



Christ United Methodist Church
P.O. Box 710
Levelland, TX 79336

THE BELL RINGER

November 2022



COMING IN NOVEMBER

Tuesdays, November 8 & 22 - Grief Support Group with Ann Akin in the parlor at 1:30 p.m.

Tuesday, November 1 – All Saints Day

Sunday, November 6 – All Saints Sunday/Imagine No Malaria Sunday

Tuesday, November 8 – Election Day – Office Closed

Friday, November 11 – Veterans Day – Office Closed

Sunday, November 13 – Twenty-Third Sunday After Pentecost
Shared Ministries Sunday/Lunch

Sunday, November 20 – Reign of Christ/Christ the King Sunday
Community Thanksgiving Service-6:00 p.m.—First Baptist Church

Monday, November 21 -- Decorate for Advent & Christmas during week

Thursday & Friday, November 24 & 25 – Office Closed for Thanksgiving

Sunday, November 27 – First Sunday of Advent
United Methodist Student Sunday



*Enter his gates with
thanksgiving,
and his courts with
praise!
Give thanks to him,
bless his name!*

PSALM 100:4



November Birthdays –Nov. 25 Dennis Cates

Shared Ministries Sunday
Sunday November 13th.
Lunch following Worship Service

***Community Thanksgiving
Service***

Sunday November 20th at 6 p.m.
First Baptist Church

You are encouraged to participate in this service
sponsored by the Ministerial Alliance.

Decorate for Advent & Christmas

Advent begins Sunday, November 28th. We will
decorate the sanctuary for the Advent and Christmas
seasons on the week following Sunday, November 20th.
Please plan to help prepare our church for Advent and
Christmas.

DON'T FORGET!

**DAYLIGHT SAVINGS ENDS NOVEMBER 6 -
TURN YOUR CLOCKS BACK!**

A Word from the Pastor

Dear November Saints,

As we enter November, you are probably
thinking that the pastor's message will relate in some way
to Thanksgiving. Although I was tempted to explore our
need to give thanks, I decided instead to discuss
November 19th. This coming November 19th will be the
151st anniversary of Lincoln's Gettysburg Address. As I
considered what I would write, I wondered whether very
many people know that one of our nation's greatest
speeches was given on this day.

Sue and I vacationed near Gettysburg National
Military Park in March of 2012 and thoroughly enjoyed
our visit to the battlefield and museum. Along with the
throngs of people who were there we were immersed in
history and, more importantly, our American heritage. As
I prepared this message, I reread the Gettysburg address
and was struck by Lincoln's ability to summarize in ten
sentences the meaning and purpose of the nation. In case
you haven't read it in some time, I want to include it here:

Four score and seven years ago our fathers
brought forth on this continent a new nation,
conceived in liberty, and dedicated to the
proposition that all men are created equal.

Now we are engaged in a great civil war,
testing whether that nation, or any nation, so
conceived and so dedicated, can long endure.

We are met on a great battle-field of that war.
We have come to dedicate a portion of that
field, as a final resting place for those who
here gave their lives that that nation might
live. It is altogether fitting and proper that we
should do this.

But, in a larger sense, we can not
dedicate, we can not consecrate, we can not
hallow this ground. The brave men, living and
dead, who struggled here, have consecrated it,
far above our poor power to add or detract.
The world will little note, nor long remember
what we say here, but it can never forget what
they did here. It is for us the living, rather, to
be dedicated here to the unfinished work
which they who fought here have thus far so
nobly advanced. It is rather for us to be here
dedicated to the great task remaining before
us—that from these honored dead we take
increased devotion to that cause for which
they gave the last full measure of devotion—
that we here highly resolve that these dead
shall not have died in vain—that this nation,
under God, shall have a new birth of
freedom—and that government of the people,
by the people, for the people, shall not perish
from the earth.

As I reread Lincoln's words from long ago, I could not
help but think about Isaiah 25:6-9 in which we are called
upon to look to the future with faith in God and
thanksgiving for removing the shroud of sin and iniquity
from our hearts:

On this mountain the Lord of hosts will
make for all peoples a feast of rich food, a
feast of well-matured wines, of rich food
filled with marrow, of well-matured wines
strained clear. And he will destroy on this
mountain the shroud that is cast over all
peoples, the sheet that is spread over all
nations; he will swallow up death for ever.
Then the Lord God will wipe away the tears
from all faces, and the disgrace of his people
he will take away from all the earth, for the
Lord has spoken. It will be said on that day,
Lo, this is our God; we have waited for him,
so that he might save us. This is the Lord for
whom we have waited; let us be glad and
rejoice in his salvation.

Out of that terrible battle 151 years ago came a new
beginning "a new birth of freedom". In our daily
lives, we too can find a new birth of freedom in our
journey of faith to do the work that our Lord left for
us to do.

Grace and Peace,

Pastor Dennis

(Reprinted from November 2014)