

# THE NEW LEAF



First Presbyterian Church of Bridgeton



## NOVEMBER 2023



**TIME TO BE THANKFUL**



*The grass withers and  
the flowers fall, but  
the word of our God  
endures forever.*

Isaiah 40:8

*forever*

crosswalk





**First Presbyterian Church of Bridgeton**  
 119 West Commerce St.  
 Bridgeton, NJ 08302  
 (856) 455-0809  
[www.fpcbridgeton.org](http://www.fpcbridgeton.org)

**Rev. Nolita Kaul**  
 (248) 342-6190

[bridgetonfpcpastor@gmail.com](mailto:bridgetonfpcpastor@gmail.com)  
 In office at FPC 9:30 am - 12:30 pm  
 Monday thru Thursday  
 (other times available by appointment)

**Church Office Hours**  
 Monday - Friday 9 am - 2 pm



**Christie Sever**  
 Admin. Assistant

[firstpresbridgeton@gmail.com](mailto:firstpresbridgeton@gmail.com)



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 like us on facebook

<https://www.facebook.com/FPCbridgeton>

Please go to our website  
[www.fpcbridgeton.org](http://www.fpcbridgeton.org)



If you or a family member or a close friend needs prayer,  
 please contact the church office or one of the deacons.



## Deacon Ministry



This year instead of providing canned goods and turkeys to Salvation Army for

Thanksgiving we will make a monetary contribution to them to provide food items for those in need. During fellowship time the "Giving Jar" will be placed on the snack table for donations. This collection will begin October 22 and end November 12. Last year we collected \$128.44.

Everyone enjoys Fellowship Time after church. Please sign up for a Sunday. The calendar is on the counter in the kitchen. A Deacon is responsible for each month and would be able to help out if needed. Their name is listed at the top of each month on the calendar.



Looking ahead - we will decorate the church for Christmas on Sunday, November 26 after church. Hope you will be able to join us.

Toiletries were provided to Bethany Grace Church Shower Program. Thank you to everyone who contributed. We will continue to collect items. They may be placed in the basket on the table in the back of the Sanctuary.



Our Yard Sale is scheduled for Spring. If you do fall cleaning out, **please do not bring items** to store in the church until requested to do so. We thank those who have contributed in the past. Our June Yard Sale realized a profit of \$1,226.25.



Recently Deacons have made monetary donations of \$200 each to the Salvation Army, Bethany Grace and St. Teresa Food Program. Also \$533 was given to the Disaster Relief Fund. Donations of \$200 each has been made to support our local Boy Scout Troop 1, Cub Scout Troop, and Girl Scout Troop.



## Synopsis of October 2023 Session Meeting

1. The Memorials committee of Session is presently collecting information for the development of a future Church policy for the gathering and use of Memorial funds. Session approved the Memorials committee becoming a joint committee of the boards under the auspices of the Trustees beginning in January 2024.
2. Training for all 2024 board members (new and continuing in 2024) will take place in November prior to the respective stated board meetings.
3. A review of the Church's Membership Roll will be evaluated and revised in October in an effort to bring this roll up to date. The purpose of this revision is to provide an accurate number of truly active members so that our Church is only paying a per capita to the Presbytery for its membership and not for an inflated number which includes inactive members.
4. Session approved plans for providing worship services should local Covid infection levels reach a level requiring closure of the Church by the State of NJ. These proposed plans include a team composed of Pastor, Music Director, Liturgist, and Sound System operator providing a livestream worship service.



## What's *Happening With Worship*

Worship services in November will have several different focuses:

November 5



In observation of **All Saints' Day (November 1)** there will be a time in the service to **honor members** of our congregation **that have died** in the past several years. There will also be an opportunity for congregants to light tea lights in memory of someone dear to them.

November 12

The service will **Honor Veterans** for serving our country.



November 19

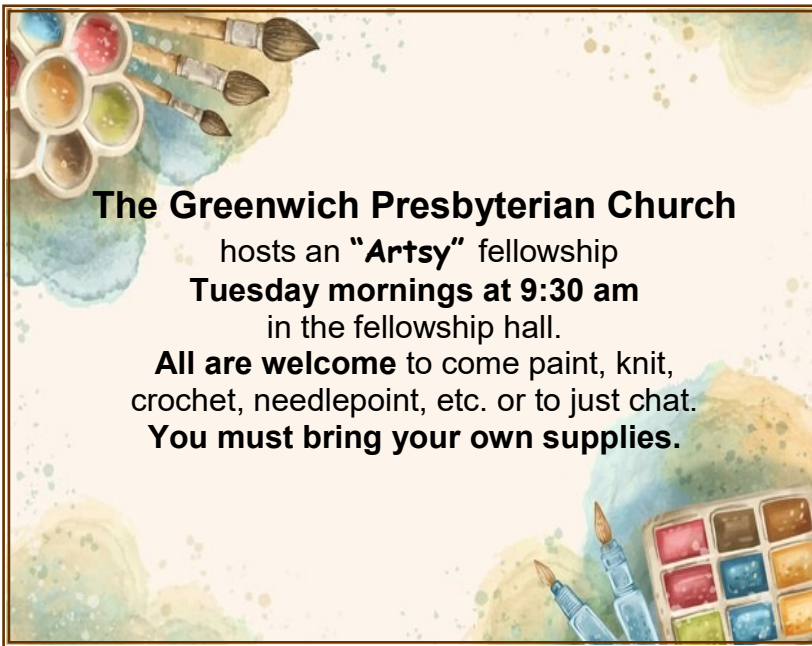
This day we will acknowledge all our blessings and give thanks. The service will include the **Baptism** of Frank and Marge's granddaughter Anastasia.

November 26

Christ the King Sunday, Rev. Daniel Pure Preaching

**Advent begins December 3**, and again we will have the **lighting of the Advent candles** each of the 4 Sundays. **Any family or small group** of people who would like to **volunteer** to participate **one of the Sundays** should **contact Debbie H.**



A decorative graphic for an artsy fellowship. It features a watercolor-style background with various art supplies: paintbrushes, a palette, and a watercolor palette. The text is centered and reads:

**The Greenwich Presbyterian Church**  
hosts an "Artsy" fellowship  
**Tuesday mornings at 9:30 am**  
in the fellowship hall.  
**All are welcome** to come paint, knit,  
crochet, needlepoint, etc. or to just chat.  
**You must bring your own supplies.**



## In the News

### Hankins Family Picnic Park

Citing the history of service to Hopewell, Mayor Paul Ritter, III, presided over a ceremony recently, naming the picnic park there after the Hankins family. Family members who attended the ceremony, and expressed humble thanks for the honor included past mayor Bruce, Brent, and Jane Hankins, and Alaina Hankins Pillsbury.



**SAVE THE DATE**  
**Sat., December 2nd our church**  
**will be open for the**  
**Bridgeton Holiday House Tour.**

If you are able to be a docent from 3-7 pm, please sign up on the sheet in the kitchen or contact Sandi Huster (856-451-8271)  
Donations of "Bake or Buy" cookies for our tour guests would also be appreciated.

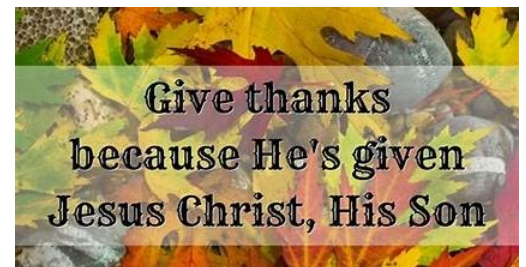


## A Time To Be Thankful

Greetings to you, my friends, and FPC Family. Below is an article I discovered recently, from a secular source, it's interesting in its perspective. This got me thinking about how many times in God's Holy Word we're called to be thankful to God in our lives. There's a connection of our Spiritual Lives, our Emotional and Physical lives whenever we engage in this practice. Hopefully, we do this daily, at least weekly and/or monthly, more than just one day/time a year. Notice what's not on the list in the article, "Being Thankful for our Faith as Way of Living," for God's unconditional love for us, and for Jesus' selfless act of giving of himself upon the cross. His gift is in rising from death to be seated at the right hand of God, in God's glorious heaven. Be Thankful for the gift of Eternal Life! Let us be mindful and contemplative during our days, of/from/to whom we have been given all things, our Triune God, out of love for each person. This season is a prelude to our observance of Advent, on into Christmas' Cheer, receiving our Lord Jesus' birth as God's True Son. Let us give thanks for one thing each day. Think of the Scriptures provided in our 28 Days of Thanksgiving Scriptures Devotional Starter found elsewhere in our newsletter, pray about that verse, or perhaps start a gratitude journal. Whatever you choose to do, it is and will be spiritual, soul-tending/nurturing work. For this, God will be thankful in return, for our taking a moment or two, to notice all the gifts God provides us with daily. Let us offer our thanks in Prayer to God for all we've been given. Let us share a blessing onward to just one person during the day. You'll be amazed at how you feel! First Presbyterian Church, I am thankful and grateful to God for you, for your calling me to serve alongside you, as your pastor. Blessings to all during this month of November!

Soli Deo Gloria (To God Be The Glory)!

Faithfully,  
Rev. Norlita



An Article From Psychology Today, from 5.31.2021



Tchiki Davis, Ph.D.

## Things to Be Thankful For

Not sure what to be grateful for? Here are some ideas.

### KEY POINTS

- Gratitude can improve our relationships and make us feel good too.
- Noticing things that we're thankful for in our daily lives—from a beautiful sunrise to good health and a loving family—can boost our well-being.
- Other strategies for being more thankful include writing gratitude notes or starting a gratitude journal.

Do you want to express thankfulness for the people, things, and experiences in your life? That's great! Gratitude can not only help us form closer, more satisfying bonds with others, but it feels good too. So in this article, we'll give you a list of things to be thankful for in different areas of your life.

# What is thankfulness?

Gratitude—or thankfulness—is often considered to be a [positive emotion](#) (Chipperfield, Perry, & Weiner, 2003). Expressing and experiencing thankfulness is strongly linked with [happiness](#) and well-being (Bono, Emmons, & McCullough, 2004). In short, being thankful feels good and is good for us.

But it's not always easy to think of things to be thankful for. So here's a list of ideas to get you started.

## Things to be Thankful For Today!

- Having air to breathe
- The feeling of the sun
- The smell of flowers, fresh-cut grass, the trees
- The people we have in our lives
- For those that gave us this life
- To be alive
- For a beautiful sunrise
- For the beach, the ocean
- For each new day
- For opportunities
- For the chance to learn from mistakes
- That today is probably not the worst day
- For family, for our human family called humankind
- For a hot cup of tea or coffee
- For the hard times, because they will help us appreciate the good times
- For failure, because it makes us stronger
- To be able to think our own thoughts
- For the body—it carries us through this life
- To be able to learn new things
- To have a place to sleep at night
- For time to experience life
- For simply existing
- That I will get to live today and hopefully tomorrow, too
- For health, even though it may not be perfect

In one study, participants were asked to write down three good things each day (and note down their causes). They did this for just one week. The results showed that this strategy made them happier after that week and even 6 months later (Seligman, Steen, Park, & Peterson, 2005). This suggests that noting the good things—and perhaps being thankful for them—has long-term, positive impacts on our happiness. Other strategies can be to write [gratitude notes](#) ( **Activity: Gratitude Note**)

In this activity , you are going to write gratitude notes. Please write 3 notes to specific people in your life (for example, your family and friends). As you write, really think hard about why you are grateful to have these people in your life. (NAME ONE PERSON YOU ARE GRATEFUL FOR AND WRITE ABOUT WHY.) OR START A GRATITUDE JOURNAL (WHAT IS A GRATITUDE JOURNAL?)

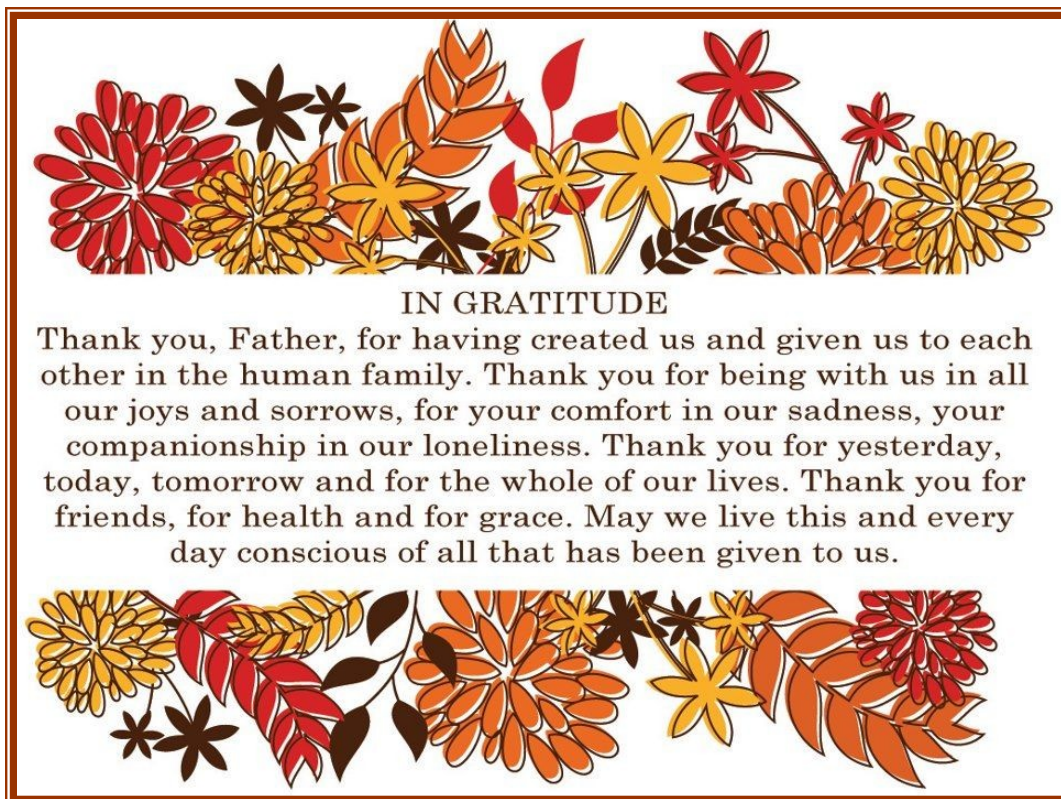
A gratitude journal is a notebook, diary, or even an app where you can keep track of the things that you're grateful for. You simply note down the things you are grateful for each day or a few times per week. There are lots of different types of gratitude journals. So when it comes to defining what a gratitude journal is, it's really up to you to make it what you want it to be.

### **IN SUM**

Taking a few minutes each day to practice thankfulness can be a cool and fun way to boost happiness. Hopefully, you got some ideas here that will help you think of even more things to be thankful for.

### **ABOUT**

Tchiki Davis, Ph.D., is a consultant, writer, and expert on well-being technology. She has helped build happiness products, programs, and services that have reached more than a million people worldwide. To learn more about how Tchiki can help you grow your happiness & well-being, visit [berkeleywellbeing.com](http://berkeleywellbeing.com).



## 28 Days of Thanksgiving Scriptures For November 2023

### Day 1: Psalm 116:17

To You I shall offer a sacrifice of thanksgiving, And call upon the name of the Lord.

### Day 2: 1 Timothy 4:4s

For everything created by God is good, and nothing is to be rejected if it is received with gratitude;

### Day 3: Psalm 50:14

“Offer to God a sacrifice of thanksgiving And pay your vows to the Most High;

### Day 4: Psalm 95:2

Let us come before His presence with thanksgiving, Let us shout joyfully to Him with psalms.

### Day 5: Psalm 100:4

Enter His gates with thanksgiving And His courts with praise. Give thanks to Him, bless His name.

### Day 6: Colossians 2:7

having been firmly rooted and now being built up in Him and established in your faith, just as you were instructed, and overflowing with gratitude.

### Day 7: 1 Thessalonians 5:18

in everything give thanks; for this is God’s will for you in Christ Jesus.

### Day 8: Colossians 3:16

Let the word of Christ richly dwell within you, with all wisdom teaching and admonishing one another with psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing with thankfulness in your hearts to God.

### Day 9: Ephesians 5:20

Always giving thanks for all things in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ to God, even the Father;

### Day 10: 2 Corinthians 9:12

For the ministry of this service is not only fully supplying the needs of the saints, but is also overflowing through many thanksgivings to God.

### Day 11: Daniel 2:23

“To You, O God of my fathers, I give thanks and praise, For You have given me wisdom and power; Even now You have made known to me what we requested of You, For You have made known to us the king’s matter.”

### Day 12: Acts 24:3

we acknowledge this in every way and everywhere, most excellent Felix, with all thankfulness.

### Day 13: Psalm 118:21

I shall give thanks to You, for You have answered me, And You have become my salvation.

### Day 14: Philippians 4:6

Be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God.

### Day 15: Leviticus 22:29

When you sacrifice a sacrifice of thanksgiving to the Lord, you shall sacrifice it so that you may be accepted.

### Day 16: Philippians 1:3

I thank my God in all my remembrance of you,



**Day 17: 2 Corinthians 9:11**

you will be enriched in everything for all liberality, which through us is producing thanksgiving to God.

**Day 18: Jonah 2:9**

But I will sacrifice to You With the voice of thanksgiving. That which I have vowed I will pay. Salvation is from the Lord.”

**Day 19: 2 Corinthians 1:11**

you also joining in helping us through your prayers, so that thanks may be given by many persons on our behalf for the favor bestowed on us through the prayers of many.

**Day 20: 1 Corinthians 10:30**

If I partake with thankfulness, why am I slandered concerning that for which I give thanks?

**Day 21: Hebrews 12:28**

Therefore, since we receive a kingdom which cannot be shaken, let us show gratitude, by which we may offer to God an acceptable service with reverence and awe;

**Day 22: 1 Thessalonians 3:9**

For what thanks can we render to God for you in return for all the joy with which we rejoice before our God on your account,

**Day 23: 2 Corinthians 4:15**

For all things are for your sakes, so that the grace which is spreading to more and more people may cause the giving of thanks to abound to the glory of God.

**Day 24: 1 Timothy 2:1**

First of all, then, I urge that entreaties and prayers, petitions and thanksgivings, be made on behalf of all men,

**Day 25: 1 Corinthians 10:16**

Is not the cup of blessing which we bless a sharing in the blood of Christ? Is not the bread which we break a sharing in the body of Christ?

**Day 26: Ephesians 1:16**

I do not cease giving thanks for you, while making mention of you in my prayers;

**Day 27: Colossians 2:7**

Be rooted and built up in him, strengthened in the faith as you were taught, and overflowing with thankfulness.

**Day 28: Colossians 4:2**

Devote yourselves to prayer, keeping alert in it with an attitude of thanksgiving;





# Mark Your Calendars



## November Meetings

**Session** Thurs., Nov. 2 @ 5:00 (2024 Session - training & dinner) / 6:30 - 2023 Session Meeting  
**Deacons** Mon., Nov. 13 @ 6:00 (2024 Deacons - training & dinner) / 7:00 - 2023 Deacons Meeting  
**Trustees** Mon., Nov. 20 @ 6:00 (2024 Trustees - training & dinner) / 7:00 - 2023 Trustees Meeting

## SERVING IN NOVEMBER

DATE	USHERS	COUNTERS
November 5	Team 1: Curtis H., Debbie H., Frank P.	Team 1: Debbie F., Sherry M.
November 12	Team 2: John A., Bruce C., Ken F.	Team 2: Marion C., Heather N.
November 19	Team 3: Marie D., Joyce I., Heather N.	Team 3: Yvonne C., Debbie H.
November 26	Team 4: Bruce H., Howard T., Bill F.	Team 4: Marie D., Joyce I.

### NOVEMBER WORSHIP FLOWERS

November 5: Yvonne Custis  
 November 12: Anne Sheppard  
 November 19: Marge Pampuch  
 November 26:



### FELLOWSHIP IN NOVEMBER

November 5: Yvonne Custis  
 November 12: Rev. Norlita Kaul  
 November 19: Deacons  
 November 26:

Blank spaces for flowers and fellowship? Would you consider helping us to fill them in? It takes a village..... Thank you!

### Lunch Bunch

Date: November 14, 2023  
 Time: 12 Noon  
 Place: The Green Olive, Bridgeton



Please RSVP to the Church office (856)455-0809 by November 13, 2023








11/4 - Gwen B.  
 11/12 - Tom G.  
 11/16 - Jim B.  
 11/24 - Sandy H.  
 11/30 - Susan C.





# November 2023



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
29 Reformation /Heritage Sunday w/ Communion Worship 10am 	30	31	All Saints Day 1	2	3	4
5 Honor Our Saints Worship 10am Missions/Outreach Comm. Mtg. after church 	6	7	8	9	10	11
12 Honor Our Veterans Worship 10am 	13	14	15	16	17	18
19 Baptism Worship 10am 	20	21	22	23	24	25
26 Christ the King Sunday Rev. Daniel Pure Preaching Worship 10am 	27	28	29	30	1	2
Decorate Church for Christmas 