

November Messenger 2024

First United Methodist Church of East Peoria

154 E. Washington Street, East Peoria, IL 61611

Phone 309-699-5417

Visit Us Online at www.epfumc.com

E-mail: Office@epfumc.org

♥ *Loving God* ♥ *Loving Others* ♥ *Living Our Faith*



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November 2024

Theme for 2024: "Looking Back, Moving Forward!" Isaiah 43: 18- 19.
"Forget the former things; do not dwell on the past. See I am doing a new thing!"

Happy Grateful Month! This is what November should be called. We have certain months being labeled and celebrated but what month do we give to God? Are we truly grateful to God for our life, our family, our home, our things? November is one of those months that falls between Halloween and Christmas. It is a month that is often side stepped to get to Christmas. But can we truly get to Christmas if we miss being grateful?

I have some friends that focus on social media of naming one thing every day of November that they are grateful. If you don't do social media, how about writing them in your calendar, in a journal, in your Bible?

I believe that when our hearts are full of gratitude, we look at life so much differently. We begin to see each day as a gift from God! We need to be more deliberate in our day of how we share, how we live, and how we spend our time with God and each other.

Take time this month to be with God, be with family, and be with friends! 1 Thessalonians reminds us of our final instructions from Paul that really came from Jesus! "Therefore encourage one another and build each other up, just as in fact you are doing. Now we ask you, brothers and sisters, to respect those who work hard among you, who are over you in the Lord and who admonish you. Hold them in the highest regard in love because of their work. Live in peace with each other. And we urge you, brothers and sisters, warn those who are idle, encourage the timid, help the weak, be patient with everyone. Make sure that nobody pays back wrong for wrong, but always try to be kind to each other and to everyone else. Be joyful always; pray continually; give thanks in all circumstances for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus."

Thankfulness and gratefulness comes out of our time with the Lord. May this November be one that our focus is in the right place and our hearts are clean before God!

With you on the Way! *Pastor Krista*

I truly appreciated all of the kind words, cards, and gifts I received for Pastor Appreciation. This Church has never been short on showing God's Love and I feel appreciated all year long!
 Pastor Krista

Advent Study
 "Advent Conspiracy"
 Making Christmas meaningful (again)
 Tuesdays, Nov 26 - Dec 17
 Either 10:00am or 6:00pm
 Please sign up in the Foyer.
 Books are \$10 each

Altar Flower Dedications

Nov 3 - In memory of all those we have lost!
Phil Minear

Nov 10 - In honor of all Veterans!
Chuck & Faye Pierman

Nov 17 - Celebrating 9 wonderful years of marriage!
Barry & Ashleigh Lane

Nov 24 - Celebrating 36 wonderful years of marriage!
Steve & Susie Hoskins

Choir Practice

Starting Nov 4th the Choir will meet every Monday night at 6:00pm through Dec 16th. Please mark your calendar and come as often as you can.

UWF Schedule

Nov 20— Executive Committee Meeting 10:00am
Ruth Fellowship 1:00pm
Hostess: Cindy Eubank

Men's Prayer Breakfast

The Men's Prayer Breakfast meets on the 2nd Saturday of every month. (Nov 9th) at 8:00 am at the 520 Café located at 520 Bloomington Road in East Peoria. Please let Chuck Pierman know if you will be attending and he will reserve a seat for you.

All Saints Sunday

We will be celebrating all who have gone before us this past year at a special service of remembrance on Sunday, November 3rd, at 9:00 a.m.

Scrap Booking Party

If you are a scrap booker, greeting card maker or anything in this line of crafting there is a weekend planned for you! Come and go as you please.

Fri, Nov 15, 6:00pm - midnight

Sat, Nov 16, 9:00am - midnight

Sun, Nov 17, 11:00am - 5:00pm

Cost is just \$5 per day and a snack to share. Saturday evening the main dish will be provided, a pork shoulder, and we ask that you bring a side dish.

Please rsvp by Nov 12 so we can have enough tables for everyone! Contact Melissa Earle for more information.

Santa Claus Needed!

Leap of Faith is looking for someone to play Santa Claus during their Christmas Party on Friday, December 20th from 2:30-4:00 pm. Please let the Office or Leap of Faith know if you are interested.

November Sermon Series: Around the Table

Nov 3 - Don't Judge

Nov 10 - The Open Chair

Nov 17 - Why Do We Gather

Nov 24 - A Service of Thanks

Thank You Church

Thank you for your prayers, kind thoughts, and generous gift to help with my flood recovery. This whole chapter, in my life, has taught me the true compassion of my Christian Family. Carol and Les Leach have been with me daily being the hands and feet of our Great God. My Pastor here in Florida prayed Sunday for the "Lord to Remove the Sludge in our Souls, and the Muck in our Minds." That pretty much sums it up. Our city has been so severely damaged in these two Hurricanes. My Church has been flooded so horribly that they have lost all of their books, furniture, tables, chairs, kitchen appliances, etc and yet the people are out helping others with their recovery. As Mother Nature has dealt us a huge blow, the Love of God has been daily shown.

Thank you again

Sharon Johnston, former Church Secretary

Snack Pacs 2024-2025

We have had a great start to this Snack Pac season!! Currently, we are packing 175 bags a week that are delivered to Bolin, Lincoln and Shute schools in District 86. The need is real!!

The Snack Pac crew would like to request donations of individual packets of instant oatmeal and individual hot chocolate packets. We have been unable to get oatmeal packets from Midwest so far and oatmeal is one of our staples. We also like to give hot chocolate packets as a special treat during the colder months. As always, your support is greatly appreciated.

Jim, Jamie and Byron

Christmas Poinsettias

If you would like to purchase Poinsettias for the Christmas Services at Church we will have a table set up November 10th and 17th. You can fill out this attached form and bring it with you, or mail it into the Church with payment. The cost will be \$15.00 per plant. Please enclose payment with form, make your check payable to the First United Methodist Church. Plants may be picked up after the Christmas Eve Service or in the office on Friday, December 27th.

Name _____

Phone _____

_____ # ordered = \$ _____

In honor of:

In memory of:

Shop & Stroll

The East Peoria Shop & Stroll is Saturday, Dec. 7th from noon till 3:00 pm. We are looking for vendors! If you, or someone you know, is a crafter / vendor and would like to set up a table please let the Office know. Santa Claus is already lined up to be in our Church that day!

Congratulations!

Alan and Rosie Astle have welcomed their 4th great grandchild! Landon Ian Astle was born to Ian and Kayla Astle. Grandpa is Mark Astle.

Sympathies

Neva Sharp passed away on Sunday, September 22nd. Please keep her daughter, Nancy Brooks, and her family and friends in your thoughts and prayers.

Betty Stull passed away on October 16th very unexpectedly. Please join us in keeping Betty's friends and family in your prayer.

Upper Room Subscriptions

It's time to order subscriptions to the 2025 issues of the "Upper Room - Daily Devotional Guide". If you would like to have an annual subscription, please fill out the below order form and return it to the Office.

The cost for the large print Upper Room subscription is \$12.00 for a year and the regular print is \$9.00 for a year. There are 6 issues a year (each issue covers two months). Checks should be made payable to First United Methodist Church of East Peoria. If you are needing the Upper Room mailed to you, the cost of the subscription for a year plus mailing charge will be \$13.00 for the small and \$21.50 for the large.

Name: _____

Regular Size

_____ Regular sized Upper Room Subscription at \$9.00 = _____

_____ Regular sized Upper Room mailed at \$13.00 = _____

Large Size

_____ Large Sized Upper Room yearly Subscription at \$12.00 = _____

_____ Large Print Upper Room mailed at \$21.50 = _____

Total Due= _____

Hanging of the Greens

Join us immediately following Worship on Sunday, Nov 24th for our annual Church decorating. It is Friends for Mission breakfast Sunday so we can share a meal as well!

2024 Charge Conference

We have the honor of hosting our districts Charge Conference this year. It will be on Sunday, November 3rd from 3:30 - 4:30 pm. There are 22 area Churches invited so we are expecting a full house!

Commitment for Next Year

The next year will be here before we know it! We ask that you prayerfully consider your financial commitment to the Church for the year 2025.

Operation Christmas Child

Pick up your boxes in the Foyer to pack with your gifts. Also, please take only 1 postage envelope no matter how many boxes you are taking. You can buy for a girl or boy, and the ages are as follows: 2-4 year old, 5-9 year old or 10-14 year old. All boxes and postage payments are due back by Sunday, November 10th. For gift suggestions go to:

SAMARITANSPURSE.ORG/OCC.

If you have any questions, please contact Ginny Halverson at 309-256-5018.

Sunday Worship Services

Are you unable to attend our Sunday Worship Service in person but would love to be able to watch it every week? Did you attend and would like to see it again?

Our weekly Worship Service is broadcast live to our Facebook page and remains there even after the Worship Service ends. The service is also available on YouTube and our website. If you have any questions about how to access these various platforms, please contact the Church office.

Church Info via Facebook

We are promoting the church and various activities on our Facebook Page and in our Facebook Group. The name of our page and group is the same: East Peoria First United Methodist Church. Our Facebook page is for any Facebook user to see. Please 'Like' and 'Follow' our page and ask your FB friends to 'Like' and 'Follow' it also. Our Facebook Group is supposed to be for those that regularly come to church, help regularly, or have been a part of the church in the past. If you are not a member of our group yet, please ask to join via Facebook. Liking and following our page and being a member of our group will assure that you will be notified of our various posts. **Also, please share our Facebook Page posts and events with your friends and help promote the great happenings of our church. Members of our FB group cannot share the group posts since it is a private group.**

Reporting a New Address

Have you moved? Please call the office at 309-699-5417 and let us know your new address.

Hearing Assistance Units

If you have trouble hearing the sermon or any other event in the Sanctuary, we have Hearing Assistance units to help you. Please see the sound system attendant if you would like to use one.

Giving Made Easy

Did you know you can setup your giving to be an automatic withdrawal, either monthly or semi-monthly? Withdrawals occur on the 3rd and/or the 17th each month. Sign-up is easy! Stop by the church office and ask for an Electronic Giving form.

The Wired Word

A great study/growth opportunity is the Wired Word. This is a self-study that is emailed to you every week (usually on Thursdays) addressing current issues from a Biblical perspective. Email the Church office at Office@epfumc.org and you will be added to the list.

If you are in the Hospital

We call the hospitals every morning, but even if you specify that we be informed of your hospitalization, we are not always told. **Please call us** or have a relative or friend notify the Church. We want to know when you are ill so we can be praying for you.

LOST AND FOUND ITEMS

The lost and found is in the office. Stop in and pick up your belongings. We keep lost & found items for 3 months and if not claimed, we give away through the Food Pantry.

Church Office Hours

Monday through Thursday from
9:30 am - 4:00 pm and
Friday from 9:30 am - noon.

Your Church Staff

Rev. Krista Price, Directing Pastor
(217) 549-4544

Terri Bridges, Office Manager
e-mail: office@epfumc.org

Ryan Klaus, Pianist/Organist

Bob Dietrich, A/V Coordinator

Page for kids
of all ages

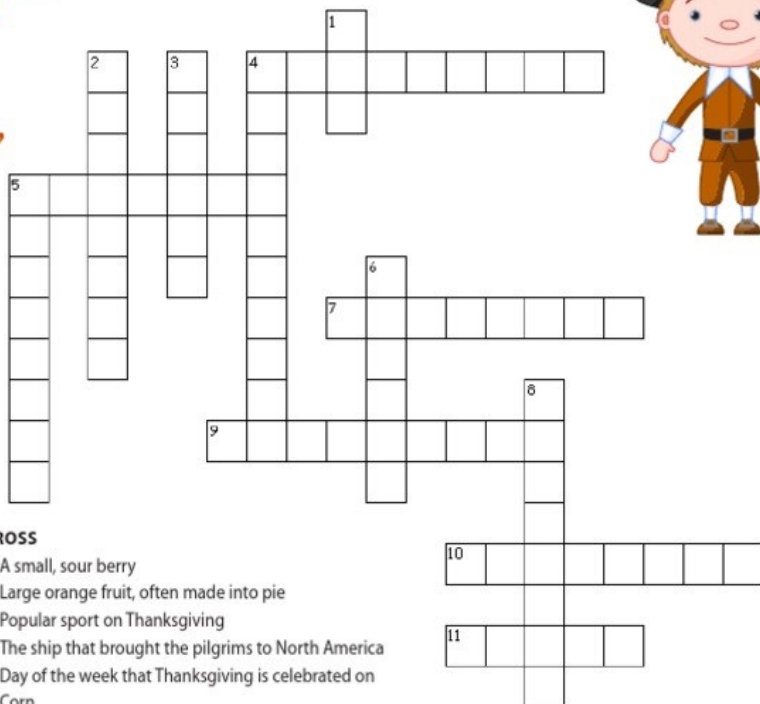
Thanksgiving Challenge

Can you come up with Thanksgiving-related words that start with each letter of the Alphabet?

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

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Thanksgiving Crossword Puzzle



ACROSS

4. A small, sour berry
5. Large orange fruit, often made into pie
7. Popular sport on Thanksgiving
9. The ship that brought the pilgrims to North America
10. Day of the week that Thanksgiving is celebrated on
11. Corn

DOWN

1. Another word for a sweet potato
2. Where the first Thanksgiving was celebrated
3. Big bird traditionally eaten on Thanksgiving
4. Horn of plenty
5. What we call the settlers
6. Sound made by the traditional bird of Thanksgiving
8. Tribe of Native Americans that helped settlers

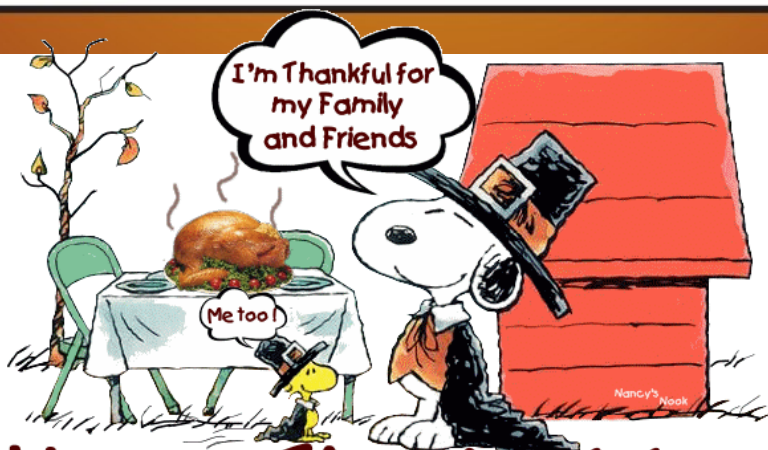


Answers: Across: 4. Cranberry 5. Pumpkin 7. Football 9. Mayflower 10. Thursday 11. Maize
Down: 1. Yam 2. Plymouth 3. Turkey 4. Cornucopia 5. Pilgrims 6. Gobble 8. Iroquois



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More worksheets at www.education.com/worksheets



Happy Thanksgiving



In Our Prayers

In the Hospital in the Past Month

Hazel Blackmore,
Caitlin Reeves

Fighting Cancer

Halle Bloom, Julie Jenkins,
Pam Riley, Mark Gill,
Mary Mallory, Lynne Barker,
Brian Engles, Rob Calder II,
Katie Bishop, Sandy Crawford,
Joette Blakesley, Gary Fargher,
Merry Eccles, Nancy Brooks,
Norman Clark (asbestosis),
Len Brockman, Kellen Norman,
Jaclyn Brown, Sandra Begemen

Prolonged Illness / Challenges

Steve Darrah, Nancy Riddle,
Margaret Johnston, Beth Ball,
Rev. Stan Haxton, Bonnie Lourash,
Margaret Sides, Jim Spicher, Steve Smith,
Ralph Linder, Steve Wetterauer,
Jeff Briggs, Roger Williams, Les Leach,
Joyce Mooberry,
Chuck (Becky Ellis' cousin),
Austin Aldag, Earl Webb,
Nancy Riddle

Long Term Care / Assisted Living

Katy Gnehm, Anna Martin

Needing Prayer

Please pray for Our Dear Church Family
who are struggling, the lonely, all who are
unemployed, shut-in, those who are
struggling with flu/colds, those who are
grieving, all governmental leaders,
those who are serving in our military,
the youth and all caregivers.

Military Service Members

Joe Rizzo (Air National Guard),
Ryan Webb (Army),
Jared Koch (Air Force),
Nate Hill (Air National Guard)

November Birthdays

| | |
|--------|---------------------|
| Nov 4 | Brenda Ellingsworth |
| Nov 8 | Gary Hinkle |
| Nov 9 | Caitlin Reeves |
| Nov 10 | Barb Son |
| Nov 11 | Maribel Blair |
| Nov 13 | Katy Gnehm 97 |
| Nov 14 | Rob Calder |
| Nov 16 | Karen Minter |
| Nov 17 | Jerry Jones |
| Nov 20 | Donna Cothrell |
| Nov 20 | Bob Dietrich |
| Nov 20 | Bill Heisel |
| Nov 23 | Lydia Rathbun |
| Nov 25 | Sandy Crawford |
| Nov 26 | Sally Whitfield |



Is this your birth month?

If you have a birthday this month, and your name is missing from our list, we do not have your birthdate in our database. Please provide the office with your birthdate; month, day and year. We want to celebrate you!



| Sunday | Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday | Friday | Saturday |
|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 27 9:00am Worship Friends for Mission Light Breakfast 2:00pm - 4:00pm Trunk or Treat | 28 9:00am SnackPac Packing 1:00pm - 3:00pm Food Pantry 5:00pm Bell's Practice 6:00pm Choir Practice | 29 | 30 12:00pm REFRESH 6:00pm REBORN Practice | 31 9:00am - 10:00am LOF Hal- loween Parade (Foyer) 7:00pm EP/Morton Singles | 1 | 2 12:00pm - 5:00pm Eagle Scout Court of Honor |
| 3 9:00am All Saint's Sunday Worship 3:30pm - 4:30pm Charge Conference | 4 9:00am SnackPac Packing 1:00pm - 3:00pm Food Pantry 5:00pm Bell's Practice 6:00pm Choir Practice | 5 | 6 12:00pm REFRESH 6:00pm REBORN Practice 6:30pm Puppets for Jesus Practice | 7 7:00pm EP/Morton Singles | 8 | 9 8:00am Men's Prayer Break- fast 4:00pm Breakfast Setup |
| 10 9:00am Worship Poinsettia Orders Taken Friends for Mission Breakfast | 11 9:00am SnackPac Packing 1:00pm - 3:00pm Food Pantry 5:00pm Bell's Practice 6:00pm Choir Practice 6:15pm 4-H Meeting | 12 4:00pm - 7:00pm Early Head Start | 13 12:00pm REFRESH 6:00pm REBORN Practice 6:30pm Puppets for Jesus Practice | 14 10:00am - 2:00pm E. P. Women 2:00pm Women of the Bible Study Group 6:00pm Trustee Meeting 7:00pm EP/Morton Singles | 15 6:00pm - 11:59pm Scrap Booking Party | 16 9:00am - 11:59pm Scrap Booking Party |
| 17 9:00am Worship Poinsettia Orders Taken 11:00am - 5:00pm Scrap Booking Party | 18 9:00am SnackPac Packing 1:00pm - 3:00pm Food Pantry 5:00pm Bell's Practice 6:00pm Choir Practice | 19 | 20 12:00pm REFRESH 10:00am UWF Executive Committee 1:00pm Ruth Circle 6:00pm REBORN Practice 6:30pm Puppets for Jesus Practice | 21 7:00pm EP/Morton Singles | 22 | 23 4:00pm Breakfast Setup |
| 24 9:00am Worship Friends for Mission Light Breakfast 10:15am Hanging of the Greens | 25 9:00am SnackPac Packing 1:00pm - 3:00pm Food Pantry 5:00pm Bell's Practice 6:00pm Choir Practice | 26 10:00am Advent Study 6:00pm Advent Study | 27 12:00pm REFRESH | 28 Happy Thanksgiving Office Closed | 29 Office Closed | 30 |

All Saints Sunday

November, 3, 2024

*"Gather to me my saints,
who made a covenant with
me by sacrifice."*

Psalm 50:5

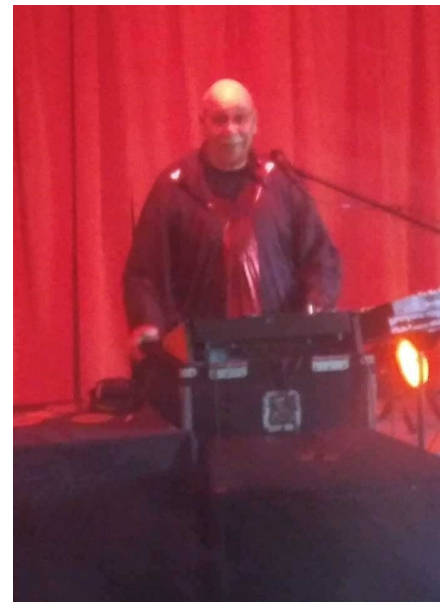


| | |
|-----------------|---------------|
| Jean Derry | Nov 12, 2023 |
| June Bishop | Jan 28, 2024 |
| Betty Kerr | Mar 22, 2024 |
| Gail Morger | May 17, 2024 |
| Judy Preston | May 19, 2024 |
| Marge Wakeman | Jul 9, 2024 |
| Shirley Diveley | Jul 23, 2024 |
| Neva Sharp | Sept 22, 2024 |
| Betty Stull | Oct 16, 2024 |

Trunk or Treat 2024

Another successful year! We had 13 "trunks" set up and had 150+ spooks come through. The parents were so appreciative and thanked the Church for having this event. During the same time we partnered with St Peter's Church down the road and the CJHS trunk or treat started at 4:00. There were many Trick or Treaters out in force!





Worship Schedule

9:00 a.m. Sunday Worship Service

12:00 p.m. Wednesday REFRESH

First United Methodist Church
154 E. Washington St.
East Peoria, IL 61611-2529