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# TIMBER RIDGE CHRISTIAN CHURCH

## NEWSLETTER

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November 2021

### Happy Thanksgiving!

#### CALENDAR OF EVENTS

NOV 4 -	PRAYER MEETING 6:30 PM
NOV 6 -	AMY BRILL'S BIRTHDAY
NOV 7 -	SUNDAY SCHOOL 10 AM
	WORSHIP SERVICE 11 AM
	DAYLIGHT SAVINGS TIME ENDS
NOV 10 -	SETH VANDERLINDEN'S BIRTHDAY
NOV 11 -	VETERANS DAY HOLIDAY
NOV 12 -	TIM WINGFIELD'S BIRTHDAY
NOV 13 -	RURITAN VETERANS BREAKFAST 7:30 AM
	(SEE ARTICLE)
NOV 14 -	SUNDAY SCHOOL 10 AM
	WORSHIP SERVICE 11 AM
	LAST DAY FOR OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD
	(SEE ARTICLE)
NOV 20 -	AMBER CAMPBELL'S BIRTHDAY
NOV 21 -	SUNDAY SCHOOL 10 AM
	WORSHIP SERVICE 11 AM
	LOGAN SPAID'S BIRTHDAY
	7 PM -COMMUNITY THANKSGIVING SERVICE
	(SEE ARTICLE)
NOV 22 -	BIBLE STUDY 10 AM
NOV 23 -	TOM PUGH'S BIRTHDAY
NOV 28 -	SUNDAY SCHOOL 10 AM
	WORSHIP SERVICE 11 AM
	GALEN SPAID'S BIRTHDAY
	DECORATE SANCTUARY (SEE ARTICLE)
NOV 29 -	BIBLE STUDY 10 AM
NOV 30 -	ED & JANET KLINE'S ANNIVERSARY
	TOM & SHARON JENKINS' ANNIVERSARY

#### VETERANS DAY

On November 11<sup>th</sup> we will celebrate Veterans Day. This is a time when we remember those who have served our country in the armed forces. There are several folks associated with our congregation who we would like to recognize as veterans:

**Dan Donovan (USMC) Jonathan Brill (USA)**

**Steven Szelmeczki (USN)**

**Thomas Pugh (USA) Jim Campbell (USA- Rangers)**

**Galen Spaid (USA) Gerald Whitacre (USA)**

**Harry Spaid (USA) Tim Wingfield (USAF)**

**Mike VanDerLinden (USAF)**

Please remember to thank those who have served our country for their service and dedication to the principles upon which this country was founded.

We apologize if we missed including anyone on the listing. We are maintaining a list of veterans, who are also church members, so please let us know if there are others that we need to include.

#### OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD

The Sunday School will once again be collecting shoe box gifts in association with Samaritans Purse. These gifts are distributed to children in need in this country as well as remote areas around the world. Collections will end on November 14<sup>th</sup>. The Mission Committee will be paying for the postage again this year. For more information contact Harry or Jeanie.

We welcome any comments and suggestions.

Alan & Ginger Brill,

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### **COMMUNITY THANKSGIVING SERVICE**

The annual Community Thanksgiving Service will be hosted by Bethel United Methodist Church on November 21<sup>st</sup>, beginning at 7 pm.

### **RURITAN VETERAN'S BREAKFAST**

The Ruritans will be serving a veteran's breakfast on Saturday, November 13<sup>th</sup> beginning at 7:30 am. The breakfast will be free to all veterans and spouses. A free will donation will be accepted from all others.

### **BIBLE STUDY**

The Bible Study Group continues to meet on Monday mornings at 10 am. Please feel free to join with the group as you are able. For this month there be no Bible Study on November 8<sup>th</sup> and 15<sup>th</sup> as Pastor Mike will be in Barcelona on a mission trip.

### **DECORATING THE CHURCH FOR THE CHRISTMAS SEASON**

As has been the case for the past several years, we will be decorating the church and Parish Hall for the Christmas season on the first Sunday in Advent, which is November 28<sup>th</sup> following the worship service. Soup will be provided, and everyone is asked to bring their own sandwich.

### **NEWSLETTER ITEMS**

Forms have been placed in the pews for the purpose of having items placed into the monthly newsletter. This would include birthdays and anniversaries that we do not already have and also any events and newsworthy items that should be included. If you have any items to include, please complete the form and place in the offering plate or give to Alan or Ginger. The reverse of the form also includes a prayer request and a removal from the prayer list section.

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### *PASTOR'S PEN*

#### **Family is Fundamental**

Some of my best memories growing up have to do with Thanksgiving. Although the food was a highlight and hunting were essential, the gathering of family is what I miss most. There's something about gathering with those who can lay claim to one another. Even if unity sometimes seems coerced, we are comforted by the fact that we have a place where we belong. This shouldn't surprise us. Instead, we should recognize this truth as the creator's design.

From the very beginning, God was working through the family to unite us to one another and Him in creation. Adam and Eve found unity and contentment that would never have been possible without the other. This 'created order is a declaration that the centrality of the family has been God's plan from the beginning. Even after Adam and Eve fell into sin, God continued to use the family structure to bring about redemption. The families of Noah, Abraham, and King David all played significant roles in fulfilling the promise of salvation. Their stories aren't always neat and tidy, but isn't that what makes them more amazing? The fact that God uses families, dirt and all, is a fundamental truth we must not forget. In fact, in the New Testament, God doesn't just invite us into His kingdom - He invites us to be part of His family.

This Thanksgiving, you may be reminded of your own messed-up families. There may be old squabbles that no one dares bring up, unspoken hurts, and unmet expectations. Yet, breaking bread together will signal to everyone that you have a place you belong. When we break bread together at church, we have the same opportunity.

Describing the unity between Jews and Gentiles, Paul writes in Ephesians 2:18-19, "For through him we both have access in one Spirit to the Father. So then you are no longer strangers and aliens, but you are fellow citizens with the saints and members of the household of God." Although listed last, the announcement of being members of God's household is amazing. It tells us that God doesn't want us to settle for simple citizenship. Every citizen might not have access to the king, but every child does. In the family, everyone finds belonging.

Isn't this what we all long for? We long to belong! But remember, family isn't always defined by blood. A church family is also a place where we should find belonging. There may still be some squabbles, hurts, and unmet expectations, but when we come together for worship, bible study, fellowship, or serving the community, we let the world know that we are united in Christ.

This month as you gather for Thanksgiving, cherish the family God has given you. Whether they're related by blood or not isn't that important. Everyone wants to belong. May each of us be thankful for God's invitation to belong to His family and live so others would know they too are invited.

~ Pastor Mike