

“Friends, how are you?”

GRATEFUL!

Responding to “How are you?” with “Grateful” was a challenge given during worship on Oct. 9. Regardless of the hardships we face in our lives, God is always present with us. And for this we should be **GRATEFUL**.



Often the month of November is a time when we seek to be more thankful for our blessings. Nov. 1 is also a time when many churches celebrate All Saints' Day and memorialize members and loved ones who have died in the previous year.

In keeping with the spirit of All Saints' Day and of Thanksgiving, below you will find daily prayer prompts to express gratitude to God for a saint (now departed or still living) who has influenced your life.

**Rejoicing in God's Saints: A Daily Prayer Calendar for November** (Adapted from Laura Stephens-Reed)

- Nov. 1: Mentored you in your profession.
- Nov. 2: Helped you grow in faith.
- Nov. 3: Gave tangible help during a difficult time.
- Nov. 4: Founded an institution or movement that is important to you.
- Nov. 5: Showed tough love.
- Nov. 6: Coached you as you grew in skills and confidence.
- Nov. 7: Led a group that was significant in your formation.
- Nov. 8: Treated you like a brother/sister.
- Nov. 9: Introduced you to grief by his/her loss.
- Nov. 10: Wrote something that deeply moved you
- November 11: Died before you could reconcile or reconnect with him/her

November 12: Introduced you to a group/community  
November 13: Reminded you how to see the world like a child  
November 14: Advocated for you  
November 15: Showed you something about yourself that you didn't know  
November 16: Gave you a tangible object that continues to inspire you  
November 17: (Grand)mothered/(Grand)fathered you  
November 18: Led in a way that fostered trust and cooperation  
November 19: Took you somewhere life-changing  
November 20: Made you feel seen during a time/place you felt invisible  
November 21: Trusted you with difficult but important knowledge  
November 22: Created art that speaks to your soul  
November 23: Let you ask questions  
November 24: Pointed out your gifts  
November 25: Introduced you to a hobby  
November 26: Prayed for you  
November 27: Lived out the values you aspire to  
November 28: Disagreed with you but still loved you  
November 29: Supported you through a low point in your life  
November 30: Showed you how to live gratefully

Journeying with you,

*Pastor Jill*

## **Religion in the News**

For the first time in more than a century the Smithsonian has a curator of religion. Peter Manseau will handle that responsibility. His father is a priest and his mother is a nun, so it was a natural fit.

“You can't tell the story of America without the role of religion in it,” said Manseau.

The Smithsonian, the national museum in Washington, D.C., wants new exhibits on American religious history to be created, and will look to collect important religious objects to add to the museum's expansive holdings. Manseau will lead a five-year series of events and exhibitions, and the first one is set to premier in late June 2017. The main focus will be on religion in early America, and some of the objects that will be on hand will be: A church bell crafted by Paul Revere; a Bible excised, with a pair of scissors, by Thomas Jefferson of all the parts about God that he could not believe; manuscript pages from the Book of Mormon; the only Muslim instructional text known to have been written in America by an enslaved African man; and a Torah scroll damaged during the Revolution.

## **Wider Mission**

On Oct.2 our church participated in the Hampshire/Burlington Crop Walk. Our goal was \$1,000 and we donated \$1785.17. Simply amazing! Thank you to everyone who came out to walk or donated to help stop hunger.

The Mitten Tree will be set up November through January. We will collect mittens, gloves, hats and scarfs. All donations will go the Elgin Crisis Shelter.

## **Worship and Mission Ministries**

*"But Jesus said to them, 'You give them something to eat.' They said, 'We have no more than five loaves and two fish—unless we are to go and buy food for all these people.' For there were about five thousand men . . . And taking the five loaves and the two fish, he blessed and broke them, and gave them to the disciples to set before the crowd. And all ate and were filled." Luke 9:13-14, 16-17*

This month, we are continuing to help build meals for the Elgin Interfaith Food Pantry. We are collecting food items through Thanksgiving Sunday, Nov. 20. Each week we will focus on a different area of the meal; however, you may bring items any week you wish. If you want to change up the meal, you may bring breakfast items or even baby food.

Nov. 6—Grains, pasta and pasta sauces

Nov. 13—Vegetables

Nov. 20—Fruit (any fresh fruit and veggies can be brought this day)

The response since beginning this mission has been phenomenal! The items we each bring have been blessed by Jesus to help feed more than we can imagine.

Thank you for your continuing love and care you show our local community.

Worship Ministry met on Oct. 16. Advent worship ideas were shared. Christmas Eve service will again be held at 5 p.m. On Christmas morning we are having pajama worship with an oatmeal breakfast. For the fifth Sunday in January our new Associate Conference Minister, James Olson, will be preaching. After the service on Nov. 20, hands to help bag up food pantry items would be appreciated. We will also be decorating for Advent.

## **Updated Prayer Cards**

A couple years ago at St. Paul's we began making available a "We prayed for you . . ." card for members to send to the people they lifted up at prayer time during the worship service. It was meant to extend God's love and comfort to those who needed to feel the presence of God in their lives during a difficult time.

In an effort to re-energize this ministry, the prayer card has been re-designed and updated with a new, powerful image. There is space on the other side for someone to write a personal note as well as the address.

Starting this fall the cards will now be postage paid! As an outreach of St. Paul's Church, the Evangelism Ministry will be covering the cost of mailing the card for you. So when you lift someone up during prayer time, remember to get a card and send it to them and share God's love in this simple but meaningful way.

## **November Council Meeting**

Council will hold its next meeting on Nov. 17 at 6:45 p.m. at the church. We will be continuing to look at our 2017 budget. Progress on the Open & Affirming process will be updated as well as the Souls in Pews project. As always, church members are welcome.

## **Advent Workshop**

On Sunday, Nov. 27, there will be an Advent workshop immediately following the worship service. We will have a Chili Cook-Off and enjoy fellowship with our church family singing Christmas Carols, making gifts for the shut-ins, playing games, and crafting. Sign up sheets will soon be out in the Narthex. Any questions, contact Ginny, Janet, Karen S. or Karen W.

## **Bonfire Success**

What a great night for a bonfire. The stars were shining brightly, the bonfire was sensational, the food was delicious and the fellowship was great. A big thanks to Doug and Ellen Volkening for hosting this great event.

### **Financially Speaking**

The total receipts for the month of September were \$35,693.86. Our spendable income came to \$35,337.86, including our OCWM income of \$285. This also includes an auto restricted bequest of \$20,000 and the Heritage tickets of \$1,430.

We had charitable income of \$356 for the month of September, including \$5 for Strengthen the Church, \$75 to the Music Fund, \$206 For Neighbors in Need, \$35 to the Scholarship Fund and another \$35 to the Crop Walk.

We also would like you to remember we are no longer collecting for World Service. Any donations to that fund will be placed in OCWM.

### **November Greeters**

Nov. 6 Ralph and Elsie Ward

Nov. 20 Dave and Bonnie Starr

Nov. 13 Jay and JoAnn Shilcliff

Nov. 27 Bob and Mary Wilms

### **We want your pictures**

If you take pictures at a church event please email them to Linda at [stpauls4me@yahoo.com](mailto:stpauls4me@yahoo.com). Please include any descriptions. Your photos could appear in the digital edition of The Chimes.

### **St. Paul's United Church of Christ Staff**

Jill Terpstra – Pastor

Jon Kobel – Choir Director

Bill Wilson – Newsletter Editor

Linda Becker – Secretary

Gay Bouwmeester – Piano Accompanist

Dale Volkening - Janitor

### **St. Paul's United Church of Christ Council**

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Karen Westerman – Vice President

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Christian Education – Karen Smith

Evangelism – Polly Russell

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Mission – Barb Kamp

Calling & Caring – Ginny Mursewick

Properties – Dan Heinrich

Stewardship – JoAnn Pate

Worship – Vernon Knaak