

November Link

As leaves fall down and clocks fall back, our minds fall forward into our seasonal holidays. With the season comes the question that visits us this time of year, what are you thankful for? On November 1 we remember with thanksgiving the saints of the church who have passed. Shortly thereafter, the veterans who served to defend our freedoms, including the right to worship whom and how we please. And then, the day of Thanksgiving, what are you thankful for? This season offers the opportunity to reflect on God's goodness and to cultivate grateful hearts. Perhaps also to start a new thing, practicing gratitude throughout the year. Gratitude is a way of living that draws into deeper relationship with God.

In 1 Thessalonians 5:16-18, Paul writes, "Rejoice always, pray without ceasing, give thanks in all circumstances, for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you." In that context, John Wesley noted that prayer is the "breath of our spiritual life" and "thanksgiving is inseparable from true prayer." As much as one cannot stop breathing, one cannot stop praying and, therefore, giving thanks in all things.

Giving thanks is a spiritual practice that trains our hearts to see God's grace even in the ordinary: a warm conversation, a familiar song, a generous neighbor, a peaceful morning, a shared meal, the beauty of autumn leaves, the kindness of a stranger, or the sustaining presence of God in a time of uncertainty. When we pause to receive these gifts with gratitude, we become more attentive to God's presence.

November can also be a season in which we give thanks by giving ourselves to others. A fruit of gratitude, giving was an essential part of the Christian life for Wesley. A phone call to someone who is lonely, a meal shared with a neighbor, a word of encouragement, or a gift to those in need can make God's grace visible.

My prayer this month is that we all fall deeper into gratitude. Recognizing grace in both the abundant and the ordinary and responding with an outpouring of grace shared with our neighbors. My prayer is that gratitude becomes our daily practice and not a seasonal reflection, what am I thankful for.

The grace of Christ be with your spirits,

Pastor Jeff

THANKSGIVING BASKET SPONSORSHIP



\$40 half basket / \$80 full basket

Your donation sponsors a basket that includes:

- Turkey
- Gravy
- Potatoes
- Carrots
- Celery
- Sweet Potatoes
- Fresh Squash
- Vegetables of choice
- Stuffing Mix
- Cranberry Sauce
 - Butter
 - Rolls
- Pickles & Olives
- Dessert & more

CASH & CHECK ACCEPTED

Checks can also be mailed to:

Community Food Bank

P.O. Box 181, Pleasant Valley CT 06063

DONATE HERE:



***any amount of monetary donation is gratefully accepted year round**

JOIN US AT
FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH &
METHODIST CHURCH OF BANTAM /LITCHFIELD
21 FERN DRIVE, TORRINGTON



Thanksgiving

BUFFET STYLE

November 14, 2026



4.30 - 6:30 PM

ADULTS: \$15

CHILDREN: 6-12 \$10

5 & UNDER: FREE



TAKE OUTS AVAILABLE



TICKET INFORMATION: CONTACT DEBBIE@ 860-489-0698



Food Bank Wish List:

Pancake Mix & Syrup, Pasta & Sauce, Lentils, Side Dishes, Baking Supplies, Canned Meats

No time to shop for the food bank?? Donations can be made here:

<https://www.paypal.com/ncp/payment/J36KTCUVNFYRY>



Give thanks
to the Lord
for he is good;
His love endures
Forever
PSALM 136



Gospels for November

November 1: 1 John 3:1-3, Matthew 5:1-12

November 8: Matthew 25:1-13

November 15: Matthew 25:14-30

November 22: Matthew 25:31-46

November 29: Matthew 13:24-37

November Schedule

	<u>Cleaners</u>	<u>Lectors</u>	<u>Ushers</u>
November 1 November 8 November 15 November 22 November 29	Stephanie Stark Stephanie Stark Volunteers Needed Volunteers Needed Volunteers Needed	Cathy Baum Karen Dietz Suzanne Gerber Janet LaGrange Tom Lucas	Steve & Barb Bailey Stephanie Stark & Janet LaGrange Karen Civelli & Shirley Green Darlene Slater & Jennifer Lambour Dawn Renfrew & Shelley Bailey
	<u>Greeters</u>		<u>Coffee Hour</u>
November 1 November 8 November 15 November 22 November 29	John Lundy & Jay LaGrange John Lundy & Jay LaGrange John Lundy & Jay LaGrange John Lundy & Jay LaGrange John Lundy & Jay LaGrange		Barbara Bailey & Shirley Green Volunteers Needed Karen Civelli & Shirley Green Volunteers Needed Pat, Stephanie, Gail & Sandy
		<u>Counters</u>	
November 1 November 8 November 15 November 22 November 29		Steve Bailey & John Lundy John Lundy & Peg Palmer Peg Palmer & Volunteer Barbara Bailey & Volunteer Jennifer Lambour & Steve Bailey	



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Volunteers are needed for the Coffee Hour and Cleaners. The sign up sheets are on the Besse Table in the Narthex.

November

<u>SUN.</u>	<u>MON.</u>	<u>TUES.</u>	<u>WED.</u>	<u>THUS.</u>	<u>FRI.</u>	<u>SAT.</u>
1 10:30AM Worship Service with Holy Communion 	2 4:00 – 7:00PM Food Bank	3 10:00AM Prayer Group 8:00PM AA	4	5 10:00am Women's Social Group 2:00 – 4:00PM Food Bank 6:45PM AA	6	7
8 10:30AM Worship Service 11:15AM Trustees Meeting	9	10 10:00AM Prayer Group 8:00PM AA	11  7:00PM Admin./Finance Meeting	12 6:45PM AA	13	14
15 10:30AM Worship Service	16 4:00 – 7:00PM Food Bank	17 10:00AM Prayer Group 8:00PM AA	18	19 2:00 – 4:00PM Food Bank 6:45PM AA	20	21
22 10:30AM Worship Service	23	24 10:00AM Prayer Group 2:00 – 4:00PM Food Bank 8:00PM AA	25	26  6:45PM AA	27	28
29 10:30AM Worship Service	30 4:00 – 7:00PM Food Bank					

Copper Hill United Methodist Church

Holiday Bazaar & Bake Sale

Hosted by the United Women of Faith.



Friday, Nov 20

1:00 to 4:00 p.m.

Saturday, Nov 21

9:00 to 3:00 p.m.

Saturday Soup Luncheon

11:00 to 2:00 p.m.

November Announcements

If you know of someone who is not getting the Link but would like to, please contact Re with their information and email address so they can be added to the list. If they don't have access to emails, just give us their mailing address and we will mail it out to them.

If you, or someone you know, is in the hospital in need of a visit please call either Pastor Jeff or the Church office to schedule a visit. Because of privacy laws, hospitals can no longer give out this information.

Church office hours are Tuesday, Wednesday & Friday from 9:00 AM to Noon.

Church contact info:

Visit us online at: pleasantvalley-umc.com

Church Office: 860-379-2157

Church Kitchen and Food Bank: 860-379-0346

Church email address: pvumc181@gmail.com

Pastor Jeff's email: pastor.pvumcCT@gmail.com

Pastor Jeff's phone number: 860-461-3988

A PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

Lord God, on this day of Thanksgiving,
We ask your blessings on our family,
our friends, our home, our health—and
on the food we are about to eat.

We thank you for this time together and
the many gifts that you have given us.

Help us to remember in this time of
bounty those less fortunate. And may
your love consume us all that we
might share in your glory.

Amen.

