



THE BELL

A Monthly Newsletter
15th Avenue Christian Church



November



A Message from Pastor Mike.....

Often, on Sunday mornings, our Scripture readings help us see the necessity and benefit of being intentional about our spirituality. Both grief and healing may be integral, or at least developmental, parts of our growth and our faith journeys. It can be a lifelong struggle to fully understand God's unfailing love and eternal purpose for our lives. Scripture helps give us a higher and more accurate vision of our purpose than we can arrive at on our own. As we are all aware, there can be a persistent fallenness in the human experience. Fortunately, we have also been given the limitless grace of God to help us and sustain us along our pathway.

It takes time and effort to really pay attention to our wounded and our true selves. We are often in need of an expanded and deepened sense of our worth as children of God. Do problematic circumstances imply that hope is somewhat irrational? Can people change? Will people do the right thing? Where is the good news in this economic statistic, or in that think-tank projection? Does enlightened self-interest drive most of our consumer decisions? Having evidence, logic and being "rational" is not always a mindset that is fully compatible with the hope of the gospel. Acts 16:26 describes a prison-shaking earthquake and bears witness that the prisoners' chains fell away. The foundations were shaken and the doors were rattled open! The spiritual life is never boring! Living into our callings will require us to connect the dots between our limited, status quo, self-image and the truth that we are image-bearers who are both claimed and called.

A cynical or weary heart may see what it thinks is clear-eyed reality, but the new heart, that gift of the Spirit, helps us see God's grace in even the most difficult circumstances. We have the risk of getting stuck at an early level of the faith, and then of not realizing that there *is* anything more. Even when we don't know what in the world is going on out there, it may actually be a good starting point to have an unfulfilled sense of longing... to be spiritually discontented enough to explore possibilities for a deeper understanding of faith, hope, and love. In St. Paul's words, the hope that we need is already among us through the power of the Holy Spirit. A new heart can help us rest in the finished work of Christ, clinging to the promises of God that the kingdom of heaven is *already* here! Embracing a new and improved perspective of hope allows us to see, with the eyes of our hearts, grace upon grace (John 1:16). Somewhere I saw that verse described as "grace piled up". It is that life-sustaining grace and hope which can propel us to seek a closer relationship with God. May God bless you as we move into Advent!

"What can be seen is temporary, but what cannot be seen is eternal." (2 Cor. 4:18).

Thanksgiving Potluck ~ Gathering Together in Fellowship

The Thanksgiving potluck is set for Sunday, November 16th following our Sunday morning service. There will be a sign-up sheet in the Narthex for the first 2 Sundays so that you can get an idea about what is needed. **Turkey and ham will be provided. Membership Nurture will provide plates, napkins, and table service, as well as beverages and butter!** Categories would include other Entrees, Hot Sides, Cold Sides, Desserts, and Bread/Rolls. Come join us as we gather together for a Thanksgiving meal.



CROP-WALK 2025

This year 15th Avenue Christian Church raised \$390 to fight hunger for the annual Crop Walk on October 5, 2025.

A special THANK YOU to:

Judie & Bill Holmer

Sally & Gene Bartosh

Mable Carlson

Ron Standley

Jackie Flemming

Pastor Mike & Karen Kindred

for your generous donations to this very worthy cause!!!

Yours in Christ,

Marty Larson

Property Department is looking for cleaners for 2026 beginning in January. If you would like to volunteer please contact Judie Holmer or call the office.

Judie Holmer



I am looking for volunteers for Advent Readings this year.

If you would like to be a reader during Advent, please let me know and preference for date.

Dates are:

11/30 12/7 12/14 12/21

Jackie Flemming, Worship Chair

(309) 235-0914



Anniversaries

17	Rick & Kim MIERS
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Birthdays

8	Jeanie KIRGAN
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9	Dolores FRYBARGER
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13	Ethan FLEMMING
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13	Steve SHEESE
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15	Lynne SWANSON
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25	Devin BUTCHER
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PROFIT & LOSS REPORT

Income	\$8101.70
Expenses	\$13157.70
Net Income	(\$5048.70)

October Attendance

October 5	31
October 12	31
October 19	30
October 26	39

Music Notes

It looks like another month of good music. I am thankful for all the beautiful special music we are blessed to have and for the musicians who provide it! For this month, we have Steve Swanson, Susan Runyon, Claire Reger, Lillian Dawn, and Gary Troyer!

Yours in Christ,
Sheila Doak



November Food Pantry for Thanksgiving

Sitting here, after church today, thinking about Bell articles and trying to decide if this is one I want to include this year. I'm torn, because I know how the cost of almost everything has risen and keeps going up. But then I think about families at my school who make weekly visits to the little pantry we have in a conference room, and I think of other families who rely on visits to the Food Pantry near them, and feel that anything we can give is better than giving nothing.

My request is simple: If you can give any amount (even \$1) one Sunday during the month of November it would be appreciated. If you cannot help financially, would you please lift up a prayer for the families in need, that they can find help through their local Food Pantry.

All donations will be sent to the Youth Hope Food Pantry in December, to help them replenish their shelves.

Thank you,
Lisa Hatlett, Outreach Chair

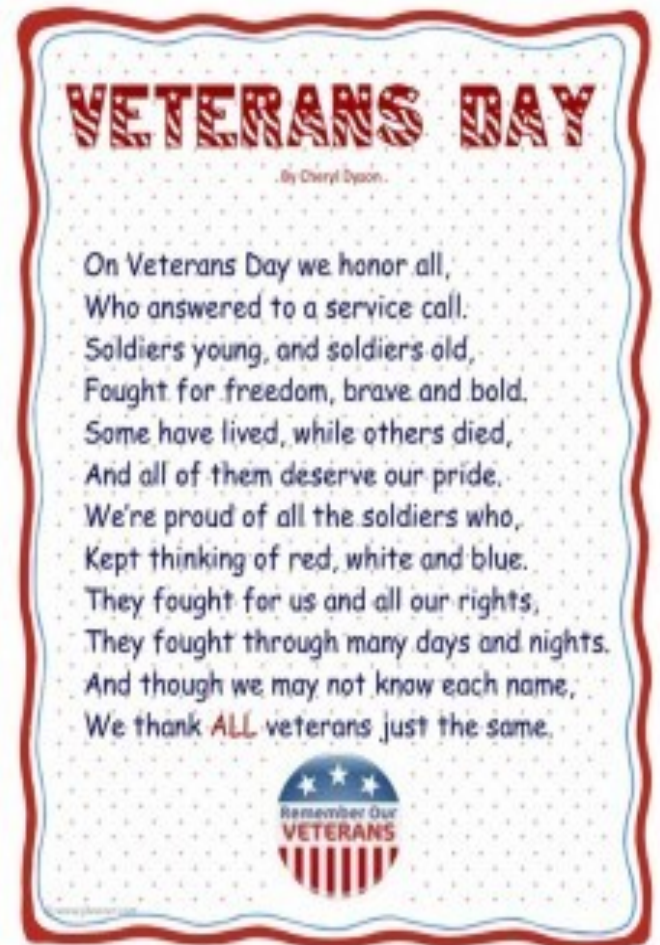
Giving in 2026

The 2026 Giving Card was mailed mid-October. This is used as an estimate for what you think you will give in 2026. Please consider completing this and returning it to church. There is also a space you can mark if you do not want to pledge a certain amount. We will be collecting the cards on Consecration Sunday, November 16th during our worship service, but you can also bring it in before then (or after) or mail it to the church office: Attention Lisa Hatlett.

Thank you, Lisa Hatlett
Stewardship Chair

Sanctuary decorating for Christmas season will be Sunday, November 23rd after service starting anyone that would like to help.

Jackie Flemming



TIME TO CHANGE THE PARAMENTS!
THE PARAMENTS WILL BE CHANGED ON NOVEMBER 30TH FOR THE BEGINNING OF ADVENT. PURPLE REPRESENTS TIMES OF PREPARATION LEADING UP TO CHRISTMAS. IT IS ALSO ASSOCIATED WITH ROYALTY OF THE COMING CHRIST. THIS COLOR WAS A VERY CHERISHED AND EXPENSIVE COLOR IN THE WORLD JESUS LIVED IN. IF WAS THEREFORE AFFORDED ONLY BY THE RICH AND WORN MOST EXCLUSIVELY BY THE ROYALTY.

CELEBRATING PASTOR APPRECIATION MONTH!!

Thank you Pastor Mike for all you do!!



On Sunday, October 26th we had coffee hour to show Pastor Mike how much he was appreciated. Pastor Mike was presented several cards with special gifts inside. Pastor Mike, we are truly blessed to have you as our pastor!

We also had special visitors –the Barnes family. It was wonderful to see you all again!



November Board Meeting

The Board will hold its meeting on November 9th after church. We will receive the nominations for officers of the board, as well as the 2026 budget, for review and a vote to proceed with both at a Congregational meeting in December. If you are a Board member please consider attending.





Poinsettia Order Form

*You can help beautify the sanctuary
this holiday season!*

Name _____

Phone _____

Total Plants ordered _____

Amount Enclosed _____

6.5" poinsettias are \$10.00 and are available in red only.

Please fill out and return this order form with payment to the church office by the end of service on November 23rd. Orders after this date may not be guaranteed and price will increase. Make checks payable to 15th Avenue Christian Church.

On the back please print exactly how you would like your acknowledgement to read.
One acknowledgement for each plant ordered.

Questions? Call (309)786-6925 from 9 am to 12 pm- Mon-Fri or Jackie Flemming (309) 235-0914.

Office use only

Envelope # _____ qty _____ amt paid _____

Elders Prayer

Please keep these family, friends and neighbors in your daily thoughts and prayers. Send a card, call on the phone or make a visit. Let them know they are not forgotten.

"When I am afraid, I put my trust in you." - Psalms 56:3

Prayers for Kathi & Jeff and Doug & Marcia. Kathi and Doug recently lost their stepsister, Barb Dean of Monmouth. (Mike K.)

Prayers for safety as Mike Mix travels overseas. (Marilyn)

Olivet Jagusah needs prayer for serious health concerns. (Sheila and family)

Kathy O. Cancer concerns in Houston (Helen) Brad, cancer. (Son of Sally's friend)

Mike Besette is now back home, recovering from cancer surgery.

(Sabrinna, Zac, Nathaniel & family)

Don Young is feeling much better, and receiving weekly treatments. (Sheri & family)

Chris will continue her treatment program for another month, and appreciates continued prayer. (Kathy Weston)

Mona (Alice and Mable) Lorraine, cancer diagnosis (Sally and Gene)

Gail, health challenges (Sally and Gene)

Prayers for Barb for an upcoming lung biopsy. (Kathy)

Please continue to keep all of the families who have lost loved ones in your prayers. (15th Avenue Church family)

Prayers for Jeremy following a cancer diagnosis. (Grindley family)

Prayers for continued recovery from arm surgery. (Jeanie)

Karen, prayers for a possible auto-immune disorder. (Kathy)

A cousin, Stacey, needs prayer following a cancer diagnosis (Jeanie)

Lili (9 yrs old) leukemia treatments and recovery process (family)

Judy Turner, lymphoma treatments (Craig & family) Tyler (Jeanne K.)

Alice (Sandy, Mable & family) Joetta E. tumors (in-operable) Family

Pam DeSmet (family) Barb (Nancy)

Continued prayers for Julianna and Hector (Jeanie)

Bill being treated for cancer (Candy)

Emma (Jeanie) / Hunter (family) Julie (cancer) Brenda O. (family)

Carla / Rosalie / Molly/ Mary/ Nickie (family)

Nancy G., cancer (family) Pat, cancer (family) Dawn F. (family)

Jessica Borland (Swanson's) Vickie (Jesse & Melba)

Melba Andereck (Jesse & family) Kent Christensen (Kathy & family)

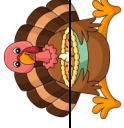


November



15th Avenue Christian Church

2025

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						
2 All Saints' Sunday 8:30am Elder Mtg 9:30am Worship Food Pantry	3	4	5	6 10am Bible Study	7	8
9 9:30am Worship Food Pantry	10	11 	12	13 10am Bible Study	14	15
16 9:30am Worship Thanksgiving Potluck Thanksgiving Offering Food Pantry 1:00pm RBB Practice	17	18	19	20 10am Bible Study	21	22
23 9:30am Worship Thanksgiving Offering Food Pantry	24	25	26	27 THANKSGIVING DAY 	28 OFFICE CLOSED	29 Small Business Saturday
30 9:30am Worship Food Pantry HOPE SUNDAY						

Serving Elders 2 Lisa Hatlett 9 Helen Popp 16 Judie Holmer 23 Lisa Hatlett 30 Steve Swanson Visiting Elder Diane Block & Sally Bartosh

Serving Deacons HD Lynne Sheese, Rose Deibert, Barb Hanson and Steve Sheese Preparing Deacon Lynne Sheese

Flowers 5 Karen Hitchcock 9 Sandy Wentler 16 26 30
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Fellowship Time 5 9 16 Thanksgiving Dinner 23 30
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November

SCRIPTURE WRITING PLAN

Thanks & Giving

Day 1: Colossians 3:15-17

Day 2: Philippians 4:6

Day 3: Psalm 106:1

Day 4: Ephesians 2:8

Day 5: James 1:17

Day 6: Psalm 100:4

Day 7: Hebrews 12:28-29

Day 8: 2 Corinthians 4:15-16

Day 9: Romans 1:21

Day 10: Isaiah 12:4-5

Day 11: John 10:10

Day 12: 2 Timothy 4:4-5

Day 13: Luke 6:35-36

Day 14: Psalm 107:8

Day 15: Colossians 1:12

Day 16: 2 Timothy 3:1-5

Day 17: Ephesians 4:31-32

Day 18: Hebrews 6:4-6

Day 19: Micah 6:8

Day 20: Deuteronomy 16:17

Day 21: Proverbs 3:27

Day 22: Proverbs 11:24-25

Day 23: Matthew 6:3-4

Day 24: Luke 6:38

Day 25: Acts 20:35

Day 26: 2 Corinthians 9:6-8

Day 27: 1 Corinthians 13:1-8

Day 28: 1 Corinthians 13:9-13

Day 29: Matthew 5:10-12

Day 30: Galatians 6:2

*Commit to spending 10 minutes every day to meditate and reflect on God's Word.
Write down what you have gleaned from each day's scripture.*

