

Gray Weekly News



Week Leading to Sunday, November 7, 2021

By Bishop Sally Dyck

All Saints Day

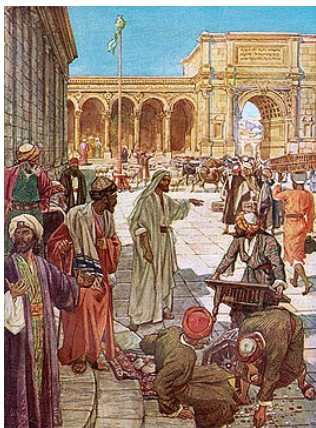


All Saints Day is a good time to think about the people who have left tracks for us. I'm reminded of something Supreme Court Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg said: "Whatever you choose to do, leave tracks, and that means: don't do just for yourself because in the end it's not going to be fully satisfying. I think you will want to leave the world a little better for your having lived."

Leaving tracks seems like what "saints" do, and I use that term in the broadest New Testament sense. Saints simply follow Jesus in their lives and contexts based on their relationship with Jesus. Saints "leave tracks" for the rest of us to follow, learn from and give direction in our lives. Some of those who leave tracks for us literally walk beside us, and others are people in history who inspire us.

In the Western Christian practice, the liturgical celebration begins at Vespers on the evening of 31 October, All Hallows' Eve (All Saints' Eve), and ends at the close of November 1. It is thus the day before All Souls' Day, which commemorates the faithful departed.

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24th Sunday after Pentecost

Ruth 3:1-5, 4:13-17

Psalm 24

Hebrews 9:24-28

Mark 12:38-44

“The Gifts of the Saints”

News and Notes

THIS WEEK

Sunday, November 7

Please join us on Sundays at 11 am. If you don't feel comfortable coming in person, you can watch our livestream at graymemorialumc.org/facebook.com or graymemorialumc.org/youtube, at 11 am or any time after that at graymemorialumc.org/



If you have prayer requests, please contact Norma Adams, Jennifer Skinner or Gail Teems.

You may also call the church office at 850/385-6441 or send a text to 850/933-8469.

2021 Church Financial Report

Budgeted Amount thru 12/31/21 \$ **151,400**

Giving Amount as of 10/31/21 \$ **107,713**

Amount Needed thru 12/31/21 \$ **43,687**

ONLINE GIVING NOW AVAILABLE : For your convenience, we have established online giving through the church management program, Breeze. Here is the link:

<https://gmumc.Breezechms.com/give/online>

If you prefer, you can **text a contribution to 850/695-3434**. If you have questions regarding this, please call Anita Durham at the church on Tuesday or Thursday mornings. You can mail a check to 2201 Old Bainbridge Rd., Tallahassee, FL 32303. Thank you!

Ajmal & His Family, Afghan Refugees

We have recently met a family that is new to the neighborhood. Ajmal and Karima Mohammad and their two sons Omar (age 7) and Amir (age 3), have been resettled here by the International Rescue Committee (www.help.rescue.org).

Ajmal worked at the US Embassy in Kabul, Afghanistan and was evacuated at the last minute as the Taliban rose to power. Although Ajmal speaks English quite well, his wife and children speak only Persian. They were permitted only one suitcase for the entire family, causing them to leave virtually all of their belongings behind. We have secured donation of a television, DVD player, DVDs, clothing, and some toys and books to help them adjust.

If you would like to help Ajmal and his family, please contact Pastor Beth. They can use gift cards to places such as Publix, WalMart, and Target. We are working with Ajmal to better understand what the IRC's plans are and how we can be of assistance. We invite you to pray for this family as they adjust to a brand new life in a place that is completely foreign to them.

In many traditions, All Saints' Day is part of the season of Allhallowtide, which includes the three days from 31 October to 2 November inclusive, and in some denominations, such as Anglicanism, extends to Remembrance Sunday.^{[13][14][3]} In places where All Saints' Day is observed as a public holiday but All Souls' Day is not, cemetery and grave rituals such as offerings of flowers, candles and prayers or blessings for the graves of loved ones often take place on All Saints Day. In Austria and Germany, godparents gift their godchildren All Saint's Braid on All Saint's Day, while the practice of souling remains popular in Portugal.^[20] It is a national holiday in many Christian countries.

The Christian celebration of All Saints' Day and All Souls' Day stems from a belief that there is a powerful spiritual bond between those in heaven (the "Church triumphant"), and the living (the "Church militant"). In Catholic theology, the day commemorates all those who have attained the beatific vision in Heaven.

In Methodist theology, All Saints Day revolves around "giving God solemn thanks for the lives and deaths of his saints", including those who are "famous or obscure". As such, individuals throughout the Church Universal are honored, such as Paul the Apostle, Augustine of Hippo and **John Wesley**, in addition to individuals who have personally led one to faith in Jesus, such as one's grandmother or friend.

Protestants generally commemorate all Christians, living and deceased, on All Saints' Day; if they observe All Saints Day at all, they use it to remember all Christians both past and present.

In the United Methodist Church, All Saints' Day is celebrated on the first Sunday in November. It is held, not only to remember Saints, but also to remember all those who have died who were members of the local church congregation. In some congregations, a candle is lit by a member as each person's name is called out by the clergy. Prayers and responsive readings may accompany the event. Often, the names of those who have died and we want to honor are affixed to a memorial plaque or tree.

Prayer Requests

Family of Brenna MacKinlay, 17 yr old with leukemia - family members with serious health issues

Family of Belle Brooks - Belle passed away last week; no services are planned
Amanda, Caitlin, Erwin, Rose, George and Donna

Holly's brother Eric - hip surgery Tuesday

Pastor Beth's niece Crystal as she transitions to a sober living house and begins addiction recovery

PRAISES:

- To everyone who worked in the Pumpkin Patch and helped make the Fall Festival such a tremendous success

- Lloyd and Melanie Monroe and their work in Guatemala through Porch de Salomon.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Tuesday, Nov. 2	7 pm	Board of Trustees Meets via Zoom
Wednesday, Nov. 3	5:30 pm 7:00 pm	Choir Practice Bible Study on Acts via Zoom
Thursday, Nov. 4	8:30 am 10 am 5:30 pm	Yoga Class Bible Study Yoga Class
Sunday, Nov. 7	9:45 am 11 am 3 pm	Dean Memorial Sunday School Worship Service Zoom Meeting with Rev. Alex Shanks, Assistant to Bishop Ken Carter to discuss future denominational changes*
Tuesday, Nov. 9	2 pm 7 pm	United Methodist Women Executive Committee meets via Zoom

*If you want to listen to the discussion during this meeting, contact Pastor Beth for the Zoom link information.

YOGA EVERY THURSDAY!!!

Join us for one of the yoga classes led by Crystal Crowell, Town & Country neighbor. The class is for beginners and beyond. Cost is \$10/class. Classes are held every Thursday at 8:30 am and 5:30 pm. Bring a yoga mat and water; please wear a mask until you are seated on mat. If you have questions regarding the class, please email crystaldawncrowell@yahoo.com.