

NOVEMBER NEWSLETTER 2021

Dear Church Family and Friends,

As our Congregations Caring for the Earth Book Group met last week we discussed Robin Wall Kimmerer's book Braiding Sweetgrass. Robin is a truly gifted writer from the Citizen Potawatomi Nation. One chapter was entitled "Allegiance to Gratitude". It told how the native school day originally started with a series of spoken paragraphs in which greetings and thanks were given for different aspects of creation. It is called the Haudenosaunee Thanksgiving Address: Greetings to the Natural World. You can find a pdf of it on the internet.

The first paragraph begins: Today we have gathered and we see that the cycles of life continue. We have been given the duty to live in balance and harmony with each other and all living things. So now, we bring our minds together as one as we give greetings and thanks to each other as people. Now our minds are one.

The greetings continue as thanks is given to the Earth Mother, the Waters, the Fish, the Plants, the Food Plants, the Medicine Herbs, the Animals, the Trees, the Birds, the Four Winds, the Grandfather Thunderers, the Sun, Grandmother Moon, the Stars, the Enlightened Teachers, and the Creator. There is a paragraph of greeting and thanks for each of these.

The closing words are: We have now arrived at the place where we end our words. Of all the things we have named, it was not our intention to leave anything out. If something was forgotten, we leave it to each individual to send such greetings and thanks in their own way. Now our minds are one.

I will have copies of this Thanksgiving Address available and encourage you to pray through it. Imagine what it would be like to use these greetings and thanks at your own Thanksgiving meal or family celebration. May it be a gift to us that awakens a new spirit of Thanksgiving this year.

Blessings to each of you!
Rev. Kate Stangl

Happy November Birthdays

4- Mason Kroll	22-Donna Burchell
4- Ron Lehman	23- Corey Hartline
4- Deb Meissner DeVries	25- Jean Neri
5- Taylor Maki	27- Doc Stanaway
21- Lydia Atkins	29- Evelyn Atkins

Session Highlights

- As we will be soon be utilizing more pulpit supply, Session voted to increase the amount of pulpit supply compensation to \$200 per Sunday.
- Session voted to keep the 2022 budget the same as 2021 except for a 6% increase in cost of living for all staff.
- We are allowed to keep 25% of the Peace & Global Witness offering collected on World Communion Sunday for local peace initiatives. Session voted to allocate our 25% to our Little Free Pantry.
- Session voted to approve the proposed bylaw changes that will be voted on at the Annual Congregational meeting on 12/12. Those bylaw changes will be noted in the December newsletter.

As we work to create a new directory, please contact the church office with any changes in address, phone numbers or email addresses.

Annual Congregational Meeting

Our Annual Congregational meeting is scheduled for **Sunday, Dec. 12** following worship. The agenda will include electing Class of 2024 Elders, Deacons, and Nominating Committee members, voting on bylaw changes, and assembling a Pastoral Search Committee. If you are interested in one of the elected positions, you can contact the office. There will be more info in the December newsletter.

Calendar

Sun, Nov. 21 – Stewardship Sunday
Sun, Nov. 28 – 1st Sunday of Advent
Sun, Dec. 12 – Congregational meeting
Mondays, 1:30 – Revelation Bible study
Tuesdays, 11 a.m. – Food for Thought
Tuesdays (2nd/4th) 1 p.m. – Braiding Sweetgrass
Wednesdays, 2:15 – Confirmation class

Stewardship Drive

Watch your mailboxes for our annual Stewardship letters. If you would like to make a pledge and did not receive a pledge card, please contact the church office. We will dedicate pledges during Stewardship Sunday on November 21.

Deacons News

As our weather turns colder, we are again looking for donations for our community clothesline. New or gently-used donations can include hats, mittens, scarves, coats, socks and long underwear. Monetary donations for the Little Free Pantry can be made out to **HCPC Deacons Fund**.

Discussion Groups

Even though our three discussion groups started earlier in October, anyone is still welcome to jump in and join us!

- **Journeys Through Revelation** Mondays at 1:30 p.m.
- **Food for Thought** Tuesdays at 11 a.m.
- **Braiding Sweetgrass** 2nd/4th Tuesdays at 1 p.m. (Nov. 9, 23, Dec. 7)

“Enjoy the little things, for one day you may look back and realize they were the big things.”
—Robert Brault

“If the only prayer you said in your whole life was, ‘Thank you,’ that would suffice.”
—Meister Eckhart

“This is a wonderful day. I’ve never seen this one before.”
—Maya Angelou



NOVEMBER 2021

Children's Sunday School

We hope things are going well with the lessons your children have been receiving and working on at home with your help. I do know this is quite a huge commitment for you all to take on and we are so very thankful that you are willing to step in and be there for your children. Again, the children should be making some nice craft reminders about this year's stories to add to their collection of Bible story crafts from last year.

November will be a time to celebrate Thanksgiving. We hope you are able to get together safely with family and loved ones to celebrate this time and remember all we have of which to be thankful.

As we start November we will be finishing Moses and the Burning Bush as found in Exodus 3. With Moses, we discover:

- ◆ We have a choice to do a task willingly, without being forced
- ◆ God will provide you with the help you need to finish a task you may think is too hard
- ◆ We need to trust God even when we are afraid

The second November lesson will be the Ten Commandments as found in Exodus 32:1-4, 7-8, 15 Here we learn:

- ◆ Following the Ten Commandments help us live the life God plans for us
- ◆ God's Rules help us get along with one another and stay healthy, safe, and happy
- ◆ If we love and obey God (the First Commandment) as we should then WE WILL BE following all Ten Commandments

As we get to the last Sunday of November we will start to learn about Joshua and the Walls of Jericho as found in Joshua 8:1-20.

- ◆ by trusting and obeying God we can have victory over troubles
- ◆ God is always with us and he will never abandon us

Shalom~Peace

Thankfulness

I just want to thank everyone who has taken the time to help the children with Sunday school lessons.

I think we should also take this time to let Pastor Kate know how sad we all are that she will be leaving us but how special she is and how thankful we are to have had her here with us these past three years. Many thanks and blessings to you, Kate.

Then I would like the children to think of how old they are and use that number to list that many things they are thankful this year when they sit down to Thanksgiving dinner.

A Blessed Thanksgiving to all

Thanksgiving Crafts (last years ideas)



BirthDay Corner



Preita Thompson November 1
Mason Kroll November 4
Lydia Atkins November 21
Evelyn Atkins November 29

All you need are a few Fudge Stripe cookies, butter peanut, chocolate covered cherries, mini Reese's Peanut Butter cups, and candy corn.

You can use these as place settings for your Thanksgiving dinner.
Enjoy!



Christian Education Calendar

Sunday Nov. 7	Sunday Nov. 14	Sunday Nov. 21	Thursday Nov. 25	Sunday Nov. 28
Moses and the Burning Bush week 2 turn your clocks back	The Ten Commandments week 1	The Ten Commandments week 2	Thanksgiving  Happy Thanksgiving!	Advent The Walls of Jerico week 1

