

Shepherd's Staff

November 2024

We gather to worship, we go to serve our Lord.

“You will be my witnesses...to the ends of the earth!”

Parkersburg Christian Reformed Church

Sunday Worship 9:30 a.m. ~ Church School 10:45 a.m



Source: [https://thechapel.com/blog/a-thanksgiving-message/#:~:text=This%20Thanksgiving%2C%20I%20encourage%20you,\(James%201%3A17a\).](https://thechapel.com/blog/a-thanksgiving-message/#:~:text=This%20Thanksgiving%2C%20I%20encourage%20you,(James%201%3A17a).)

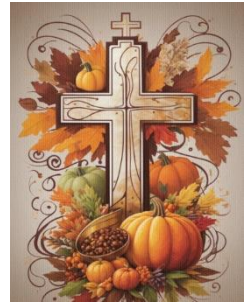
Our family has a Thanksgiving tradition, and you may have it as well: we go around the table and each person says one thing that they're thankful for. Like you, our family is thankful for spouses and kids, for new jobs, and for health; we're thankful for new babies celebrating their first Thanksgiving, and we're thankful for another year with an aging family member; we're thankful for a country with freedoms and we're thankful for a church that feels like family.

I think it's a good tradition. Yes, there's always one person who can't take anything seriously and yes, there's always another person who takes everything way too seriously. But there is something powerful about group gratitude. Not only do we learn a little bit more about the people we're related to by blood and marriage, but it also has the power to shift the dynamic of the room. Everyone stops. Everyone listens. Everyone shares in the thankfulness of the other.

The Apostle Paul wrote this: "Thanks be to God for his indescribable gift!" (2 Corinthians 9:15). We have a lot to be thankful for this year, and it is good and right for us to thank God for spouses, kids, jobs, and health. But when Paul says, "We thank God for his indescribable gift!" he's talking about something specific. Actually, Someone specific. He isn't thanking God for things (though he could, and in other places in the New Testament, he did); rather, he is thanking God for Jesus. Or to say it another way, Paul is thanking God for God.

The greatest gift that God ever gave the world was His Son, Jesus Christ – who was (and is) God in the flesh. This is really what Christmas is about: the idea that God became a man (this is what theologians call "the incarnation"). As C.S. Lewis put it in *Mere Christianity*, "The Son of God became a man to enable men to become sons of God." And although Paul knew nothing of our American holiday on the fourth Thursday of November, I think it's right for us to talk about Christmas at Thanksgiving. Not because I'm trying to rush past this holiday and get on to the next one; but because our gratitude on this holiday is *informed* by the next one.

This Thanksgiving, I encourage you to thank God for all of the people and things you can think of. Be specific in your gratitude; articulate and enumerate all of the blessings in your life, because, "Every good and perfect gift is from above" (James 1:17a). But I also encourage you this Thanksgiving to thank God for God. Don't just thank Him for what he's given you; thank Him for who He is. The purpose of all of these earthly blessings is not that we become infatuated with the gift as an end to itself, but rather, to draw our eyes up to the Giver. He was the one who gave His Son so that you and I could be rescued from sin and restored to a reconciled relationship with Him. God did all of this to reach us.



We have so much to be thankful for!



WE ARE STILL IN NEED OF SEVERAL ITEMS FOR OUR SHOEBOX
PACKING PARTY NEXT
SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 3, AT 1:30 P.M.
CHECK OUT THE CHRISTMAS TREE IN THE FELLOWSHIP HALL,
PURCHASE ITEMS ON THE GIFT TAGS AND RETURN THEM BY
FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 1.



JOIN US TO PACK SHOEBOX GIFTS!

DATE: Nov 3 TIME: Sunday, 1:30 p.m.
LOCATION: CRC Fellowship Hall



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View solicitation disclosure information for Samaritan's Purse online at samaritanspurse.org/itsdiscoure.



- 11/3 Lois Mennen
- 11/3 Dennis Schipper
- 11/4 Brandy Reints
- 11/6 JoLynne Husz
- 11/8 Rus Boersma
- 11/14 Wendy Armstrong
- 11/19 John Husz
- 11/22 Kayla Stirling
- 11/25 Nancy Mehmen
- 11/29 Diane Roberts



Let's Celebrate Our Friends!



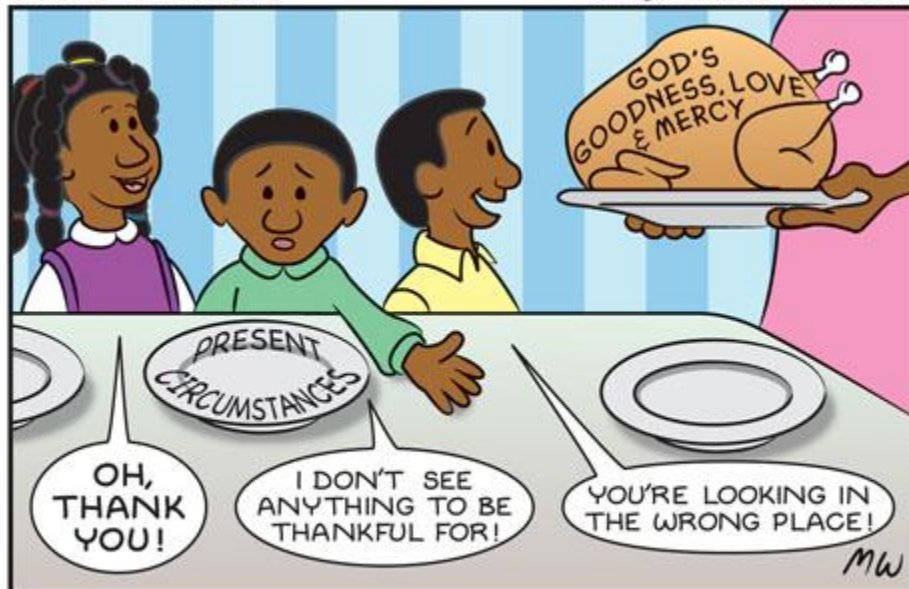
- 11/6 Kevin & Shelly Meester
- 11/10 Dennis & Lois Mennen



Reminder: If you have anything you'd like included in the Shepherd's Staff, please try to have it to Wendy Armstrong by the 20th of the month. The goal is to have the newsletter in your mailboxes on the last Sunday of the month.

GIVE THANKS

A Joyful 'toon by Mike Waters



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www.joyfulltoons.com

Praise the LORD. Give thanks to the LORD, for he is good; his love endures forever. — PSALM 106:1 NIV

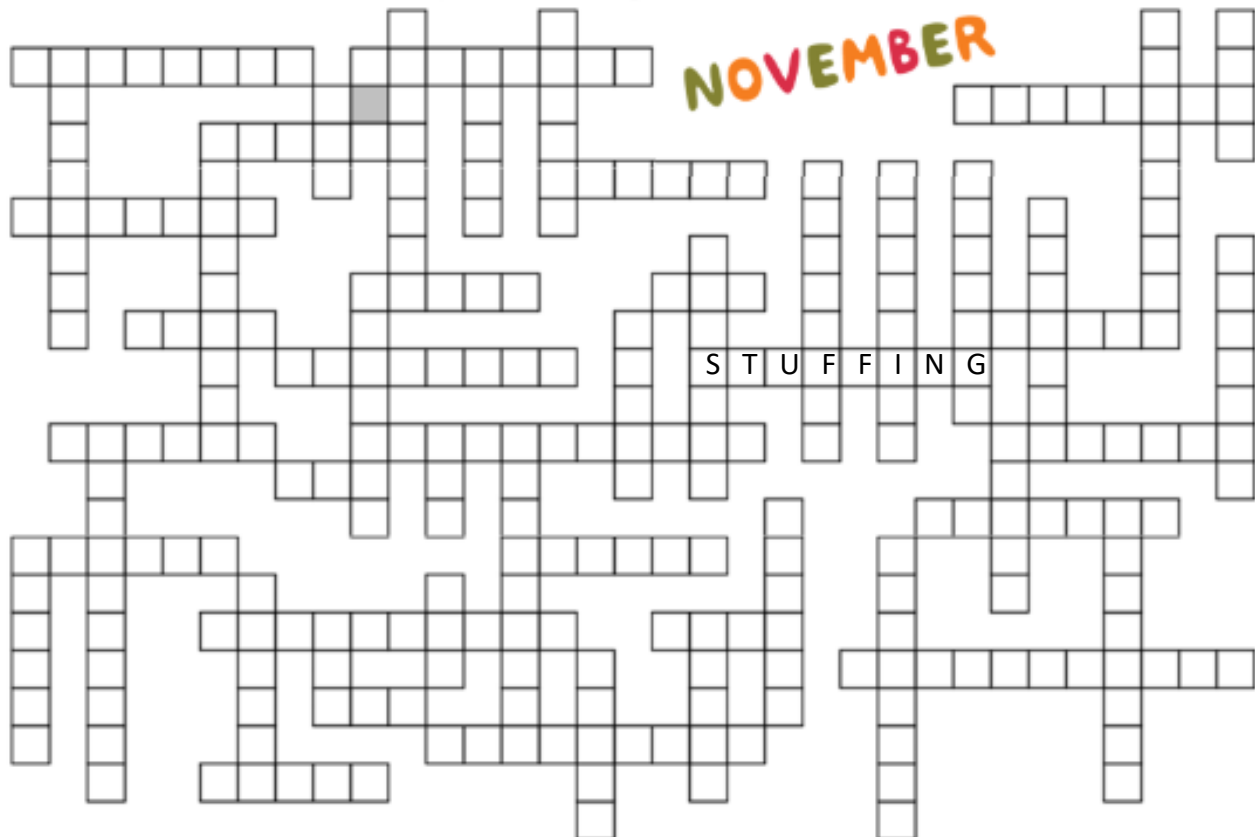
Let's try another Fill In Puzzle! Your first answer to fill in the crossword like puzzle is given. Your challenge is figuring out where in the puzzle to put each word so that all the words can be fit into the puzzle. Have fun!



Thanksgiving Word Fill In



Write the words in the correct place on the grid based on the number of letters.



3 letters

car
nap
dad
mom
yam
son
pie

4 letters

aunt
fall
trip

5 letters

train
gravy
uncle
beans
acorn
feast
bread

6 letters

apples
gobble
parade
family
sister

gourds

autumn
dinner
turkey
travel

7 letters

grandma
cousins
blessed
foliage
brother
friends
harvest
grandpa

8 letters

grateful
stuffing
together
pumpkins
potatoes
thankful
airplane
daughter
football
potatoes
November

9 letters

relatives

casserole

plentiful
tradition

10 letters

cornucopia
appreciate

11 letters

decorations
celebration

**GOBBLE
GOBBLE**

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