



Tower Tidings

November 2025

**Palmyra First
United Methodist
Church**

November is a month of transitions. We begin the transition from autumn into winter. By the end of the month, most of the colorful leaves will be on the ground rather than in the trees. We tend to do fewer outdoor activities, and transition to the indoor pursuits. Toward the end of the month, we will have the opportunity to experience the sights, sounds, and smells of a uniquely American holiday. Thanksgiving is just around the corner.

In November, I encourage you to take time to stop for a few moments and count your blessings. Give thanks to those around you who you find helpful in your day-to-day life. Think back to your earlier days and remember who mentored you, who shared their faith with you. Think of the teachers who had the patience to help you through school. Remember your parents who gave you life.

As you remember all these blessings, take time to say **Thank You**. Write a few notes, make a few phone calls, and include thanks in your prayers to God.

As for me, I am thankful for many things. I'm thankful for a caring family that brought me up – parents and grandparents who nurtured, taught, and showed by example how to be a person with Christian integrity. I am thankful for my girls and every opportunity I have to be with them. I am thankful for my siblings and the support they provide.

I am thankful for the people of *Palmyra First United Methodist Church*. This is a wonderful congregation that is loving, caring, compassionate, and very active. While I am here because I was appointed by Bishop Johnson, this is the kind of church I would pick as a place to worship.

Why am I so thankful for *Palmyra First Church*? Space will not allow me to list all the reasons, but here are a few:

- ♦ We have a wonderful group of lay leaders who have a passion for Christ and all God's people.
- ♦ Almost everyone is involved in some form of mission work.
- ♦ A large proportion of the congregations is involved in a study group of one kind or another.
- ♦ We have a core of volunteers who maintain the properties.
- ♦ We have many individuals who make ministry happen in the form of Awakenings.
- ♦ We always have plenty of volunteers to assemble cleaning (flood) buckets and health kits.
- ♦ We have great music in a variety of styles, from the band, to the organ, to the bells.

And I am especially grateful for what I don't hear at *Palmyra First* - I don't hear the seven deadly words for churches: "We've never done it that way before." As a church, you are always ready to try something new and different. That is one of the reasons our church is still relevant in today's changing society.

Thank you for all you do to support the mission and ministry of *Palmyra First Church*, and thank you for bringing joy into my life.

With a Thankful Heart
Grace & Peace,

James D. Anderman, Pastor

November is a month of chance: change of seasons, weather, and the look of the sanctuary. November is also a month of special Sundays beginning with All Saints' Sunday on November 2nd, then two Sundays of "ordinary time" or "the 22nd and 23rd Sundays of Kingdomtide," then Christ the King Sunday, and finally, the first Sunday of Advent.

Our liturgical color changes will keep Marianne Morgan busy changing the paraments. We begin with white for All Saints', change back to green for 2 Sundays of Kingdomtide, then again to white for Christ the King Sunday, and finally to purple (the color of royalty) for Advent.

Our worship themes for October and early November are as follows:

November 2nd – All Saints' Sunday: Each year, we take time on the first Sunday of November to remember and celebrate the lives of those who have crossed the bar and joined the Church Triumphant. Using both Ephesians 1:11-23 and Luke 6:20-31, our message will be "Ultimate Blessings." The service will include communion and lifting the names of those who have gone to glory since our last All Saints' Service.

November 9th: Is prayer really important? Apparently, God thinks so. In Jeremiah 29:4-7, the prophet speaks on behalf of God asking the people of Israel to pray for Babylon, the city where they are being held captive. In Luke 18:1-8, Jesus tells us to pray always. Our message will be "A Life of Prayer." This week's special music will be provided by the children of *Noah's Little Ark Christian Preschool* at the 10:30 AM service.

November 16th: In the Lord's Prayer, we ask that we not be led into temptation. While God will do his part, we need to know how to avoid temptation. Is it a temptation to be around nonbelievers? Should we avoid being with atheists, Muslims, Jews, and those of other faiths? This week, we will address the issue using two seemingly conflicting passages. We will read from 2 Thessalonians 3:6-13, where Paul is telling the church to avoid those living irresponsibly, and from Luke 19:1-10, where Jesus invites himself to the home of a man of ill repute. Our message is titled "Should I or Not?"

November 23rd – Christ the King Sunday: The ugliest of all fights are church fights. When the people of God cannot get along, we damage the kingdom when it turns into a fight. So what do we do? This week, we will read from Jeremiah 23:1-6 and Luke 23:33-43 to see if we can make sense out of our Christian duty to be peacemakers – even in church. Our message will be "Blessed are the Peacemakers."

November 26th – Thanksgiving Eve: We think of Thanksgiving as a peculiarly American holiday, but it has roots in our Old Testament faith. This year, the *Palmyra United Methodist Association* (PUMA) is again sponsoring a Thanksgiving Eve service. The location is the *Campbelltown United Methodist Church* (on Horseshoe Pike near Hinkle Road) and the time is 7:00 PM. The message will be delivered by the Rev. Zimran Khan. Pastor Zim serves *Gravel Hill UMC*.

Advent: The season of Advent is a season of preparation for the arrival of God on earth in the form of Jesus Christ. This year, our Advent messages will be in the form of a sermon series on "The Big Picture." Often, we focus on what Jesus' birth means to us as individuals, but the big picture is a plan for all people. Attend all four Sundays of Advent to hear "The Big Picture."

November 30th – The First Sunday of Advent: Isaiah is a prophet to the people of Judah, but his message is a message of hope for all people. This week, we focus on Isaiah 2:1-5, where he explains how Jerusalem will become the place where **all nations** will come to know God. In addition to Isaiah, we will be reading from Psalm 122. Our message will be "For All People."

December 6th – The Second Sunday of Advent: This week, we turn to Isaiah 11:1-10 to hear how God will bring about his plan for a new relationship with all God's people. Our readings will be supplemented with selections from Psalm 72. The message is "Justice and Righteousness."





Thank You!

Thanks to everyone who helped/supported the United Women in Faith Conference Celebration on October 18th. Your hospitality was wonderful and your kindness, generosity of time, and energy was greatly appreciated!

Social and Physical Exercise Opportunities

What do you do to keep in shape physically, socially, and mentally? Are you curious about pickleball, but don't know how to play? If you would like to learn the game, Ken and Deb Fuhrman are willing to give you a few lessons. Put your name on the signup sheet in *Fellowship Hall* and they will let you know when they are giving lessons. If you want to watch a few games before giving it a try, come to the church on Monday or Thursday evening at 7:00 PM or the first Tuesday morning of the month. Players rotate in and out, offering everyone a chance to socialize, support one another, and play pickleball.



United Women in Faith Calendars

United Women in Faith Blessing Calendars are on the table in the *Fellowship Hall*. If you would like to use the days leading up to Thanksgiving to include a special blessing in your prayer time each day, please pick up a calendar. Thanks Offerings are due to Gwen Pavasco by Thanksgiving. Contributions will go to the annual *United Women in Faith* Thanks Offering/Pledge to Mission. Checks should be made out to *Faith Acts UMW*.

November at Noah's Little Ark

October was full of fall fun! We had a school-wide Fall Festival with fun seasonal crafts, activities and snacks. The Fire Company came for their annual visit as well, and the students loved meeting them and seeing the trucks. Classes also learned about community helpers and explored all things farm! Our annual Costume parade was held at the end of the month and was enjoyed by our families. Thanks to the church for providing coffee!

We look forward to starting our holiday celebration. As always, we are thankful for our families and our support from *Palmyra First* church!

Celebrate Thanksgiving with a PUMA

This year, the *Palmyra United Methodist Association* (PUMA) will again gather to give thanks for God's blessings on Thanksgiving Eve. This service, which is becoming a Palmyra tradition, moves to Campbelltown after having been at Palmyra First last year. This year's preacher will be the pastor of the *Gravel Hill Church*, Zimran Khan.

The service begins at 7:00 PM and will provide an opportunity to worship and fellowship with others from our community. Bring your family, friends, and neighbors for this once-a-year opportunity.

Blessing of the Animals was a Blessing!

This year's *Blessing of the Animals* was a wonderful family and community event where at least 50 animals were brought to the church grounds for a blessing. The animals included many dogs, a few cats, and even a few special stuffed animals. We were joined by about 30 vendors and a few food trucks to make several hours of blessings, fun, food, and fellowship.

A special thanks to Emily Horn for organizing the vendors and the Vision Team for providing much of the help. Next year's Blessing will be October 3, 2026.

Salvation Army Bell Ringers

Palmyra First is again invited to ring the bells at *Redner's Market* for an hour on **Saturday, November, 15th**. Please sign up in the *Fellowship Hall*.

Election Day Cancellations

Tuesday, November 4th is General Election Day here at *Palmyra First*. The *Awakenings* Coffee Shop and *pickleball* will be canceled that day,



Rise Against Hunger

Our *Rise Against Hunger* event is **Saturday, November 8th**. We will gather in our *Fellowship Hall* to pack 15,000 meals that will be distributed as needed worldwide. Please arrive about 9:30 AM and we should be finished by noon. Tasks are as easy as measuring ingredients and sealing bags. Laughter and good spirits abound and **you** are needed. Sign up today in the *Fellowship Hall* and be one of the 50-60 volunteers required to make this happen!!!!

Blood Drive at Palmyra First

Saturday, November 15th, *Palmyra First UMC* is having another blood drive. It will be located in the *Fellowship Hall* from 8:00 AM-4:00 PM. Each donor will receive a \$15 Entrée certificate to the *Texas Roadhouse* in Palmyra as well as an insulated shopping bag. An appointment is recommended, but not required to donate. Please visit the Central PA Blood Bank to schedule for donation at 717giveblood.org or call 1-800-771-0059.

FREE Dinner and a Movie

Sunday, November 2, 2025

Dinner (4:30 PM-5:30 PM)

Movie (5:30 PM)

"The Best Christmas Pageant Ever"

Dinner will be served in the *Fellowship Hall* and the movie will be viewed in the *Sanctuary*.



HUB News

For the month of November, we are collecting scrub brushes (for the floor, not dishes). Our next HUB packing event will be **Tuesday, November 18th at 6:30 PM**. We will not be having a HUB packing event in December. Your support of this *United Methodist Committee on Relief* project is greatly appreciated!



November 2

Election Day Bake Sale

United Women In Faith will again hold an Election Day Bake Sale on **Tuesday, November 4th** in the church *Narthex*. Please consider baking and/or helping to sell goodies at the sale. Baked items should be pre-wrapped for sale. These will be offered for donation. There will also be hotdogs and bean soup. Sign-up sheets are in the *Fellowship Hall* for those who plan to bake or help at the sales table.

Small Group Studies

The Blessed Misfits

The Blessed Misfits are transitioning to an Advent study as we approach the Christmas season. Since the group meets on Wednesday, there will be a few breaks in the schedule, including a break for Thanksgiving Eve, Christmas Eve, and New Year's Eve. With the new topic just starting, now is an ideal time to join in the fun, fellowship, and learning.

The Misfits meet in the *South Wing*, and via *Zoom* on Wednesday evenings at 6:30 PM. We would love to welcome you as part of the group for the Advent and Christmas seasons.

Sunday with the Wired Word

With all the bad news we hear daily, how should we, as Christians, react? *The Wired Word*, our Sunday morning study group, is based on this basic idea. Lessons, based on recent headline stories, are emailed to participants on Thursday. The material provides background information, links to the relevant stories, and some ideas as to how some Christians are reacting.

Feel free to check out the group on any Sunday morning at 10:30 AM. Better yet, let Lee Smedley know you are interested. Give him your email address, and he will add you to his distribution list so you have a heads-up on the topic of the week. Because the topic changes each week, this is an ideal study for those who can't commit to a weekly study.



It's Time for Poinsettia Orders

November is the time to order your Poinsettia plants for Christmas 2025! The order deadline is **November 20th**. We have available 6" pots in Red only. The cost per plant is \$12 and they may be picked up after the 7:00 PM Christmas Eve church service. Cash or checks are accepted. Checks can be made payable to *Palmyra First* and mark them as "Christmas Poinsettias." Order forms are available in the Fellowship Hall. Please hand in your order forms and payment to the church office or place them in the black box at the Welcome desk.

Angel Tree Project

Our annual "Angel Tree" project has begun. Angels will be available in the Narthex. For those who do not know what the "Angel Tree" is, here's how it works: you pick a boy or girl, younger or older, and purchase one of the gifts that is listed on the angel you select. Then, bring the present, unwrapped with the angel attached, to church no later than **Sunday, November 30th**. We encourage you to share the joy of the Christmas season with less fortunate boys and girls in our community by participating in our "Angel Tree" project. Contact Judy Delvernois with any questions.

Volunteer Opportunities

Palmyra First Church offers many opportunities to put your faith into action. Below are just a few of the opportunities available:



Sunday Morning Opportunities:

Greeters: There are many opportunities to help people have a high-quality experience every Sunday morning. We are looking for people to greet our visitors, members, and friends. The task is as simple as being a friendly face, offering a bulletin, mentioning the service opportunities of the week, and for visitors, pointing the way to coffee, restrooms, Sunday School rooms, and the sanctuary.

Liturgist: Our liturgist's tasks vary depending on the service. At the 9:00 AM service, the liturgist reads the scriptures after the pastor explains what to listen for and offers the Prayer for Illumination. At the 10:30 AM service, the liturgist leads the call to worship, occasionally leads a responsive reading as well as reading scriptures.

Mission Opportunities:

Palmyra First Church is involved in a variety of missions. You can be a part of a HUB packing party where cleaning (flood) buckets and health kits are assembled. Another option is to volunteer at the *Caring Cupboard*, helping provide food for our neighbors in need. On the first Friday of the month, *Palmyra First* sponsors *First Fridays with First* when we work with *Habitat for Humanity*, rebuilding homes for first-time home buyers. With Habitat, you can learn some basic home building and repair skills. And remember, there is a job for every skill level – even if you think you have no building skills!

There are just a few of the missions we are involved in. Watch the newsletter and bulletin for other opportunities to be the hands and feet of Jesus.

Property Maintenance:

We have a dedicated group of individuals who help maintain both the Birch and Green Street campuses and the *Seltzer Retreat Center*. Some cut the grass at both facilities, others rake leaves, pick up fallen tree limbs, pull weeds, water flowers, and rake mulch into place.

Inside the building, we have people who keep the kitchen equipment clean, do minor repairs, change lightbulbs, change the clocks, and so many other things.

There is a maintenance opportunity for everyone.

Audio/Video Team:

Our A/V team does all the things necessary to live cast our regular services, funerals, and other special events in the Sanctuary. For some services, it can involve projecting things to the large screen at the front of the sanctuary. Other jobs include turning the microphones on and off while adjusting volumes. A third job is to use a joystick to aim the camera where it needs to be.

Administrative Tasks:

While Heidi does a fantastic job in the church office, she can only do so much! Volunteers help with folding and stuffing bulletins as well as preparing our weekly mailings to the unwillingly absent members and friends. We also need seasonal help with special mailings to the full mailing list of members and friends.

We also use volunteers to keep the books, issue checks to pay our bills, prepare bank deposits, and prepare our financial statements.

What is God calling you to do? There is a volunteer opportunity for everyone.