

November 2023

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Dear Friends,

When I think about Thanksgiving in the church, what comes to mind first for me is the hymn **Now Thank We All Our God**, and the first stanza that reads: *Now thank we all our God with heart and hands and voices, who wondrous things hath done, in whom this world rejoices; who, from our mothers' arms, hath blessed us on our way, with countless gifts of love, and still is ours today.* The old-time language of it conjures images of Pilgrims, and the beginning verse reminds me of how we work together as Christians. It is an old hymn, with its origins dating back to use as a family table pray during the Thirty Years' War (1618-1648). The words were put to tune in the mid-1600s (*Glory to God* footnotes, Hymn #643).

This song ties us back to centuries of Christians who have offered their thanks to God with the same words and tune. It's rather lovely to think that there have been Christians who throughout time have repeated songs, chants, and prayers of thanksgiving in the same way we do. While much has changed in the church over the centuries, our recognition of God as the creator and provider remains firmly planted in our tradition.

While humans innovate, create, invent, repurpose, explore, interpret, fabricate, devise, and develop, it is all because God first formed us. As the fall lectionary dabbles in the Book of Isaiah, I read some of the words it says about creation: *"For thus says the LORD, who created the heavens (he is God!), who formed the earth and made it (he established it; he did not create it a chaos, he formed it to be inhabited!): I am the LORD, and there is no other."* (Isaiah 45:18)

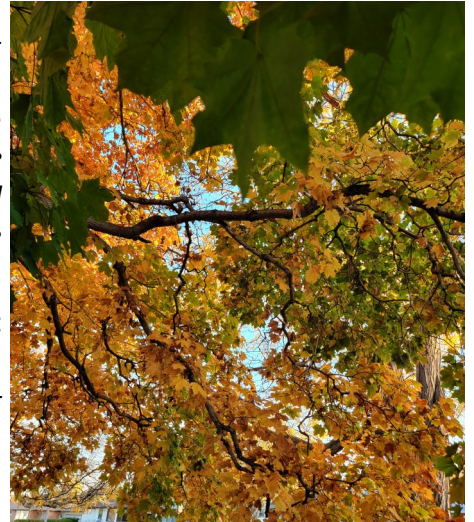
And in the next chapter: *"Remember the former things of old: For I am God, and there is no other; I am God and there is no one like me, declaring the end from the beginning and from ancient times things not yet done, saying, 'My purpose shall stand and I will fulfill my intention,'".* (Isaiah 46:9-10)

The creation around us - the trees, leaves, SNOW!, people, pets, plants, and soil all come from God. We can alter our universe in innumerable ways, but it all stems from God's mighty acts of creation. And not a creation of chaos, but a planned, intentional creation that was made to nurture abundant life.

We have much to be thankful for in our lives. May our hearts lift up the sentiment of the last stanza of **Now Thank We All Our God** when it says, *"All praise and thanks to God, who reigns in highest heaven, to Father and to Son and Spirit now be given; the one eternal God, whom heaven and earth adore, the God who was, and is, and shall be evermore."*

May the God of creation, the God of *our* creation, bless us on whatever paths we travel this month.

Pastor Jessica

November 2023

## SHARING OUR SUNRISE JOYS AND CONCERNS

*"Let us come into His presence with thanksgiving ...." (Psalm 95:2)*

Those few words from the writer of Psalms echo in my mind as I sit alone enveloped in the dim light and warmth of my kitchen on this cool and dark autumn morning. The rays of light from the morning sun have not yet made their way over the eastern mountains. The smell of my freshly brewed coffee and the silence fill my senses. And I am thankful. Silence. Silence. Only the ticking of Bill's old schoolhouse Regulator clock to remind me that this life moves on. I have resisted turning on the news today. Savoring these few moments before the cacophony of life in today's world fill the space, I give thanks to God. Thanks that He has been here beside me at the kitchen table these past years after the loss of Bill. Thanks that He provides sustenance for the day. Thankful for the small things that bring us joy. The beautiful canopy of autumn leaves dancing in the wind and the rustling of those leaves as they gather on the ground signaling that a new season is upon us. The smiling voices of small children as they fall into those very leaves. The bounty God's earth provided over the summer. Grateful that even in the midst of suffering or grief there is God's grace. And hope. Hope that comes with the red streaks of sunrise in the eastern sky and the ticking of the clock reminding me that God has given me another day. And I greet the dawn.

1 Cor 1:4 reminds me to be thankful for others, Gratitude for friends to enfold us. *" I give thanks to my God always for you because of the Grace of God that has been given you in Christ Jesus...*

We ask for God's grace and goodness to surround those who are ill or suffering this day, Prayers continue for Ed and Lorrie Maki in his struggle with cancer. Rod Paronto has recently been moved to The Ivy after months of hospitalization and rehab. Thoughts for him and Dixy. Tana's brother, David, is beginning chemo for a particularly rare cancer. Norman Anderson is still dealing with lingering effects of Covid and is facing future treatments for other health issues. We remember Rowena's grandmother in her illness. May God walk with them.

Thanksgiving abounds for successful surgeries and recoveries for members of our fold and for the health professionals who are part of it. Ben Forsyth is doing great after back surgery and if Janette can get him to behave for a short while he'll be walking without pain. Carol Stilli's stepson suffered from a heart attack but is now doing well. Marilyn Andrews' daughter, Sue, experienced heart issues also, had pacemaker surgery and is now doing well. Mary Perkins will be having pacemaker placement for her atrial fibrillation in Albuquerque this week. We wish her well.

With thanksgiving, we are reminded to remember members of our congregation who can no longer join us in person for worship but are grateful for their presence over the years in the life of Sunrise. Thanksgiving would be a great time to remember them with a card and note.

We are blessed beyond measure at Sunrise. For opportunities to fellowship together like the Heritage Dinner, we give thanks. (continued on next page...)

November 2023

(Continued from page 2)

For the dedication of those who lead us in Bible Study, we give thanks. For those who visit members in the hospital, we give thanks. For those who work tirelessly doing the day-to-day upkeep and operation of Sunrise, we give thanks. For the increasing number of children's voices in our midst (and those who work with them, we give thanks. Our souls soared as last Sunday we truly knew the meaning of "a little child will lead us" as our children led us in worship. We especially give thanks that our little Jesse has marked 5 years since his bone marrow transplant and is doing well.

As we gather around our tables to celebrate the bounty that the Lord has provided, help us to remember that all that we have comes from the Lord. Whether we are with a full house of family or friends with a table laden with food, or enjoying a quiet, simple meal, God's goodness and mercy surrounds us. We need only to look to Him for our daily bread, thanking him for our many blessings and asking for prayers for his grace to be on those not as fortunate.

*"Rejoice always, pray without ceasing, give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you." (1 Thess 5:16-18)*

***Giving thanks for you, my friends and family in Christ, Tana***



November Scripture Reading List	
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1	Matthew 13:16
2	1 Chronicles 16:34
3	Colossians 3:15
4	Colossians 4:2
5	1 Corinthians 1:4
6	2 Corinthians 9:11
7	1 Timothy 4:4-5
8	1 Thessalonians 5:16-18
9	Philippians 4:6-7
10	Jonah 2:9
11	Psalms 28:7
12	Psalms 50:14
13	Psalms 4:7
14	1 Corinthians 9:10
15	2 Corinthians 9:10
16	Galatians 6:9
17	Isaiah 9:3
18	Jeremiah 5:24
19	Psalms 67:6
20	Proverbs 18:20
21	Colossians 3:16
22	Hebrews 12:28-29
23	1 Chronicles 16:23-26
24	1 Chronicles 29:13
25	Hebrews 13:15
26	Psalms 56:4
27	Psalms 69:30
28	Psalms 89:1-2
29	Psalms 107:8-9
30	Philippians 4:8

^^ Pictures from the Children's Sabbath Service Oct 15  
 --> This month's scripture reading list is courtesy of [countryliving.com](http://countryliving.com).

**Reminder:** When donating cans to the can shed, please remember to tie the bags they are donated in. Thank you for being committed to the aluminum can recycling project! We collect \$10-20 of cans per month and this money goes to provide shipping for our pill bottle reuse endeavors. Thank you Eric Chigbrow for your work in taking cans to the recycling facility.



November 2023



**What has happened with our environmental initiatives?**

After 18 months, we have some projects that we have continued and some that we have not. Here’s a summary.

We have ongoing collections: aluminum cans, plastic bags for recycling, and pill bottles for re-use. Aluminum can money is being used for pill bottle shipping.

We have decided to continue annually the Crayon Initiative and the Spring Product Exchange.

We replaced the majority of lighting both inside and outside with LED lights.

 <b>FISH Food Bank</b> 		
	Sep 2023	Year to Date 2023
Families (non-Single)	45	414
Singles	38	402
Adults	133	1,172
Children	67	460
Meals	3,000	24,480
Pounds of Food	5,862	53,553

- Food Suggestions for November**
- Beef Stew
  - Chili
  - Tuna
  - Canned Spaghetti & Ravioli
  - Cereal
  - Canned Fruit
  - Any Type of Pasta

Our next volunteer week is planned for **November 20<sup>th</sup> - 22<sup>nd</sup>**  
 Our monthly donations from Sunrise in September were: \$277.00.  
 The monthly FISH bowl will be passed around the 2nd Sunday in November and December.  
 Thank you to all who faithfully contribute to FISH!  
 -Maribeth Doan

**Town Pump Challenge Ends November 30th!**

At Town Pump we wish to recognize our congregations for your hard work and dedication to serving the needs of the food insecurity in your community. You are truly ‘Montanans Helping Montanans’. Thank you for the work you do every day to help our neighbors in need.

From Sept 1, 2023, to Nov 30, 2023, any donations to FISH will be matched dollar-for-dollar up to \$25,000. If you would like to contribute funds to FISH through the church, have funds to the office by Nov. 12. to take advantage of the Town Pump donation match.

Or you can donate directly to FISH by mail:  
**FISH P.O. Box 662 Great Falls, MT 59403**

Thank you for your help to reach our goal of \$25,000.  
 -FISH Board of Directors



November 2023

**News from the Camp:**

Glacier Camp Advent Study - online, beginning on Sunday, November 26 at 5 p.m. and meeting weekly. The study will explore the book of Romans.

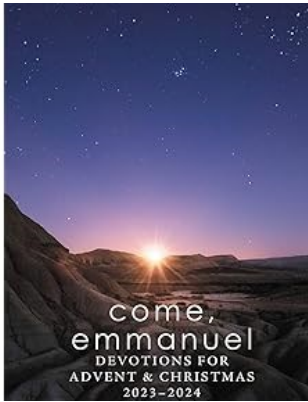
To sign up, email: [timothy@glaciercamp.org](mailto:timothy@glaciercamp.org)

The Glacier Camp Donor Appreciation Dinner and Scholarship Auction will be Sunday, November 19 at 4:30 p.m. Loren Smith will serve as this year's keynote speaker.

Prairie Kraft Specialties has entered an agreement to provide the camp with our cabins and one cottage. The cabins will replace the old "Forest Row" cabins. The cottage will serve as a multi-use space and will include indoor plumbing and a kitchenette.

Structures are under construction now and will be delivered to the camp beginning this fall. The cabin replacement will provide a significant upgrade to the camp, and will reopen camper lodging spaces that have been unused since a storm in 2021.

More information about Glacier Camp can be found on their website: [www.glaciercamp.org](http://www.glaciercamp.org)



*come, emmanuel* DEVO-TIONS FOR ADVENT & CHRISTMAS 2023-2024

Please Pre-Order now! Let the office know if you would like a copy and you will be contacted when the shipment arrives.

In *Come, Emmanuel* we join Christians around the world, past and present, in the Advent tradition of reflecting on brief prayers known as the "O Antiphons." Christians have used the O Antiphons since the eighth century or perhaps even longer. Their name comes from the way each one begins ("O Wisdom," "O Adonai/Lord," and so on). The O Antiphons were sung during evening prayer or mass, especially in the last seven days of the Advent season.

Around the twelfth century, the O Antiphons became the basis for the hymn we know as "O come, O come, Emmanuel." On the first day of each set of devotions in *Come, Emmanuel*, a contemporary version of the antiphon serves as the scripture text, and a stanza from "O come, O come, Emmanuel" serves as the "To ponder" quotation. The next four days in the set include scripture texts traditionally associated with the antiphon and quotes chosen by the writers.

Emmanuel came that first Christmas. Emmanuel comes to us today. Emmanuel will come again. Rejoice and share the good news!

Prefer an e-book? You can purchase a copy directly through Amazon for \$2.99.



**Sunrise Presbyterian Church  
Holiday Dinner 2023  
Sunday, Dec. 10 at 4pm**

*Rides Available*

**For the whole family. RSVPs appreciated**  
Email: [sunrisepresbyteriangf@gmail.com](mailto:sunrisepresbyteriangf@gmail.com)

*Menu:*  
Ham  
Rolls  
Mashed Potatoes  
Gravy  
Corn  
Green Beans  
Veggie Trays  
Strawberry Short  
Cake

November 2023

Oct 23-Nov 2		Office Closed: Reach Pastor Jessica by cell or email
Nov 2	10:00 am	Women’s Bible Study
Nov 5	9:30 am	Worship, Remembrance Sunday
	10:45 am	Fellowship, Children’s Sunday School
Nov 12	9:30 am	Worship, Communion, Fish Collection (2 <sup>nd</sup> Sunday in Nov)
	10:45 am	Fellowship, Children’s Sunday School
Nov 13	6:00 pm	Faith & Life Committee
Nov 14	5:30 pm	Finance Committee / Stewardship
Nov 15	6:00 pm	Mission & Memorials Committee
Nov 16	10:00 am	Women’s Bible Study
Nov 19	9:30 am	Worship
	10:45 am	Fellowship, Children’s Sunday School
Nov 20		Newsletter Deadline
Nov 22		Jessica Out of Office
Nov 23		Thanksgiving Day, Office Closed
Nov 25	10 am	Decorate Sanctuary
Nov 26	9:30 am	Worship, Hanging of the Greens
	10:45 am	Fellowship, Children’s Sunday School
Nov 28	5:30 pm	Session Meeting
Nov 29		Newsletter Assembly

Deacons on call for November: Janette Forsyth & Beth Hoseck



Join us in decorating the sanctuary for the **Hanging of the Greens service**. Come to the church at 10 a.m. on Saturday, November 25 and help set out trees, wreaths, garland, and other décor in preparation of the Hanging of the Greens service on Nov 26.

Many hands make light work! We will conclude the decorating preparation with a light meal provided by the Faith and Life Committee.

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November 2023

**2023 Session Elders**

Admin & Personnel: Lianna Gaskins, Scott Shull  
 Buildings & Grounds: Travis Harp, Lee Hickey  
 Christian Education: Erica Rusinski  
 Faith and Life: Eric Chigbrow, Lee Hickey  
 Mission & Memorials: Norman Anderson, Scott Shull  
 Nominating: Scott Shull, Eric Chigbrow, Millie Sivak  
 Outreach & Social Media: Lee Hickey  
 Stewardship: Eric Chigbrow, Lianna Gaskins, Scott Shull  
 Worship: Norman Anderson, Travis Harp  
 Clerk of Session: Millie Sivak

**Board of Deacons:**

Chair: Ember Woods  
 Secretary/Treasurer: Janette Forsyth  
 Beth Hoseck, Dixy Paronto, Ruth Hickey, Bill McCullough, Sandy Lambert, Marilyn Andrews, Pam Chigbrow

*Do you feel called to serve as an elder or deacon?*

*Let the Nominating Committee know! Election of new officers will be held in December.*



Sunrise  
 Presbyterian  
 Church  
*Family*

«City», «State» «Zip»

«Address»

«First Names» «Last Name»

Sunrise Presbyterian Church  
 PO Box 6568  
 Great Falls, MT 59406