The Good News

Striving to share Christ's love with all of God's people.

2026



Westminster Presbyterian Church
3819 Central Avenue
Hot Springs, Arkansas 71913
www.wpchotsprings.org

From Pastor Bill. . .



The Gospel of Luke records the well-known story of the ten lepers who were healed by Jesus. Jesus told them to go and show themselves to the priests and as they did, they all were healed. But Luke tells us, only one returned to thank Jesus.

The gospel writer Luke does not tell us why. But it must have shocked Jesus because he asked, "Were there not ten?" Was it because they were simply too caught up in the moment? Were they too excited and in their celebration simply forgot? Maybe they intended to come say, "thank you" later. Luke does not tell us.

We all know that life is like that sometimes. Most of us are grateful for the blessings we receive. And most of us usually intend to express our gratitude for all we have received. It is just that we get busy and often forget to return thanks. Our good intentions sometimes get lost in the busyness of life.

I think this is part of the reason why, historically, our country has set aside a special day of national thanksgiving. Since the time of the Civil War when President Lincoln called for a day of national thanksgiving, we have set aside the fourth Thursday of November as a day to say thank you.

As people of faith, we believe that we are stewards of God's good gifts and we return thanks as we give to the work of our Lord and the mission of His church.

In the next few weeks you will be hearing sermons about giving and the Stewardship Committee will be sending you a letter and "estimate of giving" card. Your generous gifts enable the church to provide pastoral care, worship, music, child support for families, and financial support for missions nationally and locally.

I urge you to prayerfully consider God's blessings in your life and family and how you might respond in gratitude and faith. Prayerfully consider how your giving might honor God in your life.

In Christ's service,
Bill

November
Happy Birthday to:

05 Sara Ferril
08 Sally Stoneburner
13 Peggy Stanley
15 Mike Morrison
16 Jim Dowds
17 Susie Wright
22 Peggy Kipp
24 Patricia Bentley
30 NiAnn Thompson

Happy Anniversary to:

Claude & Tara Mahend
11-3-2015

William & Joyce Esose
11-10-2010

Joe Colgrove & Betty Corley
11-15-2007

Mark & Debbie Varnell
11-27-1996



November 1

Breakfast
Men of the Church
Wednesday
November 4
8:15 a.m.
Mueller's Bistro & Bakery
111 B Crawford

Dinner with Friends
6:00 pm, Thursday
November 19
Beano's Pizza
2230 Malvern Avenue

Miscellaneous Info. . . Our Thanksgiving fellowship luncheon will be held on Sunday, November 22. The Fellowship Committee will provide the turkey, dressing, and gravy, and sign-up sheets for side dishes and desserts will be on the table in narthex. Invite your family, friends, and neighbors and enjoy a meal with the church family. The church office will close at noon on Wednesday, November 25, in preparation for Thanksgiving Day. Bible study, choir and Joyful Ringers will not meet on this day. Watch for the Christmas poinsettia order forms coming soon.

Women of Faith, Catherine Circle

Dee Renteria of Prince of Peace will lead the business report and Lesson 3, "God with Us in Our Discouragement," at the November 10 meeting of Women of Faith, Catherine Circle. Plans will be made for the annual Christmas class project at First Step School. All women are invited to attend the 1:30 pm meeting in the WPC Community Room.

Mission/Evangelism Committee

August-September Dollar Giving benefitting Hot Springs Community Resource Center totaled $932.00 The total received for the October 4 World Communion national special offering is $470.00 which assists in the areas of racial justice, gender justice, peacemaking, global witness, and ecumenical relations. There will be NO collection of Christmas cards made this November as in the past, but the committee will discuss other needs of county inmates at the November 15 meeting. A committee report on the October 30 Jackson House lunch program will be shared in November. The Mitten Tree will be erected after luncheon on November 22 so that the congregation can "decorate" it with new winter gear for adults and children which will be delivered to Jackson House on December 21. Dollar Giving in November continues to be earmarked for purchase of twin-size blankets and throws.

2027 Stewardship Campaign

As we begin our 2027 Stewardship Campaign, we ask you to think prayerfully about what Westminster has meant to you and how you can contribute to making our congregation even more vibrant in the coming year.

Our pledged contributions for this year are $211,350. Our total budgeted expenses are $382,000. This leaves a significant gap! We are blessed to have contributions from people who have not pledged, rent from Prince of Peace and Mother's Day Out, earnings from our investments, and generous individuals who have made special contributions to help make up the difference.

Our expenses for next year will go up significantly. We are all praying for the Pastor Nominating Committee to find the right person for our congregation. Having a full time called Pastor will increase salary and benefits. Personnel costs this year are 52% of our budget, and that will go up next year. Utilities, insurance, and maintenance costs will also increase. Building and Grounds are 30% of our budget.

Westminster is and always has been a generous congregation that supports the needs of the community, locally and state-wide. We give monthly to the Presbytery, Jackson House, Vera Lloyd Presbyterian Children's Homes, and the Community Resource Center. The Mission Committee also supplements this with special contributions in cases of natural disasters or other current needs. Missions are 7% of our budget.

There are many ways to give that can help you reduce your taxes as well as contribute to Westminster. Here are a few suggestions;

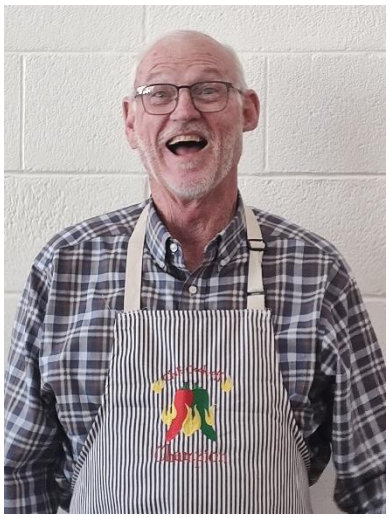
1. If you take the standard deduction rather than itemizing, you are entitled to $1,000 cash charitable deduction, $2,000 for married couples.
2. If you take a standard deduction one year, consider doubling up your contributions in a year you are going to itemize.
3. If you are itemizing for 2026 taxes, you can prepay your contribution for 2027 to WPC and we will spread the revenue out over the 12 months.
4. If you are taking Required Minimum Distributions, the absolute best way to give is to have your financial institution send your contribution directly from your IRA to WPC and it will never count as taxable income. This needs to be done before you take all your RMD for the year.

Please complete the pledge card that you will soon receive in the mail. You can return it to the Church Office or bring to the service on November 22 for the Blessing of the Pledges.

For all things come from you, and of your own we have given you. 1 Chronicles 29:14

Financial/Stewardship Report

Expenses & Revenue	September	YTD
Total Revenue	$ 24,746	$ 270,055
Total Expenses	29,635	242,182
Surplus/Deficit (-)	$(4,888)	$ 27,873



Chili Cook-Off Champ

Our Sunday, October 18, fellowship luncheon featured our annual Chili Cook-Off. Of the ten entries, Curtis Wright walked away with the title and the apron. Congratulations Curtis!! Now would be a good time for other chili chef hopefuls to get a head start and begin fine-tuning your entry for next year.

Advent Devotionals

Advent: A Calendar of Devotions 2026 provides daily devotions to help you prepare to celebrate the birth of Christ. Each day's reading, from the first Sunday of Advent (November 29) to Christmas Day, is based on the Revised Common Lectionary and includes the Scripture, a short devotion, and a brief prayer. With her thoughtful and enjoyable meditations on the Bible, Author Nicole Reilley helps you prepare for the coming of Christ throughout the Advent Season. The devotionals will be available on the table in the narthex—you may pick up your personal copy.

Meet the Newly-Elected Elders, Class of 2029

Carol Birmingham retired as an administrative assistant from Lakeside Primary School. Carol is active in the Wednesday Bible study and is a "money counter." She previously served on the Session as the Chair of the Fellowship Committee. Carol has two children, Amy and Jamie, and grandchildren that she claims as her hobbies. Since retirement, Carol seems to always be on the go chauffeuring her grandchildren to and from school and their activities.

E Ray Stinson is a retired University Professor and University Vice President for Research. Ray has served in other Presbyterian churches as both an elder and on a couple of Pastor Nominating Committees (PNC). He has volunteered, since joining, with the Mission Committee at the "5th Friday luncheon service" at Jackson House. Additionally, he currently is serving on the Stewardship Committee.

Connie Townley is currently serving as a "money counter." She is a retired Certified Public Accountant (CPA). Additionally, Connie is a certified Silversmith (she makes beautiful jewelry!) and a certified foster caregiver. Since joining Westminster, Connie has attended both the Disciples Sunday school class and the Wednesday Bible study group. Additionally, Connie is a member of the Mission Committee.

John Vaughan is a native of and was raised in Texarkana, Arkansas. He is heavily involved in property management, real estate/finance/stock market. His interests are "cars, cars, and more cars" as well as boats and planes. John participates in both the choir and the Joyful Ringers when he is available. A friend said he has the "go bug"—ready to travel whenever anyone mentions it.

These individuals will undergo training with Pastor Bill and Susie Wright, CRE, beginning November 29 (following worship), and again on December 6 and 13 (following worship). Following their training, they will be examined by the Session on December 21, and then ordained and installed as active Elders on January 10.

Pastor
Rev. William (Bill) Bailey

CRE, Pastoral Care
Susie Wright

Organist/Choir Director
Handbell Choir Director
Kristen La Madrid

Administrative Assistant
Billie Wetzler

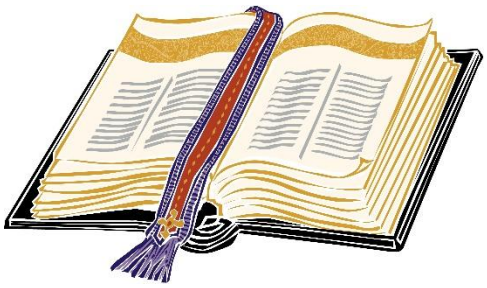
Custodian
Jack Davis

Mother's Day Out Director
Anita Dickson

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Lectionary

November 1—Josh. 3:7-17 *and Ps. 107:1-7, 33-37*; Mic. 3:5-12 *and Ps. 43*; I Thess. 2:9-13; Matt. 23:1-12

November 8—Josh. 24:1-3a, 14-25 *and Ps. 78:1-7;* Amos 5:18-24 *and Ps. 70*; I Thess. 4:13-18; Matt. 25:1-13

November 15—Judg. 4:1-7 *and Ps. 123*; Zeph. 1:7-12 *and Ps. 90:1-8 (9-11) 12*; I Thess. 5:1-11; Matt. 25:14-30

November 22—Ezek. 34:11-16, 20-24 *and Ps. 100 or Ps. 95:1-7a*; Eph. 1:15-23; Matt. 25:31-46

November 29—Isa. 64:1-9 *and Ps. 80:1-7, 17-19*; I Cor. 1:3-9; Mark 13:24-37