



John Omerod,  
Pastor



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# THE PARISH VISITOR NOVEMBER 2023

## A Letter from Pastor John

Friends,

Ginny and I love to go to the beach. A few weeks ago, we made our last trip for the year to Warren Dunes, Michigan. As usual, we took note of the hundreds of hungry, winged beach beggars lounging on the sand or bobbing in the water. The wind had picked up that afternoon, and not many gulls were in flight. I noticed one gull flying near us, not making a lot of headway. Like his many relatives on the sand, it learned early in life to use the wind to great advantage by flying into it and managing to stay aloft. These birds, like all birds, adapt to changing weather conditions in order to fly in unfavorable conditions. In similar fashion, we human beings are capable of adapting to changing conditions, but at times there can be frequent frustrations or life-altering challenges that overtake us. Unlike our friends the gulls, we have not always learned how to ride the gusts and adapt to the winds of disappointment or despair.

There is a scripture verse meant for us that expresses hope for the times we need it the most when we are barely managing to stay aloft. “But those who hope in the Lord will renew their strength. They will soar on wings like eagles; they will run and not grow weary; they will walk and not be faint” (Isaiah 40:31). The soundness of these words is like an invocation, a summoning, to be hopeful in all things.

Duke Ellington had a sense for hope when he said, “Gray skies are just clouds passing over.” Another way to look at it is to believe that the sun shines every day even when we can't see it.

The following quote on the subject of eagles was given to me by a member of the congregation. May it serve as a respite for you this week.

*“Did you know that an eagle knows when a storm is approaching long before it breaks? The eagle will fly to some high point and wait for the wind to come.*

*When the storm hits, the eagle sets its wings so that the wind will pick it up and lift it above the storm. While the storm rages below, the eagle soars above it.*

*The eagle does not escape from the storm. It simply uses the storm to lift it higher. It rises on the winds that bring the storm.*

*When the storms of life come upon us—and all of us will experience them—we can rise above them by setting our minds and our belief toward God. The storms do not have to overcome us. We can allow God's power to lift us above them.*

*God enables us to ride the winds of the storm that bring sickness, tragedy, failure, and disappointment in our lives. We can soar above the storm. Remember, it is not the burdens of life that weigh us down; it is how we handle them.”*

*(Author unknown)*

13TH ANNUAL

HINCKLEY AREA FOOD PANTRY'S  
LARGEST FUNDRAISER OF THE YEAR!



# TURKEY DROP & FOOD DRIVE

**SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 5TH**

**11AM UNTIL 1PM**

**PLOWMAN'S PARK**

**(48W508 HINCKLEY ROAD, BIG ROCK)**

**HOSTED BY JENN SCHLACHTER & HBR CUB SCOUTS**

## ITEMS NEEDED

**12-14 lb. Frozen Turkeys**

Stuffing Mix

Instant Potatoes

Canned Yams

Canned Veggies

Gravy

Cranberry Sauce

Dessert Mixes & Frosting

Monetary Donations  
Appreciated!

Make Checks Payable to:

Hinckley Area Food Pantry  
PO Box 463  
Hinckley, IL 60520

HAVE QUESTIONS?  
NEED MORE INFORMATION?

CONTACT:  
JENN SCHLAC  
630-926-57  
JSCHLACHTER4@GI



## A Challenge from Mike and Jim!



In conjunction with the Hinckley Area Food Pantry Turkey Drop and Food Drive, Mike and Jim are challenging the congregation to fill their trunks with food on Sunday, November 5th with donations from the congregation. Simply bring your donations to the church before the Worship Service begins on Sunday, November 5th. They will bring everything to Plowman's Park as a donation from our church. Although all shelf stable food is welcomed (as well as monetary donations), here are some requests for the holiday season:

Suggested items needed include:

12-14 lb. frozen turkeys

stuffing mix

instant potatoes

canned yams

gravy

cranberry sauce

boxed desserts

canned frosting

(any non-perishable food is appreciated)

Thank you for your support of this wonderful annual food drive for our less fortunate neighbors!





## Memorial Sunday - November 19th

Join us as we gather to remember those that we have lost in the past year and a half.

*Rhonda Beels*

*Penny Dennin*

*Larry Goodin*

*Ettamay Imthurn*

*Joyce Moga*

## Hanging of the Greens

November 26th, 2023



Please save the date and plan to help us decorate the church for the Savior's birthday. We have jobs for strong people to move Christmas trees and jobs for people sitting at tables preparing candles to fill our windows and many other jobs as well. There is something for everyone to do!

Following our decorating we will share a soup and salad luncheon. There will be a food signup sheet in the Fellowship Hall.

Please plan to help us make our beautiful church glorious to celebrate the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ!



**REMEMBER TO TURN BACK  
YOUR CLOCKS BEFORE GOING  
TO BED ON SATURDAY,  
NOVEMBER 4TH!**



# **Being a Christian is like being a pumpkin!**

**God picks you from the patch and  
brings you in.  
(John 15:16)**

**Then washes all of the dirt off of you.  
(2 Corinthians 5:17)**

**He opens you up and scoops out all the yucky  
stuff. He removes the seeds of doubt,  
hate, greed, etc.  
(Romans 6:6)**

**Then He carves you a new smiling face.  
(Psalm 71:23)**

**And He puts His light inside you to shine for all  
the world to see.  
(Matthew 5:16)**

# Volunteers for November

**November 5th**  
**Sunday School - 9am**  
**Worship 10:15 am**

**Sacrament of Communion**  
**Change Up Sunday**  
**Fill Mike and Jim's cars with food for Food Pantry**

Ushers: The Ashby and The Peters Families  
Nursery:  
Coffee: Volunteers are encouraged to sign up

Lock-up: Treasurer  
Servers: Moderator, Treasurer, Worship

**November 12th**

**Sunday School - 9am**  
**Worship 10:15 am**

Ushers: The Ashby and The Peters Families  
Nursery:  
Coffee: Larry and Mary Dalton

Lock-up: Operations

**November 19th**

**Sunday School - 9am**  
**Worship 10:15 am**  
**Memorial Sunday**

Ushers: The Ashby and The Peters Families  
Nursery:  
Coffee: John Omerod

Lock-up: Outreach



**November 26th**  
**Sunday School - 9am**  
**Worship 10:15 am**

**Hanging of the Greens**  
**After Worship Service**

Ushers: The Ashby and The Peters Families  
Nursery:  
Coffee: Soup and Salad Luncheon

Lock-up: Nurture

# November 2023

Sun

Mon

Tue

Wed

Thu

Fri

Sat

			1	2	3 Worship Ministry- 9:30am Lifespring Pizza Night 6pm in Aurora	4 <b>Turn back the clocks tonight!</b> 
5 Sunday School—9am Worship 10:15am Communion and Change Up Sunday <b>FILL THE TRUNK FOOD DRIVE</b>	6	7	8	9	10	11
12 Sunday School— 9am Worship 10:15am	13	14	15	16	17 Worship Ministry-9:30	18
19 Sunday School— 9am Worship 10:15am <b>Memorial Sunday</b>	20 Executive Council Meeting 6:30pm	21	22	23 	24 <b>HAPPY THANKSGIVING TO YOU AND YOUR FAMILY!</b> Our office will be closed on 11/24th .	25
26 Sunday School—9am Worship 10:15am  Hanging of the Greens after Worship	27	28	29	30		





## NOVEMBER BIRTHDAYS

1st — Mary Dalton  
8th—Sandra Bauer Lay  
10th—Kim Augustine  
14th—Jim Dennin  
21st—Michael Bayler



### A Note of Thanks from Gary and Mary Hauge

We would like to thank you for the prayers,  
calls, cards, emails, visits, and food after

Gary's hospital stay.

The ECUCC is certainly a caring congregation.

Thank you for everything you've done.

Gary and Mary Hauge



HAPPY THANKSGIVING FROM YOUR STAFF AT  
ENGLISH CONGREGATIONAL.

ENJOY THE TIME WITH YOUR FAMILY AND FRIENDS AND MAY  
THE NEXT YEAR BE FULL OF BLESSINGS AND GREAT MEMORIES  
SHARED TOGETHER.

ENGLISH  
CONGREGATIONAL  
UNITED CHURCH OF  
CHRIST

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"SEEKING JUSTICE, LOVING  
KINDNESS, AND WALKING HUMBLY  
WITH OUR GOD"  
OUR VISION STATEMENT

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