

THE TIE that binds

November/December 2025

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*When the song of the angels is stilled,
when the star in the sky is gone,
when the kings and princes are home,
when the shepherds are back with the flocks,
then the work of Christmas begins:
 To find the lost,
 to heal those broken in spirit,
 to feed the hungry,
 to release the oppressed,
 to rebuild the nations,
 to bring peace among all peoples,
 to make a little music with the heart.
And to radiate the Light of Christ,
 every day,
 in every way,
in all that we do and in all that we say.
Then the work of Christmas begins.*

Howard Thurman

Second Sunday Food Collection—

November 9 and December 14...

Don't forget...

Every day basics like canned soups & pastas, spaghetti sauce, pasta, cereals, etc. are all much appreciated. With the holidays in sight, canned veggies, stuffing and instant potatoes, etc. are welcomed for the holiday gift baskets. At the last food drop off we were told they've had many requests for pet food, so food for our four legged friends is appreciated and needed, too.



UPDATES FROM YOUR CHURCH COUNCIL

Deacons are stewarding seasonal transitions while trying to look ahead: providing dynamic children's and adults' Sunday school sessions, engaging and refreshing volunteer lists, cleaning up landscapes and winterizing, wrapping up exterior painting of the rental house and planning next projects, updating memorial plaques, researching insurance constraints and potential for new carrier to reduce costs, developing next year's budget, and updating donation options. Coming soon to the PBBC website will be a "button" for online giving, to Tithe/Offering, Mission, Memorial and Capital Funds, initially as a one-year trial. This is not intended to replace a preferred way of giving, but to provide other options in this electronic age.

SPECIAL DATES IN NOVEMBER/DECEMBER...

November 16

Stewardship Sunday, Prayer Shawl Blessing, Heifer Thank You

November 23

Pledge Card Presentation, Decorating the Sanctuary for Advent

November 30

First Sunday of Advent, Guest Preacher Rev. Jill Harvey

December 21

Special Children's Nativity

December 24

Christmas Eve Service at 6 p.m.



DECEMBER MINISTERS

Greeters For The Month: Dave Effman & Candy Zeppieri

Lay Leaders:

- 07 - Steve Hughes
- 14 - Dick Tourjee
- 21 - Dave Rowley
- 28 - Drew Wesche

Serving Communion:

Gail Neff, Candy Zeppieri,
Preparing Communion: Jonathan Liu, Mei Ling Liu
Assisting Pastor: Pete Wong

DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS

04 - Sandy Wong	11 - Allison Gregory
05 - Joan Watkins	16 - John Rodearmel
06 - Bob Nelson	17 - Clyde Myers
06 - Phyllis Gregory	25 - Catherine Hiller

In coordination with Steve Hughes, Pastor Claudine will hold a special class for Advent (Adult Sunday School):

December 7th: Angels and Prophets Among Us

December 14th: Shepherds and Magi Among Us

December 21st: Christ Child and God Among Us

TOOLS OF HOPE OFFERING DONATIONS

*In honor of Sonny Lew
In memory of Jeffrey Lew
Given by the Lew Family*

*In memory of Husband, Lew Brant, and Sons, Kip & Matt
Given by Barbara Brant*

*In honor of Charley Freeman & Michael Freeman
In memory of Burt Crooks
Given by Becky Freeman*

*In memory of Ted Ackley
Given by Peg & Yvette Ackley*

*In memory of our Dads, Paul King Jr. & Frank Savona
Given by Kathy & Gary Savona*

*In memory of Lester Jordan
Given by Belle Jordan*

*In memory of Harold Chapman, Earle Rowley and Marion Chambers
Given by Carol & Dave Rowley*

*In memory of Irving Hiller, Harold Chapman and Carroll Chapman
Given by Catherine Hiller*

In honor of Dave Augeri

*In memory of our Dads, Lester Jordan & Tony Augeri
Given by Dianne Augeri*

*In memory of Jim Baird
Given by Marilyn Baird*

*In memory of Mike Lloyd
Given by Tara & Callie Davis*

*In memory of Cindy Solar
Given by Candy Zeppieri*

*In honor or the workers on the rental house
Given by Carolyn & Bob Land*

*In honor of my brother, Ben
Given by Gail Neff*

*In memory of Garold Benson, Harley Osgood,
Lynn Osgood and John McGraw
Given by Marilyn Benson*

*In honor of all our people who help
Given by Marilyn and John Rodearmel*

Holiday Bazaar
Saturday, December 6
9 a.m. to 1 p.m.

We are thankful for both experienced workers who've taken responsibility for their "tables" over the years and for new to the bazaar workers joining us for the first time. There is room and work for anyone who'd like to participate. If you are interested, please see Carol Gatlin or Dianne Augeri.

Publicity: Sue Shontell

Calls to bakers: Marilyn Baird

Soup to Go: Barbara Brant with her famous
stuffed pepper soup and corn chowder

Christmas Ornaments: Betty Land & Londa
Wesche

Baked Goods/Cookies: Pat Tootell (Friday set-up), Sandy
Vocolina, Dianne Augeri

Basket & Quilt Raffles: Marilyn Rodearmel and
Andrea Buell

Grandma's Attic: Belle Jordan, Carol Rowley, Gail Neff,
(Jonathan Liu and Wynonna Tuang—checkout)

Fine Jewelry: Edie & Steve Hughes

Costume Jewelry: Portia Freeman & Kathy Savona

Silent Auction: Gary Savona & Catherine Hiller

New Crafts: Carol Gatlin, Kathy Piscitello

Square checkout: Jonathan Liu (Purple Room) and Li Ling Liu
(Vestry)

How can you help?

Bake! Homemade cookies, breads, pies, etc. are always in demand. If you bake, please have your goodies here by noon Friday, December 5.

Offer to be a table floater.

Help set up and/or take down tables.

MISSION AND OUTREACH ACTIVITY

Adopt a Family (Groton family provided by Groton Human Services):

Our Family for this year—a mom, dad, and four children. The children are three girls and one boy ranging in age from 3 to 15.

As is our custom, we will purchase warm pajamas, a hat/gloves, one article of clothing, and one fun item for each child. We will then purchase family gifts of a gift card from a local grocery store, a gift card for gas and a gift card for miscellaneous household items from Walmart.

We will kick off the gift drive Sunday, November 16. All gift items will be on a Christmas tree in the Sanctuary. Anyone interested in participating should take an ornament with a suggested gift on it from the tree. All gifts should be returned unwrapped and with the ornament attached to the Sanctuary by Sunday, November 30.

Thank you for helping us spread a little love to those in need this Christmas season!

RMMO (Retired Ministers and Missionaries Offering):

RMMO is designed to honor and support retired ministers, missionaries, and their surviving spouses who have dedicated 15 years or more to service within the American Baptist Churches USA. This offering serves as a way for congregations to say “thank you” for their commitment and contributions to the church and community.

Giving to RMMO is a wonderful way to say thank you to those pastors and their spouses who gave so much to us! Please prayerfully consider how you might make a difference. We will begin receiving this offering December 14.



NOVEMBER MINISTERS

Greeters For The Month: Gary & Kathy Savona

Lay Leaders:

- 02 - Holly Boyle
- 09 - Cathy Greenfield
- 16 - Dave Rowley
- 23 - Marilyn Baird
- 30 - Dianne Augeri

Serving Communion:

Drew & Londa Wesche
Sandy Vocolina, Candy Zeppieri
Preparing Communion: Drew & Londa Wesche
Assisting Pastor: Dianne Augeri

NOVEMBER BIRTHDAYS

04 - Andrea Dellarco	16 - Chloe Hespeler
05 - Alex Lew	16 - Jim Vocolina
05 - Barry Morton	18 - Belle Jordan
07 - Peg Straub	19 - Silas Keeton
08 - John Bennett	21 - Steve Hughes
08 - Nicole Freeman	23 - Holly Boyle
08 - Britni Tourjee	24 - Megan Taylor
09 - Carolyn Land	25 - Marilyn Baird
10 - Eva Tourjee	30 - Cathy Lewis Myers
11 - Vance Lamb	30 - PJ Dellarco
14 - Dave Rowley	

Pastor's Page

*...I must be thankful for what is
and stop thinking about what is not.*

In the month of November, we are thankful for what is... we focus our hearts on gratitude and giving, we celebrate Thanksgiving in both our abundance and our scarcity, we pledge our commitments to God and to the church we serve. There are times when we are overwhelmed by the realities we face, by the things we need, by the resources that others don't have and by the idea that everything will get better *when...* but waiting for the "*when*" keeps us from appreciating what we have, and so we try to be thankful for what already is.

But in the month of December, we think about what is not... we turn our hearts to the season of Advent, we hear the hope of prophets and the message of angels, we revisit a season of watching and waiting for what has not yet come to the world. The birth of Christ invites us to keep thinking about what has not yet been realized, the peace and the love not yet born.

So, are we thankful for what *is* or mindful of what is *not*? Our faith challenges us to be both...at the same time! We are called to be people of gratitude for the present moment *and* to be people of vision for the future blessing. And if we can somehow be both, then we will come closer to God's gift of fulfillment for all of creation... the joy we already know *and* the promise yet to come.

Happy November *and* December!