CASCADES
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

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CASCADES
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

THE CHURCH BELL
Published Monthly
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NOVEMBER

DEACON OF THE MONTH

Joan Detrick



What has feathers, a beak, and is always thankful?

Why did the turkey refuse dessert?

Answers at the bottom of the calendar page.

Try to find the hidden cross somewhere in the newsletter. It looks like this.



""Meaningless! Meaningless!" says the Teacher. "Utterly meaningless! Everything is meaningless!" — Ecclesiastes 1:2

The Wisdom Literature of the Bible includes Proverbs, Ecclesiastes, Job, and the Song of Songs. Each offers us a different perspective on what it means to live faithfully before God. I recently listened to an interesting Bible Project podcast about Ecclesiastes and how these wisdom books work together.

Proverbs offers short, memorable sayings about how life often works. For example, Proverbs 22:6 says, "Train up a child in the way he should go, and when he is old he will not depart from it." Many of us have raised our children in the church with that very hope. But Ecclesiastes reminds us that life isn't always so simple. We can do our best to raise our children in the faith, but as adults, they must make their own choices. Then comes the book of Job. Job does everything right, remains faithful to God, and yet his life falls apart. His story reminds us that even when we do our best to follow God, life doesn't always turn out the way we expect.

So, what are we to make of all this? Should we spend our lives trying to do everything right, hoping that God will make everything work out? Or should we simply throw caution to the wind and enjoy life while we can?

Ecclesiastes reminds us that life is complicated. We can live faithfully and still face hardship. We can make wise choices and still get things wrong. Perhaps the invitation is this: Do your best to live faithfully before God. When you fall short, confess your mistakes, ask for forgiveness, and try again. And in the meantime, don't forget to enjoy the life God has given you.

This brings us to the word *meaningless*, which appears throughout Ecclesiastes. The Hebrew word is *hevel*, used about thirty-eight times in the book. It is often translated as "meaningless" or "vanity," but its literal meaning is "breath," "vapor," or "a puff of smoke." A breath appears for a moment and then disappears. Smoke rises and quickly fades away. The Teacher reminds us that life is much the same. Our wisdom, pleasures, work, and wealth are all temporary. This doesn't mean they have no value. It means we cannot hold on to them forever. They are gifts to appreciate while we have them. That is an important lesson for all of us. We spend so much time worrying about yesterday and planning for tomorrow that we sometimes forget to appreciate today. Psalm 118:24 reminds us, "This is the day that the Lord has made; let us rejoice and be glad in it." Not yesterday. Not tomorrow. Today.

As we enter this season of Thanksgiving, let us give thanks for the good gifts God has given us: the roofs over our heads, the food on our tables, the work that provides for us, and the family and friends who gather around us. We cannot take these gifts for granted. They may not last forever, but today they are here. Today, they are blessings to be cherished and enjoyed. Life is fleeting. We cannot control what tomorrow will bring, but we can choose to be grateful for what we have today, trusting in the love of God that endures forever.

So this Thanksgiving, let's spend a little less time worrying about what we cannot control and a little more time giving thanks for what we have been given. Because today is a gift. And that is reason enough to rejoice.

Happy Thanksgiving!

Rev. Dr. Chris Montovino, Pastor

Advent & Hanging of the Greens

The first Sunday in Advent this year is November 29th. Sherry McKusick will be helping to recruit Advent candle lighters and readers for this year's Advent activities. Let Sherry know if you would like to volunteer to help light an Advent Candle during one of the five Sundays of Advent. To kick off Advent we will have our traditional Hanging of the Greens on Saturday, November 28th starting at 7PM with a Potluck beforehand starting at 6PM. Our plan is to set up for the event on Monday, November 23rd to include putting up our new 15 ft Christmas tree. Let Laura Livingston, Janet Van Fleet, Donna Von or Sophie Hickok know if you would like to help with set up.
Laura Livingston, Worship Arts Elder

Fall Stewardship Drive

By now, everyone should have received their Fall Stewardship Packet. In it, you'll find a letter from Mark Hartrim-Lowe, Stewardship and Finances Elder, a Narrative Brochure describing how our budget is broken down, and a Stewardship Card. Sunday, November 1, 2026 is our Stewardship Sunday when we bring our Stewardship Cards to worship and dedicate them to the Lord as our act of worship. If you have any questions about next year's budget, please feel free to reach out to one of our elders or to Mark Hartrim-Lowe and they will gladly answer them for you. Let us remember, God calls us to make equal sacrifices, but not equal gifts. We give out of the abundance of what God has already given to us.



October Session Notes

Devotions centered on letting go of anxiety and Philippians 4:6. Reported the deaths of members Peggy Riley and Dorothy Cochran. Discussed finances and approved account signers. Reported on challenges experienced regarding Worship Director and Youth Director searches. Reaffirmed communion/home communion practices. Discussed thoughts on book *Becoming a Welcoming Church*. New Members Gathering planning. Elected new Corporate officers of Clerk of Session/Secretary (Dian Poujade), Treasurer (Mark Hartrim-Lowe), and President (Taushia Wallschlaeger). Discussed thoughts of changing fellowship coffee services to safer air pump pots. Overall, we sense God's faithfulness over the years in providing for our needs and God's invitation to slow down, be present in the moment, and be still knowing that God is God and we don't have to be.

Fall Pumpkin Carving Contest

On Sunday, October 18, twenty two high school and junior high students and ten adults gathered to carve pumpkins, eat pizza, roast s'mores, and enjoy the beautiful setting at the McKusick farm in Battle Ground. It was a wonderful mixture of familiar and new faces to the Cascades Youth Group. Congratulations to Miriam for the Most Creative Pumpkin, Raynee for the Coolest/Scariest Pumpkin, and Ivy for the Silliest Pumpkin. The youth had a great time expressing their creativity. At the end Pastor Chris talked about how the creativity that they had just used was imprinted upon them from the very beginning as a reflection of God's own creativity expressed in the beauty of creation. Thank you especially to Bob and Sherry McKusick for the use of their beautiful farm and to parents, Phil and Becky Hickok, Mark and Heather Hartrim-Lowe, Erin Sutten, Taushia Wallschlaeger, and Sarah Shewbert and to Pastor Chris Montovino for helping to make it all possible. We are excited about our next event, Gingerbread House Decorating and White Elephant Gift Exchange Party at the Hartrim-Lowes on Sunday, December 6 from 5-7pm. Stay tuned for more details.



Estate Gift Received

Dale and Joyce Brooks were faithful members of Cascades many years ago. Joyce even served as our choir director for some time. While Dale passed away some time ago, Joyce recently went on to be with the Lord and generously left Cascades a $10,000 gift in her will. This gift was put into the Cascades Building Fund and will help with some of the final costs associated with our kitchen remodel as well as future ministry improvements. We are so grateful to the Brooks family for their kindness in remembering the years they shared with us.

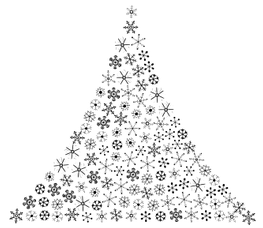
Reading Thru the Bible...

Day 305 Matt 20-21 NOV 1	**Day 306** Luke 19	**Day 307** Mark 11 John 12	**Day 308** Matt 22 Mark 12	**Day 309** Matt 23 Luke 20-21	**Day 310** Mark 13	**Day 311** Matt 24
Day 312 Matt 25 NOV 8	**Day 313** Matt 26 Mark 14	**Day 314** Luke 22 John 13	**Day 315** John 14-17	**Day 316** Matt 27 Mark 15	**Day 317** Luke 23 John 18-19	**Day 318** Matt 28 Mark 16
Day 319 Luke 24 John 20-21 NOV 15	**Day 320** Acts 1-3	**Day 321** Acts 4-6	**Day 322** Acts 7-8	**Day 323** Acts 9-10	**Day 324** Acts 11-12	**Day 325** Acts 13-14
Day 326 Jas 1-5 NOV 22	**Day 327** Acts 15-16	**Day 328** Gal 1-3	**Day 329** Gal 4-6	**Day 330** Acts 17	**Day 331** 1 Th 1-5 2 Th 1-3	**Day 332** Acts 18-19
Day 333 1 Cor 1-4 NOV 29	**Day 334** 1 Cor 5-8					

November

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
1 9am Pancake Sunday 10:15am Worship Service	2 12:30pm Bowling Fellowship	3 7pm Deacons	4 12:30pm Bowling Fellowship	5 1:30pm Giving Hands 6:45pm Choir Practice	6	7
8 9am Sunday School 10:15am Worship Service	9 12:30pm Bowling Fellowship	10 7pm Session	11 12:30pm Bowling Fellowship	12 1:30pm Giving Hands 6:45pm Choir Practice	13	14
15 9am Sunday School 10:15am Worship Service 12pm Top of the Hill	16 12:30pm Bowling Fellowship	17	18 12:30pm Bowling Fellowship	19 1:30pm Giving Hands 6:45pm Choir Practice	20	21
22 9am Sunday School 10:15am Worship Service	23 12:30pm Bowling Fellowship	24	25 12:30pm Bowling Fellowship	26 1:30pm Giving Hands 6:45pm Choir Practice	27	28 Hanging of the Greens 6pm Soup Supper 7pm Service
29 9am Sunday School 10:15am Worship Service	30 12:30pm Bowling Fellowship					

The Giving Hands group is inviting the congregation to contribute warm winter clothing for families with children enrolled at Silver Star Elementary School. We have been knitting and crocheting all year, and want you to have an opportunity to join us in warming young hands and hearts. Please bring new or very gently used hats, scarves, gloves and mittens, jackets - whatever you think children might need to stay warm this winter. They can be placed in the collection basket in the entry by November 22. We will bless them and deliver them in time to help children stay warm in winter's cold. Thank You!



Stay Connected

Recently we have been getting items returned by the post office because they were not deliverable. Please help the church with postage costs by keeping us informed of any address changes. Phone or email updates are important as well if you are receiving communication from the church. Contact the church office to update.
If you would like to stay connected with life at Cascades throughout the week, please sign up for our weekly email update known as the "eBell Weekly Update".
Call or email Lisa in the church office to get signed up.

Deadline for submissions to the December Bell Newsletter will be Monday, November 21st

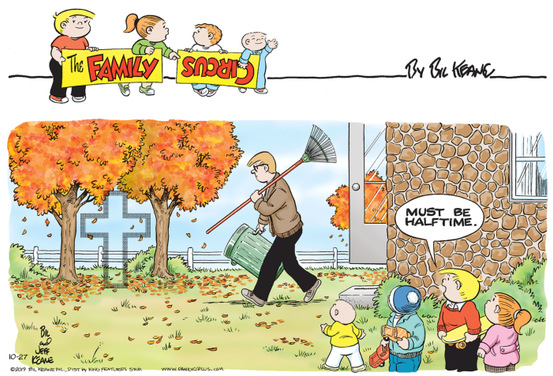
SEPTEMBER FINANCES

Income	$27,283
Expenses	$25,643
Total	$ 1,640

Year to Date 2026
$934



Ewan Hickok
Cassy Holcomb
Michi Weber
Amy Miley
Linda Beck
Sofia Montovino
Bill Gibson
Marlene Taylor
Chris Montovino



Answers:
1. A Turkey who didn't get invited to dinner
2. It was already stuffed.