

November 2025 Tidings

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Gratitude is a Super Power
By Rev. Mary Jane Norville

It is fun to think about what superpower one would want to have, strength, flight, telekinesis, teleportation all seems like fun options. The idea behind them is that superpowers make life easier because life without them is hard. In our quest to deal with the struggles of today, we can forget the super powers that lie within each of us. Jesus didn't call us to suffer and struggle without help; Jesus called us to live with the power of the Holy Spirit.

1 Thessalonians 5:18 is an often-quoted verse calling us to be grateful in all circumstances. However, it goes even deeper and is especially helpful in our troubled times. Paul wasn't trying to diminish our experiences, rather he was teaching us a tool, a super power, to use when we are face to face with hardship and evil. When you have been hurt by others, give thanks for healthy relationships. When you feel like there is no hope left, give thanks that Jesus is our hope. When someone is hating on you, be grateful that Jesus calls you beloved. When you are struggling with an illness, give thanks for the healing that is occurring. These breaths of gratitude allow the Holy Spirit to bring love to us that refocuses our minds and opens doors of new opportunities and vision.

Imagine how different social media would be if gratitude was at the heart of posts and comments. One of its biggest failures is the fall into complaining and disrespectful communication. It seems the practice of scrolling brings out words and pictures of dismay that push us to fill our hearts with discouragement, apathy, and discontentment. All of this pushes us away from God. Our ability to tap into our super power of gratitude is a step in taking back control over what we fill our minds and hearts with. It is a step in looking to Jesus as our influencer. There are so many things to be grateful for that we can make a new list every day. In fact, the more we share what we are grateful for, the more we push away evil, and invite in love. A task truly worth engaging. Let's get started. I am grateful for...

Sunday morning worship
A steaming hot cup of coffee
Red Sunrises
Engaging Bible study
YOU.

Your turn. What are you grateful for?

1 Thessalonians 5:15-20 See that none of you repays evil for evil, but always seek to do good to one another and to all. Rejoice always, pray without ceasing, give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you. Do not quench the Spirit. Do not despise the words of prophets.

Proverbs 3:27-28 Do not withhold good from those to whom it is due, when it is in your power to do it. Do not say to your neighbor, "Go, and come again, tomorrow I will give it" when you have it with you.

Upcoming November Events

Change 4 Change: Veterans

UCC collection Our Church's Wider Mission

November

- 1 Vendor and Food Truck Event 9am-2pm, CRC parking lot.
- 2 9:30 All Saints Worship at CRC. 11:00 Homecoming worship at Zion.
- 4 7pm Genealogy Lecture
- 9 171 Anniversary and Veterans Acknowledgment, Discussion Time, Chapters 2 & 3, CRC Ensemble practice
- 10 Consistory 9:30am
- 16 Reach Week begins, Please see Martin or Kathy Fisher if you can help. Discussion Time Chapter 4, CRC Ensemble singing
- 23 Thanksgiving Sunday and Reign of Christ
- 27 Thanksgiving, Church office closed
- 30 Hanging of the Greens, 1st Sunday in Advent

Please join us each Sunday for coffee, snacks and fellowship following the service in the Sunday School Auditorium.

Cathedral On Fire Discussion Group

Our schedule going forward will be

November 9—Chapters 2 & 3

November 16---Chapter 4

December 14—Chapters 5 & 6

December 21—Chapter 7

Everyone is welcome to attend, copies of the book are available outside the sanctuary door. We will meet in the Church School Auditorium following coffee time.

Women's Fellowship Breakfast Saturday, November 1

8:30am, Bob Evans (Dual Highway)



From The Pulpit

We will be focusing on the lectionary text listed below.

November 2 Twenty First Sunday after Pentecost Ephesians 1:11-23 Luke 6:20-31 Psalm 149	November 9 Twenty-Second Sunday after Pentecost Job 19:23-27 2 Thessalonians 2:1-5, 13-17 Luke 20:27-38
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	Psalm 17:1-9
November 16 Twenty Third Sunday after Pentecost Malachi 4:1-2 2 Thessalonians 3:6-13 Luke 21:5-19 Isaiah 12 (instead of the Psalm)	November 23 Reign Of Christ Jeremiah 23:1-6 Colossians 1:11-20 Luke 23:33-43 Psalm 46
November 30 First Sunday of Advent Hanging of the Greens Service Isaiah 2:1-5 Romans 13:11-14 Matthew 24:36-44	

Consistory Bullets for November 2025 Tidings

- The Lectionary group will meet on Wednesdays at 11:00, via Zoom.
- We are still in need of tenants for portions of the Aspiring to Serve building.
- Next consistory meeting will be November 10, 2025 at 9:30 AM.
- Change for Change for November will support Veterans.
- Adult Sunday school is held on the second and third Sunday of each month in the Sunday school auditorium. (Please see the scheduled chapters)
- Coffee and tea items from World Treasures are being sold each Sunday in the Social Hall at coffee time.
- The Women’s Fellowship Breakfast will be held Saturday November 1, 2025 at 8:30AM. The group will meet at Bob Evans Dual Highway location.
- Don’t forget our Vendor Fair will be held Saturday November 1, 2025. We will have plenty of vendors and food trucks. Come and enjoy.
- For informational purposes the Consistory is providing a copy of the congregational meeting power point presentation, the 2026 approved budget and the letter that was sent to the congregation. These will be on file in the church office.
- Our offering envelopes will be changing starting in January 2026. The changes are as follows:

1. Envelopes will remain weekly.
 2. For week one, to offset the cost of the envelopes a donation of \$10.00 is suggested.
 3. We will also be adding an envelope for donations to Micah's Backpack. It will have a unique color to identify it from other envelopes
 4. Communion envelopes will remain the same.
 5. ATS envelopes will remain the same.
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Results from the Congregational meeting held on 10/12/25

Questions, Comments and Vote Results*

Votes-Action Items

1. Consistory Ballot **38 to approve, 0 reject**
2. Personnel Committee **40 to approve, 0 reject**
3. CY26 Budget **36 to approve, 4 to reject**
4. Committee to Further Investigate the Sale of ATS and or Real Estate Holdings **42 to approve, 2 to reject**

**Voting reflected a sum of submitted ballots and in-person show of hands. Those present were asked not to vote in person if they had submitted paper ballots.*

November Change 4 Change

Local Veterans organization

Did you know that this year is the 250th anniversary of the death of Jonathan Hager?

The City of Hagerstown, in conjunction with Hagerstown Parks & Rec, Zion Reformed and CRC there will be a week long celebration November 1 through 8.

Each day there is something going on to celebrate, with a kick off on November 1st at the Jonathan Hager House and a walking tour of the downtown. Zion will be offering church tours, CRC will have their vendor event set up from 9-2.

November 4th, From Hager's Roots to Yours, 7-8:30

Join Carol Miller-Schultz at Christ's Reformed Church for a hands-on session designed to help you begin your family tree. Bring along names, dates and places related to your ancestors to get started uncovering your roots.

We will be looking for hospitality volunteers for this evening.

More info can be at www.hager250.org, or you can contact the church office.

Please plan to come out and support our vendors and food trucks!





The Worship team will have Poinsettias for sale for each. (\$ for the flower, \$ will be donated to the Christmas Fund). If you would like to place a poinsettia in memory or in honor of a loved one, please fill out this form and return it and the payment to the offering plate or the church office. Poinsettias may be picked up after Christmas Eve service.

I would like to purchase ____ poinsettia(s) for the 2025 Christmas season.

What would you like printed in the Christmas Eve bulletin? Memory or honor of? Given by?

Church Staff

Rev. Mary Jane Norville Sr. Minister
Charlotte Trout ATS Board President
Steve Lohr Consistory President
Jenny Kelley Office Support Assoc.
Margaret Bussard Custodian
Brent Johnson Organist
Technology Support
Gene Jones Treasurer Team
Denise Kelly Bookkeeper/Treasurer team

Office Hours Monday through Friday 9-12.

Address Changes Please contact Jenny (jennykelley@myactv.net) or calling office 301-733-4144) with any changes you have to your address or phone number