



Happy Thanksgiving!

<sup>4</sup>Enter his gates with thanksgiving  
and his courts with praise.  
Give thanks to him; bless his name.

<sup>5</sup>For the Lord is good;  
his steadfast love endures forever  
and his faithfulness to all generations.

Psalm 100:4-5

Is our Thanksgiving holiday found in the Bible? No. The first American Thanksgiving was celebrated in 1621 over a three day harvest festival. It included 50 Pilgrims, 90 Wampanoag Indians, and lasted three days. It is believed by historians that only five women were present.

However, the Hebrew people did give thanks to God for the harvest with three celebrations throughout the year, the Feast of Firstfruits, the Feast of Weeks, and the Feast of Tabernacles.

Each of the three feasts required that all able-bodied Jewish males travel to Jerusalem to attend the feast and offer sacrifices. All three of these feasts required that “firstfruit” offerings be made at the temple as a way of expressing thanksgiving for God’s provision. The Feast of Firstfruits celebrated at the time of the Passover included the first fruits of the barley harvest. The Feast of Weeks was in celebration of the first fruits of the wheat harvest, and the Feast of Tabernacles involved offerings of the first fruits of the olive and grape harvests.



So, you can see there is an indirect connection between the harvest feasts in the Bible and the tradition that started in America to give thanks to God for the harvest.

According to Strong's definitions, the Hebrew word thanksgiving is *tôwdâh* (to-daw') and it means confession, praise, and offering which are included in all of our worship services. As we celebrate Holy Communion, the prayer that is offered to God is called, The Great Thanksgiving. When we give thanks in the truest sense of the biblical word, we offer God our praises and acknowledge that God is the giver of all good gifts.

Of course, the greatest gift from God is salvation by grace through faith in Jesus Christ. Even if everything else is going wrong in our lives, we always have the good news of the gospel to give thanks for. We can always praise God for creating and loving us unworthy sinners. When we confess that Jesus is our Lord and Savior, we can praise God for the gift of eternal life and that life with God lasts forever.

If you want to get a jump start on offering God thanks, the book of Psalms is a great place to start. During November try reading a psalm a day or read Psalms 95-100, which are considered some of the most beautiful psalms of thanksgiving.

I give thanks to God for each one of you and for your faith in his son, Jesus Christ. What are you thankful to God for?

Have a blessed Thanksgiving,

*Stephanie Knopf*, Moderator of the PCW Session and Temporary Pastor at PCW

**25 Fun Thanksgiving Facts You'll Want to Tell Everyone You Know**  
<https://www.housebeautiful.com/lifestyle/a22792044/thanksgiving-fun-facts/>



# Thanksgiving Blessings to Everyone



Property Committee chairman David Brunworth shared his family's pumpkin crop, and with the help of Katie Collins, the two arranged it on our church patio.



## 2024 Harvest of Mission Garden Nears End

On October 10, Steve Sebastian delivered one of the last donations of food to Loving Hearts from this season's Mission Garden yield. Steve is pictured with buckets of sweet potatoes and fresh peppers. Monarch butterflies were still visiting our garden in October and feasting on the hundreds of giant zinnias that were planted in the spring. Thanks to all of our garden angels who worked tirelessly this spring, summer, and fall. Once again, we delivered about 1,000 pounds of produce to the Loving Hearts food pantry for persons in need.





# Thank you!

The Fall Heifer Project event raised an astounding \$1,698.98!!! Your incredible generosity has provided the means for many people here and around the world to better provide for their families. With Heifer's Passing the Gift program, these families share with their neighbors thereby benefiting entire communities!

## *What does \$1,698.98 purchase?*



56 beehives *or*



14 sheep



*or* 85 flocks of chickens *or*



3 heifers.

The Mission Committee has decided to earmark our donation for Heifer Project's "Where Most Needed" category. This will ensure that our gift will help those in direst need.

## *Thank you again!*

*"How does God's love abide in anyone who has the world's goods and sees a brother or sister in need and yet refuses help? Little children, let us love, not in word or speech, but in truth and action." 1 John 3:17-18.*



## Congregation Honors Custodian Ken Roetheli As He Retires After 36 Years at Our Church

About 65 years ago, when a young boy was nearing the end of eighth grade, he told his parents he wanted to attend Borgia High School in downtown Washington, Missouri. “Fine,” said his parents, who were raising five sons on one hourly wage. “But you’ll have to work to help pay for the tuition. You know we don’t have that kind of money for a private school.”

The boy was Ken Roetheli. He got an after-school job of bagging groceries at Kroger, saved most of his paycheck, and paid the tuition fee at Borgia every year, graduating in 1966. “I don’t remember how much I got paid for that grocery job,” Ken recalled, “but it took about a year for me to earn \$108, which was Borgia’s annual tuition back then.”

Ken’s strong work ethic, which he attributes to his parents, led to a long and successful career in the retail grocery business. After working for Kroger, National, and IGA stores, he was hired by Walmart in 1988 to be on the original employee team when Walmart opened on October 4 in Washington. The Washington store was Walmart’s first “supercenter store,” in the nation, offering a variety of products and services. Today, the giant retailer has 3,560 supercenters. “I started as a stocker, then did ordering, and was even a cashier sometimes. The store was smaller than the one we have today, and I got to know almost all the regular customers on a first-name basis. Toward the end of my 35 years at Walmart, I was manager of the frozen foods department.”

Ken’s scheduled day off at Walmart in 1988 was Wednesday. With a wife and two young children, in a year where a 30-year fixed mortgage rate was 10.34 percent, a part-time job sounded attractive. “I heard that the Presbyterian Church was looking for a grass cutter, so I applied,” he said. “Pretty soon I was asked to set up tables for the bell choir, meetings, and special events. One day, Pastor Paul Bock called me into his office. I wondered if I’d done something wrong. He said the regular custodian had come down with cancer and the church was happy with my work. Would I consider being the church custodian? I said I would do the job if I could choose the days I worked. The Session gave approval and Margaret Jones, the church secretary hired me. So I started working for the church the same year I began at Walmart.”

When our current church building was under construction, Ken and his son Chris often drove out in the evenings or weekends to check on the progress. “I’d helped my dad mow the lawn and empty wastebaskets at the downtown church,” remembered Chris, “and we sure did notice that the new church was a lot larger.”

*Continued on page 6.*

When Ken felt he needed a few extra hands, the entire family helped clean our building, which was completed in 1993. From elementary school through high school, Ken and Anna’s two children—Chris and Aimee—spent part of some weekends emptying wastebaskets in our church while their mom and dad did the deep cleaning in the sanctuary, classrooms, restrooms, and small kitchen. (Fellowship Hall and the large kitchen were cleaned by the Property Committee or persons who rented the space.)

The most time-consuming task in the new building, said Ken, was vacuuming the carpet, not only in the sanctuary but in the narthex and halls. “I went to the church three times a week,” added Ken. “I cleaned up on Monday after the worship service, returned on Wednesday to make sure everything was in good order, and went back again on Saturday to vacuum and tidy up for Sunday activities. If there was a wedding or funeral at the church, I made sure everything was clean for those events. I also swept the sidewalk entrance to the church so it would look nice.”

Two emergencies occurred in our church when Ken was in the building. At Ken’s retirement luncheon on October 13, 2024, Gretchen Farrell shared a story from many years ago about a large wedding reception in Fellowship Hall when she and Kathy Froning were wedding coordinators. Two female teenagers visited the women’s restroom and hastily reported that at least an inch of water was covering the floor. “Somebody grabbed Ken for help,” explained Gretchen, “and he just rolled up his sleeves and started cleaning the mess with a few others who also pitched in.” Another time, Ken and his family were in the church hallway near the small kitchen waiting their turn to be photographed for the church pictorial directory. “Water started leaking through the kitchen ceiling, which caused quite a commotion—it was frozen pipes that had burst,” he said. “Luckily, someone from church was there who knew how to turn off the water supply, so there wasn’t much mopping up to do.”

***Ken married Anna Welker in 1975, and the same year they bought a house that had been built in 1889 on Highway A in Washington. Later, the couple added a wrap-around porch. Besides flower gardening, one of Ken’s hobbies was decorating their home with thousands of Christmas lights. “I used a 40-foot extension ladder to hang lights on the eaves,” he said, “with two of my brothers on the ground holding it. Every year people would tell us how much they enjoyed the lights.” Anna died in 2023, and Ken’s health no longer permits these aerial lighting gymnastics.***

*Continued on page 7.*



Both Chris and Aimee graduated from college and they value the skills they learned from their dad about cleaning and about how to get along with people. Chris is a Business Development Officer for U.S. Bank in St. Louis, and has served on the Finance Committee of Habitat for Humanity St. Louis for the past two years. Aimee, along with her husband, owns the Serv-Pro franchise in St. Charles. She has received the highest industry accreditation for removal of smoke and water damage in both residential and commercial properties. Ken's oldest grandchild, Ella Wessel, describes her grandfather as "a joy and light to a lot of people. He has so much compassion for everyone." Ella is enrolled in the nursing program at State Tech in Linn, Missouri.

Because Ken was in our church building so often, he has met hundreds of members over the years and become friends with many of them. He has also attended funerals and weddings, enjoyed social events in Fellowship Hall, and supported our rummage sales and books sales. "My wife said I had the gift of gab, and she also said I knew most of the women in Washington," Ken laughed. "Years ago, that was true because it was women who did the grocery shopping for the family, and they'd see me at Walmart. Now, of course, a lot of men are in the grocery stores."

"I've probably known Ken for all the 36 years that he worked at the Presbyterian Church of Washington. He greeted everyone with a smile, radiating his positive attitude and always had a story or joke to share. Ken has reminded me through his actions and words how important it is to have a positive attitude. Our church has been blessed over the years to have him around, and he will certainly be missed."

—Mauri Truesdell

When asked about his favorite memories of working 36 years at our church, Ken didn't hesitate. "The friendships were the best part of my job," he reflected. "I'm a Catholic, but I have a lot of Presbyterian friends, and nobody can take that away from me."

**The Roetheli family from left: Arlie Wessel (grandson), Dan Wessel (son-in-law), Ella Wessel (granddaughter), Aimee Wessel (daughter), Ken, Chris Roetheli (son), Abby Roetheli (daughter-in-law), Wynnie (granddaughter in lace collar), and Hodgen Roetheli (grandson). Below, Ken fills his plate at his retirement luncheon on October 13 at our church.**



# Thank You From Ken Roetheli

To the Presbyterian Church of Washington:

Words cannot express my appreciation and thanks for the wonderful retirement party that you gave to me and my family last on Sunday, October 13. Thank you to the ladies and anyone else who had anything to do with the dinner and all the great food! It was all DELICIOUS!

The retirement lunch was hosted by our Personnel Committee and Church Life Committee. Thank you!

It was so good seeing everyone again, and all your kind words were very touching and very appreciative.

These past 36 years hold many great memories which I will treasure for a long time.

I will try to attend a Sunday service periodically and also a potluck occasionally. I hope to see everyone on Oct 29<sup>th</sup> for the “Soup Supper” and potluck. Thanks again for the great retirement dinner and party. It meant the world to my family and I. Thanks also to Aneeta Brown for the article in this newsletter. *Ken Roetheli*



## November Deadlines for Our Warner Winter Warm-Up Coat Drive

### Sunday, November 3

Last day to donate clean, used or new coats, jackets, and sweatshirts of all sizes to the boxes in our narthex for this year's campaign.

### Sunday, November 10

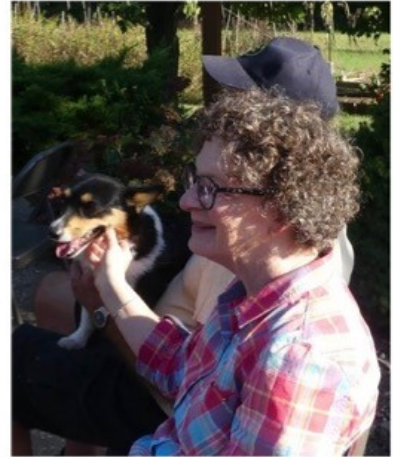
Our church is a sorting center for all of the coats we receive. You are welcome to join us at 1:00 p.m. in Fellowship Hall to help sort the donations.

*Thank you for supporting this worthy charity for needy persons, which was founded by Hall of Fame NFL Quarterback Kurt Warner.*



**Tenth Annual Blessing of the Pets  
October 6, 2024, at Our Church**





Our thanks to all the people and pets (8 dogs and 3 cats) who attended this special worship service on our patio. We appreciate especially our coordinators Tom and Gretchen Farrell, Craig Matzes, Katie Farrell, Ian McCracken, Linda Booher, Vivian Marshall, and guest speaker Susie Blatt, president of the Board of Directors of Franklin County Humane Society. We collected \$65 for FCHS plus 43.5 pounds of pet food.





# Clerk's Corner

By Nancy Sebastian

## News from Session

**Church Life:** The Franklin County Health Inspector recently visited the church kitchen, and it passed with a glowing recommendation, thanks to the hard work of the Church Life Team in organizing and cleaning the space. The committee reminds everyone to leave the kitchen in even better condition than they found it. As the youth are frequent kitchen users, parents and sponsors are encouraged to emphasize the importance of cleaning to them.

**Finance:** A special thank you to Phyllis McElhinney and Gary Brehe for completing the 2023 and 2024 audit. Their time and dedication have been invaluable—please thank them for their hard work.

**Personnel:** The committee recommends keeping the church office closed between Christmas and New Year's. Committee members will monitor the office phone, and for any urgent needs, please contact Nancy Sebastian.

**Pastoral Care:** Pastor Stephanie Knopf has been appointed as a Temporary Pastor and will be active in the pulpit and pastoral duties, including the PCW Prayer Group. To reach Stephanie, call Ann in the office; if the office is closed, please reach out to Nancy.

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## Old Business

- **Hanging of the Greens:** November 24, 2024, immediately following Worship.
- **Congregational Meeting:** December 8, 2024, to elect new Elders.
- **Christmas Eve Service:** December 24, 2024, at 6:00 p.m.
- **Elder Installation & Ordination:** January 12, 2025, with training after church service. A light lunch will be provided for Elders.
- **Committee Reports:** Due to Nancy by Friday, January 10, 2025.
- **PCW Annual Report:** Available January 21, 2025, or sooner.
- **PCW Annual Meeting:** Sunday, January 26, 2025.

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A membership transfer was granted to Christie Borgford Summerlin, who has joined Lesters Chapel United Methodist Church in Columbiana, AL. Interestingly, Christie was Tom Farrell's high school chemistry teacher and inspired his pursuit of a medical career.

May this fall season bless you with its beauty and peace.

Grace and Peace,  
Nancy

# **Choose an Ornament From Our Giving Tree To Help a Local Family and the Pregnancy Assistance Center**

**Ornaments will be available on Sunday, November 24, through Sunday, December 15, on the tree by our sanctuary doors.**



The Mission Committee will be presenting the Giving Tree again this Christmas. We will be providing suggestions for children's gift items for families having financial problems. These gifts will be given to the Pregnancy Assistance Center and to a local family known to have special needs this year.

As in the past, we will have ornaments with gift ideas, available for you to take, purchase, and return to the church. **These ornaments will be hanging on the Christmas tree beginning on Sunday, November 24, and ending Sunday, December 15, 2024.**

Please consider participating in this very worthy holiday project. As always, the Mission Committee appreciates your caring generosity.

**Thank you to all 15 people who helped at the October 26 Harvest Table event at St. Peter's UCC, especially Nancy and Steve Sebastian.** They led the event that night for us. We contributed 500 cookies and it was a great time! Our 2025 Harvest Table event dates are: January 11, April 5, August 16, and November 15.

*Thank you!*



## ***Last Scrip Order Dates This Year Are November 3 and December 1***

Please remember to help our church through our PCW Scrip Program! Every order gets our church an immediate percentage and it all adds up quickly. This is only one of two fundraisers for our church all year long. With Christmas around the corner and birthdays all year long, it is a win-win situation for all. **Our last two 2024 order dates are Sunday, November 3 and Sunday, December 1.** Order physical cards to arrive well before Christmas or digital cards to arrive immediately in your email inbox or your loved one's email inbox, even on Christmas Day. Thanks for ordering! **The Scrip order form is on page 16 of this newsletter,**

Your PCW Scrip Program Coordinators  
*Gretchen Farrell, Kathy Froning, and Becky Vogt.*





Photo by Aneeta Brown



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Aneeta Brown, Interim Editor  
[missouriwriter@yahoo.com](mailto:missouriwriter@yahoo.com)

**Editorial Review Board:** Gretchen Farrell,  
Nancy Sebastian, and Mauri Truesdell.

# 2024 PCW Committee Members

## Christian Ed. Committee

Kathy Rogers, Co-Chair\*  
 Gerry Urban, Co-Chair\*  
 Beth Brehe  
 Micki Brehe  
 Craig Matzes  
 Ian McCracken  
 Heather Miller  
 Jolene Patterson\*

## Outreach Committee

Tom Farrell, Chair\*  
 Aaron Bounds  
 Alicia Brehe  
 Katie Farrell  
 Ian McCracken  
 Heather Miller  
 Nancy Sebastian\*

## Worship & Music Committee

Tom Ellenberger, Chair\*  
 Mike Becker  
 Aaron Bounds  
 Emily Bounds  
 John Bugele  
 Katie Collins  
 Tom Kempf  
 Vivian Marshall  
 Jolene Patterson\*

## Personnel Committee

### Mauri Truesdell, Chair\*

Mary Ellenberger  
 Gretchen Farrell  
 Joe Hagan  
 Nancy Sebastian\*  
 Elda Seener\*  
 Tim Urban

## Church Life Committee

Linda Booher, Co-Chair\*  
 Sarah Spear, Co-Chair\*  
 Beth Bonney  
 Jane Bugele  
 Shirley Coulter  
 Barb Hagen  
 Karen Ladd  
 Vivian Marshall  
 Francie Turnure  
 Jean Weekley  
 Lee Westerhoff

## \*Session Members

Nancy Sebastian, Clerk  
 Linda Booher  
 David Brunworth  
 Tom Ellenberger  
 Tom Farrell  
 Jolene Patterson  
 Kathy Rogers  
 Elda Seener  
 Sarah Spear  
 Mauri Truesdell  
 Gerry Urban

## Property Committee

### David Brunworth, Chair\*

John Bugele  
 Bob Eade  
 Jim Glamann  
 Joe Hagan  
 Barbara Schofield  
 Steve Sebastian

## Finance Committee

Tom Farrell, Chair\*  
 Linda Booher, Treasurer\*  
 Gary Brehe  
 Karen Ladd

## MEETING TIMES:

Phyllis McElhinney

Elda Seener\*  
 Bruce Wiese

<b>Christian Ed.</b>	<b>2nd Sunday</b>	<b>11:30 AM</b>
<b>Church Life</b>	<b>2nd Tuesday</b>	<b>9:30 AM</b>
<b>Finance</b>	<b>2nd Monday</b>	<b>12:00 PM</b>
<b>Mission</b>	<b>1st Tuesday</b>	<b>10:00 AM</b>
<b>Outreach</b>	<b>2nd Wednesday</b>	<b>6:30 PM</b>
<b>Personnel</b>	<b>2nd Tuesday</b>	<b>6:00 PM</b>
<b>Property</b>	<b>2nd Sunday</b>	<b>11:30 AM</b>
<b>Session</b>	<b>4th Thursday</b>	<b>6:30 PM</b>
<b>Worship</b>	<b>2nd Thursday</b>	<b>7:00 PM</b>

## Mission Committee

Debbie Bandy  
 Christy Eckert  
 Gretchen Farrell  
 Lois Kempf  
 Kathy Rogers\*  
 Sarah Spear\*

Updated 8/19/2024

# PRESBY SCRIP PROGRAM ORDER FORM

Customer NAME: \_\_\_\_\_ Email (if new customer only): \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Customer PHONE: \_\_\_\_\_ **\*\*\*All Sales are Final \*\* No Returns \*\* No Refunds**

Merchant terms and conditions as well as additional forms are available at The Presbyterian Church of Washington.

Vendor	%	QTY	\$ Total
<b>AUTOMOTIVE</b>			
• BP \$50, \$100, (\$250, 2.5%)	1.5		
Fischer's Phillips66 \$25, \$50, \$100	2		
• Casey's General Store and Gas \$25	3		
<b>CLOTHING/DEPT.STORES</b>			
• JCPenny \$25, \$100	5		
• Kohl's \$25, \$100	4		
• Marshall's \$25, \$100	7		
• Macy's \$25, \$100	10		
• Maurice's \$20	7		
• Ross Dress for Less \$25	8		
• Sam's Club \$25, \$50, \$100, \$250	2.5		
• Shoe Carnival \$25	5		
• Target \$10, \$25, \$50, \$100, \$250	2.5		
• Walmart \$25, \$50, \$100, \$250	2.5		
<b>DRUG STORES</b>			
Schroeder Drug \$5, \$10, \$25, \$50	5		
• Walgreens \$25, \$100	5		
<b>GROCERY STORES</b>			
Williams Bros.Meat Mkt. \$25	5		
• Honey-Baked Ham \$25	12		
<b>HOME IMPROVEMENTS</b>			
• Ace Hardware \$25, \$100	4		
• Lowe's \$20, \$25, \$100, \$500, \$1000	4		
<b>MAIL ORDER-ONLINE</b>			
• Amazon \$25, \$100	1.7		
• Apple/iTunes \$15, \$25, \$100, \$500	5		
• Barnes & Noble \$10, \$25, \$100	8		
• Lands End \$25, \$100	15		
• Overstock.com \$25	8		
• LLBean \$25, \$100	16		
<b>SPECIALTY STORES</b>			
• Bass Pro Shop \$25, \$100	10		
• Bath & Body Works \$10, \$25	12		
• Big Lots \$25, \$100	4		
• Cabela's \$25, \$100	10		
Cinema One Plus \$20	5		
Designer Threads \$25	15		
• Dicks Sporting Goods \$25, \$100	8		
• Five Below \$25	2.5		
Fricke Photography \$20	5		
Great 8 Cine \$10	10		
Hillermann Nursery \$25, \$50	5		
I.B.Nuts & Fruit Too \$20	10		
• Jo-Ann Fabric \$25	6		
• Michael's \$25, \$100	4		
• Ulta Beauty \$25	7		
Wolf Hollow \$20	5		

Vendor	%	QTY	\$ Total
<b>RESTAURANTS</b>			
Aldo's \$10, \$20	5		
• Applebee's \$25	8		
• Arby's \$10	8		
Big Boy's Subs & Wings \$10	5		
• Bob Evans \$10, \$25	10		
• Burger King \$10, \$25	6		
Café Mosaic \$10	10		
Colton's \$25	5		
Cowan's \$25	5		
Dairy Delight \$10, \$20	5		
• Dairy Queen \$10	6.5		
• Domino's \$10, \$25	8		
• Fazoli's \$25 (Ecards ONLY!)	9		
• Hardees \$10	5		
Hawthorne Restaurant \$25	5		
Imo's Pizza \$20	10		
• Jack in the Box \$10	4		
Joe's Bakery & Deli \$10	5		
Johnny's-Union \$10	15		
Lion's Choice \$10	10		
Los Cabos \$20	10		
Marquart's Landing \$10	10		
• McDonald's \$10, \$25	2		
Millers Grill \$10, \$20, \$50	10		
Orange Leaf \$5, \$10	10		
• Panda Express \$25	8		
• Panera Bread \$10, \$25, \$50	8		
• Papa John's \$10	8		
• Papa Murphy's \$10	8		
Pasta House \$25	10		
• Pizza Hut \$10	8		
Saucy's Pizzeria \$10, \$20	10		
• Starbucks \$10, \$25, \$50	4.5		
• Steak'n Shake \$10 (Ecards ONLY!)	8		
• Subway \$10, \$50	4.5		
Sugarfire BBQ \$25	10		
• Taco Bell \$10, \$25	5		
The Creek Grill & Bar \$25	10		
<b>ADD-ON ORDERS</b>			

**PAYMENT METHOD** \_\_\_\_\_

If Cash, Amount \_\_\_\_\_

If Check, Amount \_\_\_\_\_

If Check, check number \_\_\_\_\_

Make checks payable to *The Presbyterian Church*

**TOTAL ORDER AMOUNT = \$** \_\_\_\_\_

• (This DOT indicates a National Brand, no DOT indicates a Local Merchant.)

Sign when Receiving Order: \_\_\_\_\_

Filled by: \_\_\_\_\_

Date Received: \_\_\_\_\_

Scrip Order Form 9-10-2024