Shepherd's Staff

November 2026

We gather to worship, we go to serve our Lord.

"You will be my witnesses…to the ends of the earth!"

Parkersburg Christian Reformed Church

Sunday Worship 9:30 a.m. ~ Church School 10:45 a.m



Cultivating a Heart of Gratitude

As the leaves finish falling and the days grow shorter, our hearts naturally turn toward a season of reflection and thanksgiving. In the rush of daily life, it is easy to focus on what is missing, what is broken, or what still needs to be done. November invites us to hit pause and look instead at what God has already provided.

In Luke 17:15–16, we read the story of the ten lepers who were healed. When Jesus restored them, only one man stopped, turned back, and fell at Jesus' feet to give Him thanks. Jesus asked, *"Were not ten cleansed? Where are the nine?"*

It is a gentle, piercing question for all of us: In the middle of our busy routines, do we remember to turn back and thank the Giver of every good gift?

This November, let us practice gratitude not just as a holiday tradition, but as a posture of faith:

- **Count your daily blessings: FILL THE JAR**... There will be a jar on the table in the fellowship hall. Please write down the blessings you see daily, during the week, or during this year. Our congregation may be small, but our blessings are many. This jar should be overflowing by the end of the month!!
- **Bless a neighbor**: Look for someone in our church family or local community who might feel lonely or overwhelmed as the weather changes.
- **Prepare your heart for Advent**: As November closes, we begin looking toward the hope of Christ's coming. Let thankfulness bridge the space between Thanksgiving and Christmas.

- **Blessings of healing, comfort, peace, and assurance** that our God has been with this congregation through our trials this month.



Thanksgiving Prayer:

Thank you for being such a vital part of our church family. May your home be filled with peace, warmth, and a deep awareness of God's presence this month and always.

Today, I come before you with a heart overflowing with thankfulness. I am grateful for your endless love and for the way you guide and protect me every day. Thank you for the blessings that surround me, from the smallest joys to the great gifts that fill my life with purpose and hope.

Teach me to be thankful not just in times of abundance but in all circumstances. Help me to see your hand at work even in challenges, trusting that you are shaping me and drawing me closer to you. May my gratitude shine through in my actions, words, and thoughts, serving as a testament to your goodness and grace.

Thank you, Lord, for every moment and every breath. Fill my heart with a deep and abiding thankfulness that sustains me and lifts those around me.

In Jesus' name, I pray. Amen.





11/3	Lois Mennen
11/3	Dennis Schipper
11/4	Brandy Reints
11/6	JoLynne Husz
11/8	Rus Boersma
11/14	Wendy Armstrong
11/19	John Husz
11/22	Kayla Stirling
11/25	Nancy Mehmen
11/29	Diane Roberts



11/6	Kevin & Shelly Meester
11/10	Dennis & Lois Mennen

We are Thankful: Thanksgiving Blessings Mix Recipe

Ingredients

- 2 cups Bugles brand corn snacks
- 2 cups small pretzels
- 1 cup candy corn
- 1 cup dried fruit bits or raisins
- 1 cup peanuts or sunflower seeds
- 1 cup M&Ms-brand chocolate candy
- 16 Hershey's-brand chocolate kisses
- Blessings Mix gift tags



Instructions

In a large bowl, gently mix all ingredients except Hershey's Kisses.

Place 1/3 to 1/2 cup Thanksgiving Blessing Mix in small cellophane treat bags. Add one Hershey's Kiss to each bag. Close bag with chenille stem or twist-tie.

Add a printable gift tag or bag topper, or hand-write your own tags, with the wording below.

Cut out tags, and attach one to each bag.

Makes 16 Blessing Mix gift bags.

Thanksgiving Blessing Mix Poem

- Bugles: Shaped like a cornucopia or Horn of Plenty, a symbol of our nation's abundance.
- Pretzels: Arms folded in prayer, a freedom sought by those who founded our country.
- Candy corn: Sacrifices of the Pilgrims' first winter. Food was so scarce that settlers survived on just a few kernels of corn a day.
- Nuts or seeds: Promise of a future harvest, one we will reap only if seeds are planted and tended with diligence.
- Dried fruits: Harvest gifts of our bountiful land.
- M&Ms: Memories of those who came before us to guide us to a blessed future.
- Hershey's Kiss: The love of family and friends that sweetens our lives.



Thanksgiving Day

Fourth Thursday of November

L L A F A T C W T M C R N H P V
R I E Y C U N G A O E E S S U X
P O T A I R U I L W W I N N M Z
I O S D R K Z O O W D A H H P J
L A N I E E N L O N T T A H K Y
G F A L M Y F R A I U R S E I L
R R I O A Y L T R O V A O H N I
I E D H A D S U M E U N L I P M
M E N M S S P Y S Q A A M G I A
S D I P E E L T S C E M O B E F
M O N L L P A I P O C U N R O C
E M I G N I V I G S K N A H T Q
E M S H R E B M E V O N Y A M S
A D N A L G N E M D N C D F W E
R W V E D U T I T A R G T Y K E
R E G N I F F U T S P T S A E F

AMERICA
CANOE
COLONY
CORNUCOPIA
ENGLAND
FALL
FAMILY
FEAST
FREEDOM
GRATITUDE
HARVEST
HOLIDAY
INDIANS
MAIZE
MAYFLOWER
MILES STANDISH
NEWWORLD
NOVEMBER
PILGRIMS
PLYMOUTH
PUMPKIN PIE
PURITANS
SQUASH
STUFFING
THANKSGIVING
TURKEY
YAMS

