



GOOD NEWS FROM YOUR CHURCH

The Newsletter of The Presbyterian Church at Woodbury

November 4, 2025
Volume 62, Issue 10

SUNDAY

November 9, 2025

10:00 A.M.

WORSHIP SERVICE

Children's Sunday School

11:00 AM

Coffee and Fellowship

11:15 AM

Adult Sunday School

SUNDAY

November 16, 2025

10:00 A.M.

WORSHIP SERVICE

Children's Sunday School

11:00 AM

Coffee and Fellowship

11:15 AM

Adult Sunday School

SUNDAY -

November 23, 2025

10:00 A.M.

WORSHIP SERVICE

Children's Sunday School

11:00 AM

Coffee and Fellowship

11:15 AM

Adult Sunday School

SUNDAY

November 30, 2025

10:00 A.M.

WORSHIP SERVICE

11:00 AM

Advent Christmas Party

Wreath Making

Dee's Alternative Gift Market

From the Pastor...

PASSING OF THE PEACE

Now that we are well beyond the pandemic and know how to deal with Covid, the Session of the Presbyterian Church will be bringing back a more authentic "passing of the peace" during worship. The passing of the peace has become one of the most misunderstood elements of Presbyterian worship services. We often do not associate any deeper meaning to the practice other than the fact that it gives us a chance to greet old friends or new attendees and gives us introverts a chance to feel thoroughly uncomfortable. But this has not always been the case. The passing of the peace has been a central element of the Christian tradition almost as long as there has been a Christian tradition.

A common instruction from Paul to his audience is that they are to "Greet one another with a holy kiss." This was the greeting that Paul and Peter instructed their Christian audiences to bestow on fellow believers. The kiss was a common greeting in Rome and Greece, but Paul characterizes this kiss as holy because it represents the purest form of Christian love: *one that wishes for the peace of Christ to be passed on to all in their community*. In some of the places that Paul and other Christians were living, they were not welcomed or met with any form of peace. On the contrary, they were often persecuted and cast out by those who did not share in their faith. Thus, the kiss of peace between believers acknowledged the embracing of a new community and the hope that God would send his peace to be among them.

Over time, the passing of the peace has lost much of its significance in our contemporary worship services. It has unfortunately been reduced to another opportunity to catch up with friends or greet those who we have not yet been introduced to. Of course, I do not mean to say that there should be no time on Sunday in which we converse with the members and guests of our congregation; for this aspect of community is also an important part of our worship. However, this is not the aim that the passing of the peace is meant to serve. Rather, it is a sacred extension of the grace that Christ offers, and an expression of the values that we wish to define our community. Specifically, each Sunday beginning on November 30, 2025, the liturgist will be inviting worshippers to briefly "pass the peace" of Christ **to those directly seated around them** thus keeping our worship time "decent and in order" with a focus upon being part of God's community.

So instead of reducing the passing of the peace to a simple greeting, let us take the opportunity to thoughtfully reflect on the sacred practice that has been passed down to us by our Christian sisters and brothers who have gone before us. Let us embrace the peace and grace that has been lovingly extended to us by our Lord, and offer that same peace to those who we worship alongside.

*May the peace of our Lord Jesus
Christ be with you.
And also with you.*

In the grace of God, let us offer peace to one another. And as you pass that peace, we invite you to share one way in which you will demonstrate the love of Christ to a neighbor this week.

In Christ,
Rev. Dr. Philip W. Oehler, Sr.
Minister of Word & Sacrament



ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL: We are doing a 19 week study of John Bunyan's classic book, The Pilgrims Progress...a guided tour...this book which was written over 300 years ago in prison is one of the most widely-circulated books to be published in the English language. This book has influenced countless peoples of all ages and cultures. We will be using a DVD program 23 minutes long led by Dr. Derek Thomas, a Ligonier teaching fellow. We will follow up the teaching with a lively discussion. The path of the Christian life is riddled with many trials, dangers, and obstacles as Christian (the main character) journeys to the Celestial City and is graced by God's love and faithfulness. We too will be graced as we journey together in this very timely and practical study. All are welcome!



ADVENT CHRISTMAS PARTY

Sunday, November 30th - Immediately following 10am worship Advent wreath making, crafts and lunch will be provided. Bring clippers and additional greens if you will be making an Advent wreath (some greens will be provided). The sign-up poster is in the Chapel.

MISSION GIFT CARDS: The Mission Task Force is asking for monetary donations so they can supply gift cards to the homeless in our neighborhood. You can drop off checks or cash to the church office.

POINSETTIAS: Order forms for Christmas poinsettias have been mailed this week to previous donors. If you would like to place an order and have not received a form, please call the church office. Checks should be made payable to the "Flower Fund." **Forms are due back November 30th.**



COMMUNITY DINNER

November 13 - 5:30 PM

HELP AND FOOD ITEMS NEEDED: Volunteers are needed to help in the kitchen, clean up and to provide dessert for the Community Dinner. Please sign up or call the church office if you can help.

DEACON NEWS: Please help the Deacon's with their two Back to School Ministries:

- Local Hospital Donations: You can help by donating crayons, coloring books, Puzzles and Kid's Books.
- West End Elementary School: Donations of Socks, Underwear, Sweat Pants and Shorts for boys and girls in grades Pre-K to 5.

There is a bin on the Deacon's Table in the chapel where you can leave your donations.

Dee's Alternative Christmas Market:

November 30, December 7 & 14

Dee's Market has been a way to honor Dee Tanzola's love of the Christ-child and support local, national and international ministries. Please consider donating to one of the following ministries: Prison Ministries, Community Dinner, Peru Ministries and World Vision and share these as a gift with a friend or family member.

PLEDGE CARDS: Thank you to all who have turned in their pledge cards for 2026. If you have not yet done so, please mail or drop them off to the church office or email your pledge to Kathi Lynch at kathi.lynch@pcwoodbury.com.



REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS: A reminder to keep our military personnel in your prayers, including Nathan Wadding, Cameron Wadding, Jarrod Fetty, and Wesley Tatham.

