

CASCADIAN WEEKLY

November 19, 2021

Week 88

A MESSAGE FROM THE PASTOR

Psalm 9:1 I will give thanks to you Lord, with all my heart; I will tell you all your wonderful deeds.

Dear Cascade Christian Church,

Happy Thanksgiving to you and yours. We have much to give thanks for as we celebrate Thanksgiving in 2021. As I look over this past church year, I am so full of gratitude for how God has blessed this church and for how you have been resilient, faithful, generous, and kind. You continue to find new ways to do what is important, to release what might not be as relevant as it once was, and to look to a future that is bright with hope as we follow Jesus Christ our Lord.

If I tried to count all of the blessings God has given us, this newsletter would be very long. As we celebrate the week of Thanksgiving, I am grateful for so many things, including:

·The team who made Thanksgiving dinner for over 115 people, as a take-out/drive-thru dinner. Pam Dykhuizen and her crew of volunteers out did themselves with wonderful food and fellowship, making sure this long time tradition continued. The dinners were enjoyed by all.

·Our church Board as they continue to make wise decisions and practice good stewardship with the resources God has given us,

·Our church staff as they continue to adapt and serve God's Kingdom in their many roles. It is a blessing to work with such an amazing group,

·Our Christian Education programs, Bible studies, outreach projects, community groups, Grief share, Good Ol' Boys, Soul Warmers, the Praise Band members and musicians, the worship tech crews, our elders and deacons, church administrators and trustees, those who care for the grounds and raked the leaves, Soup and Sandwich ministry, and so many other ways we connect as the family of God and share our hope and faith in Jesus Christ.

May your Thanksgiving be blessed. God has done wonderful things in the past, and continues to do so, so tell others of the wonderful works of God, and thank God with all of your heart as you keep the faith.

God bless you and Happy Thanksgiving! Jill

THANK YOU

- Thank you to our awesome volunteers who cleared the church grounds of leaves on Saturday, November 13. Your hard work is appreciated!
- Thank you to all of the volunteers and donors who made our drive thru/take out Thanksgiving Dinner for Senior Citizens such a success. Special thanks to chief organizer Pam Dykhuizen!



WEEKLY CALENDAR OF EVENTS

<u>Sunday</u> _(11/21).	Thanksgiving Sunday Sunday School - 9:30 AM Crib Room - 9:30 AM Worship - 9:30, 11:00 AM Fowling -- 12:00 PM - 3:00 PM
<u>Monday</u> _(11/22).	Book Club Advocates - 11:30 AM (Coffee House) Soul Warmers 2:00-4:00 PM
<u>Tuesday</u> _(11/23).	Men's Group - 6:30 AM (Coffee House) Young Adult Small Group 7:00 PM Alcoholics Anonymous - 8:00 PM (Coffee House)
<u>Wednesday</u> _(11/24).	Overeaters Anonymous - 3:30 PM (Coffee House) Scouts - 7:00 PM (Centennial Hall) Alcoholics Anonymous - 8:00 PM (Coffee House)
<u>Thursday</u> _(11/25).	Thanksgiving Day Alcoholics Anonymous - 8:00 PM (Coffee House)
<u>Friday</u> _(11/26).	Church Office Closed Open Talk Group - 7:30 AM (Coffee House)
<u>Saturday</u> _(11/27).	

Financial giving for
the week ending in
11/14/2021:
Budgeted: \$10,652
Given: \$11,124.00

DECEMBER 5TH: JUBAL BRASS, BRUNCH, AND CHRISTMAS WORKSHOP SUNDAY!

On Sunday, December 5th we welcome Jubal Brass back to Cascade Christian Church. We will have one worship service at 10:30 in the sanctuary, focused on our hope in God as He sent Jesus to redeem the world. Jubal Brass is a 19 member brass choir that has been at Cascade Christian for over 50 years, helping us to celebrate the advent of Christ the Lord.

On December 5th we highly recommend that all who come to worship wear a mask to protect yourself and those around you.

After the worship service our high school youth will be hosting a brunch as a fund raiser for their summer mission trip. All are invited and COVID protocols for food handling and serving will be followed.

At 1:30 there will be a meeting in the coffee house for all of our elders, led by Elder Chair Gail Duchon.

Our annual Christmas Workshop of making crafts and ornaments and decorating cookies will be held in Centennial Hall from 2:00-4:00PM. Masking is highly recommended for all who attend. We will also have some Christmas Around the World activities. If you would like to make a poster about a country that interests you, the Christmas crafts, foods, and customs of that country, please be in touch with the church office and we'll get you signed up.

Looking forward to this special Sunday with our church and community!

UPCOMING WORSHIP SERVICES

Upcoming Worship Services with worship at 9:30 and 11:00 unless otherwise noted:

Sunday, November 21- Thanksgiving Sunday and a Celebration of Ministry

Sunday, November 28: The first Sunday of Advent focused on Waiting for the Lord with Faith, with the lighting of the Advent candle and the Operation Santa Claus video

Sunday, December 5: JUBAL BRASS SUNDAY with one service in the sanctuary at 10:30. This is the second Sunday of Advent focused on Waiting for the Lord with Hope, with the lighting of the Advent candle and singing carols with Jubal Brass.

Sunday, December 12: This is the third Sunday of Advent focused on Waiting for the Lord with Joy, with the lighting of the Advent candle and the Children's Sunday School Program at the 9:30 service.

Sunday, December 19: This is the fourth Sunday of Advent focused on Waiting for the Lord with Gratitude, with the lighting of the Advent candle and special music.

Friday, December 24:

- 3:00PM worship service in the sanctuary, singing the carols, a time of great joy
- 5:00PM worship service in the chapel – singing the carols and a time of great joy
- 11:00PM worship service in the sanctuary, candlelight, a time of great reverence

Sunday, December 26: We will have one worship service at 10:30 to celebrate God's goodness in 2021 and with a focus on our college students and the awarding of college scholarships.

A LETTER FROM OUR REGIONAL MINISTER-ELECT REV. DR. TERESA DULYEA-PARKER



Rev. Dr. Teresa Dulyea-Parker

Dear Church,

On Jan. 6, 2021, Epiphany in the Church year, I returned a phone call to my colleague Rev. Eugene James, Regional Minister for the Christian Church Michigan Region. He had asked me a few weeks earlier to consider partnering as the regional minister for Michigan when he retired at the end of 2021. I told him I would study the “Vision” and pray about it. On Jan. 6, I called to give him my answer, “I am willing to be in conversation.”

It is ten months later, and it seems we are a world away from all that was happening that day. One thing was constant, we have continued in prayer and conversation. Both of our regional governing bodies have voted to be in covenant partnership---**not a merger**. At the September Michigan regional assembly, the representatives officially affirmed our path forward.

On January, 1, 2022, this **covenant partnership** begins.

Sunday, Jan. 2 is Covenant Sunday.

We have a team creating worship resources for you to use. There will be a brief video that humorously tells the story of our coming together. (This is not a merger!) The video concludes with a sermon from me based on Isaiah 42:9—



*See, the former things have come to pass,
and new things I now declare;
before they spring forth,
I tell you of them.*

We will have a litany of covenant and a written prayer from our General Minister and President, Rev. Terri Hord Owens for your bulletin. We are inviting Disciples congregations in Michigan, Illinois and Wisconsin to use these resources that first Sunday. It is our gift to our Pastors and worship leaders. You can just push play!

For now, plan to use the worship resources on January 2. They will be up on our regional websites in November.

Rev. Dr. Teresa Dulyea-Parker

Regional Minister-Elect

Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) Michigan Region

MIDDLE & HIGH SCHOOL YOUTH GROUP

SUNDAY SCHOOL

This year we are working our way through the whole Bible. Come right up to the youth room at 11:00 AM (we will not be dismissing from Church). We hope to see you there!

MIDDLE SCHOOL MADNESS

Middle School Madness is returning TONIGHT November 19th from 7:00 PM - 9:00 PM. (high schoolers are welcome to help!) Join us for games, food, and a fun Friday evening!

EVENT SIGN UP -- IMPORTANT!!

We are so excited to get youth group underway. We will be going to Spring Hill for a winter retreat, Mackinac Island, on a mission trip, and doing some fundraisers to help pay for these events as well. If you'd like to help out or you know that your child would like to participate, please fill out the form. Let Michael know if you have any questions.



BE BOLD

We are holding a class for 5th-7th graders on Thursday afternoons from 4:15 - 5:45. Each week we'll be wrestling with questions about the faith. If your child needs a ride from school, please contact the church office.

WEDNESDAY NIGHT YOUTH GROUP

Our Wednesday Night Youth Group is up and running again. We are following the lessons in Sunday School and learning more about what we learned that week in Sunday School. We hope to see you here each week! **Note: We will not be having Wednesday Night Youth Group the week of Thanksgiving.**

FOWLING

Sunday, November 21st -- we will be meeting at Cascade at 12noon to go to Fowling. Again, feel free to come to Sunday School at 11 and then be picked up back at Cascade around 3 pm. Please bring \$10 plus money for snacks!

JUBAL BRASS BRUNCH

On December 5th the Middle School and High School Youth Groups will be hosting the Jubal Brass Brunch to help raise money for our Winter and Summer activities! Please let Michael Dirksen know if you are able to help volunteer for a time to help work the brunch.



CHILDRENS MINISTRIES

WEDNESDAY NIGHTS

Our Wednesday Night Youth Group for elementary kids is up and running again. We are doing our own unique lesson, playing some fun games, doing crafts, and having a great snack each week. Come learn more about God, and hang out with some of your friends from Elementary Camp! **Note: We will not be having Wednesday Night Youth Group the week of Thanksgiving.**

CHRISTMAS PROGRAM

Our Children are beginning work on the Christmas program this Sunday during the 9:30 service! If you would like your child to participate, please make sure they attend Sunday School as often as possible from now until the program on December 12. We will be assigning roles this Sunday (November 21), and parents will receive an email with more information next week.

CHRISTMAS WORKSHOP & CHRISTMAS AROUND THE WORLD

See Page 2

GENERAL NEWS

GROUP TRIP TO IKEA

Get your unique Christmas Presents early. We are going to Ikea in Canton, MI. We got so excited, we said the trip was November 18th but it is Friday, November 19th. You must call the office for reservations, limited seating. The Church Bus will leave at 8:00AM

We will eat lunch at Ikea restaurant (great place). If we leave and have enough time we may stop at Tanger in Howell and hope to be home by 6:30

Have fun and join us.

DIVERSITY AND INCLUSION GROUP MEETING

The Diversity and Inclusion group will be meeting Saturday, November 20 at 9:00 AM in the Coffee House.

DAYS FOR GIRLS WORKSHOP

Assembling, ironing, cutting, and stitching sustainable menstrual kits for young women, in Centennial Hall.

November 20, 1-4

All skill levels, sewers and non-sewers alike. Contact Diane Phelps (email dianephelps2010@gmail.com), or call the church office.

THANK YOU!!

Dear members of CCC, thank you for your generous response for pillows, peanut butter, pasta sauce, popcorn, and Pam cooking spray. When I called Family Promise to schedule the donation delivery they were so happy we thought of them and had collected items from their most needed list! I also want to thank Mark DeYoung for delivering to Family Promise.

Diane Phelps, chair of Social Action and Mission Outreach

11.14.2021 SERMON: WAIT IN HOPE

What do you look forward to? Christmas? A family gathering at Thanksgiving? A return to normal life? We are all hanging in there, but the last year and a half has been so hard. Today I urge you to wait, to wait with hope as we trust in our Lord and God. But hope seems to be in short supply. I had the joy last Friday of talking with Chuck Dykhuizen, and as we met about worship today, we looked out the sanctuary window, the trees were still yellow with bright leaves, half the sky was clear and sunny, and the darkness of the coming rainstorm was on the horizon, and it was lovely. We agreed there is still so much beauty, so much goodness and kindness, so much to be hopeful about in this world.

Psalms 33 is a psalm of hope, and appropriate for a Veterans day Sunday. Please read with me, starting at verse 12: **Blessed is the nation whose God is the Lord, the people he chose for his inheritance. From heaven the Lord looks down and sees all mankind; from his dwelling place he watches all who live on earth— he who forms the hearts of all, who considers everything they do.**

No king is saved by the size of his army, no warrior escapes by his great strength. A horse is a vain hope for deliverance; despite all its great strength it cannot save. But the eyes of the Lord are on those who fear him, on those whose hope is in his unfailing love, to deliver them from death and keep them alive in famine. We wait in hope for the Lord; he is our help and our shield. In him our hearts rejoice, for we trust in his holy name.

We put our hope in God, even as we face challenges. And while this may be a unique time for us, none of these troubles are new. When Dwight D. Eisenhower was President, he received a letter from eight-year-old Keith Aiken of Trumbull, CT. Kevin wrote, "After listening to the news about the cold war, I am worried about the people in the world. In thinking it over, I have a plan. Get all the leaders together who want war, Put them in a ring and let them fight it out." I'm sure that many veterans feel this way about war. Just let those who want to fight, do the fighting! Don't involve everybody else in it! War is a terrible thing, and it seems that war is inevitable in our world.

In Matthew 24:1-8 we read of war: **Jesus left the temple and was walking away when his disciples came up to him to call his attention to its buildings. 2"Do you see all these things?" he asked. "Truly I tell you, not one stone here will be left on another; every one will be thrown down." 3As Jesus was sitting on the Mount of Olives, the disciples came to him privately. "Tell us," they said, "when will this happen, and what will be the sign of your coming and of the end of the age?" 4Jesus answered: "Watch out that no one deceives you. 5For many will come in my name, claiming, 'I am the Messiah,' and will deceive many. 6You will hear of wars and rumors of wars, but see to it that you are not alarmed. Such things must happen, but the end is still to come. 7Nation will rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom. There will be famines and earthquakes in various places. 8All these are the beginning of birth pains.**

In Matthew 24:6 **"You will hear of wars and rumors of wars, but see to it that you are not alarmed. Such things must happen, but the end is still to come."** Most Bible commentators believe that Jesus was talking about the coming destruction of Jerusalem, which took place about 70 A.D. But could it be that wars are also a sign of the second coming of Christ? After reading the book of Daniel and all of his visions, it could be. When there are wars or disasters, we all hope for and long for the return of Jesus. We wait in hope.

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And sadly, it would seem, according to Jesus, that war is inevitable. And that shouldn't surprise us, from the beginning there has been conflict. The sons of our first parents Adam and Eve fought, and Cain killed Abel. The Old Testament is full of war and conquest stories, and the history of our own nation can be traced through the wars we have fought. Most of us have never been in armed conflict, but today we honor and recognize those who have served in the military to defend our country, and to preserve peace and justice throughout the world. This always has seemed to me to be a noble thing; I am proud of my ancestors who fought in the Revolutionary and Civil Wars, and you can be proud of those who've served in your family line. We are proud of our church members and friends who have served and are serving.

But I will never forget a conversation with Jeannette Gaylord, the wife of one of our beloved former pastors. She served as a nurse in a psychiatric unit in WWII. She hated war. You may recall Gen. Sherman once said, "You don't know the horrible aspects of war. I've been through two wars, and I know. I've seen cities and homes in ashes. I've seen thousands of men lying on the ground, their dead faces looking up at the skies. I tell you; war is hell!"

I would have never questioned Jeannette, and I don't doubt Sherman's feelings and convictions about war. They were right because there is nothing worse than hell. Today we honor and thank those who went through hell and back for God and country. There are some lessons we can learn from those who serve, lessons in waiting in hope, and those lessons might include:

- 1- Obey the Commander
- 2- Know the enemy
- 3- Fight the good fight

First - **OBEY THE COMMANDER.** Who commands your life? And how is obedience going for you? A quick story: An Air Force major was promoted to colonel and got a new office. The first morning he was in his new office an airman knocked on the door and asked to speak to him. The colonel, feeling the urge to impress the young airman, picked up his phone and began talking.

"Yes, General, thank you. Yes, I will pass that information along to the President this afternoon. Yes, goodbye, sir." Then, turning to the airman, he barked, "AND WHAT DO YOU WANT?" "Nothing important, sir," said the airman, "I JUST CAME TO HOOK UP YOUR TELEPHONE."

Some people have authority and some just pretend to have authority. Our culture seems to struggle with authority these days, everyone wants to be the commander, no one wants to obey. Satan uses the lures of pride, defiance, independence to make us think we can make a go of it on our own and that we don't need a Savior. Friends, world history shows us this doesn't work. We certainly know good and evil, and so often choose evil. We disobey our Commander. Our ultimate commander-in-chief is Jesus Christ!

Listen to these scriptures on obeying and staying with Christ: 2Timothy 2:3-4 **Endure hardship with us like a good soldier of Christ Jesus. No one serving as a soldier gets involved in civilian affairs—he wants to please his commanding officer.** Jesus is our commanding officer, when you claim him as Lord, you put your life, your future, your soul in his hands. Ephesians 1:22 explains Jesus' place in our lives: **And God placed all things under his feet and appointed him to be head over everything for the church,**

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Christ is the head of the church, and no other authority in your life, not politicians, officers, family members, your boss, no other authority in your life is above the authority of Christ, and none of them can give you hope as Jesus does. Before Him, we are all equal, all equally broken, all equally loved. When you accept Christ you become part of His forever family, and he will never let you go. That is where we wait in hope.

You, friends, are part of the family of God. You might try to get away, go AWOL, pull a Jonah and head in the opposite direction, but it won't work. In love, in mercy, God will seek you and find you. You can find the deeper joy and peace in life when you do what you're created to do, and obey the loving, wise, commands of Jesus. And Jesus is serious about this - our Commander-in-chief tells us in Luke 6:46: **"Why do you call me, 'Lord, Lord,' and do not do what I say?"** How would you answer? What else is there to say?

Second, I would urge you to KNOW THE ENEMY. Sometimes it is hard to know who the enemy is. People who seem like a friend can stab you in the back. Someone you trust lies to you. There are so many divisions these days that we forget how much we actually have in common. So who is the enemy? Who isn't the enemy? The enemy is Satan, the evil one, who loves to sow discord and anxiety on the followers of Christ. You have no enemies here, but sadly, in business, family, even in church, we attack each other when we ought to attack the real enemy. As Christians we are at war, but we're not at war with each other! When we fight with one another we are only helping the enemy.

The evil one loves church squabbles, family fights, businesses conflicts. Fights are everywhere, at school boards, in shopping malls, on-line, when you're driving your car. People want to engage you in conflict, thinking somehow, for some reason, you are their enemy. This is so far from the love of Jesus Christ. I'm not suggesting there aren't things to fight against, like injustice, like the evils of Hitler and the spread of communism, the oppression of people, and the extremists who would leave girls uneducated and suppressed. When you engage the enemy, make sure you are fighting the evil in this world, not one another. If you're unsure about what is evil, check out this scripture: Ephesians 6:12 **For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the powers of this dark world and against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly realms.**

So, what are we supposed to do? Allow me a little church humor here: At every Wednesday night prayer meeting, a man would end his prayer the same way saying: "Lord, clean all the cobwebs out of my life." It got to be too much for another in the prayer group, he had heard about the cobwebs one time too often. So when the man made that prayer, the fellow jumped to his feet and shouted: "Lord, Lord, don't clean the cobwebs! Kill the spider!"

Sometimes we are focused on the cobwebs instead of what caused the cobwebs. We all have cobwebs in our lives, but our spider is Satan. We need to fight his evils: abuse, poverty, COVID 19, kidnapping missionaries in Haiti, all forms of injustice. And we do that by obeying our Commander, Jesus, with prayer, action, Bible study, reading what Jesus said for ourselves, with fellowship, conversation, generosity, serving others. We fight evil by putting someone else first, by seeking faith and reason. The Apostle Peter faced the enemy and gives us this warning:

1Peter 5:8 -9 **Be self-controlled and alert. Your enemy the devil prowls around like a roaring lion looking for someone to devour. Resist him, standing firm in the faith, because you know that your brothers and sisters throughout the world are undergoing the same kind of sufferings.** We fight the enemy with strong weapons, the faith stuff in life, knowing Jesus is with us as a fortress and shield.

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And that is where I urge you to fight the good fight. And it is not easy to pick up your cross and follow Jesus. Going along with evil, or ignoring evil is so much easier, much more painless, and Jesus knew what we face because he faced it himself. In Matthew 10:22 he tells us **All men will hate you because of me, but he who stands firm to the end will be saved**

Standing firm, going the distance, fortitude, not giving up are qualities our veterans know well. I remember hearing from some of our young men after they headed to boot camp that, as much as they had prepared, military life was a rude awakening. It was 24/7- not 9:00 to 5:00. The Christian life is more than being at church on Sunday morning and then forgetting all about the faith the rest of the week. It's 24/7. Following Christ is a lifelong commitment to obey the commander, beware the enemy - the evil one and all of his lies, and then fight the good fight.

We are called to endure to the end, and to fight with the weapons of love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control. And friends, I see that in you. I have seen that as some of our beloved people have known the end of their life was near, and had peace, knowing they were getting closer and closer to the nearer presence of God. I have seen that in you as you have been so strong and resilient, figuring out how to navigate through the last 21 months. I have seen that in you, as you are so generous, and kind, and how every time the church makes an ask, be it clothes for a family, pillows, pasta, and peanut butter for Family Promise, or candy for Trunk or Treat, you respond with open hands and loving hearts. You are committed, you sacrifice, you give, you follow Jesus. Jesus, who took on the sins of the world, went to the cross, and then to the grave and out the other side. The battle is won - Jesus has the victory, and so do you.

So we will follow Jesus and wait with hope, loving God and loving people, fighting evil, to the end, to victory with Jesus. After the deliverance at Dunkirk, Churchill rallied Britain with his most memorable speech. He said: "We shall fight on the beaches, we shall fight on the landing grounds, we shall fight in the fields and in the streets, we shall fight in the hills. We shall never surrender." And we will not, we will follow the Prince of Peace, we will not give in to evil and wickedness. We will not surrender, we will not give up in working for justice, peace, and mercy for all of God's people.

In 2 Timothy 4:7 the Apostle Paul writes: **I have fought the good fight**, but have we? We can if we wait with hope. May we fight against evil by sharing God's love as we work for God's Kingdom. Friends, let's obey the commander, Jesus Christ, let's know the enemy and work for peace and grace, and don't ever, ever give up. By the goodness of God, wait in hope. Amen and amen.

HELP NEEDED IN ASSISTED LIVING HOMES

We have been contacted by assisted living homes that are in need of help

- Sentinel Pointe is in need of help. They need servers in the dining room to feed their residents. They have part time jobs available. Please call Sentinel Pointe to apply (616) 957-9767 and ask for Jim.
- Emerald Meadows Assisted Living has lost a lot of volunteers since COVID began. They would love to have groups or individuals come in and have services, bible studies, or discussions for their residents. If you would like to volunteer contact Emerald Meadows at (616) 954-2366 and ask for activity director Jackie Hall