

THE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF BARRINGTON
MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

NOVEMBER

CARILLON **2026**

From The Pastor's Desk

Thanksgiving reminds us of how important it is to say "thank you." It seems sadly emblematic of the way the forces of irony and entitlement have produced a culture who often have no idea how to express simple, unqualified gratitude. Therefore, we need Thanksgiving. It reminds us that we are bankrupt when it comes to offering thanks that are commensurate with our debts. Only an outpouring of God's love can open our eyes and warm our hearts, making us glad and grateful. And that outpouring is another word for grace.

In early New England it was the custom at Thanksgiving time to place five grains of corn at every plate as a reminder of those stern days in the first winter when the food of the Pilgrims was so depleted that only a few grains of corn were rationed to each individual. The Pilgrims wanted their children to remember the sacrifice, the suffering, and the hardships which made possible the settlement of a free people in a free land. They wanted to keep alive the memory of that terrible first winter which took such a toll on their lives. They did not want their descendants to ever forget that on the day on which their ration was severely reduced, only seven healthy colonists remained to nurse the sick, and that nearly half their original number lay in a windswept graveyard on the hill.

They did not want to forget that when the sun came up that day, there came into the hearts of each one of them a longing to get to that little church at the center of the community. Before the morning was over on that Thanksgiving Day, every colonist who was able to be there physically, and some who were not, had gathered in that little church, without any announcement, to give thanks to God. They sang praises to God and then went home to sit down to a Thanksgiving dinner of five grains of yellow corn.



I would like to make this suggestion for Thanksgiving: before placing our turkey, and dressing, and yams, and corn, and peas, and rolls, and pumpkin pie, and all the other delicious food on our tables, let us first put 5 grains of corn on each plate. Then, take a moment to give thanks for at least five blessings that you have experienced this year – one for each grain of corn. As the hymn affirms, “count your blessings, name them one by one, and it will surprise you what the Lord has done.”

Walking with you in the life of faith,

Pastor David

PASTOR DAVID’S PREACHING SCHEDULE

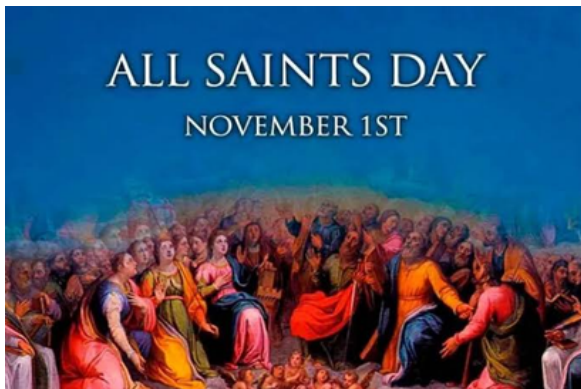
- November 1** Revelations 7:9-17 **Sparrowhawks and the Communion of Saints**
(the Sacrament of Holy Communion / Remembering the Saints / new member inquirers’ opportunity)
- November 8** Luke 12:13-34 **The Stewardship of Treasure**
- November 15** Luke 10:1-11 **The Kingdom of God is Nearer Than You Think**
(The Rev. Dan McNerney, guest preacher)
- November 22** Psalm 66:1-20 **The Stewardship of Testimony**
(the Sunday before Thanksgiving / decorating the sanctuary for Christmas / Messy Church)
- November 29** Luke 1:5-25, 57-80 **Angels Among Us: Make Ready a People**
- December 6** Luke 1:26-56 **Angels Among Us: Nothing Is Impossible**
(Second Sunday in Advent / the Sacrament of Holy Communion / recognition of new members)

GUEST PREACHER



We welcome to our pulpit on November 15th the Rev. Dan McNerney. Dan, pictured along with his wife, Sharon, is the founder and executive director of Encountering the Logos Ministry, a parachurch organization begun in 2022 to help individuals and local churches with their spiritual formation and adult education needs. For the previous 30 years, Dan was the senior associate for Frontier Fellowship, a mission support group worldwide. A Presbyterian Minister, he and Pastor David have known and worked together for almost 25 years. We look forward to the message that he brings.

WORSHIP



All Saints' Day, observed on the first Sunday of November, traces its roots to the fourth century and honors all who have died in the faith. This Christian observance reflects the belief in a powerful spiritual bond between those in heaven and those on earth. We will continue this tradition during our morning worship service on Sunday, November 1st.

We will light a candle and toll the bell for each person who has died during the past year, including those beyond our congregation.

MEET & GREET

Discover Our Community: Membership Informational Discussion Sunday Nov. 1st

If you want to learn more about our church or are considering joining our congregation, we invite you to "come and see!" Join us in the Fellowship Hall right after the morning worship service for a casual conversation. Grab a cup of coffee, ask any questions you have, and get to know us better. We would love to meet you!

LITURGIST

The Liturgist is an important part of our Sunday worship service. This person is one who is comfortable reading scripture and assisting in other parts of the worship service for that day. Taking part as our Liturgist on Sunday morning is rewarding for both you and our congregation. Pastor David will advise you of your part in the service by Friday of the week before. You may contact him if you need explanations or assistance.

Contact Julia Monie by phone or text at (847) 323-0064 Email jcm28@sbcglobal.net

The following dates are currently available:

**Christmas Eve service December 24: 4 pm
2027**

January 3, 10, 17, 24

February 7, 14, 21, 28





November Prayer Practice

"Some people think only writers or "deep thinkers" keep a journal. But you don't have to be either to use journaling as a way to deepen and broaden your prayer life."- Bob Hostetler

Our focus for the month of November is gratitude. To prepare consider purchasing a journal ([this looks like a good one](#)), downloading a [template](#) or simply using a notebook you have stuffed in a closet at home.

Each evening, think about three things you are grateful for. This is more than a checklist though. It is recognizing God in the big and small moments in your life. Allow yourself to go deeper by writing the why. This exercise is for all ages and not only has a impact on your relationship with God, but it has a positive impact on your overall health. Check out this study [here](#) and happy journaling!

CHILDREN/YOUTH/FAMILY MINISTRY

Grab your calendars because we have a month to be grateful for. Make sure to read the Weekly Connections newsletter for details. You can always visit our website and the church calendar. Don't forget to check your emails too so you can find out how your children can sign up for our First 5th Sunday Children/Youth/Family led worship.



Up First: Family Breakfast at 9:15am on November 1st.
All are welcome for this fun time of fellowship and breakfast.



Change is in the Air for the New Member Committee

Over the last year the committee and Session have come to realize our work encompasses more than new members. The committee has developed a plan for reaching out to visitors and guests on a regular basis, inviting them to get to know us better through the many fellowship and spiritual growth opportunities. We have informed interested individuals about membership and provide a mentor partner when they join to keep them engaged and connected. Recently we've taken on the task of reaching out to former members and those on the inactive roles to see if they would like to reunite with our church family. By working with the Communications Committee, we hope to build increased awareness for PCB in the greater community.

To better reflect these expanded roles the committee has been renamed the **Committee for Church Growth** and adopted the following vision for our committee moving forward.

The Committee for Church Growth seeks to raise the profile of the church, reconnect with former or inactive members, ensure a warm, welcoming visitor experience, and integrate new members to the wider life of the congregation.

Church Growth Committee Members: Anna Armstrong, Julie Steffen, Susan Thiess, Maggie Bogue, Rey Fuerte, Ginny Shapiro, and Steve Alton.

Lend a Hand

Dear Church Members,

We're looking for more friendly volunteers to welcome members and visitors at one of our church entrances once every two months. It's a wonderful way to offer a warm greeting to members and guests. You can greet as a family or individually. Scheduling is very flexible and based on your availability to serve. Requests to greet are sent every two months so you can work around busy schedules.



Below are the guidelines for our greeters.

1. Wear your name tag
2. Arrive at 9:30 for the 10:00 service and go to your assigned entrance.
3. Open doors and welcome them into the church. Shake their hands, introduce yourself if you don't recognize them, and ask their name.
4. Share information about our Grace Space to visitors and guests.
5. If this is someone unfamiliar with our church invite them for coffee and donut holes after the service. Include directions on how to get to Fellowship Hall.

If you are interested or would like further information, contact Anna Armstrong by phone, text or email. 224-475-6997 or annarmstr@gmail.com



ADULT EDUCATION

Adult and Intergenerational Faith Formation

The Christian Education Committee has planned three after-church sessions in November with the theme of **"Anticipating Advent."** All will meet in the Parlor (with the exception of November 29th which will be in Fellowship Hall) so grab some coffee and maybe a donut hole and join us as Robert Reilly leads us in an exploration of what the Bible and other sources say about the birth of Jesus.

November 8: Our first session focuses on the "when" and "where" of Jesus' birth. The group will explore questions such as:

- Why do we celebrate Christmas today on 12/25 (unlike the early Christians)?
- Why do many other Christian denominations celebrate Christmas on 1/7-8 or on 1/19?
- During what time of the year was Jesus actually born?
- In what year was Jesus actually born? (it is probably not when you think)
- Was Jesus born in modern Bethlehem - or in an alternative first century Bethlehem?

November 15: Our second session looks at the Old Testament prophecies which Jesus' birth fulfilled. We hope to find answers to the following questions and many others:

- How was Jesus a descendant of King David?
- What does it mean to be "called out of Egypt"?
- Was it important that Jesus be born in Bethlehem?
- What was the prophecy of the virgin birth?
- What was the prophecy "he will be called a Nazarene"?

November 22: "Decorate the Church" – No session

November 29: Our final session will be two all-ages discussions as we identify the significance of the typical creche (or nativity) scene figures:

- The manger (or feed trough)
- Three wise men
- Shepherds
- Angels
- Animals
- Star

Those wishing to dive deeper into scripture and the significance of the manger will gather with Robert Reilly in the parlor. Simultaneously, a friendly family exploration of the manger will take place in Fellowship Hall with Raechel. Please join us as we "anticipate Advent!"



John Schmidt Presentation

Click here if you missed the presentation that John Schmidt did on October 4th:

John Schmidt, Pastor of Presbyterian Church Barrington from 1982-1998, recounts the events and people who shaped his ministry during this important time in our church's history.

MISSION



What is Habitat for Humanity?

Habitat for Humanity is a nonprofit housing organization working in local communities

across all 50 states and in more than 70 countries around the world. Habitat's vision is of a world where everyone has a decent place to live. Habitat works toward this vision by building and improving homes in partnership with individuals and families in need of a decent and affordable place to live.

Our next Habitat For Humanity work dates are Saturdays, **November 14 & 21 2026, from 8:15 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.** Interested in helping?

Email Audrey at aud2sell@comcast.net ahead of the Saturday you wish to work, and she will email you with location and task details.

Rich Barbour and Audrey Helminiak Your Habitat For Humanity contacts



Would you like to join our merry band who delivers Meals With Wheels throughout the year?

For over 35 years, through BACOA, the Presbyterian Church of Barrington has joined with other churches and community groups to provide senior citizens in our community with Meals with Wheels. More drivers are always welcome!

Most drivers are only assigned to drive once or twice a quarter, and it takes about an hour to drive a route of about 3-5 homes, plus you only sign up for days that work for you. Very little time, but very rewarding!

Our next days to deliver are November 11th & 27th 2026, starting at 10:45 a.m. and delivery should not take longer than an hour, but contact Audrey Helminiak (847-331-3621) to learn more.



FELLOWSHIP

The Men's Fellowship will meet at 6:30 pm on Thursday, November 19, at Makray Golf Club. Please RSVP to tomclong@yahoo.com by noon on the day of the meeting.



Music*on the***Hill**
CONCERT SERIES
AT THE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF BARRINGTON
— 2026-27 SEASON —

Sunday
December 13
3:00 PM

Holiday Joy
Performance and carol singing with choir, brass, and bells, followed by holiday cookie reception.

All are welcome!
CONCERT IS FREE
AND OPEN TO THE PUBLIC
CHILDCARE AVAILABLE

The Presbyterian Church of Barrington
6 Brinker Road, Barrington, IL

The poster features a vertical strip of illustrations on the left: a blue saxophone with musical notes, holly leaves and red berries, a green shamrock, a white lily, and a banjo. At the bottom left is a detailed illustration of the Presbyterian Church of Barrington, a large building with a steeple and columns. In the center, there is a photograph of three brass bells surrounded by holly and pinecones. The background of the poster is a light cream color with soft, watercolor-like washes of yellow, green, and blue.



NEWS YOU CAN USE



WHERE & WHEN TO SEND ARTICLES

Email your articles for the following to
Publications@pcbarrington.org

Connection articles are due in the office Tuesday's.
Events will be posted 2 weeks before the event

Carillon articles are due in the third Wednesday of
each month.

FINANCIAL SNAPSHOT

Snapshot through **Oct. 27, 2026** (not audited)

Actual Budget Receipts: \$566,370

Actual Expenditures: \$554,562

CALENDAR

[Click here](#) for the calendar
on the church website for
up-to-date information





BITHDAY WISHES TO....

Andrew	Fish	2	Becky	Nelson	17
Chase	Watkins	2	Ron	Furst	18
Tanner	Landes	9	Gregory	Dowell	19
Dan	Spike	11	Jill	Minner	19
Jack	Liput	15	Sally	Hilgendorf	22
Kirsten	Williams	15	Debbie	Marcussen	26
Reid	Frankenberg	16	Jodie	Harmsen	27

