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Keith Gingrich, Consistory President, Rebekah Reece, Pianist

November 1, 2026 • 11:00 a.m.
Twenty-Third Sunday After Pentecost
ALL SAINTS DAY

**You are invited to stand in body or in spirit*

ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRELUDE

PASSING OF THE PEACE

CALL TO WORSHIP

Leader: Come, a great cloud of witnesses surrounds us as we gather.
All: May the lingering echo of saints resound in our songs.
Leader: May their stories open a space for the Spirit to enter us anew.
All: In remembering them, may we find ourselves remembered.
Leader: May the God of every generation form us anew for this generation.
All: And may a new joy rise in our lives and in the life of the world.

***OPENING HYMN #513** "O How He Loves You and Me"

INVOCATION

God of every age and time, inspire us today with memories of saints whose energy still lingers, hovering around and within as encouragement and strength. Wrap us anew with a felt sense of your persistent presence, granting a new energy to offer You everything of our hearts, minds and souls. Yes, Love of Life, root us and ground us in this. And let it be more than enough for today, as we gather in the name of Jesus.
All: Amen.

***PRAYER FOR TRANSFORMATION AND NEW LIFE**

Loving God, Grant me grace to release everything too much or too little into your transforming fire of refinement. Sear in me the strength of your saints – generous and gentle, focused and fierce – just enough to answer every temptation distracting or denying Your Holy hope for my re-formation. Form me anew from the inside out, centering others ahead of every selfishness that dares me to choose anything less than You. Release me from the burdens and brokenness of my own making, that I may be readied to meet You in every ordinary saint whose path crosses mine in the gift of this day. Amen.

***WORDS OF GRACE**

Hear the good news! Jesus tells us that the Holy One is a God of grand reversals. Weeping turns to rejoicing, hunger is answered with fullness, honesty of heart is answered with grace upon grace. Every energy that diminishes is interrupted with a newness of life made possible by the One who is always searching us out with forgiving love. In Jesus, God revealed that grace and forgiveness have already arrived, and it includes you and me. It is the Good News! You can trust it with your life. The saints knew it and now you do, too.

All: Thanks be to God! Amen and Amen.

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH** ***THE APOSTLES' CREED

I believe in God the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth: And in Jesus Christ His only Son, our Lord, Who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead, and buried. He descended into Hades; the third day, He rose again from the dead. He ascended into heaven and sitteth on the right hand of God, the Father Almighty; from thence He shall come to judge the quick and the dead. I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy Christian church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

CHOIR ANTHEM *Abide with Me* Victor C. Johnson

SCRIPTURE READINGS

Revelation 7:9-17 (pg. 249)
Psalm 34:1-10, 22 (pg. 508)
1 John 3:1-3 (pg. 240)
Matthew 5:1-12 (pg. 4)

This is the Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God. Amen.**

SERMON *Blessed Are They*

PASTORAL PRAYER / LORD'S PRAYER

God of our past, our present, and our future, we gather today surrounded by a great cloud of witnesses—a holy company of saints who have walked before us, sung before us, and left their footprints on the path of faith. We praise you for the gift of their lives, their stubborn hope, and the quiet ways they showed us what it means to love you.

Lord, today our hearts hold a sacred ache. We lift up to you the names and faces of those we have lost this past year, and those whose absence still leaves an empty space in our pews and around our tables. Comfort those among us who are actively grieving. In the quiet of this moment, we name them before you now...

(A brief moment of silence)

We thank you that while they are absent from us, they are resting securely in your eternal embrace. Thank you for the teachers who shaped our understanding, the loved ones who held our hands, and the quiet servants whose names the world forgot, but whom you know completely.

As we remember their legacy, we pray for your Church today. Forgive us when our faith grows tired or when we lose sight of the kingdom they worked so hard to build. Ignite a fresh fire within us. Give us the courage of the prophets, the devotion of the disciples, and the steady endurance of the martyrs.

Keep us united with your saints across the globe and across the generations, until that day when all tears are wiped away and we feast together at your heavenly table. We ask this in the name of the One who conquered death and brings us new life, Jesus Christ our Lord, who taught us to pray,

All: Our Father, Who art in heaven, hallowed be Thy name. Thy kingdom come, Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread and forgive us our debts as we forgive our debtors. Lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil for Thine is the kingdom, the power and the glory forever. Amen.

THE REMEMBERANCE OF THE SAINTS

Invitation to Remembrance

Leader: John of Patmos looked into heaven and asked, *"Who are these, robed in white, and where have they come from?"*

They are the ones who have crossed the shore before us.
They are the ones who taught us how to love, how to pray, and how to serve.
Today, we name them. We remember them. We thank God for them.

People: We surround ourselves with their memory. We carry their light into the world.

The Naming of the Saints/Lighting of the Candles

Robert Bashore
` Fred Lutz
Renee Miller
Robert Reddinger
Bonnie Jean Robinson-Davis
Earl Ziegler
Geraldine Elizabeth Braxton
MD Anderson BMT Patients
Harford Overton
Wendell Rivers
Vernon Schriver, Sr

Litany of Remembrance

Leader: For the saints who built the foundations of our faith, whose prayers still echo in this sanctuary:
People: We remember them with thanksgiving.
Leader: For the loved ones who walked beside us, whose laughter, tears, wisdom, and embrace shaped our lives:
People: We remember them with deep love.
Leader: For those who died too soon, whose journeys were cut short, and for those whose absence leaves an aching void:
People: We remember them with both grief and hope.
Leader: For the quiet saints whom the world never knew, who served the poor, loved their neighbors, and sought justice in hidden places:
People: We remember them with honor.
Leader: Who are these?
People: They are the cloud of witnesses. They are safe in the shelter of God.

Prayer of Thanksgiving

Leader: Let us pray.
O God of the living, we thank you for the lives of all those we have named in our voices and held in our hearts today. We thank you that they are part of the great multitude that no one can count, standing before your throne of grace. Wipe away every tear from our eyes. Comfort us in our grief, and spark in us the courage to live as saints for the generations yet to come.
Through Jesus Christ, the Alpha and the Omega, we pray.
All: Amen.

HYMN # 323 "Let Us Break Bread Together On Our Knees"

HOLY COMMUNION (See insert)

INVITATION TO GENEROSITY

Luke tells us that Jesus introduced a strange kind of arithmetic. He said, when you give things away, you actually have more. Maybe it's that we get more of what we really need – freedom from the stuff that so often can hold us hostage, keeping us from a life that is truly free. The saints of old seemed to know this. So, we are invited to give not only because it helps others, but because by giving we are opened up to a fullness we could not otherwise have imagined. It is God's gift to us. May the joy of the saints be our joy today as we offer our gifts to God for the good of the world.

***OFFERING RESPONSE** "Doxology" (Hymnal, p. 625)

***PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING**

O Giver of Life, continue to form in us a transparent spirit that by our giving and our living others may discover You. Reshape our priorities and grant us a willing vision to see and respond to those hidden saints who reveal something of you in the least likely ways and in the most surprising places. Thank you for calling us into a life such as this and bless these gifts that they may bless others. Amen.

***CLOSING HYMN #546** "For All the Saints"

***BENEDICTION**

Beloved of God, trust that the Holy One still forms saints. They might be standing next to you. They might just be you. Trust that God has formed your life to be part of something larger than you could possibly imagine. So go, anticipating that God is already blessing you to bear good news into the world.

All: Yes! Yes! Yes! Amen and Amen!

All Saints Day Service Prayers were written by Rev. Dr. David Long-Higgins, Conference Minister of the Heartland Conference, United Church of Christ. Worship-Ways-All-Saints-Day-11.1.2022.





to our Volunteers today:

Deacon of the Month: Scott Benfer
Lay Reader: Julie Ditzler
Communion Preparer: Dena Eberhart

The **altar flowers today** are sponsored by Kay Spannuth in memory of her mother, Mary J. Spannuth, who lived December 12, 1923, through October 27, 1976. Gone, but never forgotten. Thank you, Kay!



SPONSORS NEEDED for flowers and bulletins. Please see the sign-up sheet in the Karen Light Fellowship Hall.

A total of **25 Operation Christmas Child boxes** were gathered and blessed last week during our worship service on their way to distribution. Thanks to everyone who participated in the project.

Next week, November 8th, will be our **GOLDEN LADLE CONTEST.** Any type of slow cooker dish is welcome! They will be served and then voted on during a luncheon after worship. You won't want to miss it!

UCC HOMES gift card donations are now being accepted. Throughout the year – and especially during the holiday season – UCC Homes strives to bring joy and comfort to the residents of their communities. They are asking sponsoring congregation members to consider making a monetary donation or giving gift cards to help purchase meaningful presents for their residents. The Lebanon Valley Home in Annville is specifically requesting gift cards in denominations of $10 or $25 for the following retailers: Giant Food Stores, Michael's, Amazon, Walmart, Dollar Tree, and Hobby Lobby. If you would like to donate cash, or a gift card towards these efforts, please give them to Dena Eberhart by Sunday, December 6th

Our **ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING** to discuss the 2027 budget will be held after the worship service on Sunday, November 22nd. All active members are requested to participate in this important process. Thank you!

Thank you for joining us for our All-Saints Service this morning. After our worship service, we will have a small reception honoring the families of those we have lost in 2026, as well as to welcome Pastor Tony back from his sabbatical. Please plan to stay and join us for a brief time of fellowship and thanksgiving.

UPCOMING EVENTS

November 8th	10:30 am	Common Grounds Cafe
	11:00 am	Worship Service
	12:00 pm	Golden Ladle Contest/Luncheon
November 15th	10:30 am	Common Grounds Cafe
	11:00 am	Worship Service
November 22nd	10:15 am	Consistory Meeting
	10:30 am	Common Grounds Cafe
	11:00 am	Worship Service
	12:00 pm	Annual Congregational Meeting



"*In You, O Lord, I put my trust; Let me never be ashamed; Deliver me in Your righteousness. Bow down Your ear to me, deliver me speedily: Be my rock of refuge, A fortress of defense to save me. For you are my rock and my fortress; Therefore, for Your name's sake, lead me and guide me.*"

(Psalm 31: 1-3 NKJV)

Please keep the following members and friends of St. John's in your prayers this week: Pat Ziegler • Millie Schriver • Randy Sweigart • Gerald Rudy • Cortney Smith • Tom Graby • Steve Clark • Bruce R. Shepps • Jon Olesh • Callum Quinn • Frank Shepler • Emily Rentschler • Jean Ann and Neal Grimes • Karen Metz • Jodi Checket • Mike Large • Rose Marie Gardner • Mike Kachurak

