

First Presbyterian Church *Tidings*

910 N WASHINGTON AVE | LIVINGSTON, TEXAS 77351
NOVEMBER 2018



LIFELONG SAINTS

Rather than limit the celebration of saints to one Sunday, some churches now observe a Season of Saints from World Communion Sunday (the first Sunday in October) to All Saints' Sunday (the first Sunday in November).

Saints aren't merely exceptional Christians, writes worship director Taylor Burton-Edwards. Instead, they're simply believers, all of whom are undergoing a lifetime of transformation into Christ's own people.

Pointing to a saint-themed hymn by Charles Wesley, Burton-Edwards notes that the lyrics are intended to be an "anthem for a lifetime," not a once-yearly occasion.

*Come, let us join our friends above
who have obtained the prize,
and on the eagle wings of love
to joys celestial rise.*

*Let saints on earth unite to sing
with those to glory gone,
for all the servants of our King
in earth and heaven are one.*

LITTLE WORD, BIG DIFFERENCE

God says to give thanks in everything. That doesn't mean you need to give thanks for everything. You don't need to give thanks for that bad day. Or for that bad relationship. Or being passed over at work. Financial hardship. Whatever it is — you are not to give thanks for the difficulties but rather in the difficulties.

That is a very important distinction, and one I think we often miss. Giving thanks in everything shows a heart of faith that God is bigger than the difficulties and that he can use them, if you approach him with the right heart and spirit, for your good and his glory.

—Tony Evans

Church Events

- Nov 4th - All Saints' Sunday; Communion Sunday; Daylight saving time ends; Deacons Meeting after Service
- Nov 5th - Mission Meeting, 11 a.m.
- Nov 7th - Worship Meeting, 10 a.m.
- Nov 8th - Session Meeting, 5:30 p.m.
- Nov 11th - Recognition of Veterans; Thanksgiving Luncheon after the Service
- Nov 12th - PW Circle Meeting, 1:30 p.m.
- Nov 16th - Tidings articles due
- Nov 22nd - Thanksgiving Day; Church Office closed



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Your Worship Committee met on Wednesday, October 3, 2018 with six members attending.

We reviewed the line items that comprised our portion of the church's 2018 budget, updated them and will submit them to the church treasurer no later than his deadline of November 1st.

All Saints Remembrance will be observed on Sunday, November 4th. If a church member or someone in that church member's family passed away during 2018 and one would desire that person's name be read aloud on that Sunday, please submit the name or names to the church office no later than Wednesday, October 31st.

The following Sunday, November 11th, is Veterans Day. Each branch of the service will have its flag displayed and our

church's veterans will be recognized.

We are most appreciative of our own Sammy Gore having delivered the message on October 7th. As in the past, he did an outstanding job.

Our next meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, November 7, 2018 at 10 a.m., in the Fellowship Hall. Each of you is invited to join us.

Jay Walrath, Worship Chair

Quotes

"A single grateful thought toward heaven is the most complete prayer."

—Gotthold Lessing

* * *

"Vegetables are a must on a diet. I suggest carrot cake, zucchini bread and pumpkin pie."

—Jim Davis

* * *

"Variety's the very spice of life that gives it all its flavor."

—William Cowper

PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN

All women are welcome to join us on November 12, at 1:30 p.m., in Room 2 of the Fellowship Hall, for Lesson 3 in our Bible Study of God's Promise I Am With You – God with Us in Our Discouragement. We will also be taking the "Thanks Offering" at this meeting.

We welcome all women, so please plan on attending and bring all your friends. We again had a good turnout in October with everyone enjoying another page of coloring as part of our lesson. Don't forget to bring your small chalk boards so you can add a new scripture from Lesson 3. Come ready to color another sheet! Everyone seems to like the gel pens for added color and staying between the lines.

This year we will trace God's presence in the lives of women and men in the scriptures as we discover and share God's fingerprints in our own lives. Call Beverly Davidson, 936-969-3277/713-417-4958, or Bonnie Laverty, 713-557-0410, with any questions.

Bible Quiz

After Cain killed Abel, their parents, Adam and Eve, had another son. What did they name the baby?

- A. Seth
- B. Enoch
- C. Shem
- D. Lamech



Answer: A (See Genesis 4:25.)

King of kings and Lord of lords

In the Bible, no one is called "Lord of lords" but God and Christ. Although a couple of Old Testament earthly kings (Artaxerxes and Nebuchadnezzar) are referred to as "king of kings," only in reference to Christ is the term capitalized — "King of kings."

Earthly rulers can claim supremacy, but we celebrate Christ the King Sunday as the culmination of the liturgical year to testify that our Lord Jesus is Ruler of all. In the words of the famous "Hallelujah" chorus from Handel's Messiah: "King of kings and Lord of lords; and he shall reign for ever and ever!"



From the Pastor

Looking for Peace in All the Wrong Places

“Peace I leave with you, my peace I give unto you---” John 14: 27

When I came to faith I remember well the words the pastor in a small church in Maine was saying. They were words that were so timely that I thought he was speaking them only for me. He said that so many people experience a deep restlessness inside that they cannot seem to satisfy. They will wander down so many dead - end streets like the street of money, fame, sex, power, or worldly success. He said the streets are dead ends because none of them fulfill the longing for happiness, meaning or lasting peace. He said there will still be a vacuum that you cannot fill; an itch you cannot scratch. Those words went like darts to my heart and the timing could not have been better. Not only was I restless and wandering but I longed to have some kind of meaning and purpose. I felt lost and directionless. What really sealed it for me is when he said that until you find Jesus as your personal Savior and discover that you can have a personal relationship with God you will never find peace. He said Jesus is like the last piece of a puzzle for your heart. Until you find that Piece you will never find permanent peace in your life.

I have found that to be true not only in the journey of coming to Christ but in the journey of walking with Him through the years. When I have wandered spiritually or neglected to feed my spirit with God’s Word or praying or fellowship with others, that sense of restlessness and longing haunts me inside. It is like a compass or a warning light on the dash of a car. It means that peace and contentment are only found in a close walk with God. Remember the old saying: If you feel far from God, guess who moved?

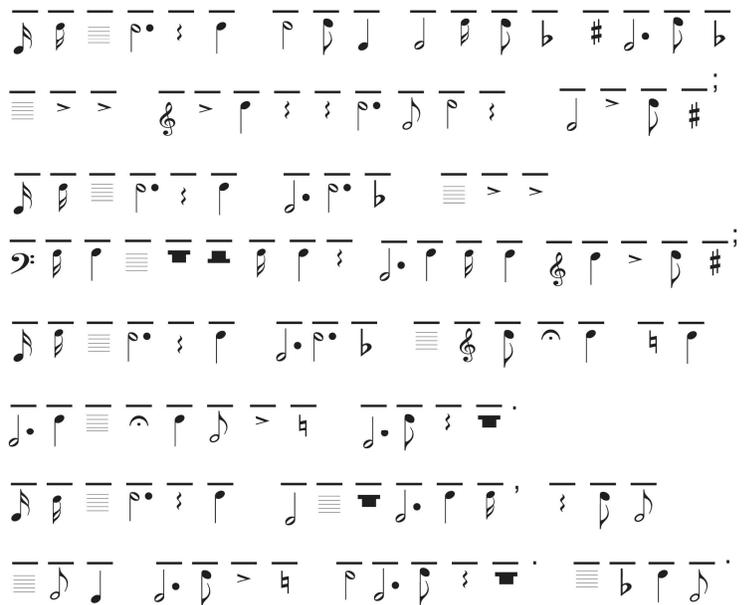
Blessings, Pastor Joe MacDonald

Puzzle!

Use the music code to find the words for this familiar song of thanks.

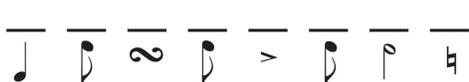
CODE:

A	≡	E	♪	I	♪	O	♪	U	≡
B	♩	F	♪	L	>	P	♪	V	∩
C	♭	G	♪	M	♭	R	♩	W	#
D	♪	H	♪	N	♪	S	∩	X	∞
				T	≡			Y	♯



The musical notation consists of ten staves. The first staff is the melody line. The second staff is the bass line. The third staff is the tenor line. The fourth staff is the alto line. The fifth staff is the soprano line. The sixth staff is the alto line. The seventh staff is the tenor line. The eighth staff is the bass line. The ninth staff is the soprano line. The tenth staff is the alto line. The notation includes various musical symbols such as clefs, notes, rests, and accidentals, which correspond to the puzzle code.

Challenge: What do we commonly call this song?

The 

Praise God from whom all blessings flow; praise him
all creatures here below; praise him above ye heavenly
host. Praise Father, Son and Holy Ghost. Amen. The
Doxology

The Genius of Generosity

Kansas pastor Jack Wellman has been credited with the insight that “there is a certain genius in generosity.” He explains that when we open our hands — figuratively speaking — to allow something to pass through our fingers, rather than holding it with tightly clenched fists, God can give us new blessings. “God cannot pour more into hands that are already clinging tightly

to what they hold,” says Wellman. Whether material goods or time, ideas or talents, money or energy, the gifts God has given us so generously are to be shared just as freely with others. With our hands continually open to receive, give and receive again, God’s genius cycle of generosity goes on and on.



Please save your BOX TOPS FOR EDUCATION and bring them to Ann Wilkins.

Our campus is about to have a contest for collecting BOX TOPS FOR EDUCATION and I would love for the three students in the PPCD (special needs) classroom to have a chance to win a prize.

Please save your BOX TOPS FOR EDUCATION (found on many items you purchase in stores) and bring them to me.

Thank you,
Ann Wilkins



In Remembrance

by Ryan Shields

Today marks one of the of the saddest days in American history. Today, September 11th, is the day the Twin Towers fell. As we all know, this event affected many people and sparked the beginning of one of the longest wars in American History. This day brings up so many questions. One question being where was God in the midst of all this suffering? First off, God was never not there. God was found in the hearts of the brave men and women that helped the confused and scared citizens to safety. These brave men and women went into the smoke without thinking of themselves, but rather about the citizens in danger. God used these men and women as beacons of hope in a hopeless situation. God used these men and women as a beacon of light in an otherwise dark time. God was present that day. He was with every scared and confused person.

We thought this was worth reprinting during the month of November, when we celebrate All Saints Sunday. Follow Ryan every Wednesday on Instagram at ryans_devotions.

+Christian Symbol+

Sun of Righteousness



The sun is often used as a symbol for Christ, especially during church-year seasons

that use prophetic imagery and focus on Jesus’ second coming. Malachi 4:2 — “But for you who fear my name, the sun of righteousness shall rise with healing in its wings” (ESV) — is echoed in the Christmas hymn “Hark, the Herald Angels Sing”:

*Hail the heaven-born Prince of Peace!
Hail the Sun of Righteousness!
Light and life to all he brings,
risen with healing in his wings.*

Music News

November: The Month of Thankfulness

"Rejoice always, pray without ceasing, in everything give thanks; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you."

-1 Thessalonians 5:16-18

November 4th, we give thanks for all the Saints, past and present, who have been faithful under difficult circumstances.

November 11th, we give thanks for all the Veterans, past and present, who have been faithful to this country and the freedoms it provides us.

November 18th, we give thanks for the Patriots who trusted God to protect them as they forged a new nation "under God."

We hope you will be in worship services and give thanks with the choir for these great events. Better yet, join the choir.

Rejoice,
Karlene Barker, Music Program Director

"God is Nigh"

The earliest official reference to using "Taps" at a military funeral is described in an 1891 manual. During the Civil War, a Union soldier "was buried at a time when the battery occupied an advanced position concealed in the woods." Because it wasn't safe to fire the customary three volleys over the grave, Captain John Tidball decided the sounding of "Taps" would be an appropriate substitute ceremony.

Previously, "Taps" signaled the end of a soldier's work day, but it has since come to honor the end of his or her earthly life. Horace Trim's lyrics remind us of God's constant presence:

*Day is done, gone the sun
From the lakes, from the hills, from the sky
All is well, safely rest
God is nigh.*

*Thanks and praise for our days
'Neath the sun, 'neath the stars, 'neath the sky
As we go, this we know
God is nigh.*



Your Mission team met on Oct. 1st and reviewed correspondence from Samaritan's Purse and Presbyterian Children's Home. We continued discussions centered on our 2019 proposed budget and our shoebox filling event set for Nov. 11th, after the BBQ second Sunday luncheon.

Major need from congregation: items for the children's shoeboxes and the men who arrive at the Port of Houston. Please bring all donations by Sunday the 11th so we can fill the boxes after a great lunch.

All are encouraged to review recent postings on the Mission bulletin board which include a special certificate of recognition from PCHS. We also recently delivered several boxes of craft items and coloring books, etc., to the Indian Head Start program along with food items for the Center of Hope. We continue to collect eyeglasses and items to be sent south to Guatemala.

Our next Mission Meeting is Nov. 5th at 11 a.m.

Chuck Davidson, Mission Chair



Celebrate!



November BIRTHDAYS



November ANNIVERSARIES

- Jay & Elena Walrath, 11/27

- Steve Eckert, 11/02
- Patricia Heldenbrand, 11/02
- Karen Jorgensen, 11/11
- Beth Hancock, 11/12
- Ryan Shields, 11/18
- Chuck Davidson, 11/19
- Kathy Nobles, 11/22
- Sammy Gore, 11/30

SEASONS *of Change*

FELLOWSHIP LUNCHEON

Sunday, November 11th

Our church is in for a wonderful celebration of our Church Anniversary and a delicious Fellowship Luncheon. Our very own Chris Longoria is going to treat us to his smoked B.B.Q. brisket, grilled chicken and ham, also his bread pudding! We are asking the congregation to prepare side dishes that will enhance our main courses. We can use salads, vegetables, breads and desserts.

There will be place in the October 28th and November 4th bulletins for you to sign up for what you will be bringing. You can drop it into the collection plate, give to any Fellowship committee member, or the church office. This will help the committee to make sure we have a delicious balanced meal. Thank you in advance for your help.

Jo Pavey, Fellowship Chair

O GIVE thanks

Our Sunday Services

- Adult Bible Study – 9:00 a.m., FH
- Worship - 10:00 a.m., Sanctuary
- Kid Zone (for children ages 5 & older) - 10:00 a.m., Activity Bldg.
- Nursery available for children ages infant through 4