



# CHURCH CHAT



Butner Presbyterian Church

Pastors: Brian Stratton, Dewey Cassell

NOVEMBER 2025



## A Message From Dewey

We are entering a season of thanks. It is also a season of busyness. Between the craft fairs and holiday concerts and sporting events and sales – pre-Black Friday and Black Friday and Cyber Monday, not to mention the uncertainty associated with the federal government shutdown, it seems like every weekend is filled with stress, making it challenging to find time for thanks.

But we should take time for thanks. And I don't just mean the one day when we break out the turkey and the cranberry sauce.

I believe we have much to be thankful for. I am especially thankful for family and friends, who are a source of strength and comfort every day, even when they don't know it. It doesn't just take a village to raise a child – it takes one to sustain an adult as well.

And I am thankful for the family and friends who are no longer with us. Thankful for the time we shared together, when we were blessed by their presence. Thankful for all the memories of them that still warm my heart. And thankful for all the ways in which they enriched the lives of others,

mine among them, leaving us the better for having loved them.

My father used to begin each day with the short prayer, "Thank you, God, for another day" and I have been following his example. It helps to provide a clearer focus with which to start any and every day.

And yet there are people who find little to be thankful for, in this or any other season. People who are so burdened that it is a struggle just to get up every day. However, if they are not within our circle of family and friends, we may not know of their suffering. So, while we are offering a prayer of thanks, let us also offer a prayer for them.

Anne Lamott once said, "*Here are the two best prayers I know: 'Help me, help me, help me' and 'Thank you, thank you, thank you.'*" It seems I pray the first one a lot, whether for myself or others. In this season of thanks, I'm going to work on praying the second one more often. It is said that if we could but see with the eyes of God, it would be the first words on our lips.

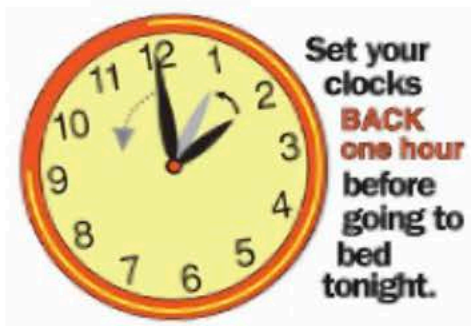
May you all be blessed with much to be thankful for.



~Dewey

# NOVEMBER Calendar

SATURDAY, 11/1



SUNDAY, 11/2

11:00 am Communion All Saints Day Service  
Brian Stratton, Michael McFadden

ACIM after church

SUNDAY, 11/9

11:00 am Worship Service  
Brian Stratton, Michelle Osborne

2:00 pm Butner Church Council Meeting  
@ Community Methodist Church

TUESDAY, 11/11



WEDNESDAY, 11/12



SUNDAY, 11/16

9:00 am Session Meeting  
via Zoom

11:00 am Worship Service  
Dewey Cassell, Erma Hudgins

SUNDAY, 11/23

11:00 am Worship Service:  
Brian Stratton, Cecil Hudgins



Fellowship Lunch after worship  
Decorate the church sanctuary for Advent

6:00 pm BCC Community Thanksgiving Service  
@ Church TBD

THURSDAY, 11/27



SUNDAY, 11/30

11:00 am Advent Worship Service  
Brian Stratton, Michael McFadden  
Advent Readers: Cecil & Erma Hudgins



## *Romping with the Pre-K*

The Preschool continues to thrive. We are so excited for our Fall Festivals this week! Students have been making Halloween crafts, and we had a blast visiting the Pumpkin Patch last week.

I'm super excited to say that the broken concrete on the playground has been repaired and the new back door for the preschool should be installed soon. We are very grateful to Kyle Glenn and Cecil Hudgins for coordinating efforts to get us a new back door.

I met with Reba Duke, one of our parents this year, who is an expert in safety protocols. We came up with a safety protocol for the preschool in case of an outside threat to our school. As a board it was important to at least discuss options and have a plan in place. The building, especially the preschool room, presents a lot of challenges when it comes to safety against an outside threat, but we believe we have a best-case scenario plan in place going forward.

Holidays are just around the corner, and we will be busy working on crafts, and getting ready for all the Christmas festivities to come. We have a teacher workday on Tues 11/4 and will be out again to honor Veterans Day on Tues 11/11. We will have another PRTO meeting in the fellowship hall on Thursday, 11/13 at 6:30pm. We will have our Thanksgiving Feasts on Monday and Tuesday of Thanksgiving week and the preschool is closed Wed-Fri, 11/26-28.

The preschool is running our first fundraiser for the year, a 50/50 raffle that begins this week. Tickets are \$1 each, so please let me know if you are interested. The drawing will be on Thursday, 11/13.

Our virtue for November is Honesty. We will have some lessons about honesty and how important it is to God. We will learn about letters I, J, and K this month before taking a break from letters in December. We will talk about our 5 senses, Food and Nutrition, and Thanksgiving. There are lots of handprint turkeys in our future!

Thank you for your continued support!

Many Blessings,  
Susan Zink

### **THANKSGIVING CHURCH SIGNS TO TICKLE THE FUNNY BONE**

**BE THANKFUL YOU DON'T GET  
WHAT YOU DESERVE!**

**LEFTOVERS ARE FOR QUITTERS.**

**DON'T FORGET TO SET YOUR  
SCALES BACK 10 POUNDS THIS  
WEEKEND.**

**BE THANKFUL FOR ELASTIC  
WAISTBANDS!**

# Church News

## **Stewardship Sunday**

The official Stewardship Sunday will be November 2nd. If you have not yet filled out your pledge card for your planned annual giving for 2026, please do so and drop it in the offering plate. These pledge cards help us to determine the church budget for the upcoming year.

## **All Saints Day**

Our worship service on November 2nd will be an All Saints Day candle lighting service. You will have an opportunity to light a candle for those saints in your lives who have passed away.

## **Annual Thanksgiving Boxes for the Local Needy**

Soon you may notice lots of canned food being stored in a couple of our Sunday school rooms. You may also see folks at our church throughout the week starting November 17th as our church will once again house the Butner Church Council's operation of assembling boxes of Thanksgiving food to be given to the local needy on Saturday, November 22nd.

## **Decorating for Advent**

After worship service on November 23rd, we will decorate our sanctuary as we get ready for the beautiful season of Advent. Please plan to join us and help decorate. We will order pizza for lunch. The decorations will then be put away on January 4th after worship service. Please mark your calendars.

## **Community Thanksgiving Service**

The annual Butner Community Thanksgiving service, which is hosted by the Butner Church Council, will be held Sunday evening, November 23rd at 6pm. Hosting church is still to be determined.

## **Advent**

The beautiful Advent season begins this year on Sunday, November 30th and runs through Sunday, December 21st. A possible Christmas Eve service is yet to be determined.

## **Updates for Joys and Concerns**

Please keep the church updated with your listed prayer requests in the bulletin so that folks do not remain on our list unnecessarily. And it's always great to hear about the joys of answered prayer! You can email Erma to let her know of any changes.

## **Upcoming Fellowships - Mark your Calendars!**

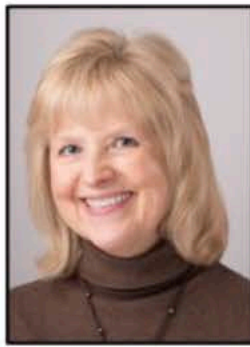
Our November fellowship will take place after worship service on the 11/23 when we decorate for Advent. We will order pizza.

Our December fellowship / Christmas party will take place after worship service on 12/21.

Our January fellowship will take place on 1/4 after worship service when we take down the decorations.

## From the Editor

### THE EXCITING CHANGE OF SEASONS



As we go into this autumn season, I seem to be a bit more excited than usual for some reason. I used to dread the end of summer and football season marked the beginning of the end of the “fun season” for me. But this year, I was actually excited to see some football games on TV! What is happening to me??

The end of the month of October is Halloween and as a member of the Butner Community Association, I look forward to being a part of Track & Treat at the BAP. Kids will walk by our tent dressed up in cute little costumes as we hand out candy. That is such a fun opportunity!

We are now entering into the month of Thanksgiving. Not just the one day at the end of the month, but we should honor it all month long (*actually all year long*). We have so much in which to be thankful, and I challenge each and every one of you to think of a personal blessing each day and take the time to thank God for it. Giving thanks is the only thing we can truly give to God that wasn't his to begin with. Being thankful leads to positive thinking which is a mood booster, and we would all benefit from that.

This Sunday is All Saints Day and I am so glad Brian Stratton suggested doing this service! The last time our church had an All Saints Day service was 2009 when Lori Pistor was our interim pastor. I remember it being an emotional and beautiful service with lit candles of all lengths and sizes covering our remembrance table as we lit a candle for each of the saints in our lives who have passed on. I am looking forward to this service.

We are in the midst of municipal elections and Cecil and I always vote early to get it over with. The elections will finally be over on November 4<sup>th</sup> and I look forward to all those junkie signs being taken down and the local landscapes can once again be clutter-free.

Next is Veteran's Day and Butner will hold its annual Veteran's Day service at the Sports Arena on 11/11 at 11am. Take the opportunity to be thankful for our freedoms and honor these brave men and women who have served.

Our church is once again home to the Butner Church Council's work of putting together Thanksgiving boxes of food for the local needy. What a wonderful gift to have the opportunity to serve God in this way.

Sunday evening, November 23<sup>rd</sup>, the Butner Church Council will provide their annual community Thanksgiving service. The hosting church has not been determined as of this writing. It's always a wonderful time to come together as a community of worshippers and give thanks to God.

And finally, the day of Thanksgiving will come, and family and friends will gather at the tables in our homes in love and thankfulness. Prayers of thanksgiving are said in many homes. Some have the tradition where each person at the table, young and old, is asked what they are thankful for.

What am I thankful for? I have an endless list which includes the opportunity of serving God in this church, for my fantastic church family whom I love with all my heart, for Brian and Dewey, and the beauty of living in this small town of Butner in which we call home.

Peace,  
Erma





## Thanksgiving Prayer

(author unknown)

Even though I clutch my blankets and groan when the alarm rings each morning, thank you, Lord, that I can hear.

There are those who are deaf.

Even though I keep my eyes tightly closed against the morning light as long as possible, thank you, Lord, that I can see.

There are many who are blind.

Even though I huddle in my bed and put off the physical effort of rising, thank you, Lord, that I have the strength to rise.

There are many who are bedfast.

Even though the first hour of my day is hectic, when socks are lost, toast is burned, tempers are short, thank you, Lord, for my family.

There are many who are lonely.

Even though our table never looks like the pictures in the magazines and the menu is at times unbalanced. Thank you, Lord, for the food we have.

There are many who are hungry.

Even though the routine of my job is often monotonous, thank you, Lord, for the opportunity to work.

There are many who have no work.

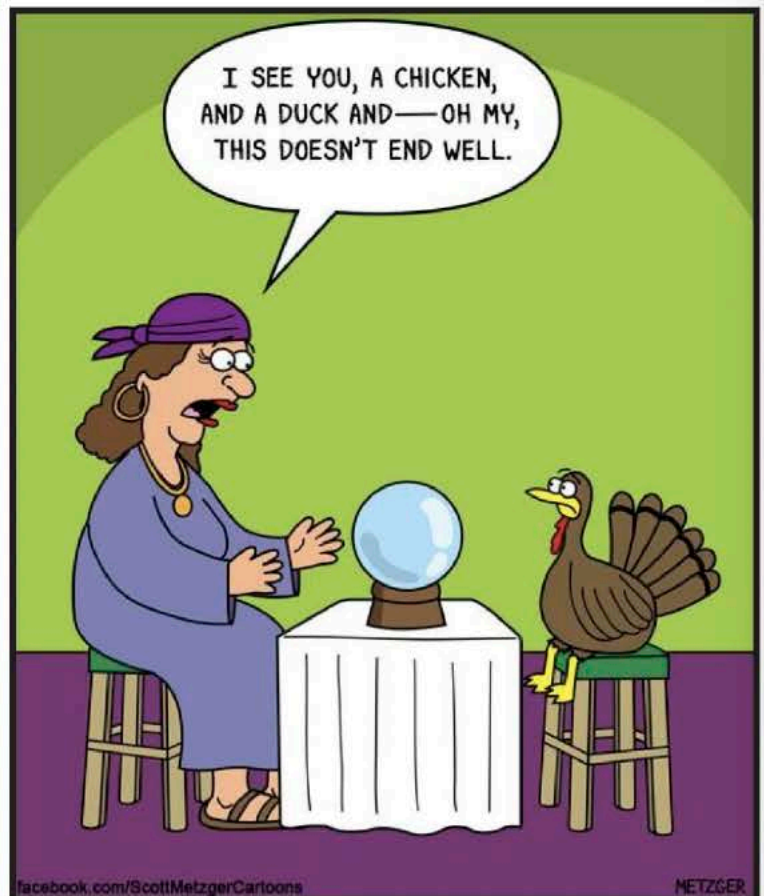
Thank you, Lord, for the gift of life.



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## FOR BETTER OR VERSE

A calendar of Bible verses, one for each day.  
*Compiled by Paul Lintern, Joyful Noiseletter*

- 1 Hebrews 11:1
- 2 Mark 11:2
- 3 1 Corinthians 11:3
- 4 Proverbs 11:4
- 5 Proverbs 11:5
- 6 Romans 11:6
- 7 Deuteronomy 11:7
- 8 Proverbs 11:8
- 9 Mark 11:9
- 10 Luke 11:10
- 11 Matthew 11:11
- 12 I Corinthians 11:12
- 13 Proverbs 11:13
- 14 Proverbs 11:14
- 15 Revelation 11:15
- 16 Hebrews 11:16
- 17 Mark 11:17
- 18 Proverbs 11:18
- 19 Proverbs 11:19
- 20 Proverbs 11:20
- 21 Proverbs 11:21
- 22 Ezekiel 11:22
- 23 I Corinthians 11:23
- 24 Acts 11:24
- 25 Mark 11:25
- 26 Acts 11:26
- 27 John 11:27
- 28 Matthew 11:28
- 29 Acts 11:29
- 30 2 Corinthians 11:30

## TO BE A DISCIPLE OF CHRIST:

When others hate,  
may you **love**.

When others curse,  
may you **bless**.

When others hurt,  
may you **heal**.

When others divide,  
may you **unite**.

When others rage,  
may you **calm**.

When others deny,  
may you **affirm**.

You are a **servant of the light**.  
You need not be afraid of darkness.

God strengthen you to carry on  
with your work and  
faithfully live who you are in Christ:

**Love** for stranger,  
**love** for enemy,  
**love** for neighbor.