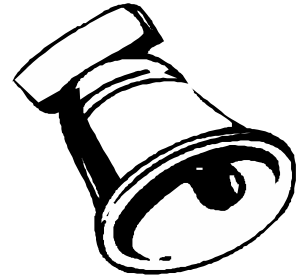




Christ United Methodist Church
P.O. Box 710
Levelland, TX 79336

THE BELL RINGER

November 2023



COMING IN NOVEMBER

Tuesdays, November 14 & 28 - Grief Support Group with Ann Akin in the parlor at 1:30 p.m.

Wednesday, November 1 – All Saints Day

Sunday, November 5 – All Saints Sunday/Imagine No Malaria Sunday
Go off Daylight Savings Time-Turn clocks back

Tuesday, November 7 – Election Day – Office Closed

Friday, November 10 – Veterans Day – Office Closed

Sunday, November 12 – Twenty-Fourth Sunday After Pentecost
Shared Ministries Sunday/Lunch/Church Council Meeting following meal

Sunday, November 19 – Twenty-Fifth Sunday After Pentecost
Community Thanksgiving Service-6:00 p.m.—Location to be announced.

Thursday & Friday, November 23 & 24 – Office Closed for Thanksgiving

Sunday, November 26 – Reign of Christ/Christ the King Sunday
United Methodist Student Sunday

Monday, November 27 -- Decorate for Advent & Christmas during week

November Birthdays –Nov. 25 Dennis Cates

Shared Ministries Sunday

Sunday November 12th.

Lunch following Worship Service
Church Council Meeting will follow the
meal.

Community Thanksgiving Service

Sunday November 19th at 6 p.m.

Location to be announced.

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

Decorate for Advent & Christmas

Advent begins Sunday, December 3rd. We will
decorate the sanctuary for the Advent and
Christmas seasons on the week following Sunday,
November 27th. Please plan to help prepare our
church for Advent and Christmas.

DON'T FORGET!

DAYLIGHT SAVINGS ENDS NOVEMBER 5 -
TURN YOUR CLOCKS BACK!

A Word from the Pastor

Dear War Weary Saints,

As we listen to the roar of rockets and mortar fire in Israel and Palestine, we note the increasing tensions in the region and the reports of possible escalations near the Israeli border. Our nation is promising to support Israel, but also asking for restraint as we hope for a peaceful solution in the Holy Land. As a nation, we have in this century been involved in conflicts in Iraq, Afghanistan, and other parts of the world. Reviewing our history, we know the cost of war. Although armed conflicts have not

occurred on our soil since the Civil War, we have experienced the terrible loss of life on September 11, 2001. Despite the loss of loved ones throughout our history, few have been exposed to the cruelties of war up close and personal. As Christians, we might do well to reflect upon some statistics which bring home the ravages of war.

According to thehistoryplace.com, "on November 18, 1916 - During [World War I](#), Allied General Douglas Haig called off the First [Battle of the Somme](#) after five months. The Allies had advanced 125 square miles at a cost of 420,000 British and 195,000 French soldiers. German losses were over 650,000 men." One million two hundred sixty-five thousand soldiers were killed in five months, for 125 square miles. General Haig called the battle off because of political concerns, morale concerns and logistical concerns. The Battle of the Somme is known as one of the bloodiest and most costly battles in history.

As United Methodists, we understand the need to defend our nation and to provide support for our troops. Unfortunately, despite the best efforts of peacemakers, wars persist in the world. As United Methodists, we also understand our role as Christians as peacemakers in a world filled with hatred. Peacemaking efforts are often undermined, however, by saber rattlers who have never and will never venture close to armed conflict. As Christians we must maintain the voice of reason in a world quick to move toward unheard of slaughter. So, what do we use as our basis for making arguments for peace?

In Matthew 5:43-45 we read the following:
⁴³ "You have heard that it was said, 'You shall love your neighbor and hate your enemy.' ⁴⁴ But I say to you: Love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you, ⁴⁵ so that you may be children of your Father in heaven, for he makes his sun rise on the evil and on the good and sends rain on the righteous and on the unrighteous." This familiar scripture is one which guides those who try to promote peacemaking efforts in the world. This basic message of Christianity moves us in the direction of love of neighbor and reconciliation. This is why we should, as a church, pray and pray for those trying to bring peace to the Middle East. Our diplomats are trying to avert a war that could lead to untold numbers of deaths. Some want to jump right into war. But we know that our God wants the family of man to live peacefully with one another. Therefore, we should stay informed by reliable sources and support those efforts to defuse the time bomb of war. That is what we do. That is who we are: Peacemakers.

Grace and Peace,
Pastor Dennis