

November 2018

Currents

A PUBLICATION OF EAGLE RIVER PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH



We continue this year to help with the Eagle River Thanksgiving that are given out to those in need. We are collecting 100 envelopes of gravy mix and 100 boxes of stuffing mix. There is a basket outside the Admin Office where you can place your donations. The deadline is November 18. Thank you!!

Choir Practice!!

Choir will rehearse every Sunday morning from 8:45 - 9:45 am. Anyone interested is welcome. Please see Gretchen if you have any questions about choir and/or the rehearsals.

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FROM THE PASTOR

Dear Friends,

All of a sudden, winter is here! Halloween candy has gone on sale and the stores are full of Thanksgiving and Christmas decorations. We are looking forward to our November and December worship and fellowship events and anticipating the start of Advent on December 2.

I'm writing this article, though, on November 1 – All Saints' Day. In the early church it was celebrated to honor those who had been martyred because of their faith in Christ. In succeeding centuries, it became a way to remember the saints – known and unknown – who came before us and set an example of how we follow Jesus. Many churches, particularly Catholic and Episcopalian congregations, have a worship service of candle-lighting and prayer, giving thanks for the gifts of our ancestors and beloved family who are rejoicing in heaven.

This Sunday we will light candles and gather around the Lord's Table to share the feast our Lord provides for us. We will remember those we've loved and lost and the long procession of saints who were faithful followers of Jesus. Some of us will be joyful in remembering, for others the grief is still new, and the rest will experience joy and sorrow intermingled.

I found these words this week, written by Jonathan Edwards, the great American revival preacher who lived in the first half of the 18th century: *Christ is not only a remedy for your weariness and trouble, but he will give you an abundance of the contrary, joy and delight. They who come to Christ do not only come to a resting place after they have been wandering in a wilderness, but they come to a banqueting house where they may rest, and where they may feast. They may cease from their former troubles and toils, and they may enter upon a course of delights and spiritual joys.*

This fall it seems that we are all 'wandering in a wilderness', impacted both by personal griefs and struggles as well as the divisions and tragedies we are experiencing as a nation. Sometimes it seems that there is nothing that we as individuals can do. Romans 12:12 says *Rejoice in hope, be patient in trouble, and keep on praying.* That's exactly what the saints did and what each of us can do every day as we follow Jesus. That's the promise of our faith – that God will keep faith with us as we work together to follow him.

So, this month is one of remembrance and of gratitude – for the abundance of God's gifts and for the people he has gifted us with, both the living and our beloved dead. Thomas Merton says: **To be grateful is to recognize the love of God in everything he has given us — and he has given us everything. Every breath we draw is a gift of his love. Every moment of existence is a grace, for it brings with it immense graces from him.**

Gratitude, therefore, takes nothing for granted, is never unresponsive, is constantly awakening to new wonder and to praise of the goodness of God; for the grateful person knows that God is good not by hearsay but by experience, and that is what makes all the difference.

That does make all the difference, doesn't it? As we experience God's grace we know that all the promises of God are true – so we can be faithful to rejoice, patient as we wait, and always keep on praying. May God bless you all as we serve Him together – and Happy Thanksgiving!

Piper



Tom Darnall	8-Nov
Scott Bailey	14-Nov
Lucy Witt	15-Nov
Evleen Kelly	17-Nov
Bill Dougherty	21-Nov
Colton Braunwarth	21-Nov
Maya Priess	24-Nov

Second Sunday Social

Let's gather together and remember our Veterans Nov. 11th. If you can, please sign up to bring a dish to share.



**Advent Worship Service –
Every Sunday in
December at 10am**

**Blue Christmas Service –
December 12th at 7pm**

**Family Candlelight –
Christmas Eve at 7:30pm**

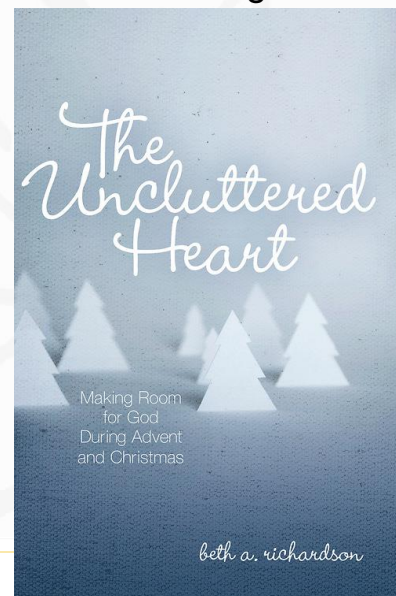
**Candlelight Communion –
Christmas Eve at 10pm**

Notes from the Congregational Meeting

On October 28, a Congregational Meeting was held. The purpose of the meeting was to elect officers, approve Pastor's Terms of Call, and to review and approve Bylaw changes. Brent Koenens' term as Chair of Trustees has ended. Dale Berry was nominated and elected to take this position. Elizabeth Hobbie and Nancy Davis were both elected to serve as Deacons. Linda Homan and Kim Arlington were elected to serve on the nominating committee. The proposed changes to the Bylaws were approved. The Pastor's Terms of Call were amended and approved to give her an increase in salary of 2.75%.

Advent Study

Please join us for our Advent Bible Study *The Uncluttered Heart – Making Room for God During Advent and Christmas*. We will begin on November 29 and meet each Thursday evening at 6:30 pm. There is a sign-up sheet on the wall outside the kitchen. The book is available in print or in digital format: please let us know on the sheet if you'd like us to order one for you or if you'd like the link to the digital version.



Friends of Our Troops

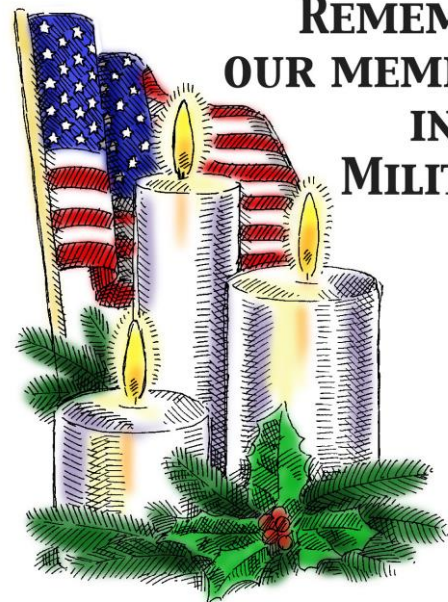
Christmas Card Mailing

Every year we take part in this amazing program that will send the Christmas cards that we write to our deserving military members serving our country. All you need to do is write a message in a card provided and place it in the basket. Collection of cards will have a deadline of November 19.

If you have a stash of extra Christmas cards at home and you would like to donate some, please bring them to Allison in the office. These cards can NOT have any glitter, or 3D items, or anything that can fall or flake off. Envelopes are not needed

There is a table set up in the sanctuary with cards and instructions. Please take a moment or 2 when you are here to support our troops and bring them a little holiday cheer.

**REMEMBER
OUR MEMBERS
IN THE
MILITARY**



Eagle River Presbyterian Church

PO Box 771337

Eagle River, AK 99577

Phone: (907) 694-5753

www.erpresbyterian.org



*As the rain
and the snow*

come down from heaven, and
do not return to it without
watering the earth ... so is my
word that goes out from my
mouth: It will not return to me
empty, but will ... achieve the
purpose for which I sent it.

Isaiah 55:10-11, NIV