



OPEN HEARTS • OPEN MINDS • OPEN DOORS

The APPLESEED

NOVEMBER 2019 NEWSLETTER

FROM MEMBERSHIP TO DISCIPLESHIP

FROM CARING TO COMMITMENT WITH GOD'S WISDOM

Commit your works to the Lord and your plans will be established – Proverbs 16:3

The month of November is primarily known for the Thanksgiving holiday, a special time when families gather to celebrate with feasting and fellowship. It is also a special time for younger people to connect deeply with their families, who are still blessed with the love of God. It is a time of a family's commitment to every member, with elders showing the younger ones the family's identity, and being spiritual and social role models for them; it is also a time of remembrance for saints who were lost since last Thanksgiving. Wisdom, as described in *Proverbs 8*, shows us the right and best way to live.

We always question our commitment to any group or organization we are part of. I will use the example of church as a place we choose to belong to, but somehow might not be fully committed to its purpose – being together, believing that a church is a gift from God to mankind. It is spiritually tied to the first group of people who were anointed by the Holy Spirit, according to the Bible. The wisdom of the Holy Spirit blessed those who were present, and the Word of God went out from there – in modern terms, God's Word "*went viral*." We believe that God has brought people into a deep relationship with Jesus Christ in order to minister to the poor, to heal and strengthen individuals, to care for the sick, to clothe the less fortunate; it is also there to encourage others in the faith, equipping young people and sustaining the proclamation of the gospel of Jesus the Christ.

Our church is one of many local churches which has a deep responsibility to our community, beyond maintaining a relationship with God. We are instructed to share His grace with mankind. For this reason, God needs many people, people like you and me. We each have different gifts and grace, which we are given according to the deeds we can commit to and faithfully fulfill. Being in a group of people such as a church, our commitment is surely needed, whether performing a specific church role or by attending worship faithfully. Our church needs our commitment to giving as well – giving monetary support, as in pledging for the year ahead, or choosing to donate to support one of several missions. We might commit to giving canned food to the Inter-Church Food Pantry or to F.I.S.H, or to giving in support of our own Church Door Ministry. Giving our time, by praying for our church and our projects, and by attending Sunday worship, is also an important commitment. People of God commit to following their convictions as an expression of their faith in God.

Whether signing up to support ministries of our choice, or by volunteering in church, commitment is part of the package. It may seem different for everyone, but everyone who accepts the package receives its hidden blessings. Our lives, and those of our families, even lives of those we never meet, will be transformed when we commit with our best intentions, rooted in our love of Christ. God's wisdom brings unity, love, peace, kindness, and all fruits of the Spirit. John Wesley, our denomination's founder, was fascinated by the transformative moral and social power of God's wisdom. He referred in his journal to Proverbs 3:17, the peace from following God's wisdom. Wisdom and commitment bring happiness to those who chose to be happy, in church and in life. *His word is the lamp unto our feet and light to our path.*

With commitment to my convictions and to our church,
Shalom,

FAMILY ADVENT PARTY

SAVE THE DATE!

Friday, December 20, 2019, 6:00 pm
in Epworthian Hall
Info: Carol Wegner 707-829-8267
or 707-479-4800
carolwegner@yahoo.com

SATURDAY TABLE

We provide a monthly hot meal for our neighbors in need. Contributions of food and time are greatly appreciated. Can you help us with setup, serving, and/or clean-up? Can you provide food? Please sign up on the Saturday Table sheet in Epworthian Hall – Vi Moir and the team thank you!

- **November Saturday Table is 11/23** •
- **December Saturday Table is 12/28** •

WOMEN'S STUDY GROUP

The November meeting will be
Saturday, November 9 at 10:00 a.m.
at the home of Carol Wegner
1459 Laguna Rd., Santa Rosa 95401
INFO: 707-829-8267 or 707-479-4800
carolwegner@yahoo.com

We continue our study of *Messy People of the Bible*.

OLD WORLD CAROLERS

SAVE THE DATE!

Saturday, December 7, 2019
Old World Carolers — Holiday program
in our Sanctuary
Info: Barbara Stranzl 707-829-9323
blstranzl@gmail.com

GOLDEN RULE

Golden Rule meets on the second and fourth Thursdays of each month from 11:30 am to 1:00 pm in Epworthian Hall. We share a potluck meal and discuss religious and philosophical issues of mutual interest.

For info please contact the church office.

Next Meetings: 11/14 • 11/28 • 12/12

EGG CARTONS FOR THE SEBASTOPOL INTER-CHURCH FOOD PANTRY

Thank you to everyone who once again donates clean, empty egg cartons for the Sebastopol Inter-Church Food Pantry! Hens are laying, so your cartons are needed and appreciated. Drop them off at the SCRIP table in Epworthian Hall on Sundays during Fellowship Hour. **THANK YOU.**

NOVEMBER WORSHIP LEADERS

- 11/3 Arthur George
- 11/10 Julie Barbic
- 11/17 Matt Witteman
- 11/24 Beth Wakelee
- 12/1 Vicky Ness

THANKSGIVING FOOD DRIVE

Our Thanksgiving Food Drive for the Sebastopol Inter-Church Food Pantry begins November 3rd. Donations may be placed on the altar on Sundays, and then will be delivered to the Pantry after worship on November 24th.

Suggested packaged foods are tuna, canned fruits and vegetables, rice, beans, pasta, pasta sauce, soups, and cereals — and canned pumpkin and cranberry sauce are much appreciated!

Thank you – Karen Bohn

SEBASTOPOL INTER-CHURCH FOOD PANTRY

Are you looking for hands-on service to others? The Sebastopol Inter-Church Food Pantry needs more volunteers. Weekday **VOLUNTEERS** work 2-hour shifts on Mondays, Wednesdays, or Fridays from 10 am to noon. Volunteers work in teams of 3 and take orders by phone and pack boxes of food at the Pantry, which is located to the rear of St Stephen's Episcopal Church, 500 Robinson Road, Sebastopol. Call the volunteer coordinator, Nancy Davison, at 707-823-9771 for more information.

SHOPPERS work in 2-person teams to pick up orders of food from the Redwood Empire Food Bank, usually on Tuesdays. Call the shopper coordinator, Mary McAuley, at 707-824-8685 for more information, or talk to our volunteers Pastor Iunisi, Pat Schoch, Paul Schoch, or Karen Bohn.

THANK YOU – Karen Bohn.

A HOLIDAY CONCERT UNDER THE DOME

– **SAVE THE DATE** –

“A Gift of Holiday Music”

Sunday, December 22 – 2:00 pm
in our Sanctuary

Take a break from wrapping gifts and baking cookies to enjoy SebUMC Director of Music Jim Johnson and Special Guest Artists performing popular songs of the Christmas season.

Watch for details in upcoming bulletins and in the December Appleseed or contact Arthur George artgeorge74@gmail.com

HOLIDAY DECORATIONS

Would you like to help Martha Wade festoon our Sanctuary in glorious Holiday finery? Please come join us on **Saturday, November 30 at 10:30 a.m.**

See bulletins for more information

CHRISTMAS PAGEANT

Sunday, December 15 during Worship
our delightful Pageant returns!

DECEMBER WOMEN'S STUDY EVENT

*Christmas Brunch at Claire Reed's
and Caroling in town*
**Saturday, December 14... more info coming
in bulletins and the December newsletter**

AMAZING WAYS TO USE SCRIP

As we all know, our church is looking for ways to increase our income. An overlooked way is using scrip when making major purchases, such as appliances, remodeling supplies, furniture, even gasoline, travel vacations, and more. For instance, we can buy cards for Amazon (2.25%), Walmart (2.5%), Princess Cruises (8%), CostPlus (7%), Gap (14%) – almost everything. If you Google “glsc” (that stands for Great Lakes Scrip Center), you can peruse the entire retail list. It’s amazing. Try it. For questions, ask Pat Schoch, 707-823-3889, or talk to Susan Kinder, who has used it a couple of times.

– Pat Schoch

Thanksgiving Blessings to You

2019 ALTERNATIVE GIVING

This Christmas holiday season, please consider giving family and friends an alternative gift. As has been our practice for a number of years, the Mission Team will make it possible to donate to 3 different needy causes, and you will receive a Christmas card to be used to describe the cause to the recipient. The Mission Team will be in Epworthian Hall after worship on December 1, 8, and 15 to accept your donations and to provide more information about each cause. This year’s program causes are:

HEIFER PROJECT INTERNATIONAL

Heifer Project International has been operating for 70 years. Their mission is to work with communities to end hunger and poverty around the world. They are currently working in 25 countries. You can make a general donation to a variety of projects, or choose a meaningful gift that will give needy families appropriate training in farming and animal care that help them become self-reliant. A hallmark of their program is that families share the training they receive, and pass on the first female offspring of their gifted livestock to another family. For more information, see www.heifer.org.

HABITAT FOR HUMANITY SONOMA COUNTY

*Recovery programs
in response to devastating wildfires*

In the immediate months after the Sonoma County fires*, Habitat’s ReStore provided over \$400,000 in home goods

and services to survivors. Habitat collaborated with the Rebuild NorthBay Foundation to rebuild one mile of common fencing for two decimated subdivisions. And, Habitat For Humanity of Sonoma County is providing temporary housing for fire survivors, and dramatically increasing the number of affordable permanent homes we create to help rebuild our community.

SEBASTOPOL UMC’S CHURCH DOOR MINISTRY

Church Door donations support SUMC’s work with the Sebastopol homeless population. These funds help buy needed items for the “Church Door” bags we distribute and pay for sleeping bags, socks, and rain ponchos for those in need. We also help purchase laundry vouchers which are distributed to the homeless. Some needed items for our monthly Saturday Table pasta lunch for the community are purchased as well.

In addition to Alternative Giving, the Mission Team is once again collecting cold-weather items such as socks, hats, and warm jackets for the disadvantaged. Bins will be available for these donations in Epworthian Hall throughout December.

– Vicky Amtower, Mission Team Chair

* Editor’s note: since this article was submitted, we have experienced another devastating fire in our county. Your support of Habitat For Humanity’s program, as well as your contributions of Winter clothing and donations for the Church Door fund, will really help our neighbors in need. *Thank you* (Ann R.)

DAILY READINGS NOVEMBER 2019

- **Friday, November 1, 2019: All Saints Day**
- **Saturday, November 2, 2019:** Psalm 119:137-144; Habakkuk 2:5-11; John 8:39-47
OR Psalm 32:1-7; Isaiah 1:1-9; John 8:39-47
- **Sunday, November 3, 2019: Proper 26 (31)**
- **Monday, November 4, 2019:** Psalm 142; Habakkuk 2:12-20; 1 Corinthians 5:9-13
OR Psalm 50; Nehemiah 13:1-3, 23-31; 1 Corinthians 5:9-13
- **Tuesday, November 5, 2019:** Psalm 142; Habakkuk 3:1-16; Jude 1:5-21
OR Psalm 50; Zechariah 7:1-14; Jude 1:5-21
- **Wednesday, November 6, 2019:** Psalm 142; Habakkuk 3:17-19; Luke 19:11-27
OR Psalm 50; Amos 5:12-24; Luke 19:11-27
- **Thursday, November 7, 2019:** Psalm 145:1-5, 17-21; Zechariah 1:1-17; Acts 22:22-23:11
OR Psalm 17:1-9; Deuteronomy 25:5-10; Acts 22:22-23:11
- **Friday, November 8, 2019:** Psalm 145:1-5, 17-21; Zechariah 6:9-15; Acts 24:10-23
OR Psalm 17:1-9; Genesis 38:1-26; Acts 24:10-23
- **Saturday, November 9, 2019:** Psalm 145:1-5, 17-21; Haggai 1:1-15a; Luke 20:1-8
OR Psalm 17:1-9; Exodus 3:13-20; Luke 20:1-8
- **Sunday, November 10, 2019: Proper 27 (32)**
- **Monday, November 11, 2019:** Psalm 98; Haggai 2:10-19; 2 Peter 1:16-21
OR Psalm 123; Job 20:1-11; 2 Peter 1:16-21
- **Tuesday, November 12, 2019:** Psalm 98; Haggai 2:20-23; 2 John 1:1-13
OR Psalm 123; Job 21:1, 17-34; 2 John 1:1-13
- **Wednesday, November 13, 2019:** Psalm 98; Zechariah 8:1-17; John 5:19-29
OR Psalm 123; Job 25:1-26:14; John 5:19-29
- **Thursday, November 14, 2019:** Isaiah 12; Isaiah 57:14-21; Romans 1:18-25
OR Psalm 98; 1 Samuel 28:3-19; Romans 1:18-25
- **Friday, November 15, 2019:** Isaiah 12; Isaiah 59:1-15a; 2 Thessalonians 1:3-12
OR Psalm 98; 2 Samuel 21:1-14; 2 Thessalonians 1:3-12
- **Saturday, November 16, 2019:** Isaiah 12; Isaiah 59:15b-21; Luke 17:20-37
OR Psalm 98; Ezekiel 10:1-19; Luke 17:20-37
- **Sunday, November 17, 2019: Proper 28 (33)**
- **Monday, November 18, 2019:** Psalm 76; Isaiah 60:17-22; Ephesians 4:25-5:2
OR Psalm 141; Ezekiel 11:14-25; Ephesians 4:25-5:2
- **Tuesday, November 19, 2019:** Psalm 76; Isaiah 66:1-13; 1 Corinthians 10:23-11:1
OR Psalm 141; Ezekiel 39:21-40:4; 1 Corinthians 10:23-11:1
- **Wednesday, November 20, 2019:** Psalm 76; Isaiah 66:14-24; Matthew 23:37-24:14
OR Psalm 141; Ezekiel 43:1-12; Matthew 23:37-24:14
- **Thursday, November 21, 2019:** Luke 1:68-79; Jeremiah 21:1-14; Hebrews 9:23-28
OR Psalm 46; 2 Chronicles 18:12-22; Hebrews 9:23-28
- **Friday, November 22, 2019:** Luke 1:68-79; Jeremiah 22:1-17; 1 Peter 1:3-9
OR Psalm 46; Zechariah 11:1-17; 1 Peter 1:3-9
- **Saturday, November 23, 2019:** Luke 1:68-79; Jeremiah 22:18-30; Luke 18:15-17
OR Psalm 46; Jeremiah 22:18-30; Luke 18:15-17
- **Sunday, November 24, 2019: Reign of Christ - Proper 29 (34)**
- **Monday, November 25, 2019:** Psalm 117; Jeremiah 30:1-17; Revelation 21:5-27
OR Psalm 24; Jeremiah 46:18-28; Revelation 21:5-27
- **Tuesday, November 26, 2019:** Psalm 117; Jeremiah 30:18-24; Revelation 22:8-21
OR Psalm 24; Isaiah 33:17-22; Revelation 22:8-21
- **Wednesday, November 27, 2019:** Psalm 117; Jeremiah 31:1-6; Luke 1:1-4
OR Psalm 24; Isaiah 60:8-16; Luke 1:1-4
- **Thursday, November 28, 2019:** Psalm 122; Daniel 9:15-19; James 4:1-10
- **Friday, November 29, 2019:** Psalm 122; Genesis 6:1-10; Hebrews 11:1-7
- **Saturday, November 30, 2019:** Psalm 122; Genesis 6:11-22; Matthew 24:1-22
- **Sunday, December 1, 2019: First Sunday of Advent**



NOVEMBER 2019

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
CLOCKS TURN BACK SUNDAY 11/3 					1 Open Prayer 12-1pm ALL SAINTS DAY	2 ALL SOULS DAY
3 Worship 10:30 COMMUNION ALL SAINTS SUNDAY	4	5	6 Centering Prayer 12-1pm Sanctuary	7 Advent Study Group 2:30 (session 4 of 4)	8 Open Prayer 12-1pm Sanctuary	9 Women's Study Group
10 Worship 10:30	11	12 	13 Centering Prayer 12-1pm Sanctuary	14 Mission Team Golden Rule	15 Open Prayer 12-1pm Sanctuary	16
17 Worship 10:30 2020 PLEDGES ARE DUE	18 LITURGICAL YEAR A BEGINS	19	20 Centering Prayer 12-1pm Sanctuary	21	22 Open Prayer 12-1pm Sanctuary	23 Saturday Table
24 Worship 10:30 CHRIST THE KING SUNDAY	25	26	27 Centering Prayer 12-1pm Sanctuary	28 Golden Rule THANKSGIVING DAY	29 Open Prayer 12-1pm Sanctuary	30 10:30 a.m. Sanctuary Decorations

WE ARE TRULY THANKFUL

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BLESS THE FIREFIGHTERS & RESPONDERS