Winterstown UMC
12184 WINTERSTOWN RD
FELTON, PA 17322
717-244-1984
winterstownchurch.org

717-244-1984
Office Fax
717-246-7414
Office Hours
Monday - Thursday
10:30AM - 2:30PM
Bulletin Deadline
Tuesday by 10:00AM
Newsletter Deadline
20th of each month

November 2026

Worship
10:30 AM

"Make Disciples of Jesus Christ"
Winterstownchurch.org

Meet Our Staff

Pastor - Erin Elong
(717) 542-4957
Administrative Assistant -
Amber Rusonis
Treasurer - Connie Human

Organist - Nancy Forry
Pianist - Rick Marks
Sr. Choir Director -
Sandra Gingrich

Growing Friend's Child Care
Director - Danielle Orwig
Assistant Director -
Heather Gibson
717-246-8017

Bible Quiz

What did St. Paul teach about how people can recognize the existence of God?

A. They would have no understanding of God unless someone told them.
B. They could see evidence of God by observing creation.
C. God cannot be known in any way except through Jesus.



Answer: B (Romans 1:19-21)

Bread Painting

When you eat this fun snack, be thankful for Jesus, who is our Bread of Life.

What you need:
- Small cups
- Milk
- Food coloring
- Clean, food-safe brush
- Slice of bread
- Toaster or toaster oven
- Butter, optional



What you do:
1. Set out one small cup for each color you want to use.
2. Pour 1 to 2 tablespoons of milk into each cup.
3. Add a few drops of food coloring to each cup and stir until the color is bright.
4. Using a clean, food-safe brush, gently paint a picture or design on the bread. Be careful not to soak the bread.
5. When you're finished painting, toast the bread. Add a little butter, if desired, and enjoy!



Reminder:
Ask an adult for help when using a toaster or toaster oven.

"I am the bread of life."
John 6:35, NIV

PUZZLE

Counting Our Blessings

Thanksgiving is a great opportunity to "count our blessings." God blesses each of us daily in so many ways. Solve the following math problems. Then write the words on the numbered lines below to complete Ephesians 1:3, NIV.

14 - 7 = ____ Father
10 + 9 = ____ heavenly
10 + 5 = ____ blessed
2 - 1 = ____ Praise
7 + 7 = ____ has
11 + 11 = ____ every
12 + 12 = ____ blessing
10 + 10 = ____ realms
13 + 13 = ____ Christ
8 + 8 = ____ us
8 + 9 = ____ in
5 + 5 = ____ Lord
10 + 11 = ____ with

10 + 15 = ____ in
6 - 3 = ____ to
12 - 6 = ____ and
6 + 6 = ____ Christ
18 - 9 = ____ our
22 - 11 = ____ Jesus
1 + 1 = ____ be
7 + 6 = ____ who
2 + 2 = ____ the
10 - 5 = ____ God
4 + 4 = ____ of
9 + 9 = ____ the
10 + 13 = ____ spiritual

"____ ____ ____ ____ ____ ____
1 2 3 4 5 6
____ ____ ____ ____ ____ ____,
7 8 9 10 11 12
____ ____ ____ ____ ____ ____
13 14 15 16 17 18
____ ____ ____ ____
19 20 21 22
____ ____ ____ ____."
23 24 25 26

Ephesians 1:3, NIV

Answer: "Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in the heavenly realms with every spiritual blessing in Christ."

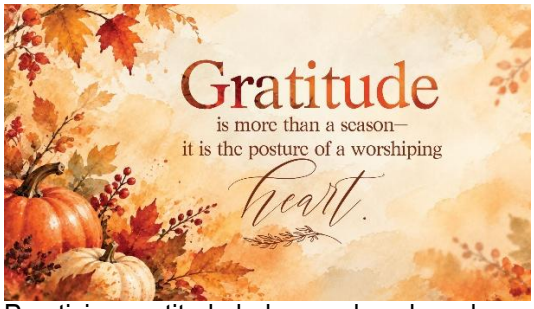
The Winters **Town Crier**

Winterstown United Methodist Church

November 2026

Volume 13, Issue 11

November Pastor's Message: Gratitude & Grace —



One of the signs of a healthy spiritual life is the habit of appreciation—the ability to notice and savor the small glimmers of goodness that brighten our days. These glimmers might be a kind word, a shared laugh, a moment of unexpected beauty, or a simple reminder that we are not alone. As Christians, we learn to recognize these moments not as insignificant details, but as glimpses of God's grace woven into our ordinary lives.

Practicing gratitude helps us slow down long enough to notice what God is already doing among us and around us. It does not mean ignoring our worries, minimizing our struggles, or pretending that life is always good. Rather, it helps us hold our difficulties alongside the goodness that remains. When anxiety draws our attention toward what might go wrong, gratitude gently turns our eyes toward the gifts, relationships, and signs of hope present today.

Over time, this becomes a holy habit: looking for God's goodness, giving thanks for it, and sharing that goodness with others. We begin to see appreciation as more than a feeling; it becomes a way of living our faith.

Perhaps this is one way we respond to God's prevenient grace—the love that reaches for us before we even recognize it. As we practice noticing the glimmers of grace in our everyday lives, we become more aware that God has been present all along. And the more we learn to recognize that grace, the more naturally we begin to reflect it in the way we live, serve, and love.

Consider the poem "Amen" by Rosemerry Wahtola Trommer. May her words invite us to pause, pay attention, and discover the sacred in the life we have been given.

As we move toward Thanksgiving, may we become a people who notice goodness, speak appreciation freely, and trust the grace that holds us. And may our gratitude become more than something we feel—it may become a way we live, serve, and share Christ's love with the world.

<><,

Pastor Erin

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Amen

Rosemerry Wahtola Trommer

When I forget that the whole world
is holy, even the tiny dark bugs
that slip through window screens
and flock and stick to kitchen lights,
even the charred black remains of forest,
even the river as it floods bright red,
even when my cheeks are tear-stained
and my body tightens with fear,
that is when a kind letter from a stranger
arrives in the mail, or the rabbit will stand
on his back legs to nibble on mint,
or the meadow will blaze with the day's
last slant of sunlight and my heart opens
so wide that inside the fear rises praise.

PRAYER list — Please Keep the Following in Your Prayers:

Pastor Erin Elong, Jean Felix, and family, Growing Friends, North Hopewell-Winterstown Elementary School, North Hopewell-Winterstown Volunteer Fire Company, Conference Superintendent Don Rowe, Glenn Grove, Dianna Henry, Barb Huson, Eva Miller, Sandie Rock, Steve & Barbara Taylor, Sandy Wallace, Donna Overmiller, Eunice & Randy Criswell, Betty Bolyard, Trevor & Lucas Gannon, Tabitha Gilbert, Bob & Lois Arsenault, Julie & Troy Hildebrand, June Windon, Bill Henry, Deb Henry, Nancy Forry, Diane Anderson, Linda Deardorff, Sam Cooley, Janet Vanderlipp, Susan, Jeannie, Holly, Lee, Colleen & Family, Becky, Paul & Family, Brandy & Family, Brad, Wynn, Lacey, Shirley & Deb, Candy Thompson, Grayson Gilbert, Nancy, Sue Peterman, Eunice's brother Jim, Julie Harrison, Ethel, Ed W, Rick's uncle Scott, Luke Martin, Rich, Betsy Enfield's SIL Joyce, Dwight & Marilyn Honecker, Janet Overmiller, Joe, Eileen McGowan, Judy, Conor, Tina, Alexandra, Cassandra, Junior, Jerry Eberly, Bob, Bella Wetzel, Rev. Keith Schmuck, Evans Winemiller, Kevin K., Cora & Harper, Wes Griffin, Ryan Span, Larry, Rob Horn, Faye and Monty Kinard and family, Bill Waldrup's brother, Deb's neighbor Jack, Grace Lemoyne Church, Maddie's mother, Nancy Grove, the Parsonage Rebuild project, Florida residents, Bill's nephew Jacob, Pastor Erin's stepdaughter Eden, Nicole's grandmother, Madi Waldrup, Sandra's neighbor's Joyce, Bill's coworker's mother, Bill's coworker's uncle-in-law, the family of Barry Beck, the family of Vivian (Chuck Peterman's aunt)



Growing Friends

Happy November!

As we enter this thankful month, we want to take a moment to thank our amazing families and supportive church families! Without your help in our fundraisers, we wouldn't be able to do some of the extras around the center!



This month the children will be learning about the following: Letters: G, H, I; Numbers: 7 & 8; Shape: Square; Color: Brown; Additional Themes: Thanksgiving, Indians/Pilgrims, Patterns, Scissor Skills

This month, there will be no school for our Red Lion children on: Monday, Nov. 2nd AND 3rd; Wednesday, November 25th through November 30th. Growing Friends is closed for the Thanksgiving break on Thursday, November 26th AND Friday, November 27th.



Our annual Thanksgiving lunch for the children will be on Thursday, November 19th at 11:30 in the All Purpose Room. If you would like to donate food items, see the daycare office door for the sign-up sheet. If you would like to come and help, let Heather or Danielle know. This is always a fun day here at the center as we get a chance to spend time all together enjoying a delicious meal! The children will have pie and ice cream in the afternoon when they return from school.

SCHOLASTIC BOOK ORDERS - If you would like to order books for your child, please order them by scanning the QR code by Thursday, November 19th. Payment for your order can also be made on the website. Books will be shipped to Growing Friends for free; however, if you choose to have the books shipped to your home, you will have to pay for shipping. If you want these books to be a surprise, please make a note of that on the forms or envelope that the payment is in. SAVE TIME – ORDER ONLINE – USE CODE HM46K



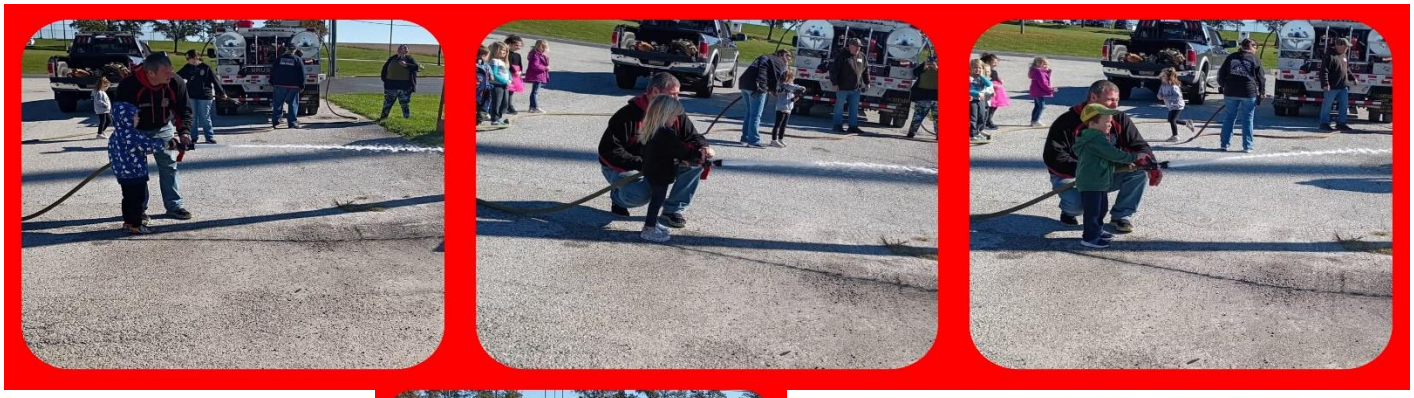
We are excited to announce our very first Dinner & A Show with Santa on Monday, November 30th! To reserve your spot, you can sign up through the Google sign-up sheet by scanning the QR code. Reservations and payment are due by or before November 9th. The price for admission is $10/adult and $5/child. This includes the cost of the show and a kid-friendly dinner. Families are welcome to invite Grandparents, Aunts, Uncles, Neighbors, anyone who believes in the magic of Christmas! Dinner will be available starting at 4:30, and the show will begin at 5 pm. We had Ken AKA Santa in over the summer to do magic with the children, and he did a wonderful job! He also came to our Maker's Market in October to do balloon animals, and this is when we learned more about his show. He will have special guests with him, including the elf on the shelf and a reindeer. When the show is over, families are welcome to get their picture taken with him. Please come out and join us as we kick off the magic of the holiday season! If you have any questions, feel free to reach out!

GF Staff news: This month, the following employees share their work anniversaries with us: November 3rd, Miss Jodi (5 years); November 24th, Ms. Carrie (1 year); November 26th, Ms. Darlene (7 years). Happy Birthday this month to Ms. Lorrie on November 7th.

FUNDRAISER NEWS: Thank you to Pastor Erin for setting up a table at our Marker's Market with her bubbles and blessings! Also, thank you to the church members who stopped by to say hi and visit our local vendors! This was a beautiful day, and we were glad to host this special event outside. This did take the place of the craft show we did in November in years past. With the busy holiday season, we will put our fundraising on pause and pick back up in the new year. Be sure to keep an eye out for our center wish list. Our wish list will go live closer to Thanksgiving. If you purchase something off our list, we will have Santa deliver it when he comes around to visit the kids during our Christmas party.



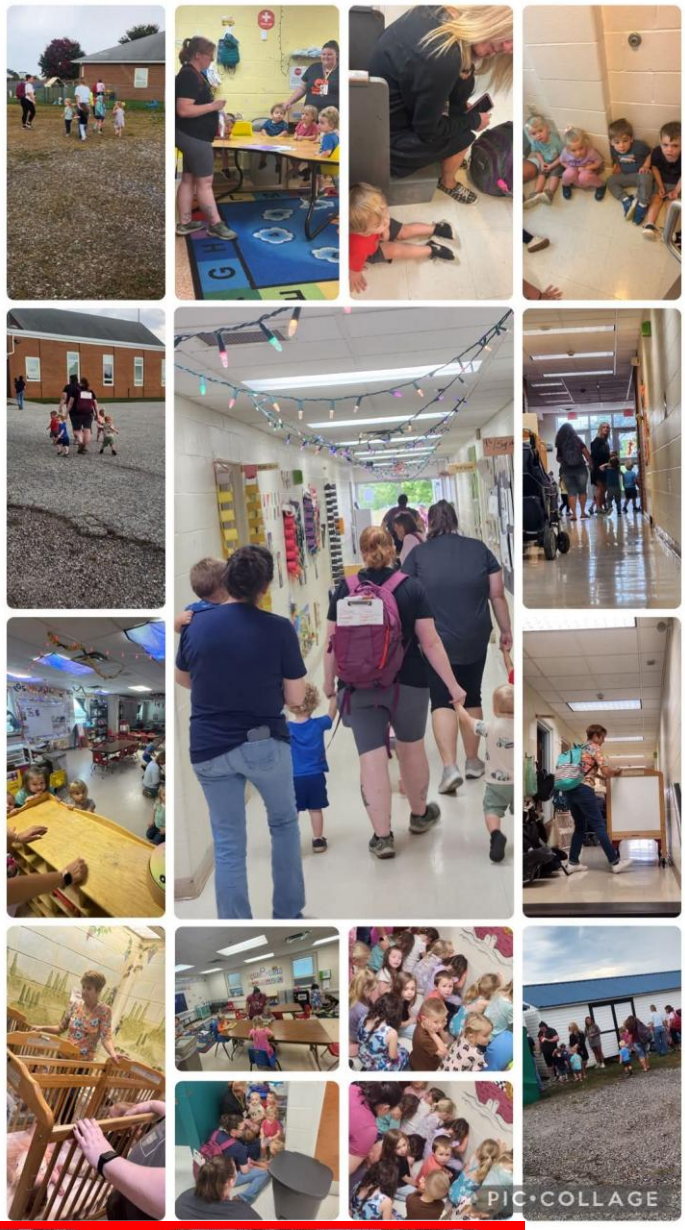
Much appreciation,
Ms. Danielle
Email us anytime at: GrowingFriendsChildCare@gmail.com
Call us: Monday - Friday, 6:00 am to 6:00 pm (717) 246-8017



Fire Safety







Child SAFETY drills



Leadership Team Meeting - September 21, 2026

Present: Buddy and Ann McGinnis, Gabe Hildebrand, Terri Laird, Dawn Burg, Connie Human, Pastor Erin, Bill and Tammy Waldrup, Bill Runkle and Joanna Gruver (Bethany Felton)

Prayer: The meeting opened with prayer offered by Dawn

Charge Conference: The meeting began with a short SPRC meeting by Ann. Items needed for discussion were completed, and the meeting closed. Charge Conference will be held on November 7th, 2026, at Bethany UM Church in Red Lion.

Dawn:

- Parsonage: A call between Pastor Erin, Dawn, and DS Rowe took place to clarify the amount of monies that were received for the fire at the parsonage.
- We would like to have an open house for the members of WUMC and Bethany UMC to see the new parsonage upon completion.
- So far, all is moving forward with the new build as planned.

Ann gave a brief report for Danielle for Growing Friends, in her absence.

- Confirming parking for the Makers Market
- All maintenance at this time is up to date.
- TVs in the all-purpose room will be installed soon.

Ann continued with her report:

- Since the trip to Sight and Sound was well received, with several requests to do it again, Ann was able to schedule another trip on July 17, 2027, to see Jonah. This will be on a Saturday; the bus will leave the church at 11 am, and we will stop for food at Hershey Farms. (This is served at the table, alleviating the buffet lines). The cost will be $170 pp, and a sign-up sheet will be on the board in the Narthex.
- Help is needed on Black Friday at 10 am to assist with decorating the church for Christmas. If you are able to use a ladder, we are requesting your assistance, please. A light lunch will follow the decorating.

In Carrie's absence, Ann has a brief report for her:

- Carrie has connected us with the Life Path ministry to get rid of clothing that we no longer need and other items as well. We now have a receptacle in our parking lot that we will ask to be repositioned to the front of the lot for all to see and make it easier for usage. You are able to take items directly to Life Path, and they will see that you receive a form to complete for taxes if you need this.
- Ann is asking if there would be interest in ordering WUMC T-Shirts again, for it has been several years since the last ones were ordered.

Gabe:

- As of this meeting, we are still in search of a new plumber to work with at the church.
- It was recommended that we ask for the key that Spangler and Boyer have to be returned to the church since we are no longer working with them.
- There was a leak at the washer/dryer area, and a leak at a toilet that was being corrected.
- The water test has failed, and Gabe is working on that.
- A window was reported to have a scratch on it; Gabe made sure it is not sharp and it will not cause any issues.

Pastor Erin:

- Handed out a shut-in list.
- She is checking into what help is available to assist the community with things requested. Maybe we can partner with Salvation Army to refer individuals in need.
- Annual Conference will be held from June 3rd to 5th. Dawn will go with Pastor, and if she is not able, then Ann will go.

Terri:

- In January, she will begin sending birthday cards and anniversary cards to the shut-ins. This year, since it's almost over, she will send just Thanksgiving and Christmas cards.
- The balance of the money being held in the Sr. Youth account will be voted on at conference and will be given to the church, with a small amount set aside for the next group of children that may be needed for Sr. Youth to start again.

Bill had no report at this meeting.

Tammy had no report at this meeting.

Connie:

- We are still behind in paying the Fair Shares, as the budget is still very low in funds.
- January will be the time to set a new budget.
- We are still having problems getting Pastor Erin a cc to use through Bank of America. We are searching for new alternatives.

The meeting was closed at 8:02 pm, with the next meeting scheduled for October 26th at 6 pm.

Respectfully Submitted

Dawn M. Burg, Secretary

Engage In Ministry

Be a Greeter

GREETERS



NEEDED

If you are interested, see Bob or Lois Arsenault!

Visit the Homebound

If you have a heart for visiting our folks who are homebound, then please let the office know you are willing to be a part of a visitation ministry. Your visits are a way for these people to experience love and to know their church family does not forget them.

Send information to:
adminassist@winterstownchurch.org
Or call (717) 244-1984

Grocery Gift Card Fundraiser

Orders due by the
2nd Sunday of the month
Grocery cards distributed
the 3rd week of the month

Tithes & Offerings

To give online one-time or for a recurring offering, you can use this QR code:



2026 Shares Of Ministry		2026 Shares Paid to Date	
Benevolent	$6,533.27	Benevolent	$0.00
Connectional	$9,722.90	Connectional	$0.00
Clergy	$10,468.72	Clergy	$0.00
TOTAL:	$26,724.89	TOTAL:	$0.00

The paid YTD numbers are through October 2026.
There were no payments made for the months of January through October 2026. The amount in arrears through October 2026 is $22,270.70.

Financial Standing

The month of September ended showing a year-to-date ordinary net LOSS of $20,045.06 for year 2026. This reflects the operating expenses exceeding the operating income year-to-date. The trend has shown that most individual months reflect more expenses than income. The months of September and October have reflected reduced amounts in the monthly offerings. The church maintenance expenses are running about 8% over the budgeted amount through September.

The 2026 Shares of Ministry have not been paid from January through October with payment in arrears of $22,270.70.
With the onset of colder weather comes additional expense for heating oil. The next oil delivery for the church is currently scheduled for November 29.

A new Electronic Security Fire System was installed in February at a total cost of $19,123 with a 30% down payment of $5,737 paid in February. Through October, we have made seven of the remaining twelve monthly payments of $1,115.50 per month. The remaining balance due as of the end of October is $5,577.50. This is a capitalized expense and not part of the operating budget. If you are interested in contributing to help pay this expense, donations can be designated to the Capital Fund and included along with your Sunday tithes or offering.

Thank you for the sharing of your time, service, and financial support as we work to make disciples of Jesus Christ and help all persons Encounter God, Experience Love, and Engage in Ministry.

United Women in Faith

The United Women in Faith had a great time at their October meeting making no-sew flannel blankets which were donated to CHOPs and Hershey Medical Center's children's department. Thanks for all your help.

COMING UP: November 9th, Thank Offering program.

December 14th @ 6 pm. Our Christmas Party with dinner and entertainment by the Sony Side Gang singers. Everyone is invited! Please use the sign-up sheet on the APR bulletin board.

Missions & Outreach:

We are collecting Thanksgiving Food items for Stewartstown Food Pantry through Sunday, November 8th, 2026. Please see the list posted in the narthex for items to donate.

Watch your bulletins for information on our upcoming November/December Holiday collections!



Our Season of Blessing

On Sunday, November 8, our church leadership will share a report from our annual church conference during a special church family meeting in worship. We will celebrate how God has blessed us, take an honest look at the financial needs of our church, and consider how we can be a blessing to others through our generosity.

This season invites each of us to prayerfully consider giving. During this season, we will bring back the passing of the offering plate in worship for the first time since COVID—a simple but meaningful reminder that giving is something we do together, as a community of faith, in gratitude for all God has given us.

More information and guidance will be shared as we begin this journey together. May Our Season of Blessing be a time of honest conversation, renewed commitment, and generous hearts as we care for our church and continue sharing Christ's love with the world.

6th – Larry Anderson
13th – Betty Saylor
19th – Brodie Smith
20th – Linda Deardorff
23rd – Brian Laird
23rd – Hazel Rusonis
28th – Dan Shenberger





11/2	Orwig, Danielle & Brian	13 years

November 2026 Volunteers

Greeters:	Counter Coordinator:	Sound & Media Shout Coordinator:	Sunday School Coordinator:	Greeter Coordinators:
Sherri Fosbenner	Brian H.	Bill W.	Tammy W.	Bob & Lois Arsenault

Liturgist	Counters	Sound & Media Shout	Sunday School Teachers & Helpers
11/1 – Linda A.	11/1 - Dawn B. & Terri L.	11/1 – Buddy M. & Brian H.	11/1 - No Sunday School
11/8 – Bill W.	11/8 - Richard J. & Brian H.	11/8 – Dawson G. & Dawn B.	11/8 – Sherri F. & Tabitha G.
11/15 – Madi W.	11/15 - Deb S. & Brian H.	11/15 - Quinn W. & Amanda L.	11/15 – Joy H. & Ann M.
11/22 – Dawn B.	11/22 - Dawn B. & Terri L.	11/22 – Bill W. & Tammy W.	11/22 – Eunice C. & Linda A.
11/29 – Eunice C.	11/29 - Richard J. & Brian H.	11/29 - Buddy M. & Brian H.	11/29 – Tammy W. & Ann M.

If you are interested in serving as a liturgist during Sunday services, please contact the office at 717-244-1984 or send an email to adminassist@winterstownchurch.org

Worship Service 10:30 AM

*APR: All Purpose Room



November

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
1 **All Saint's Day COMMUNION** Bethany Felton Worship - 9:15AM Adult Sunday School - 9:15AM Worship - 10:30AM	2	3  Simply Loved – 3:30PM	4  Small Gathering - 10:00AM Choir Practice – 7:00PM	5 Praise Band Practice -7:00PM	6	7  Charge Conference at Bethany Felton UMC: Red Lion – 2:00PM
8 **24th Sunday After Pentecost** Bethany Felton Worship- 9:15AM Adult Sunday School - 9:15AM Worship - 10:30AM Children's Sunday School ~10:45AM	9 United Women in Faith – 7:00PM	10 Lunch Bunch Brunch @ Lion's Pride - 11:30AM Jolly Timers @ Bethany Felton - 2:00PM Simply Loved – 3:30PM	11 **Veterans Day** Small Gathering - 10:00AM Choir Practice – 7:00PM	12 Praise Band Practice -7:00PM	13	14 **APR Private Event** 11AM-8PM
15 **25th Sunday after Pentecost** Bethany Felton Worship- 9:15AM Adult Sunday School - 9:15AM Worship - 10:30AM Children's Sunday School ~10:45AM **APR Private Event** 12PM- 4PM	16	17 Simply Loved – 3:30PM	18 Small Gathering - 10:00AM Choir Practice – 7:00PM	19 **APR Private Event** – All day  @Lion's Pride – 8:30AM Praise Band Practice -7:00PM	20	21 **APR Private Event** 11AM-4PM
22 **Christ the King Sunday** Bethany Felton Worship- 9:15AM Adult Sunday School - 9:15AM Worship - 10:30AM Children's Sunday School ~10:45AM	23	24 Simply Loved – 3:30PM	25 Small Gathering - 10:00AM Choir Practice – 7:00PM	26 Growing Friends Closed  	27 Growing Friends Closed  Christmas Decorating - 10AM	28
29 **1st Sunday of Advent** Bethany Felton Worship- 9:15AM Adult Sunday School - 9:15AM Worship - 10:30AM Children's Sunday School ~10:45AM	30	**A Reason to Give Thanks** After Eddie Rickenbacker and his companions were rescued after more than three weeks adrift in life rafts in the Pacific, he was asked what lesson he had learned from the ordeal. He answered that anyone with plenty of fresh water to drink and enough food to eat should never complain. His words still speak clearly today. Many blessings can become so familiar that we barely notice them. This Thanksgiving, pause to give thanks for clean water, nourishing food, a safe place to rest, and the people God has placed in your life. Let gratitude continue long after the holiday table is cleared. – churchart.com				