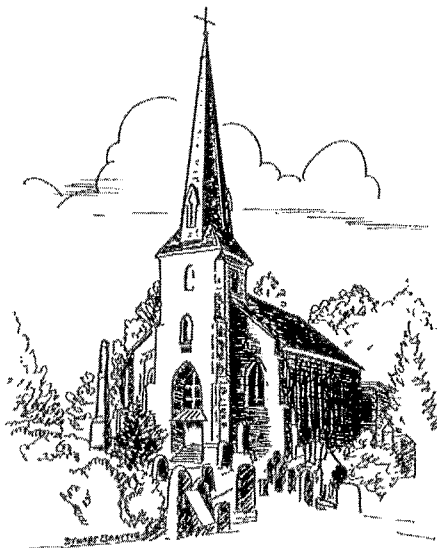


THE SPIRE

FROM: GREEN HILL PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
3112 Kennett Pike
P. O. Box 3892
Wilmington, DE 19807-0892

Website at www.greenhillpres.org

E-mail Address: info@greenhillpres.org



TO:

November, 2025

Green Hill Presbyterian Church Office Phone: (302) 652-5065

Pastoral Care: Rev. Dr. David Lovelace
revdel@comcast.net
(302) 652-5065 (Church)
(302) 368-5743 (Cell)

SPIRE Editor: Evelyn Williams
elwilliams2229@prodigy.net
(302) 622-8032

WEEKLY ACTIVITIES

Sunday Worship – 10:30 AM

Wednesday Women's Bible Study – 5:00 PM; Nov. 5 and 12 only

HIGHLIGHTS

Saturday, November 1 – *All Saints Day*

November 2 – Communion; Daylight Saving Time Ends

November 9 – Pledge Sunday; Favorite Hymns

Tuesday, November 11 – *Veterans Day*

Tuesday, November 11 – Men's Bible Study, 8:00 AM, Janssen's Café

November 23 – *Christ the King Sunday*; Thanksgiving Special Refreshments after Worship; 11:30 AM

Tuesday, November 25 – Men's Bible Study 8:00 AM, Janssen's Café

Tuesday, November 25 – Thanksgiving Ecumenical Service at Lower Brandywine PC, 7:00 PM

Thursday, November 27 – *Thanksgiving Day*

November 30 – *1st Sunday of Advent*; Rev. Lovelace Unavailable; Elder Steve Grubbs Leading Worship;
Advent Candle Lighting; Service of Wholeness & Healing during Worship

Thursday, December 4– Decorate Sanctuary for Christmas Season, 9:30 AM

From the Session – October 12, 2025

1. Lower Brandywine PC will be hosting the Thanksgiving Ecumenical Service this year on Tuesday, November 25.
2. We are looking for volunteers to run the new Zoom equipment.
3. A Christmas mailing will be sent to invite the local community to our services.
4. This was our Annual Meeting with the Deacons. We acknowledge and appreciate all the work the Deacons do for the church and the community.
5. The 2026 Calendar of Meetings was approved.
6. Session discussed the proposed elements of the 2026 Expense Budget.

Chandler Brown
Clerk of Session

Decorating for the Christmas Season



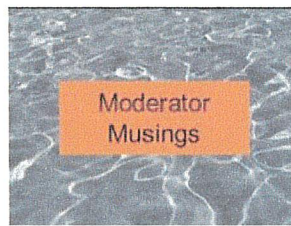
On **Thursday, December 4, at 9:30 AM** we will be **decorating the sanctuary** with holiday greens. This is a very important task and involves preparing and placing artificial greens, candles, and other Christmas items throughout the sanctuary. If you can spare an hour or so on Thursday morning, please join us!

What is All Saints' Day?

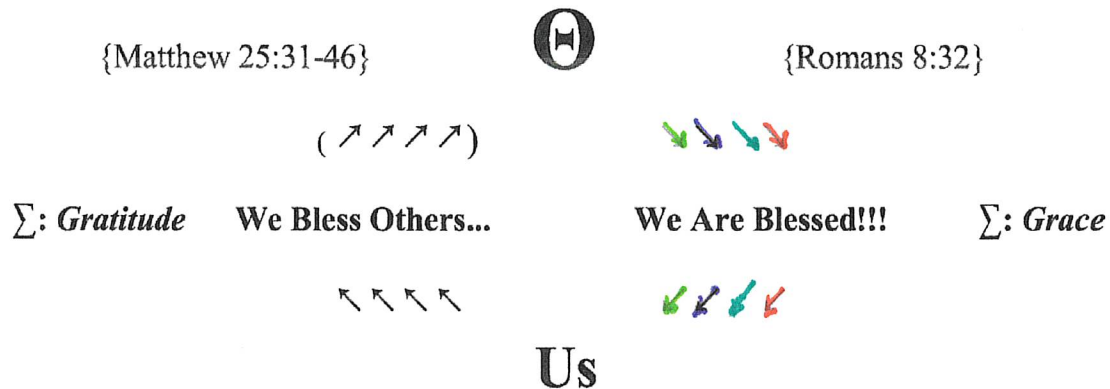
An excerpt from the Companion to the Book of Common Worship (Geneva Press, 2003, 150-151) All Saints' Day is **a time to rejoice in all who through the ages have faithfully served the Lord**. The day reminds us that we are part of one continuing, living communion of saints. This year, All Saints' Day is **Saturday, November 1**.

Thanksgiving Ecumenical Service

The **Thanksgiving Ecumenical Service** will be held at **Lower Brandywine Presbyterian Church** this year. It will be on **Tuesday, November 25, starting at 7:00 PM**. A reception for all attendees will follow at LBPC. In addition to Green Hill and Lower Brandywine Presbyterian Church, St. Joseph on the Brandywine Roman Catholic Church will join us for this ecumenical worship service. The combined choirs are always a wonderful reason to attend this festive Thanksgiving event.



True Thanksgiving:
The ‘Grace – Gratitude’ Rhythm of the Christian Life



Considering all the books that have been written about the indescribable grace of God, the above graphic may be “worth a thousand words”! It summarizes how God’s grace is given – and responded to – as the essential aspect of the life of a follower of Jesus.

In the top center is the Geek letter Theta – the first letter in Theos – the Greek word for God. And – directly below, in the center – we find Us, created in the image of God.

Moving clockwise from God, are several colorful arrows – representing the spectrum of colors which characterize the innumerable aspects of God’s grace toward us. In short, we are blessed by the gift of life itself, this fair earth – created to be our home, the energy of the sun, and the water which sustains life. And, we have the free gift of salvation – **God’s Riches At Christ’s Expense**.

For all of this, we are truly grateful! But, we cannot – as mortals – do anything to increase the majesty and sovereignty of God, the very ground of our being.

But – moving clockwise upward from Us – we can be a blessing to God’s other children. And – when we do so – we show our gratitude for God’s grace to us by blessing them. Think of a neighbor who – seeing our child out in the street – rushes out to whisk our child out of harm’s way. They have, indeed, blessed us in so doing.

So – as we prepare for this coming season of Thanksgiving – may we express our gratitude to God by being a blessing to others!

Pastor Dave

Praise the Lord! (Psalm 117)

Psalm 117:1; ***“Praise the Lord, all you nations! Extol Him, all you peoples!”*** (NRSV)

This psalm forms the shortest chapter in the bible. It is a hymn, composed of a call to praise, a statement of the grounds of that praise, and a conclusion. The call to praise is a missionary invitation addressed to all the nations. It is quoted by Paul in Romans 15:11 in support of God’s missionary purpose among the gentiles; ***“Praise the Lord, all you Gentiles, and let all the peoples praise him”***.

Since this is one of the six Egyptian Hallel Psalms (113-118), sung as part of the Passover service, Jesus would have sung Psalm 117 with His disciples (Matthew 26:30 Mark 14:26). Therefore, on the eve of His crucifixion, we know that Jesus had all the peoples, all the Gentiles in mind. Through His work on the cross and victory over death at the empty tomb, God would call a people to Himself from every tribe and tongue.

Martin Luther, the Reformer, devoted thirty-six pages to this psalm. He indicated, however, that before we could better fully understand this psalm, we should also read Paul’s questions in Romans 10:14. ***“But how are they to call on one in whom they have not believed? And how are they to believe in one of whom they have never heard? And how are they to hear without someone to proclaim him?”***

Luther declared “As I see it, the whole book of Acts was written because of this psalm.” He expounded this psalm in four important categories: (1) prophecy (the Gentiles will participate in gospel blessings), (2) revelation (the kingdom of Christ is not earthly and temporal but rather heavenly and eternal), (3) instruction (we are saved by faith alone and not by works, wisdom, or holiness), and (4) admonition (we should praise God for such a great salvation).

When Christians say and sing this psalm, they remind themselves that the praise of God is complete only when they intend to praise in concert with all people. And they bear witness to the world of the triumph of grace over them in fervent hope that the nations – their own as well as others – will find in that triumph the work of the one whose being is the center that heals and holds. It is a psalm for any Lord’s Day, but it is especially appropriate for the celebration of Worldwide Communion Sunday.

Psalm 117

“Praise the Lord, all you nations!

Extol Him, all you peoples!

***For great is His steadfast love toward us,
and the faithfulness of the Lord endures forever.***

Praise the Lord!”

“This is the shortest song in the whole collection, but there is none greater or grander in its expression of praise.” (G. Campbell Morgan, British evangelist 1863-1945)

Ref. “*Interpretation: A Bible Commentary: Psalms*” published by John Knox Press
Biblical Ref. *New Revised Standard Version (NRSV)*

Bruce Fine
Music Director

Elder Stephen Grubbs to Lead Worship on Sunday, November 30

Green Hill Elder, **Stephen Grubbs**, will lead the worship service on the 1st Sunday of Advent, November 30, 2025. Rev. Dr. Dave Lovelace is unavailable on Sunday, November 30. Steve has volunteered for this important duty. He follows in the footsteps of other members of our congregation who have stepped forward to lead the worship service when our pastor is unavailable. The November 30 service will be a normal fifth Sunday worship service and it will include the service of Wholeness & Healing. Rick Baun will conduct this portion of the worship service. We will also light the first Advent candle.

Women's Bible Study News

The Women's Bible Study has been working on the Old Testament book of Daniel since it restarted on September 10 following the summer break. This study is prepared and led by Pastor Dave Lovelace. We took a brief pause on Wednesday, October 15 to look at comparisons between Daniel 7, which we had just completed, and Revelation 4 and 5. The references we read were supplied from a chart in the appendix of our Revelation study guide from last year. We are now reading Daniel 8 in which we learn of a vision which appeared to Daniel during the third year of the reign of King Belshazzar.

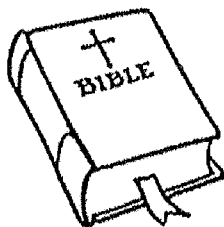


During this study, we have opened membership in the Women's Bible Study to anyone who wishes to participate. We have welcomed a few Green Hill men to the Bible study table!

The format for this study differs from our recent previous Bible Studies. We pre-read the appropriate chapter in Daniel and have a study sheet for the day's material prepared by Pastor Dave. Questions lead to discussion.

We always welcome new participants in our study either in-person on Wednesday, 5:00 PM, at the church Board Room or via Zoom. Please contact Evelyn Williams if you are interested.

Men's Bible Study



If you are a male Green Hill member or friend, you are welcome to participate in the bi-weekly **Men's Bible Study**. The men will meet on Tuesdays, November 11, and 25, 8:00 AM, at Janssen's Café. The meetings contain time for fellowship, prayer, and Bible study. In November the men will continue their study of the New Testament book of Acts. If you are interested in Men's Bible Study contact Rick Baun for more information. Please plan to check out the group and see if it is for you!

November 2025 Hymn-of-the-Month
“Jesus calls us, o’er the Tumult”

This is another of the quality hymn texts written by Cecil Frances Alexander, recognized as one of Ireland’s finest hymn writers. It is one of the few of Mrs. Alexander’s hymn texts not specifically written for children. Nearly all of her more than 400 poems and hymn texts were intended for reaching children and teaching them the gospel.

Another of her well-beloved hymns, “There Is a Green Hill Far Away” was written for the purpose of teaching children the meaning of phrase from the Apostles’ Creed, “suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead, and buried.” Two other well-known hymns she wrote are “All Things Bright and Beautiful” and “Once in Royal David’s City”.

As a small girl, she wrote poetry for her school’s journal. Following her marriage, in 1850, to the distinguished churchman, Dr. William Alexander, who later became the Anglican Archbishop for all Ireland, Mrs. Alexander devoted her literary talents to helping her husband with his ministry, including writing appropriate poems and hymns that he could use with his sermons.

She showed her concern for disadvantaged people by traveling many miles each day to visit the sick and poor, providing food, warm clothes, and medical supplies. She and her sister founded a school for the deaf. Alexander was strongly influenced by the Oxford Movement. She wrote hymns based on the Apostles’ Creed, baptism, the Lord’s Supper, the Ten commandments, and prayer.

Two years after their marriage, Dr. Alexander asked his wife if she could write a poem for a sermon he was planning to preach on November 30th, celebrated within the Anglican Church as St. Andrew’s Day, (the patron saint of Scotland) commemorating the calling of Andrew by Jesus as recorded in Mark 1:16-18 and Matthew 4:18-20.

The tune, “Galilee”, was composed for this text by William Herbert Jude, in 1887. He was a distinguished organist and the editor of several music publications. Jude was also known throughout Great Britain and Australia as a music lecturer and recitalist. The tune is named for the beautiful lake in the area where Jesus met Simon Peter and Andrew.

*Jesus calls us, o’er the tumult, of our life’s wild restless sea.
Day by day, I hear Him saying, “Christian, come and follow me” (verse 1)*

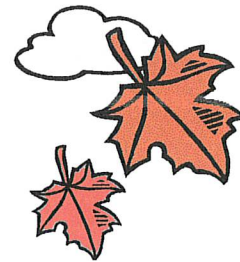
*As of old, Saint Andrew heard it, by the Galilean lake.
Turned from home and toil and kindred, leaving all for His dear sake. (verse 5)*

*Lyrics: Public Domain
[Hymns for the family of God #399]
Ref: 101 More Hymn Stories by Kenneth Osbeck*

Bruce Fine

Signs of Serving

from the Green Hill Deacons



Fall Clothing Drive

The fall Clothing Drive will end on Sunday, October 26. Please get last minute donations into the Fellowship Hall vestibule. Thank you to all who participated. Donations will be delivered to **Sunday Breakfast Mission** during the last week of October. We will share our donation totals in the December SPIRE. Caroline Beard is the Deacon in charge.

Sunday Breakfast Mission Great Thanksgiving Food Drive

Pre-printed grocery bags and regular grocery bags may be used by those who wish to participate in the **Sunday Breakfast Mission's (SBM's) Great Thanksgiving Food Drive** which we will run through **November 9**. Handouts on the back table list the non-perishable food items Sunday Breakfast Mission needs. Your generous donation will aid in feeding many hungry individuals in our local community for the Thanksgiving holiday and beyond. Please make checks payable to Green Hill with SBM Food Drive in the memo line. Checks may be placed in the offering plate. If you have any questions, please contact Ellen Grubbs at (302) 429-8698.

Caroling Party

The Deacons' annual caroling party will be a fun time of joy and fellowship as we brighten the Christmas season for those who are not able to get out as much as they would like due to health or personal mobility issues. Watch for more information. Amy Baun is the Deacon contact: (609) 617-7159.



EDR & Meals on Wheels

Thank you to all who participated in the preparation of the meal for **EDR** on Saturday, October 18th. They included: **Ellen Grubbs, Evelyn Williams and Kathy Dugan.**

We appreciate the work of our **Meals on Wheels (MOW)** delivery volunteers. During October they were: **Evelyn Williams, Maya Hirs, Jen Galvin, Gail Heath, Kathy Dugan and John Hartman.**

Adopt-A-Child Program

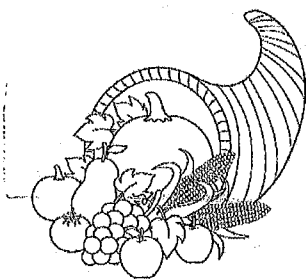
We are participating in the Adopt-A-Child program again this year. The **Ministry of Caring** is seeking **cash donations** for this program in 2025. The Ministry takes donors' cash and buys gift cards for needy parents to use for Christmas gifts for their children. **Please make your checks payable to Green Hill Church with Adopt-A-Child in the memo line.** Cash and checks are due on **Sunday, November 16.** The Deacon contact for this project is Jen Galvin at (302) 494-8259.



For The Troops

We are donating **assorted nuts** to National Guard airmen and women who are deployed and serving during the Christmas holidays. Thanks to your generosity this year we will be sending **care boxes stuffed with nuts, granola bars, and lip balm** overseas to brighten the Christmas season for those who are so far from home. You may still purchase and donate **Nuts for Troops** when the nuts shipment is received this fall. Gail Heath is the Deacon contact.

Hymn Sing at Presbyterian Church of the Covenant



The Delaware Chapter of the American Guild of Organists and the Presbyterian Church of the Covenant are co-sponsoring a **hymn sing at Church of the Covenant on Sunday November 23 at 4:00 PM.** The address is 503 Duncan Road, Wilmington, Delaware. The church is near the St.



Helena's Roman Catholic Church on Philadelphia Pike and next door to the St. Mark's Lutheran Church. The hymn sing is billed as "Songs of Grateful Praise - A Festival of Gratitude in the Season of Thanksgiving and for the Ministry and Witness of the Presbyterian Church of the Covenant". We encourage you to attend!

Annual Election Meeting and Christmas Luncheon on December 7

Our **annual election meeting** will be on **Sunday, December 7**, immediately following the worship service. Please plan to attend this important meeting to cast your vote for our Session, Deacons, and Trustees candidates.

Following the annual election meeting we will hold our **Christmas Luncheon**. This is a special event which many members look forward to each year. This year, as last year, we will be seeking member commitments to bring a dish to this festive meal. Please answer the phone call or e-mail when a member of the Fellowship Committee contacts you. We will have an attendance sign-up sheet in the sanctuary or you may phone Diane in the office. We will also display and sell our fall **craft** selections. Please come prepared to eat and shop!

Stewardship 2026

The Stewardship Committee will be sending you your 2026 Stewardship materials during the week of October 27. Please prayerfully consider your annual gift to Green Hill. Pledge Sunday will be November 9 this year.

November Prayer Emphasis

The Season of Thanksgiving and Praise

- 4 Enter his gates with thanksgiving
and his courts with praise;
give thanks to him and praise his name.**
- 5 For the Lord is good and his love endures forever;
his faithfulness continues through all generations.**

Psalm 100: 4-5 NIV

Advent Candle Lighting 2025

In the ancient world, various peoples lit fires to mark the turning of the light into winter's season and to pray for the return of the light. The church has claimed that practice in the lighting of the Advent wreath. To us, these candles are signs of the growing light of Christ who is coming again in all fullness into the darkness of our world. Until the dawning of that Great Day, we watch and wait for Christ's light shining in the darkness, lighting candles of hope, peace, joy, and love; and remembering the promises of God with prayer.

The first Sunday of Advent is November 30. Watch for the December SPIRE, the Sunday Bulletin, and the Weekly Update to see the names of the Green Hill Advent candle lighters for each of the four Sundays of Advent, 2025.



Women's Christmas Party – Tuesday, December 2



**Please plan to attend the
Women's Christmas Party!**

**We will have food, fun Christmas word games, and a
gift exchange...and maybe a surprise or two!
Please join us.**

**The party starts on Tuesday,
December 2, at 6:30 PM!**

Sign up will be available in the Sanctuary and via phone to the office.

Keri Kondracki Speaks to the Congregation

On Sunday, October 19, **Keri Kondracki**, the missionary with World Initiative Network that we support financially, spoke to us about her ministry during the worship service. She updated us on her many recent mission trips during which she hosted Women of Worth (WOW) conferences. She also worked with female church leaders in the countries she visited, equipping them with the tools to be effective Women of Worth leaders themselves. Her recent mission trips have been to Nigeria, Greece, and Buenos Aires, Argentina. In Nigeria her work involved a WOW daycare and preschool, too! In November Keri will make a return trip to Romania where women from Ukraine will make the long drive from their home country to participate. In February, 2026, Keri will make a trip to Asia and minister to women in Hong Kong.

We were able to supply a **large basket of items** donated by members for Keri to give to the women attendees at her WOW ministry events. Generous Green Hill members also contributed **\$400** toward Keri's expenses, with at least one additional Green Hill contribution going directly to Keri.

Fall Clean-Up Day Recap



Saturday, October 11, was an overcast and misty morning, but work went on as usual for our Trustees fall church Clean Up Day. Laurie and Mark Collender, Jane and Chick Reed, and Evelyn Williams participated. Outdoors we removed debris and faded memorials from the cemetery and swept and blew leaves from the basement steps and leaf catcher and reattached the exterior "Office" sign. Indoor work included cleaning out the refrigerator, sorting and organizing items in the kitchen drawers, thoroughly dusting most parts of the sanctuary, washing windows, and restarting the two heating boilers. On another day, Dan Dugan cleaned the entry road light fixtures and weeded underneath the holly trees by the red front doors.

There are still a few fall jobs left undone. If you have an hour or so to donate to the church this fall, please consider doing a fall Clean Up job. See Evelyn Williams for an assignment.

Christmas Poinsettias

Once again, our sanctuary will be decorated with massed poinsettias for Christmas. Red and white poinsettias can be purchased for **\$25.00** each. This price is the same as last year – no increase. To place an order, please fill out the order form here in the SPIRE, or from the back table in the sanctuary, and return it to **Kathy Dugan** along with your payment. If you want to pay by check, please make it out to Green Hill Church. Please be sure to indicate on the order form how you want your name to appear on the Christmas Eve list of donors. Kathy can be contacted via USPS mail to her attention at the church (P.O. Box 3892, Wilmington, DE 19807), at (302) 888-1422 or kathydugan3@gmail.com. The **deadline for ordering is Sunday, December 7, 2025**. Your poinsettias may be picked up after the Christmas Eve evening service. You may also indicate on your order form that you wish them to be given to a shut-in by the Deacons.



To: Kathy Dugan

**Order Form
Poinsettias
\$25.00 Each**

Name _____
(As you wish it to appear on the Christmas Eve donors' list)

Number of Red _____ **Number of White** _____

Amount Paid _____ **Please give away** _____ **yes** _____ **no** _____

November 2025 Schedule of Volunteers

Head Usher John Stevens

Deacon of the Month Amy Baun

Worship Assistants

November 2 - Allison Brokaw
November 9 - Kathy Dugan
November 16 - Amy Baun
November 23 - Sandy Fine
November 30 - Rick Baun

Greeters

November 2 - Laurie Collender
November 9 - Jen Galvin
November 16 - Amy Baun
November 23 - JoAnna Ventresca
November 30 - Denise Snyder

Refreshments Jen Galvin

November 23 - Thanksgiving Special Refreshments

Chancel Flowers

November 2 - Margaret Marquardt
November 9 - Richard & Ramona Marshall
November 16 - Parry Wentz
November 23 - Evelyn Williams
November 30 - Laurie & Mark Collender

Communion Servers – November 2

Allison Brokaw
JoAnna Ventresca

Kids Sunday School Teacher + Child Care

Kids Activity Bags Available in the File Room

Meals On Wheels

November 17 - Evelyn Williams
November 18 - Maya Hirs and family
November 19 - Jen Galvin and Gail Heath
November 20 - Evelyn Williams
November 21 - Kathy & Dan Dugan

Emmanuel Dining Room – Cook Only

Wednesday, November 19

Cooks	–	Ellen Grubbs
		Gail Heath
Kitchen Help	–	Dan Dugan
Celery	–	Gail Heath

NOVEMBER BIRTHDAYS

7 Carson Hirs
12 Roxiana Foulk
14 Amy Baun
21 Vanessa Foulk
30 Cash Scarborough

NOVEMBER ANNIVERSARIES

2 JoAnna & Victor Ventresca
13 Amy & Rick Baun
28 Melissa Stevens & Rick Howard

November 2025

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						<i>1 All Saints Day</i>
2 9:30 AM Choir Rehearsal 10:30 AM Worship; Communion; 11:30 AM Coffee & Conversation 12:00 PM Worship Mtg. Daylight Saving Time Ends	3 5:00 PM AA Mtg. 7:00 PM AI-Anon Mtg.	4 11:00 AM Handbells Rehearsal	5 5:00 PM Women's Bible Study 7:00 PM AA Mtg.	6	7 6:30 PM AA Mtg.	8
9 9:30 AM Choir Rehearsal 10:30 AM Worship; Favorite Hymns; Pledge Sunday 11:30 AM Coffee & Conversation 12:00 PM Session Mtg. 12:00 PM Deacons Mtg.	10 5:00 PM AA Mtg. 7:00 PM AI-Anon Mtg.	11 Veterans Day 8:00 AM Men's Bible Study at Janssen's Café 11:00 AM Handbells Rehearsal	12 5:00 PM Women's Bible Study 7:00 PM AA Mtg.	13	14 6:30 PM AA Mtg.	15
16 9:30 AM Choir Rehearsal 10:30 AM Worship 11:30 AM Coffee & Conversation 12:00 PM Trustees Mtg. 12:00 PM Fellowship Mtg. SPIRE DEADLINE	17 10:40 AM MOW Deliveries 5:00 PM AA Mtg. 7:00 PM AI-Anon Mtg.	18 10:40 AM MOW Deliveries 11:00 AM Handbells Rehearsal	19 8:15 AM EDR Prep 10:40 AM MOW Deliveries 7:00 PM AA Mtg.	20 10:40 AM MOW Deliveries	21 10:40 AM MOW Deliveries 6:30 PM AA Mtg.	22
23 Christ the King Sunday 9:30 AM Choir Rehearsal 10:30 AM Worship 11:30 AM Coffee & Conversation	24 5:00 PM AA Mtg. 7:00 PM AI-Anon Mtg.	25 8:00 AM Men's Bible Study at Janssen's Café 11:00 AM Handbells Rehearsal 7:00 PM Ecumenical Thanks-giving Worship at LBPC	26 7:00 PM AA Mtg.	27 Thanks-giving Day	28 6:30 PM AA Mtg.	29
30 1st Sunday of Advent 9:30 AM Choir Rehearsal 10:30 AM Worship; Advent Candle Lighting; Service of Wholeness & Healing; Rev. Lovelace Unavailable; Elder Steve Grubbs Leading Worship 11:30 AM Coffee & Conversation						