The Word



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Celebrating 50 Years of Faith, Music and Community

November 2026

Pastor's Page

A Legacy of Love, a Heart of Gratitude, and the Art of Waiting in Hope

"Give thanks to the Lord, for he is good; his love endures forever."

— Psalm 107:1 (NIV)

Dear Beloved Friends in Christ,

November invites us to pause amid life's busyness, remember God's faithfulness, give thanks for the blessings we share, and prepare our hearts for Christ's coming. As autumn's colors surround us and the days grow shorter, we are reminded that every season of life offers opportunities to experience God's grace anew. This November, I invite you to reflect with me on three meaningful moments in our life together as the United Ministry of Delhi: our fiftieth-anniversary celebration, the gift of Thanksgiving, and the season of Advent that lies before us.

Celebrating Fifty Years of Faith, Music, and Community

On October 25, we gathered with joy and thanksgiving to celebrate the fiftieth anniversary of the coming together of Second Presbyterian Church and the United Methodist Church. What a blessing it was to welcome former pastors, members, friends, and guests as we remembered the journey of faith that has brought our congregation to this milestone! The worship service was a beautiful expression of our shared heritage. The presence and participation of our former pastors reminded us that a congregation's story is shaped by the faithful ministry of many people across the years. The fellowship and joyful conversations over our anniversary luncheon continued the celebration beyond the sanctuary, giving us precious opportunities to reconnect, remember, and rejoice.

As your pastor, I feel deeply blessed to have been part of this special occasion. As we look back with gratitude, let us also look forward with faith. The best way to honor the generations who built and sustained this congregation is to continue their work of loving God and neighbor. May we welcome newcomers, nurture children and young people, support those who are struggling, care for our older adults, and extend Christ's hospitality to everyone who enters our doors. May the next fifty years find us even more faithful in worship, generous in service, and united in love.

Thanksgiving: Recognizing the Blessings We Share

Thanksgiving Day offers another opportunity to reflect on the goodness of God. We often associate gratitude with the blessings that are easiest to recognize: family, health, friendship, meaningful work, and the provision of our daily needs. These are indeed gifts for which we should give thanks. Yet Christian gratitude invites us to look more deeply and recognize God's presence even in the ordinary rhythms of life.



We give thanks for the people who encourage us when we are weary, for those who quietly serve without seeking recognition, for the hands that prepare a meal, the voices that offer a word of comfort, and the hearts that make room for someone who feels forgotten. At the same time, we remember that gratitude is more than a feeling or a prayer spoken around a Thanksgiving table. It is a way of living. When we are grateful for God's generosity, we are invited to become a blessing to others. May our homes be places of welcome, our conversations be filled with kindness, and our prayers include not only our own needs but also the needs of our neighbors and the wider world.

My prayer is that every member and friend of the United Ministry of Delhi will experience the joy of giving thanks—not because every circumstance in life is easy, but because God's steadfast love remains with us through every circumstance.

Advent: The Art of Waiting in Hope

As November draws to a close, the Church begins its journey toward Advent, the season of expectation and preparation for the coming of Christ. In a culture that encourages us to move quickly, accomplish more, and expect immediate results, Advent offers us a different invitation: to wait, to hope, and to prepare ourselves for what God is bringing into being.

In his sermon *"The Art of Impatient Living,"* in *Sermons: Biblical Wisdom for Daily Living*, Peter J. Gomes reflects on the relationship between Christian patience and our longing for God's promised future. Drawing on James 5:7, he invites us to consider the farmer, who waits for the precious harvest while faithfully doing the work that the season requires. The farmer cannot command the rain or hurry the earth, but neither does the farmer simply sit idle. Patient expectation and faithful labor belong together.

This image offers us a valuable way to approach Advent. We often think of waiting as doing nothing until something happens. Yet Christian waiting is active. We wait for God's promises while working toward the justice, peace, mercy, and reconciliation that those promises inspire. We look forward to Christ's coming while seeking to make our lives and our community more faithful reflections of Christ's love.

This is where the art of impatient living becomes meaningful for us. We may grow impatient when we see suffering that continues despite our prayers, divisions that persist despite our efforts at reconciliation, or needs that seem greater than our ability to respond. We may wonder whether our small acts of kindness, our prayers, and our service truly make a difference. Advent reminds us that we are not called to control the harvest; we are called to be faithful in the work entrusted to us.

Advent also calls us to patience with one another and with ourselves. Spiritual growth takes time. Reconciliation may require many conversations. Healing often comes gradually. God's grace continues to work in us even when our progress seems slow. As we wait for Christ, may we resist the temptation to become discouraged or indifferent. Instead, let us transform our impatience into hopeful action, trusting that God remains at work in the world and in our lives. May this season help us become a people who wait with hope, work with faithfulness, and love with generosity.

With gratitude for the privilege of serving alongside you, and with prayers for you and your loved ones, I wish you a blessed Thanksgiving and a hope-filled Advent.

In Christ's love and service,

Premkumar Immanuel Clement

"Be patient, therefore, beloved, until the coming of the Lord." — James 5:7 (NRSVUE)

Parish Council October 19, 2026

Called to order by Carol Greene 6:35 PM

Present: Gideon Frisbee, Ruth V, Carol Greene, Susan Frisbee, Eloise Henault, Stephanie Trass, Pastor Prem, Zoom: Joe Greenfield, Barbara Jones

Devotions: Gideon led devotions about the changing of the seasons and being present.

Topic of the Month: Carol gave an update on the 50th Celebration that is happening this weekend ahead.

Expecting 85 people for the meal after the worship service. We will take a big group photo following the worship service. A huge thank you to the 50th Celebration Committee for the tremendous work they have put forth over the past year plus of preparations.

Approval of Meeting minutes – September 14, 2026. Barb moved to approve, Eloise 2nd, motion carried unanimously.

Treasurer's Report: Reports were provided for end of September. Joe suggested we think about using a different worship set up for the winter services? We can't let the temperature get too cold with the organ in there. Joe made a motion to approve the reports, 2nd Ruth. Motion carries unanimously.

Finance: Finance met on October 12. Talked about finances, and the upcoming budget. Should any funds in the food pantry account be used to help offset expenses for the building? The elevator is getting a lot more use now with the new pantry location, and it is a blessing to have it, but the cost of maintenance will continue to increase. This is early in the discussion, and no decisions have been made, nor will be without more thought and discussion on this. A request came in at last month's meeting for a request for raises for the Play School staff. A budget has been provided to Parish Council for the 2026/2027 school year for review and approval. The budget shows a projected positive balance after expenses of $2,027. Susan moved to accept the budget with 3% raises for the staff. Joe seconds. Motion carries unanimously. Next meeting of finance is November 10, 5:30PM.

Trustee's Report: Trustee's met 10/13. Locked in a budget fuel plan with Allison Oil for 3500 gallons at $4.70 over a 10 month payment schedule. The request for transfer of $10,000 from investments to checking in September did not get

processed due to a fax connection issue. In October, Trustee's transferred $20,000 successfully for use in the budget. Cleanup times are scheduled for the church and parsonage in the week ahead. Trustees started working on their portion of the budget. Next meeting is November 9th

SPR- met on September 22. The committee is working on finalizing the staff evaluations for the year. There is continued work on the job descriptions. They are working on completing the annual harassment trainings that are required. There will be a Pastor and staff appreciation day for Sunday November 22. SPR meets tomorrow 10/20.

Pastor's Report- Prem submitted his report via email.

Church attendance: 9/13/2026 -36, 9/20/2026 – 24, 9/27/26 – 31, 10/4/26 – 35 (Communion Served), 10/11/2026 – 34 10/18/26- 32.

His meeting with Rev. Karen Monk has been rescheduled to 11/4/26. Total pastoral visits from 9/14/26 to 10/19/26 were 3. Attended Farm and Forests Cooperative Parish Council Meeting in Margaretville on 9/17/26. Has met 3 times with his mentor Rev. Thomas Getchell between 9/14/26 and 10/19/26. He offered a prayer at the funeral service for Ralph Dandignac at the Delhi Fire Dept. on 9/20/26. Attended an anti-racism workshop conducted by the New York Annual Conference on 10/16 and 10/17 via Zoom. Prem has also reached out to several former members of the church with letters but has not heard any response.

Eloise – **Playschool-** nothing further to report.

Food Pantry Report- 45 families visited in September, which was 12 more than August. It was very busy.

Building Use – Chelsea Johnson- 10/23 Birthday party in McIntosh Hall. Will set up tables and chairs for the next day celebration. Barb Jones made motion to approve Joe 2nd, motion carries unanimously.

Next meeting of Parish Council will be November 16th, 2026 at 6:30 PM.

Pastor Prem led a closing prayer.

Barb moves to adjourn, Gideon seconds, motion carries.

The meeting adjourned at 7:47 PM.

Respectfully submitted, Gideon Frisbee

SAVE THE DATE!

Please save the date for
Pastor and Staff Appreciation Sunday
on **Nov. 22nd.**
Please join us as we recognize the exceptional work of our Pastor and Staff!

From the SPRC Committee
Barb Jones, Susan Ackerly, Ron Frisbee, Katie Palm, Ann Peet, Sandy Russell

Ecumenical Thanksgiving service

The venue has not yet been set for the Community Thanksgiving service. Please watch bulletins and our Facebook page for the announcement. The date will be Sunday, November 22nd. Other details to be determined.

Community
THANKSGIVING WORSHIP SERVICE

Stewardship

Stewardship letters and pledge cards have been mailed. If you have not received yours by November 5th, please contact the church office. We will dedicate pledges on Sunday, November 15.

-Gideon Frisbee Stewardship Team

Women's Open Circle

Women's Open Circle will meet on Thursday, November12th at noon in the Harder Room. We will collect the Thank Offering and dedicate it. We will also be planning our special December lunch meeting. Please bring your own lunch. Beverages and dessert will be provided.

Don't forget the Birthday Box in the Harder Room!

Food Pantry needs for Thanksgiving.

Once again the food bank in Hamden will be unable to provide us with turkeys and the sides for Thanksgiving. They are currently spending about $10,000 a month just to keep the pantries supplied with the monthly basics. As well as Turkeys, pies and rolls we will be needing stuffing, cranberry sauce, gravy, white potatoes, sweet potatoes, onions, soup, and canned vegetables. Thank you for remembering others and sharing with them.

Edie

Thanksgiving Families

We will again be furnishing Thanksgiving Dinner plus extra foods to families through Public Health Nursing. Watch for details in the weekly bulletin!



Adopt-A-Family

Volunteer Needed!

We are in need of someone to step in and lead this important annual Mission project. The family or families come through Public Health Nursing. Once we have the details about family make-up, baskets are set out to collect food to supply a Thanksgiving dinner to the family along with as much 'extra' food as we are able to supply with donations of nonperishables and monetary donations. Everything is tabulated and sorted the weekend before Thanksgiving and shopping is done for items needed for the dinner but not donated and for perishables to include in each basket (butter, milk, eggs, bread, etc). If you would like to lead this Mission project, please contact Carol Greene.

Kid's Club



Kid's Club started back up on Wednesday, September 30th with 4 kids attending. It's a small but energetic group that comes to enjoy crafts, snacks, music, and Bible stories together. The Kid's Club have their own dedicated space, where they meet every week during the school year. The Kid's Club sings in worship several times a year. All children in grades K – 5 are welcome to join.

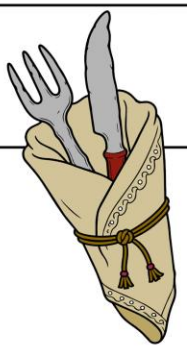




Kids Club learning the song they would sing at the 50th Anniversary Celebration worship service.



Puzzle!



A MIRACLE DINNER

Matthew 14:15–21 & John 6:1–14 is a Bible story about a special dinner. Below is a poem about that story.

Complete the poem by filling in the blanks with the correct pairs of words.

then / men	rest / quest
true / you	began / ran
late / ate	faces / spaces
lunch / bunch	done / ton

Jesus was tired and went to find _____,
So away from the crowd he started his _____ .
It came to an end before it _____,
The crowd followed Jesus; they walked and
they _____.
His boat pulled ashore and he looked at
their _____ —five thousand men, plus families
filled all open _____.
And so Jesus spoke and he taught until _____.
The disciples told him it was time they
all _____.
Jesus said, "Yes, that is certainly _____,
and feeding this crowd is now up to _____."
Feeding five thousand! It could not be _____!
What would they do? They'd need a
whole _____!
But then a young boy came and offered
his _____ —five loaves and two fish to
feed this big _____.
Jesus gave thanks and blessed it and _____
it fed all the women, the children and _____!

Answers: rest, quest, began, ran, faces, spaces, late, ate, true, you, done, ton, lunch, bunch, then, men

Bread Painting



When you eat this fun snack, be thankful for Jesus, who is our Bread of Life.

What you need:

- Small cups
- Milk
- Food coloring
- Clean, food-safe brush
- Slice of bread
- Toaster or toaster oven
- Butter, optional



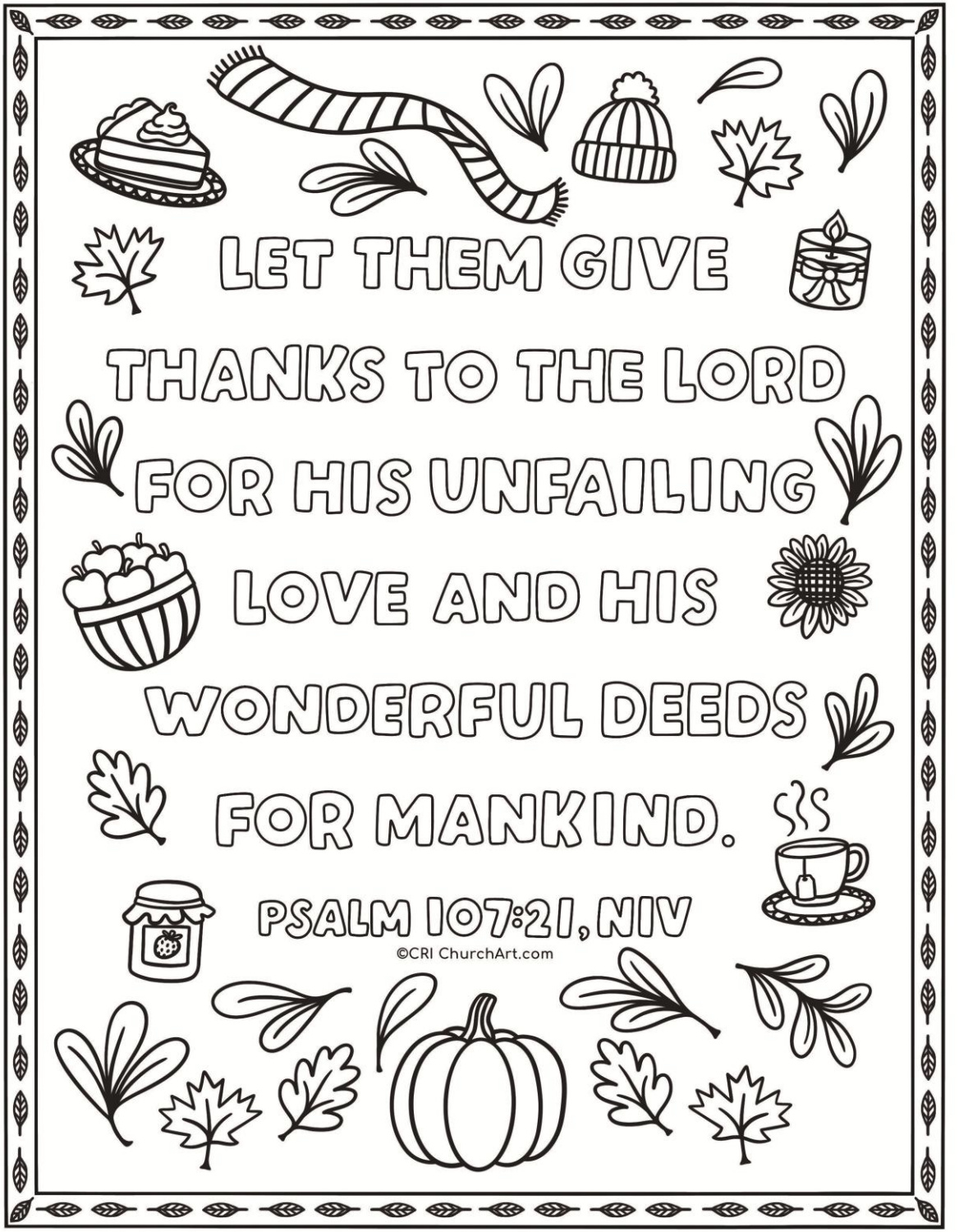
What you do:

1. Set out one small cup for each color you want to use.
2. Pour 1 to 2 tablespoons of milk into each cup.
3. Add a few drops of food coloring to each cup and stir until the color is bright.
4. Using a clean, food-safe brush, gently paint a picture or design on the bread. Be careful not to soak the bread.
5. When you're finished painting, toast the bread. Add a little butter, if desired, and enjoy!



Reminder:
Ask an adult for help when using a toaster or toaster oven.

"I am the bread of life."
John 6:35, NIV


LET THEM GIVE
THANKS TO THE LORD
FOR HIS UNFAILING
LOVE AND HIS
WONDERFUL DEEDS
FOR MANKIND.
PSALM 107:21, NIV
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Play School update -- November 2026

Play School has been off to a busy start with getting to know you, firemen and fire safety unit. We loved seeing the big fire truck and learning everything they told us to keep safe. We went on a field trip to pizza company where the kids got to make their own pizzas and eat them too!! Yum!!! We plan to do trick or treating around the church at the end of October ! Thank you to everyone involved to make this extra special for the Play School kids!! We have fun building, playing and learning new things everyday at Play School!!

For November, we are planning our Open House, Picture Day, Remembering Veterans, Share the Harvest (our version of Thanksgiving) and continuing the letters of the week, crafts, projects, stories, play time, and songs.

Thank you Carol for the snack donations and Fran for the box of craft supplies! Very much appreciated and truly a help to our budget!! Also there was a donation of a fire station play set. Thank you to the person who donated it!! The kids have been enjoying this immensely! Please remember that donations of craft items, snacks, toys and monetary donations are always welcome. Just be sure to add Play School to the memo line of your check.

Thank you for the continued support for Play School and the donations of cans and bottles!! We appreciate that you continue to drop off your cans and bottles at the church and at Dutch Redemption! If you are dropping off to Dutch Redemption, please be sure to tell them they are for Play School and they will add them to our open account.

Wishing you many blessings and enjoy the holidays!

Respectfully Submitted,

Pam

Pamela Savage, Program Director

Play School | **United Ministry of Delhi**


ENGINE
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Results of Special Collection for Heifer International

On Sunday, October 4, the Kids' Club took a special collection in support of the First Presbyterian Church Sunday School students fund raising event for Heifer International. Following is the note we received in response to our donation:

We received your congregation's contribution to the recent Heifer mission our Sunday School organized. Thank you all so much for your generosity and your help with our efforts to support Heifer International! We were able to raise just over $4,300! That will go to provide 2 heifers, 3 sheep, 2 pigs, 2 gardens, 2 goats, 4 beehives, 6 chickens/ducks and 2 clean water systems.

The mission was a great success! Please thank your congregation for their help!

Celebrating 50 Years of Faith, Music, and Community

On Sunday, October 25 we celebrated 50 years since the incorporating and joining of Second Presbyterian and United Methodist churches of Delhi to form The United Ministry of Delhi. Four of our former pastors were able to join us for worship: Rev. Lisa Heckman, Rev. Martha Vink, Rev. Elizabeth Ott, and Rev. Catherine Schuyler. They led worship and sang in the choir along with our current pastor, Dr. Premkumar Immanuel Clement. We were joined by former members and members of the community who came to celebrate with us. The service was 90 minutes, but it certainly did not feel long at all!

The service was followed by a catered lunch and of course cake and cookies for dessert.



Former Pastors: L-R: Rev. Martha Vink, Rev. Elizabeth Jane Ott, Rev. Catherine Schuyler, Rev. Lisa Heckman, and current Pastor, Dr. Premkumar Immanuel Clement



Former Pastor, Rev. Catherine Schuyler leading the Childrens' Sermon






Congratulations United
Ministry for 50 Years
of Faith, Music, and
Community

The Journey of the Church Year

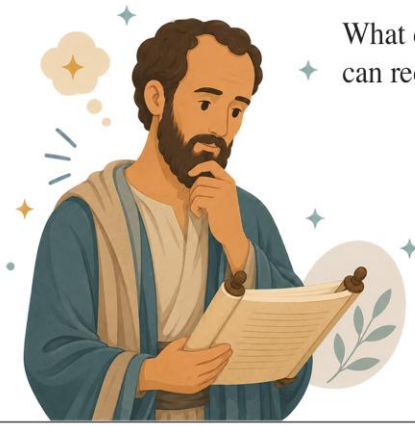
Advent begins on Sunday, November 29, in 2026. In many Christian traditions, Advent also marks the beginning of the church year. Rather than starting with a new calendar, the church begins by preparing to celebrate the birth of Jesus Christ.

Advent leads to Christmas, followed by Epiphany, traditionally observed on January 6, 2027, to remember the revelation of Christ to the nations and the visit of the wise men. Lent begins on Ash Wednesday, February 10, and guides believers toward Holy Week and Easter Sunday, March 28.

Forty days after Easter, Christians observe Ascension Day on May 6, remembering how Jesus "was lifted up, and a cloud took him out of their sight" (Acts 1:9, ESV). Pentecost follows on May 16, 50 days after Easter. On that day, the Holy Spirit empowered Christ's followers and united them for the church's mission.

The season after Pentecost continues until Advent arrives once more, inviting the church to begin the sacred journey again.

Bible Quiz



What did St. Paul teach about how people can recognize the existence of God?

A. They would have no understanding of God unless someone told them.
B. They could see evidence of God by observing creation.
C. God cannot be known in any way except through Jesus.

Answer: B (Romans 1:19-21)

50th Anniversary 'Thank you!'

The 50th Anniversary worship celebration and dinner on Sunday was such a special event and a wonderful culmination to an exciting year of remembering our heritage. From the beautiful altar decorations, a sanctuary filled with many guests and a wonderful meal everything spoke to the love that had been put into the planning and the execution of this day. It was a treat to have four former pastors on the altar along with Pastor Prem, all contributing in their unique way to a moving service. Music filled the church with well-chosen hymns and the beautiful voices of our choir performing the anthem. Following the service many stories from the past were shared over a wonderful meal.

Our thanks go out to all the people who helped in any way to make this day memorable for all. There are too many to mention individually but you might have decorated the sanctuary, set up the dining hall, baked cookies, planned and implemented the worship service, sang in the choir, helped in the kitchen or cleaned up. As usual we worked together to make this glorious event happen. Rev Lisa Heckman's words during her message "Legacy of Love" should inspire us as we move forward into another 50 years.

Co-Chairs of the 50th Anniversary Steering Committee

Chelsea Frisbee and Carol Greene

Thank You to Our Donors

We would like to thank all those who helped us celebrate our 50th anniversary with a financial gift to help us keep our building open and accessible to the community:

Lynn Hoffman..... in Honor of My Grandchildren

Ron Tillapaugh ..... In Memory of Kay Tillapaugh

Cheryl Garrant..... In Memory of Cathy Johnson

Jennifer McCartney .....In Honor of Carol Greene

Ben Sandman .....In Honor of Pat Nabinger

Paul Johnson ..... In Memory of Cathy Johnson

Collin Haight Foundation
Lois Haight
Beth Hildreth
Jack Tessier
Dennis Callas
Claudia Weber
Mark Chatterton
Tom Grant
Timothy Onasch
Terence and Leanne Legg
Roger Hillstrom
Donald Haight
Bruce Tiger
Seth and Erin Haight
Mark Smith
Linda Franzese
Carol & Allen Greene
Barbara Jones & John Sandman
Will Frisbee
Elizabeth Ott
Eloise Henault
Delhi Telephone Company
Girl Scout Troop 61045
Jeff Cook
Community Band
Concert
CE Kiffs
Bohdan and Ann Sosiak
Ruth Vredenburgh
Edith Campbell
Jeff Ackerly
Joel Smith
Lisa Heckman
Elizabeth Huneke
Thomas Pandick
Robert and Martha Fisher
Glenn & Sandy Reynolds
Pat Nabinger
Rev. Martha Vink
Ron & Susan Frisbee
Dinesha & Trini Yadov





Joe Greenfield	11/1	Shannon Robinson	11/14
Elaine Burt	11/1	Miltono Pantilieris	11/17
Sharon Moyse	11/3	Alexis Gielskie	11/18
Ron Tillapaugh	11/6	PenelopeIsadora Gielskie	11/21
Melinda Shalkey	11/6	Kendra Cardillo	11/26
Laura Clark	11/7	Emma Moyse	11/26
Ron Frisbee	11/7	Ethan Moyse	11/3
Evelyn Pantilieris	11/12		

Coffee Hour Hosts & Flowers for the Sanctuary



Have you signed up to host Coffee Hour yet? Coffee, tea, lemonade, and paper goods are supplied. Cookies are optional. Sign up on the sheet on the Bulletin Board or call the church office to pick your date.



Would you like to commemorate a loved one or special event in your life? Garden and wild flowers are always welcome! If you are uncomfortable creating the arrangement, call the office and we can make the arrangement for you.

Coffee Hour

Nov 1 _____

Nov 8 *Dinesh & Trini Yadov*

Nov 15 _____

Nov 22 *SPR Staff Appreciation*

Nov 29_____

Flowers

Nov 1 _____

Nov 8 *Honoring God for Trini's B'day*

Nov 15 _____

Nov 22 _____

Nov 29_____

Sign-up sheets are on the bulletin board outside the office.

Word and Worship

Sunday, November 1
All Saints Sunday
Revelations 7:9-17; Psalm 34:1-10, 22;
1 John 3:1-3; Matthew 5:1-12

Sunday, November 8
Joshua 24:1-3a, 14-25; Psalm 78:1-7;
1 Thessalonians 4:13-18; Matthew 25:1-13

Sunday, November 15
Judges 4:1-7; Psalm 76;
1 Thessalonians 5:1-11; Matthew 25:14-30

Sunday, November 22
Christ the King
Ezekial 34:11-16, 20-24; Psalm 100;
Ephesians 1:15-23; Matthew 25:31-46

Sunday, November 29
First Sunday of Advent
Isaiah 64:1-9; Psalm 80:1-8, 17-19;
1 Corinthians 1:3-9; Mark 13:24-37

Lectors

November 1 *Evelyn Jackto*
November 8 *Liz Frisbee*
November 15 *Glenn Reynolds*
November 22 *Patti Kruppo*
November 29 *Gideon Frisbee*

Acolytes

November 1
November 8 TBD
November 15
November 22
November 29

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