THUSE NEWS
November 2026
South Parkersburg Traditional Methodist Church
To Know Christ and to Make Christ Known
Edgelawn UMC
Open Hearts, Open Minds, Open Doors

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Message from the Pastor

Give thanks to the Lord, for he is good, for his steadfast love endures forever. O give thanks to the God of gods, for his steadfast love endures forever. O give thanks to the Lord of lords, for his steadfast love endures forever **(Psalm 136:1-3, NRSV)**.

It is almost November and Thanksgiving is just around the corner. This year has flown by quickly! We have much for which to be thankful.

When I took Biblical Hebrew in seminary, Psalm 136 was our first major translation assignment. I have a warm place in my heart for this Psalm! That constant refrain, "for his steadfast love endures forever" is a reminder to us: "God is good; don't forget to praise God and return our thanks." All throughout this Psalm the writer gives reasons from the history of Israel why the people have reason to praise and thank God—for all of Creation; liberation from bondage in Egypt; God's presence during the sojourn to the Promised Land; and God's presence in difficult times. Each reminder of God's grace and presence is emphasized with "for his steadfast love endures forever."

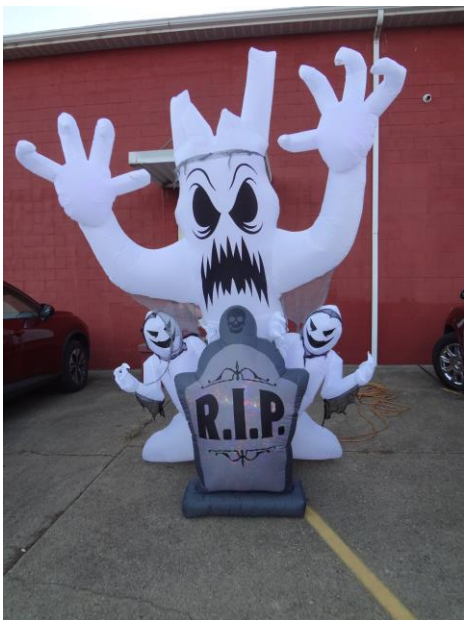
I want to encourage us to take time each day in November to think of one thing for which we are grateful to God. When that blessing comes to mind, consider repeating the words of the psalm, "God's steadfast love endures forever!"

God's richest blessings to all…God is good!

…

Mark

2026 Fall Festival



A VERY successful Fall Festival with Trunk-or-Treat, Games, Cake Walk, Food, Fun, & Fellowship with all the attendees… Thanks to everyone who help set-up, run, and clean up after the event… The follow-up to the Halloween Fall Festival will be the “Spooky Spaghetti” lunch Youth fundraiser being held this coming Sunday, November 1st, right after the Church Service or Sunday School… We look forward to seeing everyone there!!!

Girl Scout Update

Girl Scouts in Wood County joined together Friday October 9th at South Parkersburg Traditional Church to enjoy an evening activity of painting on canvas, singing and apples to eat with toppings. We had 30 girls attend. Thank you for letting us use the CFC building. It was a new event and enjoyed by all.

Spooky Spaghetti Fundraiser

The Spooky Spaghetti Luncheon as been rescheduled to **Sunday, November 1st**… You can come join us after the Church Service or following Sunday School… Eat in or take out is available, so stop in and support our Youth Group!!!

Finance Committee Update

Work has already begun to prepare for 2027!

2027 2nd Mile Giving

Focus = Community Outreach

In its September meetings, the Finance Committee and Church Council approved a plan for the church's 2027 2nd Mile Giving. The focus will be supporting area organizations that assist those in need within our community. The 2nd Mile will shift to a two-month rotation as noted below collected through the wooden boxes by the church exits.

January & February 2027	-	Latrobe St, Mission
March & April 2027	-	House to Home
May & June 2027	-	Old Man Rivers
July & August 2027	-	Grace of God Food Pantry
September & October 2027	-	Adopt-A-Family
November & December 2027	-	Salvation Army

Silver Plates will no longer be passed during the service. Instead, Silver Plates will be used to collect donations at the end of a service when an immediate need arises. A recent example of a Silver Plate immediate need was the collection for supplies for emergency personnel responding to the Peoples Cartage fire. Gold Plates will continue to be used to collect our weekly tithes and offerings. Questions? Please see any member of your Finance Committee!

~Respectfully submitted by Melissa Kuhl-Hupp, Finance Chair

Veterans Day – November 11th, 2026

Freedom is powerful... It's a gift… A treasure... The most significant, important gifts in life are always worth fighting for. And often, they come with a great price. They are not free. Somewhere along the way, someone paid dearly for the liberties we enjoy so freely today. But sometimes, we forget. It's easy to take them for granted. We enjoy freedom, but most of us alive today have always had it. We may not even be fully aware of just how many men and women have paid dearly for the gifts we enjoy today. The price was paid through many long years. For all those who have protected our nation, for the men and women in uniform today, together, we say

"Thank You."

There's great power and strength in the loyalty of your service, because of these things:

- There's power in unity and standing strong together.
- There's power in fighting on behalf of our nation, and for those who cannot fight for themselves.
- There's power in rising up in courage, pursuing victory for what is right.
- There's power in knowing that God Himself fights on our behalf.
- There's power in prayer and in the One who sets us truly free.

Thank you for reminding us that there's incredible love and sacrifice displayed when one is willing to stand strong and fight for freedom. This service of love and sacrifice on behalf of all people, points us directly to the greatest love of all, the very gift and sacrifice of Christ. Our Savior was willing to pay the ultimate price, so that we can live free… Forever... "Thanks be to God for His indescribable gift!" 2 Cor. 9:15. Remembering today, and thankful that so many have been willing to pay a great price for our freedom. May God help us to live so bravely today…

Debbie McDaniel

Thankfulness

A Thanksgiving article written by Reverend Billy Graham…

The next footsteps in the corridor, he knew, might be those of the guards taking him away to his execution. His only bed was the hard, cold stone floor of the dank, cramped prison cell. Not an hour passed when he was free from the constant irritation of the chains and the pain of the iron manacles cutting into his wrists and legs. Separated from friends, unjustly accused, brutally treated—if ever a person had a right to complain, it was this man, languishing almost forgotten in a harsh Roman prison. But instead of complaints, his lips rang with words of praise and thanksgiving! The man was the Apostle Paul—a man who had learned the meaning of true thanksgiving, even in the midst of great adversity. Earlier, when he had been imprisoned in Rome, Paul wrote, "Sing and make music in your heart to the Lord, always giving thanks to God the Father for everything, in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ" (Ephesians 5:19-20, NIV).

Think of it: Always giving thanks for everything—no matter the circumstances! Thanksgiving for the Apostle Paul was not a once-a-year celebration, but a daily reality that changed his life and made him a joyful person in every situation. Thanksgiving, the giving of thanks, to God for all His blessings should be one of the most distinctive marks of the believer in Jesus Christ. We must not allow a spirit of ingratitude to harden our heart and chill our relationship with God and with others. Nothing turns us into bitter, selfish, dissatisfied people more quickly than an ungrateful heart. And nothing will do more to restore contentment and the joy of our salvation than a true spirit of thankfulness.

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In the ancient world, leprosy was a terrible disease. It hopelessly disfigured those who had it, and it permanently cut them off from normal society. Without exception, every leper yearned for one thing - To be healed. One day 10 lepers approached Jesus outside a village, loudly pleading with Him to heal them. In an instant He restored them all to perfect health—but only one came back and thanked Him. All the rest left without a word of thanks, their minds preoccupied only with themselves, gripped with a spirit of ingratitude.

Today, too, ingratitude and thanklessness are far too common. Common courtesy is scorned. We take for granted the ways that others help us. Above all, we fail to thank God for His blessings. Ingratitude is a sin, just as surely as is lying or stealing or immorality or any other sin condemned by the Bible. One of the Bible's indictments against rebellious humanity is that "although they knew God, they neither glorified him as God nor gave thanks to him" (Romans 1:21, NIV). An ungrateful heart is a heart that is cold toward God and indifferent to His mercy and love. It is a heart that has forgotten how dependent we are on God for everything.

From one end of the Bible to the other, we are commanded to be thankful. In fact, thankfulness is the natural outflowing of a heart that is attuned to God. The psalmist declared, "Sing to the Lord with thanksgiving" (Psalm 147:7, NIV). Paul wrote, "Be thankful" (Colossians 3:15, NIV). A spirit of thanksgiving is always the mark of a joyous Christian. Why should we be thankful? Because God has blessed us, and we should be thankful for each blessing.

Reverend Billy Graham

Moon King's Outreach

Spent some time alone in the paupers field (or "poor farm" cemetery) with the art club, volunteering to clean up the graves and talked to God about how I can do better to make a bigger difference. Was a really moving experience. I'm hoping next year to start a community project for proper markers here and for the unmarked graves of the unclaimed nearby - markers that are affordable and earth friendly. Although these people don't have names on their crosses, God knew and loved them all, personally. To honor them, is to honor His creation. And God taught us that the most important thing is to love one another and Him as ourselves - the living. I'm always hopeful that others are called to share their time and resources wherever they can.

The graves reminded me how several people in rehab are alone. Maybe they were spared from an unmarked grave. One of my friends in sober living recently told me how scared he was to die on the streets, because he knew he would go unclaimed (his family had all passed). I told him that wouldn't happen now, not to worry, we were his family and he had a bright future ahead.

Unfortunately, we /have/ claimed a few that passed, that we don't talk about. Bottom line is people just need somebody to care, and if we only focus on ourselves, day in and day out, our bond with God is weakened.
If you or your church would like to "adopt a neighbor" in long term recovery, I can share details (with their permission and in private) for you to assist them directly, or you can send me or Rosi Smith Walmart gift cards for us to order things for delivery and we can provide you with receipts. They don't need much, but it's hard for me to handle alone. Then, maybe along with helping the living, we can "adopt a grave" too.

Also, in that same mindset- the Children's Home Society are collecting items and funds for their event this weekend for homeless youth. The kids… it's so wrong on so many levels. But hope is alive. This past week they helped me with two homeless kids, one who's parents were murdered. I signed them up both for college and their enthusiasm is really inspirational. Plus, two in one day is a record for me!

Guess I will stop rambling. I don't have much time left in Parkersburg before I transfer out to ultimately reach my PhD. I've soaked up about all I can from the local colleges, and (so far) maintained my goal to be debt free from student loans. I hope to make the most of my time left here. It's home.
If you want to help with the causes, God will show you the way. And if you need help, DM me to be involved in any of these projects and I can give you details. Godspeed your peace and love

Pastor Rick Brown's Morning Prayer

Good morning Jesus! Thank You for the changing seasons of life and for the memories that remind us of where we have been. King Solomon must have felt this human experience: "To every thing there is a season, and a time to every purpose under the heaven." Ecclesiastes 3:1

Remembering when we sold pop bottles to buy matches. Scraping the heads off the matches, putting them into an upside down spoke nut with a little model glue, making our own homemade firecrackers. Exciting times in a different world. But life has a way of changing us. The leaves that were once green turn brilliant shades of red, orange, and gold before falling to the ground. The hair that was once black slowly turns gray. The strong legs of youth may grow weaker, and the face we see in the mirror begins to tell the story of years gone by. Our interests change, our responsibilities grow, our families change, and eventually we find ourselves looking backward as much as we look forward. Change is one of the few things in life that never changes. Yet, through every season, one thing remains constant: the Love and Grace Jesus gives us. Scripture teaches: "God hath made every thing beautiful in his time." (Ecclesiastes 3:11 KJV). Childhood passes too quickly. Adulthood brings burdens we never anticipated. Old age brings reminders that we are not as young as we once were. We experience joy and sorrow, beginnings and endings, gains and losses. But we never walk alone through these seasonal times. Jesus said: "Lo, I am with you always, even unto the end of the world." (Matthew 28:20 KJV).

With wrinkled hands and graying hair our bodies grow tired but the hand of Jesus never grows weak, and His faithfulness never grows old.

Perhaps the greatest blessing of growing older is understanding life was never about holding onto our youth but learning to hold Jesus' unchanging hand. In Jesus Name, Amen!

Prayer List

* Long Term

*Dora Jean Gumm-Kim
*Douglas Dudrow
*Logan
*Betty Kerr
*Josh Dermont
*David & Jeanie Wade
*Rick DeQuasie
*Cheryl Galland
*Charlie Elliott
*Ralph McNemar
*John Hayton
*Gary Shears
*Carol Sears
*Donnie Bartlett
*Holbert McEndree
*Carlene Frederick
*Vicky Shuman
*Cathy Smith
*Chase Larry Gordon
*Marie Williamson
*Gene Williams
*Tammy Kerns
*Megan Kesterson
*Tony Evans
*Helen Hance
*Amy & Pat Hazelette
*Larissa Horner
*Roger & Tia Ohse
*Fred Hardman
*Ron Pearson
*Frank Kesterson
*Helen Lamm
*Stanley Hunt
*Kinsley Wagner
*Carl McNeely
*Robert McIntire
*June Eakins
*Evelyn Duckworth
*Tina Goontz
*Mary Anne Daggett
*Doug Prince
*Roger Bennett
*Susan Aufdenkampe
*Jennifer Hupp
*Edna June Barnes

*Janet Brookover
*Jennifer Spencer
*Shirley Mae Blosser
*Junior Tennant
*Sandra Sidwell
*Katie Patton
*Betty Yeager
*Weston Jarvis
*Donna & Bob Galland
*Sue Roberts
*Sarah Griffel
*Linda Harris
*Roger Bennett
*Jan Houghton
*Helen McAfee
*Helen Hance
*Kristy Fox
*Jennifer Siverson
*Pam Hardman
Anita Hughes
Sandy Hall
Susie DeQuasie
Sara Thompson
Pat Tucker
Vicki Tucker Smith
Aryn Smith
Kevin Tice
Rick Queen
Lakin Hupp
Graedon Eaton
Braydon Adams
John Frank
Linda Morris

Remember the Family of:
Sandra Evans

Rebecca Barnett
Joe Sinnett
Sequoyah Milhoan
Melanie Cutright
Braden McCumbers
Christina Huffman
Tammie Moser
Ingrid Isklea
Mark McCullough
Bill Scott
Anita Baum
Betty Neal
Keith Spencer
Terry Parsons
Lisa Fergusan
Philip McKown & Family
Larry Minx
Sandy Sinnett
Matt Spencer
Jack Sinnett
Arnold Kuhl
Steve Carmichael
Shellie Leeson
Shane Wigal
Katy Roberts
Melissa Roberts Hupp
Dani Reed
The Carr Family
Michael Kesterson
Aaron King
Mary Hunt
Mark Sutton
LeAnn Showalter
Terri Cain
Goldine Hall

Bible Quiz

This month's Bible Quiz is about **New Testament Bible Characters**… Good Luck!!!

1. Who requested to bury Jesus' body after crucifixion? (Matthew 27:57-58)
2. Who was the blind man healed by Jesus? (Mark 10:46-52)
3. Who was the person to whom Luke & Acts were addressed? (Luke 1:3)
4. Who brought his brother Peter to Jesus? (John 1:40-42)
5. Who came to Jesus by night and was taught about the new birth? (John 3:1-5)
6. Who was the High priest's servant whose ear Peter cut off? (John 18:10-11)
7. Who preached to the Eunuch? (Acts 8:30-35)
8. Who was struck blind by Paul for hindering the gospel? (Acts 13:6-11)
9. Who taught the Lord's way more perfectly by Aquila and Priscilla? (Acts 18:24-26)
10. Who was Saul's teacher in Jerusalem when Saul was a boy? (Acts 22:3)