



O give thanks to the Lord, for he is good;

for his steadfast love endures forever.

1 Chronicles 16:34

**November
2020**

**The
News**

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WHAT CHRISTIANS NEED TO REMEMBER ABOUT ELECTIONS

By Pastor Rich McDermott (written on October 26, 2020)

As I consider what is about to happen on our election day, I am distressed by the fact that so many people, and especially so many Christians, have invested so much emotion, energy and personal capital into the outcome of what happens on November 3rd. This is not to dismiss the vitally important offices and issues that will be decided by this election, and the significant consequences of what may happen. Presbyterians have always been thoroughly engaged with the vital public issues and offices of any given era. We know that our loving God cares about real people and real issues, and our tradition compels us to work for compassion, justice, and for God's kingdom to be realized on earth as it is in heaven. Political engagement is right up our alley.

Many office holders over the years have claimed the Presbyterian and Reformed tradition as their own. But regardless of who wins the presidential race and the other races in this unusual year, one side will be tremendously relieved and happy and the other side will be devastated, dumbfounded and depressed. (A small group of people that doesn't care about elections seems rather miniscule this year.) For Christians, elections should not be this dramatic. We need to remember a number of important theological truths about God, office holders and elections, even as we encourage one another to vote and get involved.

1. The Lord alone is God, and the Lord remains sovereign in our lives and in history. The Lord is more powerful and wise than any

political party, any elected official and any ideology. No election will change that.

2. Identifying any political party or candidate as "God's choice" is dangerous and borders on idolatry. God is merciful and gracious but also perfectly righteous and just. The Lord "is abounding in steadfast love, forgiving iniquity and transgression but by no means clearing the guilty..." (Numbers 14:18). Office holders are sinners just as you and I are sinners. We should not make them into idols, because they will definitely disappoint and fail us.

3. Christians and non-Christians often put too much trust in the saving power of elections, when they need to trust the saving power of the Lord. Part of the reason that there is so much drama around this year's election is that many people truly believe that the "right" outcome will "save" us from utter disaster. It is never that way. Good things as well as disastrous things will happen regardless of who wins, but neither result will be our salvation.

4. Truth is tremendously important, but it can be manipulated. God is the only person with a corner on the truth. Jesus is the Way, the Truth, and the Life. Politicians who create useful "narratives" tend to severely distort truth. Scripture, prayer, honesty, discussion, doctrine and theology can point us to the truth as God would have us see it.

5. The way we Christians conduct ourselves in this election will have a profound influence on those who don't share our faith. Rather than dramatically lambasting or cheering the outcome, perhaps we can be good listeners, caring friends, and wise counselors to others who glaringly gloat in victory, or those who loudly lament in defeat. If our witness is engaged and passionate for the political things to which God calls us, but balanced, mature and fair in all matters, then we have a better chance of glorifying God, and bearing witness to our Lord Jesus Christ.

6. Be informed, pray, vote and then be an ambassador for Christ involved with the ministry of reconciliation (2 Corinthians 5:16-21). The church has something to say that no one else can say! Our hope is not in the principalities and powers of this world, whether in elections or in political office. Our hope is in the Lord who created the heavens and the earth! He is the One who brings light to the darkness, hope to despair, success to failure, and salvation to the lost. He is the One who raised Jesus Christ from the grave! Our Risen Lord has overcome the last enemy to be destroyed: death. And through the power at work among us, he is able to do far more abundantly than all we can ask or imagine. Thanks be to God.

May we remember these things in the passion of the coming days.

Love in Christ,

Rich

Is joy possible this election season?

November is here which means we are about to endure another Election Day. I want to share some thoughts I found in a devotional that I shared with the Session. Because odds are no matter who wins, a big chunk of people will be upset, disappointed, even angry. So what do we do?

Psalm 33:3-4 says, “Sing to Him a new song; play skillfully, and shout for joy. For the word of the Lord is right and true; He is faithful in all He does.” This devotional raised the question, “Is joy possible this election season?” It describes how, “There is a lot of shouting taking place...that has caused fear for many and pain for others. The question I have for the Christ-follower is this: are we shouting in despair and anger – or are we shouting in joy? It all comes down to what we believe about hope. Is our hope found in a political candidate or in the King of kings and Lord of lords?”

As a recovering sufferer of political derangement syndrome myself, I really resonated with a few truths that have helped me when my candidate has won and when my candidate has lost. First, God is sovereign. No matter what. “Not just when things are easy, not just when life is predictable, and certainly not just when your political candidate wins the election.”

Second, God has the final authority. His authority is never threatened by our political situation. It is unshakable no matter the political outcome.

And third, the end of the story is already written. “And for believers, that should provide lasting confidence far greater than any political party or government could offer.”

So that raises the question for each of us – what are shouting about? **Because shouts of joy stand out in a culture shouting in anger, fear, and hopelessness.** Where will you stand? Where will your source of hope come from? What will you be shouting?

Prayerfully,

Pastor Chris.

Finance Update

For the month of **September 2020:**

Budget (Operating and Funds Released)

Income: \$ 73,004
Expense: (\$ 95,141)

Income - Expense for month: **\$ (22,137)**
Income - Expense for 2020 Year to Date: **\$ (3,984)**



Comments:

Total Operating Income is under budget for the year by (\$111,469).

Funds Released is under budget for the year by (\$28,829).

Donors – Under budget for the year by (\$62,325).

Total Expenses were under budget for the year by (\$126,244).

Session Discretionary Funds (not designated or reserved) - \$ 17,580

Cost to operate church for one month - \$ 93,320

Seen around the Church



Getting ready for our Fall Candy Celebration!

Thank you to all donations and to all those who helped.

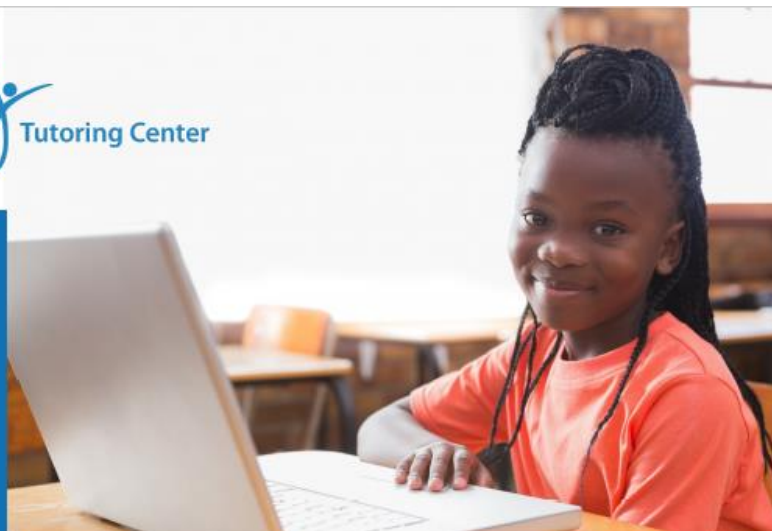


Hope Tutoring



HOPE Tutoring is a nonprofit organization that has been serving the Arlington community for over 20 years. Our mission is to help 3rd-8th grade students achieve their full academic potential through free one-on-one tutoring.

2020 S. Collins St.
Arlington, TX 76010
817.860.7757



NOW OFFERING 100% VIRTUAL TUTORING

Trained volunteers will meet individually with students in an online study room on designated days and times. All sessions occur under the supervision of HOPE Staff. We are currently offering Tuesday, Wednesday or Thursday spots, from either 4:30-5:30 or 6-7 PM.

Please visit www.hopetutoring.org to learn more!



In-person Tutoring

Tuesdays, Wednesdays, or Thursdays
4:30 - 5:30 PM
Various locations in Arlington

Please visit our website for more information or email:
admin@hopetutoring.org

Children's Ministry

Preschool



MONTHLY OVERVIEW

It's time to make thankful trees! Making thankful trees is so much fun! The colors get prettier and prettier as the trees get bigger and bigger. And, it feels so good to think about and write down what we're thankful for – for an entire month!

This time of year helps us refocus on all the good in our lives. And there is SO much good when it comes to God. Because God is good! That is what we want preschoolers to learn this month. God is good and we have A LOT we can thank Him for.

So, get ready to create those thankful trees and tell God, "Thank You" for all the good things He's made and done! We can't wait to celebrate thankfulness all month long! And, in case you didn't know, we are very thankful for you and all that you do to help preschoolers know that God made them, God loves them, and Jesus wants to be their friend forever.

WEEK ONE	BIBLE STORY Every Good and Perfect Gift James 1:17; Genesis 1	STORY FOCUS I can thank God for good things.
WEEK TWO	BIBLE STORY Elijah and the Widow 1 Kings 17:7-16	STORY FOCUS I can thank God for food.
WEEK THREE	BIBLE STORY Aaron Helps Moses Exodus 17:8-13	STORY FOCUS I can thank God for family who help me.
WEEK FOUR	BIBLE STORY Nehemiah Builds a Wall Nehemiah 1-6	STORY FOCUS I can thank God for people who help me.
WEEK FIVE	BIBLE STORY We Can Praise God Psalm 149:1-5	STORY FOCUS I can praise God because He is good.
MEMORY VERSE	KEY QUESTION	BOTTOM LINE
"GIVE THANKS TO THE LORD FOR HE IS GOOD." PSALM 107:1, NIV	WHO IS GOOD?	GOD IS GOOD.
GOD MADE ME.		

Elementary and KFC



ELEMENTARY

NOVEMBER 2020

MONTHLY OVERVIEW

GOD VIEW:

THE CONNECTION BETWEEN GRATITUDE AND GOD'S CHARACTER, AS SHOWN THROUGH GOD'S BIG STORY

Gratitude sometimes feels like a lost art. Yet gratitude is an idea close to God's heart. Think about all of the Bible stories where people give thanks to each other, celebrate God with feasts and festivals—not to mention the Psalms filled songs of praise. Just take a moment to consider everything God has done for you: the world He made, the promises He's kept, the new life He offers through Jesus. When we remember all of that, we can always be thankful.

WEEK ONE

BIBLE STORY

Give thanks no matter what happens
1 Thessalonians 5:18

BOTTOM LINE

You always have something to be grateful for.

WEEK TWO

BIBLE STORY

David Dances
2 Samuel 6:12b-22a

BOTTOM LINE

Celebrate what God has done.

WEEK THREE

BIBLE STORY

Jesus Heals 10 Men
Luke 17:11-19

BOTTOM LINE

Say thank you.

WEEK FOUR

BIBLE STORY

The Story of the Workers in the Vineyard
Matthew 20:1-15

BOTTOM LINE

Adjust your attitude.

WEEK FIVE

BIBLE STORY

Lord's Supper / Last Supper
1 Corinthians 11:23-26, Exodus 12

BOTTOM LINE

Get in the habit of being grateful.

MEMORY VERSE

"GIVE THANKS TO THE LORD, BECAUSE HE IS GOOD. HIS FAITHFUL LOVE CONTINUES FOREVER."

PSALM 136:1, NIRV

GRATITUDE

Letting others know you see how they've helped you

Youth Ministry

10 Affirmations for the Worried Parent

by Holly Crawshaw

If you're anything like me, the words "parenting" and "worrying" are pretty much synonymous. Why doesn't my 7-year-old sleep through the night? Why can't I get my kids to eat anything besides cereal? Am I destroying their futures with my OCD-level of rearranging the pillows on the sofa when they move them? I worry that I worry too much.

Welcome to the circus that is my anxious brain.

But let's be honest—**we're all (parents, that is) pretty much doing the best we can.** I've seen kids raised in homes marked by animosity, hatred, and instability overcome that adversity to end up being incredible, successful adults. I've also seen "picture perfect" families be torn apart by an adult kid who just can't get it right.

(The good news is coming. I promise.)

Are there any Grey's Anatomy fans reading? I know, I know. They basically killed off anyone who matters, but they had a good run for a while. One episode has always stood out for me.

In episode 14 of season 11, before a huge surgery, Dr. Stephanie Edwards walks into the scrub room to find surgeon Amelia Shepherd standing like a superhero. Her chin up was up, her chest was out, her hands were on her hips. She looked fierce.

Edwards asks Shepherd what she was doing. Shepherd responds, "I'm being a superhero. There's a scientific study that shows that if you stand like this in superhero pose for just five minutes before a job interview or a big presentation or a really hard task, you will not only feel more confident, you will perform immeasurably better."

Obviously, I had to know the validity of Shepherd's claim, so I turned to my number-one source for real news: Google. As it turns out, she's right. In 2012, Harvard did a study that proved that if you stand in a superhero pose for five minutes before a difficult task or a hard conversation, you'll be more confident, calm, and perform better.

Now, I know that we all can't stand in a superhero pose for five minutes before every parenting decision—that isn't my point. **My point is that our minds are way more powerful than we could ever understand. The direction we point our thoughts directly determines the direction of our lives.**

And when we choose to worry (and it is a choice), we choose to live lives that are half-lived.

So, what options do we have as parents to combat the worry? Outside of a superhero pose, I came up with ten parenting affirmations. I wrote these down in the notepad of my phone. When I start to spiral, I redirect my worry by reminding myself of these undeniable truths.

- I am the best parent for my children.
- I will not compare myself to other parents, or compare my kids to other kids.
- I will do what I can do. I can't do it all, and that's okay.

- My kids know they are loved, safe, and accepted.
- I will fully embrace today, knowing that not everything will go exactly as planned.
- It's okay—in fact, it's necessary—to take care of me sometimes.
- I might not see it now, but the time I invest in my kids does matter.
- My children don't want perfect, they just want me.
- We are a family, no matter what. We will cheer for and defend each other, no matter what.
- It's okay to ask for help.

Sometimes I have to read through my list more than once a day. I like to say them out loud. I even have my kids repeat some with me from time to time.

Why don't you take a couple of minutes and write down a few affirmations of your own? Stand in a superhero pose too, if you need to. Control your thoughts—don't let them control you.

Blessings in Christ,

Adrian

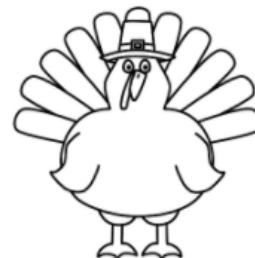
Thanksgiving Word Search

Instructions: Try to find all of the hidden Thanksgiving words in the word search puzzle below. (Words can be spelled forwards, backwards, diagonally, up, or down.)



Word List

CELEBRATION	GREETINGS	PILGRIM
DRESSING	HAM	PUMPKIN
FALL	HAPPINESS	TABLE
GRAVY	HAT	WHEAT



This Month

Some activities are postponed until further notice. The Activities marked with * are happening.



Bible Studies

Men's Bible Study *

The Men's Bible Study group meets every Wednesday morning at 8:00 a.m. in the parlor. Men of all ages meet and enjoy great fellowship and a prayer session. All men are invited to join this study.

Women's Bible Study

The Women's Monday Night Bible study is open to all women. The next meeting is at 6:00 p.m. on Monday, in the parlor.

Tuesday Morning Bible Study

Men and women of all ages are invited to meet in the Bride's Room every Tuesday morning at 10:00 a.m.

Music Ministries



Chancel Choir

This is the primary worship leadership ensemble for the 11:00 service. The choir also sings for special services around Christmas and Holy Week. It is more than just a great choir; it is a caring fellowship. Rehearsals are on Wednesdays from 7:30 to 9:00 p.m. *Nursery care is provided during rehearsals.*

Ring of Praise Handbell Ensemble

This intergenerational handbell group rehearses Wednesday evenings from 6:15 until 7:15 p.m. If you are interested in ringing, please contact Russell Farnell (fpcamusic@yahoo.com or 817-274-8286).

Youth Choir

During the school year, this group of youth in grades 6 to 12 meets on Sunday, 12:45 to 1:45 p.m., in the choir room.

Children's Music Ministries

The children's choirs meet from 12:45 to 1:45 p.m. on Sundays during the school year. Children ages 4 (when school starts) through grade 5 participate in activities including music/singing and bells/chimes, instruments, and listening activities. There are two sections, divided by age, and both participate in the 11:00 worship service twice per year, usually in December and April.



Church Leadership

Deacon Meeting

Thursday, , at 6:30 p.m., the Diaconate meets in the parlor to oversee the Congregational Care, Hospitality, and Fellowship ministries.

Team Meeting Night

Thursday, , at 6:45 p.m., all teams meet for worship in the chapel with subsequent gathering into respective teams for ministry planning and coordination.

Session Meeting

Thursday, , at 7:00 p.m., the Session meets in the parlor to oversee the ministry of the church. The work of the Diaconate, church administration, and all Discipleship, Worship, Facility Management, and Mission and Evangelism ministries will be discussed.

Discipleship



Library Team

The library team works the first Wednesday of each month, from 7:00 to 8:30 p.m. Anyone interested is welcome. No particular skill is required, the work is easy, and we always have a good time as we process books to be added to our inventory. If you would like to be involved in library work but cannot come at that evening time, please contact Sandy Thomlinson (at 817-460-8050) and special daytime work sessions can be arranged.



Fellowship

Happy Quilters *

This group meets Wednesdays at 10:00 a.m. to quilt, sew, knit, crochet, embroider, and just enjoy being together. Bring your project and join in!

Saints Alive!

Church seniors will meet for a potluck lunch on Thursday, , at 11:30 a.m. in the Fellowship Hall. Bring a casserole, salad, or dessert and enjoy a fun and interesting afternoon.

Contact Bev Koch (817-261-3202) for details.



First Presbyterian Church
1200 S. Collins Street
Arlington, TX 76010

Deadline for the November issue of The News is October 15!

Prayer Ministry

Prayers for those with health and other concerns: Apana Agha, Jack Bos, James (Andrew) Bridges, Carol Browning, Vannah Caylor, Frank and Allena Coburn, Edna Collins, Lloyd Counts, Cheri Evans and family, the Farnell Family, Don Farrell, Yvette Fielder, the Gifford Family, Joe and Lila Glenn, Beth Henkel, Andrew Hydock, Bob Johnson, Tim Karnes (Pat May's son), Gary Lindley, Pat May, Barbara Mooers, Bodil Overtree, Robert and Tina Paulk, Jim L. Quick, Jillian Reynolds, Joan Reynolds, John and Donna Vickers, and Nancy Welborne.

Prayers for our family serving in the armed forces: Ben Boughton, Riley Curnutt, Austin Curran, James Dailey, Jeff Grimes, Nathan Haerer, Damien King, Mike Mancini, Amie Murtha, Stephen O'Neil Sosa, Colin Peden, Jason Polk, Ryan Powell, Ryan Regalado, Peyton Steeno, Christopher Young, and Robbie Wallace

Prayers for our homebound members: Esther Albright, Suzette Armstrong, Shirley Bragg, Tom and Bobbie Fowler, Jack Gray, Marge Harrand, Barbara Hughes, Barbara Kraemer, Jeanne Malone, Allen and Charlene Miller, Cary Moore, Carrie Pacot, Ann Pitstick, Betty Snowden, Dee Uhri, Richard Whitenight, and Mary Jane Wright

Pray for those who do not know Christ!

If you have any congregational care needs, please contact Pastor Rich McDermott at 817-274-8286.

