

The First Presbyterian Church
of Washingtonville
The *Good News*-Letter

November 2024



From The Pastor

Dear Friends,

Sometimes it's hard to be thankful. We look at the amazing variety and color of the fallen leaves and think of sodden leaves clinging to slick roads or how much work raking will be. We hear about pilgrims and native Americans and think we don't know anyone with the fervor of the pilgrims or the friendliness of the natives. Some of the health, strength, loved ones and prosperity we thanked God for in the past have gone. When I get to thinking this way, it reminds me of a story.

A young woman went to her grandmother and told her about her life and how things were so hard for her. She did not know how she was going to make it and wanted to give up. She was tired of fighting and struggling. It seemed as one problem was solved a new one arose.

Her grandmother took her to the kitchen. She filled three pots with water. In the first, she placed carrots, in the second she placed eggs and the last she placed ground coffee beans. She let them sit and boil without saying a word. In about twenty minutes she turned off the burners. She fished the carrots out and placed them in a bowl. She pulled the eggs out and placed them in a bowl. Then she ladled the coffee out and placed it in a bowl. Turning to her granddaughter, she asked, "Tell me what do you see?"

"Carrots, eggs, and coffee," she replied.

She brought her closer and asked her to feel the carrots. She did and noted that they got soft. She then asked her to take an egg and break it. After pulling off the shell, she observed the hard-boiled egg. Finally, she asked her to sip the coffee. The granddaughter smiled, as she tasted its rich aroma. The granddaughter then asked, "What's the point, grandmother?"

Her grandmother explained that each of these objects had faced the same adversity—boiling water—but each reacted differently. The carrot went in strong, hard and unrelenting. After a little adversity, the carrots were improved, but after a lot, they became weak. The egg had been fragile. Its thin outer shell had protected its liquid interior. A little time in the boiling water improved it. But, after sitting long in the boiling water, its soft heart became hard and inflexible. The ground coffee beans were unique, however. After they were in the boiling water they had changed the water.

"Which are you?" she asked her granddaughter. "When adversity knocks on your door, how do you respond? Are you a carrot, an egg, or a coffee bean?"

In the traditional ending to the story there's just one obvious right answer, but I don't think that's true. God is the maker of all kinds of people and meets the needs of each one. Some of us benefit from becoming more tender, others from becoming more resilient. If the carrots and eggs had been ground up and broken as the coffee beans were, they'd have changed the water too. The important part is for each of us to be the God honoring person we were created to be.

In Christ's love,

Martha

Prayer for November

God of carrots, eggs and coffee beans, thank You for giving us just enough adversity to make us flexible when we've been hard, or warm hearted when we've been cold. And, at those terrible times when one adversity grinds us down and another follows close behind, thank You for the promise of Your presence and the hope of new life. Amen.

Worship Ministry

November has arrived, and we have been loving the beautiful colors of the fall leaves, along with enjoying the cooler weather, along with some warm day, too.

Friday, November 1, is All Saints Day.

On Sunday, November 3, we will be celebrating the Lord's Supper. It is also the end of Daylight Saving Time, so don't forget to "fall back."

Let us take time to remember our Veterans on Monday, November 11, Veterans Day.

November 17 is the deadline to get your orders in for Poinsettias for our Christmas Eve service.

November 24 is Christ the King/Reign of Christ Sunday.

Have a great Thanksgiving with your families, and be safe!

Blessings,

The Worship Committee

November 2024

First Presbyterian Church

					1	2 11:00 AM Book Club meets Jose's Cleaning Service 7:00 PM Dr. Bob's Group
3 9:30 Worship, Lord's Supper 11:30 LCWM 8:00 PM A.A.	4 7:30 PM Dr. Bob's Group	5 7:00 Troop 416	6 8:00 PM A.A.	7 9:30 AM Bible Study 11:00 AM Choir 7:00 N.A.	8	9 Jose's Cleaning Service 7:00 PM Dr. Bob's Group
10 9:30 Worship 11:30 LCWM 8:00 PM A.A.	11 7:30 PM Dr. Bob's Group	12 7:00 Troop 416	13 8:00 PM A.A.	14 9:30 AM Bible Study 11:00 AM Choir 7:00 N.A.	15	16 Jose's Cleaning Service 7:00 PM Dr. Bob's Group
17 9:30 Worship 11:30 LCWM 8:00 PM A.A.	18 7:30 PM Dr. Bob's Group	19 7:00 Troop 416	20 8:00 PM A.A.	21 9:30 AM Bible Study 11:00 AM Choir 7:00 N.A.	22	23 Jose's Cleaning Service 7:00 PM Dr. Bob's Group
24 9:30 Worship 11:30 LCWM 8:00 PM A.A.	25 7:30 PM Dr. Bob's Group	26 7:00 Troop 416	27 8:00 PM A.A.	28 Happy Thanksgiving 7:00 N.A.	29	30 Jose's Cleaning Service 7:00 PM Dr. Bob's Group

First Presbyterian Church
of Washingtonville

Session Moderator
Rev. Martha Carlson

Clerk of Session
Deborah Chedister

The Session
Nancy Bruscano 2024
Lois Dunikowski 2024*
Mark Chedister 2025
Debra Van Regenmortel 2026
Bobbie Trager 2026*

Board of Deacons
Peggy Wright 2024*
Jorus Beasley 2025
Hanora Sullivan 2026

*indicates second term

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Presbytery of Hudson River
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November Birthdays



16 Martha Carlson

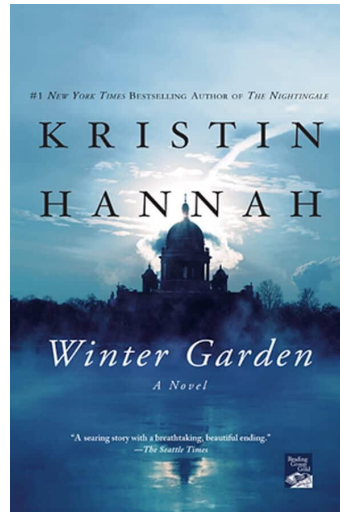
A graphic with the text "Always something to be thankful for" in a mix of fonts. "Always" is in a large, elegant script, "something" is in a smaller, simpler font, and "to be thankful" is in a script font. The word "for" is at the bottom. The text is surrounded by several autumn leaves in shades of orange, yellow, and brown.

A graphic with the text "so thankful for you" in a mix of fonts. "so" is in a small, simple font, "thankful" is in a large, elegant script, and "for you" is in a smaller, simple font. The background is a scenic landscape of rolling hills and mountains under a blue sky with light clouds.

A graphic with the text "THANKFUL FOR OUR CHURCH FAMILY" in a simple, sans-serif font. The text is arranged in three lines: "THANKFUL", "FOR OUR", and "CHURCH FAMILY". The text is centered within a dark blue rectangular frame. Surrounding the text is a decorative wreath made of pumpkins, gourds, and autumn leaves.

THE SAVVY SOULS SISTERS OF SYNTAX

“Winter Garden” by Kristin Hannah



Sometimes when you open the door to your mother's past, you find your own future. Meredith and Nina Whitson are as different as sisters can be. One stayed at home to raise her children and manage the family apple orchard; the other followed a dream and traveled the world to become a famous photojournalist. But when their beloved father falls ill, these two estranged women will find themselves together again, standing alongside their cold, disapproving mother, Anya, who even now, offers no comfort to her daughters. On his deathbed, their father extracts one last promise from the women in his life.

It begins with a story that is unlike anything the sisters have heard before—a captivating, mysterious love story that spans sixty-five years and moves from frozen, war-torn Leningrad to modern-day Alaska. The vividly imagined tale brings these three women together in a way that none could have expected. Meredith and Nina will finally learn the secret of their mother's past and uncover a truth so terrible it will shake the foundation of their family and change who they think they are.

Every once in a while a writer comes along who navigates the complex and layered landscape of the human heart. For this generation, it's Kristin Hannah. Mesmerizing from the first page to the last, *Winter Garden* is an evocative, lyrically-written novel that will long be remembered.

The Savvy Soul Sisters of Syntax will be reading this book for our December meeting. Date to be determined.

Simple Acts of Kindness

Read: Isaiah 43-44, 1 Thessalonians 2

öClothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility,
gentleness and patience.ö
Colossians 3:12

When my mom was in hospice and nearing her last days on earth, I was touched by the genuine kindness of a nursing home caregiver. After gently lifting my frail mother from her chair and tucking her into bed, the nursing assistant caressed Mom's head while leaning over her to say, öYou are so sweet.ö Then she asked how I was doing. Her kindness moved me to tears then and still does today.

Hers was a simple act of kindness, but it was just what I needed in that moment. It helped me to cope, knowing that in this woman's eyes my mom wasn't just a patient. She cared for and saw her as a person of great worth.

When Naomi and Ruth were bereft after the loss of their husbands, Boaz showed kindness to Ruth by allowing her to glean leftover grain behind the harvesters. He even ordered the male harvesters to leave her alone ([Ruth 2:8-9](#)). His kindness was prompted by Ruth's care for Naomi: öI've been told all about what you have done for your mother-in-law since the death of your husbandö (v. 11). He saw her not as a foreigner or widow but as a woman in need.

God wants us to öclothe [ourselves] with compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patienceö ([Colossians 3:12](#)). As God helps us, our simple acts of kindness can cheer hearts, bring hope, and inspire kindness in others.

Reflect & Pray

When has someone shown you a simple act of kindness?
How did it inspire or encourage you?

*Dear God, I want to be clothed in kindness.
Please give me opportunities to show it to others.*

Calendar of Prayer for our Congregations and Leadership

The endorsed calendar of prayer is a way for us to be united. It's an awesome responsibility and gift to pray for one another. To make our offering on behalf of one another. Each member congregation, staff member, elected servant leader, ministry team, and mission commitment of our Presbytery is represented:

South PC Dobbs Ferry, Cornwall-on-Hudson PC, First Church Congers, Stewardship Team, Transgender Day of Remembrance (11/20), First Church Chester, First Church of Philipstown Cold Spring, Matthew 25: Eradicate Systemic Poverty Sunday, Hunger & Homelessness Sunday.



Newsletter articles for the
Dec 2024/Jan 2025 issue is
due before **November 20!**

Call Cynthia at 845-496-3814 or send an email to firstpres@frontiernet.net
to share your news with our church family.



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