



Holly Presbyterian Church Newsletter November 2024

Thoughts from Rev. Jamie Milton

We have come to that strange part of the year in which we find ourselves surrounded by skeletons, ghosts, ghouls, pumpkins, and CANDY! Yes, Halloween. When I was working with churches in Peru as a Young Adult Volunteer, I was asked why so many Christians in the United States celebrated Halloween, which to them, was clearly a secular holiday that praised evil spirits. That was a hard one to answer, especially as I had always seen it more of a fun night for kids to dress up and go get candy! So I did a little research.

The name Halloween is Christian in origin. It is a blending of the words All Hallows' Eve (referring to the night before All Saints' Day on November 1). Most of us understand from praying the Lord's Prayer, that hallow means "holy." As early as the fourth century, some churches had made a practice of honoring martyrs on a common day, and by the eighth century, the Pope dedicated a chapel to "all the saints" on November 1 and established the day as an annual commemoration.

November 1 was probably selected in order to contrast it with the pagan Celtic celebration of Samhain— a name derived from Old Irish that roughly means "summer's end." For them, this was their new year and October 31st marked both the end of the year and the end of the "season of life"; warm days waned and the last of the harvest was gathered. The new year marked a transition into the "season of death"; the cold and darkness of winter were fast approaching. The Celts believed that on the last evening of the year, October 31st, the Lord of Death gathered the souls of those who had died in the previous 12 months. Celts believed that these souls

were allowed one last brief visit to their relatives and loved ones before entering their new state. Thus came the belief that spirits roamed the earth on the night of October 31st.

Many of the customs and traditions that are still followed today actually have origins in the church, or have religious significance, or at least there are stories that link them. Regardless of its association with a pagan celebration, Halloween is the perfect opportunity to contrast the Christian view of death with the non-Christian view. Many people see death (and the spiritual world) as dark, evil and scary — as evidenced by the traditions, symbols, and costumes associated with Halloween. But for Christians, death is not cause to “grieve like the rest of humanity, who have no hope” (1 Thessalonians 4:13). Jesus assures us: “I tell you the truth, whoever hears my word and believes him who sent me has eternal life and will not be condemned; he has crossed over from death to life” (John 5:24). So Halloween becomes not a day to celebrate evil spirits, but a day in which we celebrate the hope we have in new life with God, especially as we look forward to All Saints Day and remember those who have died in the faith.

Rev. Jamie Milton
Pastor of Westminster Presbyterian Church
Bay City

Stewardship Sunday is November 10th

Stewardship 2025



As we consider what God has laid on our hearts regarding our stewardship commitment for next year, we need to also consider the many blessings to be received through our dedication to Jesus Christ.

The spiritual joy of giving is something we all deserve to share with the Holy Spirit. God wants our Christian walk to be joyous and comforting. Good consistent stewardship of what God has given to us is a sure path to that joy and comfort. Our generous giving is a large part of Christian stewardship and enables us to not only maintain our facilities but also allows us to reach out with God's message of eternal salvation through our savior Jesus Christ.

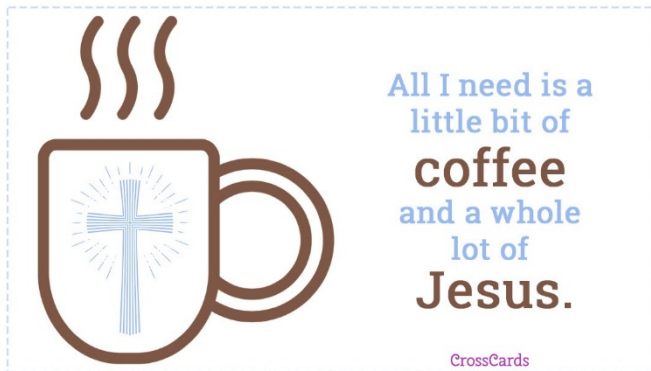
What a satisfying relationship we enjoy with God through our generous giving and consistent stewardship.

Thank you, Jesus for this opportunity of discipleship through the giving of our time, talent and a portion of our finances for your glory.

“Praise God from whom all blessings flow”

Your Finance Team

Fellowship & Coffee



Start your Sunday off by coming for Coffee and Fellowship at 10:30am. Also, remember to sign up to make the coffee and bring a snack if you are able. The signup sheet is in the back of the Sanctuary.

Finance Team

Income Sept ... \$9,839.44.....YTD... \$72,991.23
Expenses Sept . \$4,756.95 YTD... \$55,794.08



The September income included funds from the Wright Trust and over \$2,250 from the church rummage sale. Thank you to everyone for your donations of merchandise, time, food for the workers, and to the Congregational Care Team for organizing the sale.

Thank you for your continued support of our church!

Bob Killewald & Vicki Lyles



Baby Pantry dates are:

Nov 1st Loretta Weiss & Fran Pelton
Nov 15th Jennifer Chanter & Fran Pelton

Thank you in advance to our volunteers.

Recycle



We are looking for your used ink cartridges. Bring in your ink cartridges and any batteries you have. Thank you.



Don't forget to set your clocks back one hour before going to bed on Saturday Nov 2nd.

All Saints Day

We will remember those who went before us in the last year on Sunday November 3rd. Please join us.



Calendar of Events

Fri	Nov 1 st	10:00am Baby Pantry
Sun	Nov 3 rd	Fall Back Time Change
		10:30am Coffee & Fellowship
		11:15am Worship-All Saints Sunday
Tues	Nov 5 th	6:00pm Outreach Team
		7:00pm Information Technology Team
Sun	Nov 10 th	10:00am Bible Study
		10:30am Coffee & Fellowship

		11:15am Worship-Stewardship Sunday
Tues	Nov 12 th	7:30pm Property Team
Wed	Nov 13 th	1:00pm Worship Team
Fri	Nov 15 th	10:00am Baby Pantry
Sun	Nov 17 th	10:30am Coffee & Fellowship
		11:15am Worship
Thurs	Nov 21 st	7:00pm Session Meeting
Sun	Nov 24 th	10:00am Bible Study
		10:30am Coffee & Fellowship
		11:15am Worship
Tues	Nov 26 th	10:30am Pick up your Greenery order
Thurs	Nov 28 th	Thanksgiving Day

From the Congregational Care Team



November Quote

If you have prayer requests, please submit them to Karen Haneline (email address- haneline526@gmail.com , phone 248-894-3489) of the Congregational Care Team.

Prayer Concerns

Pray for Pastor Chris, his family, and our church daily.

For healing: Hurricane Helene & Milton victims; **Atlas Thomas** (Killewald's friend) infant with a blood disorder he is home-keep praying; **Alex Searfoss** (great grandson of Donna Miller) Third degree burns over 40% of his body. He is able to talk and eat now.; **Tom Schettling; Mike**



Schettling (Tom Schettling's cousin) cancer, same age as Tom; **Won Chea** (Tom Schettling's brother-in-law) treatment stomach cancer; **Gordie Bradshaw** treatment; **Penny Schettling; Jerry Watkins** (Laura Parker's dad).

Ongoing prayers: Jessica Duis (Jim & Vicki Lyles' niece), **Mike Pelton, Don Neuville, Mark Bolen, Steve** in FL, and **Jim Killewald.**

Prayers for those suffering: for all those affected by war, severe weather, hunger, gun violence, abuse, and/or addiction.

We lift up those in prayer from the Presbytery:

Peace and comfort to the families of: **Rev. John Barkett. Elsie Krane**, adopted mother of Elder Kathleen Rowe, who was severely injured in an auto accident in November. She has made a lot of progress but still has a long way to go.

Our churches currently in pastoral transition.

Our Mission Co-Workers:

Cathy Chang and family serving in the Philippines.



Jobst Family



Keefer Family

2024 Session Members

Clerk.....	Jan Bradshaw.....	2024
Christian Education.....	Dessalee Cook ...	2025
Congregational Care.....	Margaret Perry ...	2026
Finance.....	Bob Killewald.....	2025
Information Technology..	Brian Parker.....	2024
Outreach.....	Jennifer Chanter.	2025
Property.....	Jim Lyles.....	2026
Worship.....	Tom Schettling...	2024
Moderator Pastor Chris Thomas		



Please remember to check your mailbox for any mail, etc.