts.**

**You are invited to bring fresh fruits or vegetables to add to the Thanksgiving Table in response to God's goodness. No symbol expresses the harvest of Thanksgiving as well as a cornucopia overflowing with fruits, nuts, and vegetables.**

**The produce will be taken to the City Mission.**



The Mission Committee is participating in a community mission for Harmony House clients, **Undie Sunday**. The new Director of Development and Community Engagement, Ally Layman, has invited us to join other churches in this mission.

Committee members have chosen **Sunday, November 13** for our Highlawn Presbyterian Church collection. Harmony House is needing (new) underwear for both women and men, all sizes, small through large. They noted that the men prefer boxers.

There will be a laundry basket in the Narthex that Sunday to collect the donated underwear.

If anyone is unable to shop, but would like to help this mission with a monetary contribution, please see any Mission Committee member. You may also call Linda Hansen, 304-421-0860, with any questions.





**MISSION  
MINDED**

We have had great turn outs at our Work Parties!

**We have packed all of our shoeboxes!**

And we have collected the funds needed to ship them!

**Now we are eager to get started on filling Salvation Army stockings.**

We plan to fill stockings for the **youngest age groups first, 2-5 years.** We have LOTS of stuffed animals, but would welcome donations of **small toys, books and puzzles for the 2-5 year age bracket, as well as Socks or T shirts in size 3T and 5T.**

We will probably pack for the **oldest age group next, 9-12.** We have soccer balls, Barbies and school supplies **We can also use fingernail polish, socks, and small toys for this age.**

We have had some help with **sewing stockings, but still need at about 40 more.** We have a generous supply of **stocking kits** ready to be stitched. There are also **patterns available on the table in the back of the Fellowship Hall.**

We have the pillows we need to complete this year's mission projects for the Children's Home and Veterans Home! **We will need someone willing to deliver the pillows to the Veteran's Home.**

Every time we check the donations room, we find more goodies to be shared. Thank you for your giving hearts!

Questions?? Contact Nancy

**Mission Work Parties  
Thursday, November 10  
following both the Daytime and  
Evening Circles**





- 11/01 All Saints Day  
Cong. Care Comm
- 11/06 Ukirk Worship Service
- 11/11 Veterans Day
- 11/20 Christ the King
- 11/24 Thanksgiving
- 11/27 1st Sunday of Advent



### **Birthdays This Month**

- 11/07 Sarah Lovejoy
- 11/08 Linda Beegle
- 11/08 Jean Taylor
- 11/12 Jenny Walton
- 11/15 Margie Bauer
- 11/17 Nan Price
- 11/18 Donna Myers
- 11/18 Teresa Williams
- 11/19 Sharon Rowsey
- 11/23 Jim Musgrave
- 11/30 Jim Noel

### **Birthdays Beginning of Next Month**

- 12/02 Brian Specht
- 12/03 Janet Harbour
- 12/04 Max Specht



## Mission Work Parties

### Thursday, November 10

following both the Daytime and Evening Circles



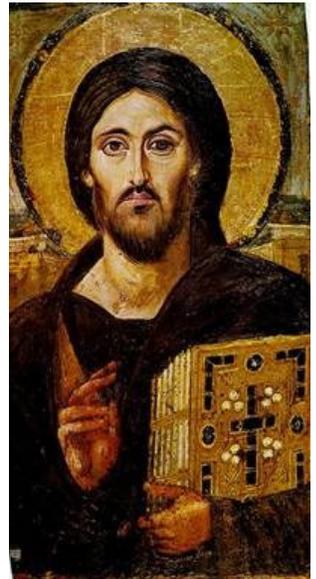
VETERANS DAY | NOVEMBER 11

## Christ the King/ Reign of Christ

### Sunday, November 20th

*Behold the glory of the eternal Christ! From the beginning of time to its ending, Christ rules above all earthly powers!*

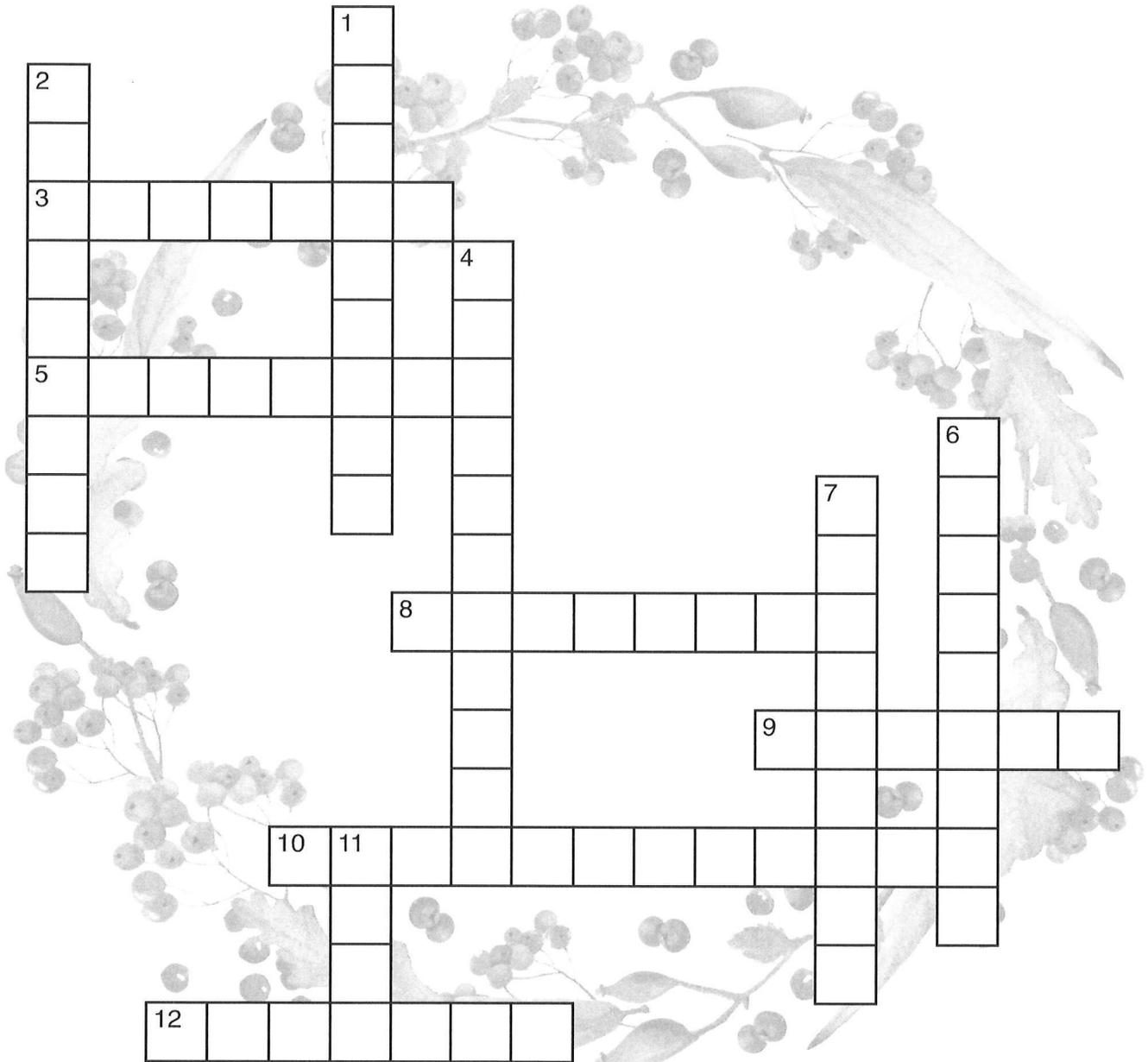
The festival of Christ the King (or Reign of Christ) ends our marking of Ordinary Time after the Day of Pentecost, and moves us to the threshold of Advent, the season of hope for Christ's coming again at the end of time.



**1st Sunday of Advent**  
**Nov. 27th**



# THANKSGIVING CELEBRATION CROSSWORD PUZZLE



## Across

3) An attribute of God. 5) The feeling of gratitude. 8) God keeps His promises. He is . . . 9) The people to whom we are related. 10) The celebration we enjoy to give thanks to God. 12) The people who are most special to us beyond family.

## Down

1) An overflowing number of blessings, too many to count. 2) Our attitude when we receive gifts. 4) A joining of family and friends to rejoice. 6) The gifts that God has given us. 7) God's ultimate gift 8) The place where family gathers.

# THANKSGIVING CELEBRATION

## WORD SEARCH



H O M E J Y H Q Y A M Y Q N Q F N T U V  
X N R A L Y R Q O O C M N A K M P T M G  
O I K S Y H F W H A C C I X G M X T Z R  
F N H B O P R W M L D E U Q F O Y I Y A  
B A D J B Z F W U H C L B H I U J O B T  
S O M U U M J E U E E E X L Q T P U T I  
D T U I Q B S V G C H B M N Y T E F H T  
X I R N L K F V S V M R B W P H B G A U  
F A Q B T Y P A N B W A M D C A L G N D  
O F Q G W I Y E I P I T R E V N E W K E  
Z D B A M K F A W L L I N Q E K S T S X  
A X O L Z D T U B Z E O Y T S F S L G L  
F R J L T N Q B L C W N P Y O U I A I G  
J R H F A I T H F U L P U Q C L N F V F  
V P I A R V J H K G Z E O Z M Z G I I R  
I E W E S E K P P B F P P N A B S A N O  
W H Z O N E K S A L V A T I O N V I G D  
T T W W J D I J C D Y C K K D O C C W C  
Y L Z P L Q S S T D R W A F B E J O E G  
Q U L A W T Q Q N S W A M A Z I N G Y T

THANKSGIVING  
BOUNTIFUL  
AMAZING  
FAITHFUL

BLESSINGS  
GRATITUDE  
CELEBRATION  
FRIENDS

FAMILY  
THANKFUL  
HOME  
SALVATION

# Thanksgiving:

## a Celebration of God's Faithfulness

**Thanksgiving:** "The one who offers thanksgiving as his sacrifice glorifies me; to one who orders his way rightly I will show the salvation of God!"  
Psalm 50:23

**Blessings:** "A faithful man will abound with blessings, but whoever hastens to be rich will not go unpunished." Psalm 26:20

**Family:** "Behold, children are a heritage from the Lord, the fruit of the womb a reward." Psalm 127:3

**Bountiful:** "I will sing to the Lord, because he has dealt bountifully with me."  
Psalm 13:6

**Gratitude:** "[David's Prayer of Gratitude] Then King David went in and sat before the Lord and said, "Who am I, O Lord God, and what is my house, that you have brought me thus far?" 2 Samuel 7:18

**Thankful:** "Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly, teaching and admonishing one another in all wisdom, singing psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, with thankfulness in your hearts to God." Colossians 3:16

**Amazing:** "And they sing the song of Moses, the servant of God, and the song of the Lamb, saying, "Great and amazing are your deeds, O Lord God the Almighty! Just and true are your ways, O King of the nations!" Revelation 15:3

**Celebration:** "On the day of your gladness also, and at your appointed feasts and at the beginnings of your months, you shall blow the trumpets over your burnt offerings and over the sacrifices of your peace offerings. They shall be a reminder of you before your God: I am the Lord your God." Numbers 10:10

**Home:** "God settles the solitary in a home; he leads out the prisoners to prosperity, but the rebellious dwell in a parched land." Psalm 68:6

**Faithful:** "Your steadfast love, O Lord, extends to the heavens, your faithfulness to the clouds." Psalm 36:5

**Friends:** "A friend loves at all times, and a brother is born for adversity."  
Proverbs 17:17

**Salvation:** "In him you also, when you heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation, and believed in him, were sealed with the promised Holy Spirit, 14 who is the guarantee of our inheritance until we acquire possession of it, to the praise of his glory." Ephesians 1:13