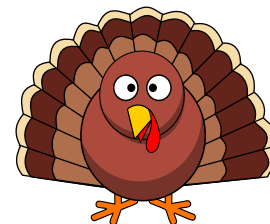


BE THANKFUL
BE GRATEFUL
BE BLESSED

NOVEMBER 2023

INSIGHTS



The Newsletter of Mitchells Presbyterian Church

Looking ahead:

- Nov. 1st-- Book Club @ Tidman's
- Nov. 2nd-- Men of Mitchells Meeting
- Nov. 7th-- Voting @ Mitchells
- Nov. 8th-- Book Club @ Becky Payette's
- Nov. 9th-- Session Meeting
- Nov. 14th-- Women of Mitchells Meeting
- Nov. 15th-- Book Club @ MPC
- Nov. 19th-- First Fruits
- Nov. 23rd-- Thanksgiving
- Nov. 25th-- Decorate Church for Advent/Christmas
- Nov. 26th-- First Sunday of Advent

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.....*Pastors Corner*

moved to

Page 2.....

It's that time of year.....



*Please see the
attached "Tree of
Lights" donation form
for important details!*



*After Church
Social*



*Join us Sundays after service in
the Fellowship Hall for snacks
and drinks.*

THE PASTORS CORNER

November is a busy month! I hope that you took some of my advice from last month's addition to the newsletter and did a bit of sabbath resting! Starting very soon will be the busy, tumultuous, and possibly cold holiday season as we make our way through time with family and friends eating, celebrating, grieving, and navigating all that the coming season may/will hold for us. I know that often through this year, I have wished that I could hit pause or at least some kind of 'slow down' button as the days and weeks seemed to race onward through 2023. Yet, we all know that pausing or slowing down time is not an option. Each day brings us closer to celebrating God coming into our world through the chosen son, who is Jesus the Christ. This inability to stop and wait is at the heart of our Advent season theme, **"What Can't Wait"**. This comes from the same group, Sanctified Art, which developed last year's Advent theme and has been used for our bulletin covers on several special occasions. The following is from Lisle Gwynn Garrity, one of the artists involved with this theme:



"I was meditating on the precarious timing of Christ's birth. God chooses an unwed, lower-class, teenage girl forced to travel cross-country to be counted for the census in the midst of her third trimester. Matthew's gospel tells us that Christ's birth incites king Herod to mandate a mass genocide, which forces Mary, Joseph, and Jesus to flee to Egypt for refuge. God's plan to enter the world in human flesh seems so perilous—so much could and did go wrong. This led me to wonder, what if God had waited? What if God had waited for some perfect day when all the world's problems were resolved? What if God had waited for a moment—or for a human vessel—that might guarantee success?

But God couldn't wait. God dove into the mess and the muck of this world so that we might know love. In the same way, we can't sit and wait around for our world's problems to solve themselves. We can't assume that a perfect moment or a fail-proof plan will emerge if we just hold out for long enough. We can't wait to join God in being love known in flesh and bone."

God couldn't wait to get enter our lives in a new way, and God can't wait for us to grow into an ever-closer relationship. God breaks into the world through Jesus, and continually breaks into our lives through the Holy Spirit, and so this year we will ponder what can't wait in our lives, in our community and in our world as God breaks in without waiting. The logo for this theme was designed with this purpose in mind. Here is the statement about it's creation from the artist Lauren Wright Pittman:

The Advent season itself begs this question [what can't wait], and I wanted the logo to have this feeling of urgency. What do we do while we wait for our Creator to take on flesh and enter the world? The light of the Star of Bethlehem visually cuts through the question and becomes the predominant image in the logo. The light intersects with the font so that the font itself becomes a new image, or perhaps together they become a cohesive image, punctuating the question, hinting at urgency—like an exclamation point.



We'll be starting Advent on November 26th, and I look forward to journeying with you all as we dive in, discuss and discern **What Can't Wait** in our relationship with God and in our lives. Let us go together!
Blessings,

Pastor Patrick

SAFETY & SECURITY COMMITTEE: The SSC has produced a video, narrated by Pastor Patrick, which explains what has been and continues to be done to keep congregants safe and secure while at MPC. We encourage you to watch the 4-minute video that can be found on our website under the “About Us” tab or by clicking on this link: [About Us | Mitchells Presbyterian Church](#).

Minor changes have been made to MPC’s Emergency Operations Plan (EOP) and this latest revision has been approved by Session.

GOOD TIMERS: Just a reminder that in November our group will not be meeting and eating together since the 4th Thursday is Thanksgiving Day. May each of you enjoy family and friends as you gather together and share memories of the many times and the many things you are thankful for.

In December, please note that we will be meeting at noon on Thursday, December 7 at Pepper’s in Culpeper.

In January we will be dining at Luigi’s. As we have done in the past, we have tried to stay close to home during the months of January and February just in case we have “winter weather”.

Alice and I are reviewing the schedule for 2024 and planning to return to several places that many of you seem to enjoy. If you have any recommendations for new places, please let us know and we will check it out and add or substitute to our 2024 schedule.

HAVE A WONDERFUL THANKSGIVING!!!

Worship Committee

The worship committee has been asked to head up the weekly readings during the Advent season. A sign up sheet will be placed in the fellowship hall to read and light the advent candles. There will be 6 opportunities to participate this year. We are looking forward to celebrate the season with you!

“Thank you for everyone’s kind and thoughtful prayers for my Mother’s passing on 8/20/23”.

-- Diane Ray

Congregational Life

Hosted the 5th Sunday luncheon after service October 29th.

Ushers:
Roger & Hazel Eakin

Acolyte:
Tommy Cuccherini


**Don’t just attend church.
Love the church.
Serve the church.
Give through the church.
Invite people to church.
Worship Jesus with the church.
Encourage the church.
Participate in the church.
Pray for the church.
Be the church**

--Congregation Member Submission

Happy Thanksgiving

November 2023

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
			1 Scott Mitchell BOOK CLUB	2 MEN OF CHURCH	3 Kim Hicks Kathryn Krosschell	4
5	6	7 Jonathan Weaver VOTING DAY	8 Caitlyn Weaver Leeah Tidman BOOK CLUB	9 SESSION	10	11 Debbie Settle Ann Elyse Hicks
12 Tabbithia Weaver	13	14 WOMEN OF CHURCH	15 BOOK CLUB	16	17	18
19 FIRST FRUITS	20 Susan Wohlleben Robert Norris	21 Larry Brooks	22	23 Ruth Sousa THANKSGIVING	24 Seth Massey	25 DECORATE CHURCH
26 1st SUNDAY OF ADVENT	27	28	29	30		



Tree Lighting Ceremony
Mitchells Presbyterian Church
Sunday, December 10, 2023, at 7:00 p.m.

Once again we will conduct our tree lighting ceremony on the Church grounds Sunday evening, December 10th. This tradition began in 1997 and has continued each year.

A white light will be in memory of a loved one; a red light will be to honor a loved one. Each light will be a minimum of \$10.00; however, you may contribute as you wish. All proceeds will go to Mitchells Presbyterian Church Cemetery Fund.

If you would like to place a light on our Tree of Lights, please fill out the bottom of this form to include with your **check made payable to Mitchells Presbyterian Church**. You may place these in the collection plate or mail to the address below. Checks and forms **must be received by December 3, 2023**. The list of donors will be in the January MPC Newsletter and will be read before lighting the tree. Copies of this form will be available in the Narthex and Fellowship Hall.

Mail to:
Tree of Lights
Mitchells Presbyterian Church
PO Box 98
Mitchells, VA 22729

Given by: _____

Memory/Honor of: _____

Memory/Honor of: _____

Memory/Honor of: _____