NEWSLETTER FOR
KIRK OF THE HILLS
THE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH IN FAIRFIELD BAY, ARKANSAS
James W. Davis, C.R.E., Pastor

Volume 40, No. 11 **November, 2026**

Pastor's Pen

"How very good and pleasant it is when kindred live together in unity!" — Psalm 133:1 (NRSV)

As we enter November, I want us to reflect on something that is so important to our Christian faith: unity. We live in a world where disagreements and divisions seem to be everywhere. We don't always think alike, vote alike, or even agree on how things ought to be done. But as Christians, we are reminded that what unites us is far greater than what divides us. Our unity doesn't mean that we must agree on everything. It means that we love one another, respect one another, and remember that we are all part of the same body of Christ. As we approach Thanksgiving, perhaps one of the greatest ways we can show our gratitude to God is by loving and supporting one another, even when we see things differently. After all, the church isn't a building full of people who agree on everything. It is a family brought together by the grace and love of Jesus Christ.

I am very happy to announce that my **Commissioned Ruling Elder (CRE) commissioning ceremony** has been scheduled for **Sunday, December 6, 2026, at 3:00 PM in our sanctuary.** Please clear your calendars and plan to attend this very special occasion! This is an important milestone in my journey of ministry, and I would be honored to share it with my church family. I am deeply grateful for the encouragement, prayers, and support you have given me along the way. I look forward to what God has planned for us as we continue serving Him together.

Unfortunately, COVID and the flu are making their rounds again. Please consider getting your vaccinations to help protect yourselves and those around you. Also, remember that masks and hand sanitizer are available in the narthex for anyone who needs them. Let's continue looking out for one another, especially those among us who may be more vulnerable to illness. Taking care of one another is just another way we demonstrate Christ's love.

On **Sunday, November 22**, we will celebrate **Christ the King Sunday**, also known as the Reign of Christ Sunday. This is the final Sunday of the Christian liturgical year, when we remember that Jesus Christ is Lord over all creation. What a wonderful reminder that no matter what is happening in our world, Christ remains our King!

The following Sunday, **November 29**, marks the **First Sunday of Advent** and the beginning of a new Christian year. Advent is a season of hope, preparation, and anticipation as we look forward to celebrating the birth of our Savior. It is also a time to remember Christ's promise to come again. I hope you will join us as we begin this beautiful season together.

Finally, I want to wish each of you and your families a very happy and blessed Thanksgiving! We all have things for which we can be thankful, even during life's more difficult moments. I am certainly thankful for the opportunity to serve this wonderful congregation and to worship alongside each of you.

As we gather around our Thanksgiving tables, let's remember to thank God not only for the blessings we have received, but also for the people He has placed in our lives.

May God bless you, your families, and our church as we continue walking together in faith, hope, and love.

In Christ's Love, Pastor James Davis

CLERK'S CORNER

Membership Records Polity

The Kirk Session met on October 12th with a quorum present.

Elder Slaughter reported actions of the 163rd Presbytery Meeting held in Springdale, Arkansas to session.
It was voted to not reschedule the Kirk Picnic. The Kirk men will be doing a Veterans Day breakfast on November 15th after service in the Special Event Center. A grant in the amount of $1,200 grant was submitted to Presbytery for the Shirley Back-Pack Program. Session Voting by email was approved and the procedure added to the Kirk By-Laws.

The Congregational Meeting was held after service on October 18th. Johnna Jackson and Scott Worden were approved as Ruling Elders for the Class of 2029. The Finance Committee Chairman presented the 2027 Kirk Budget to the congregation.
Skip Davis, Clerk of Session

2026 KIRK FINANCIAL CORNER

	September	YEAR to DATE
REVENUE	$ 22,989.03	$ 114,456.21
EXPENSES	$ 10,047.33	$ 95,605.32
NET	$ 12,941.70	$ 18,850.89

WORSHIP

Wow, every Sunday this November has something special going on or has a special significance in the life of the church and is celebrated here at The Kirk!

November 1st starts us off with the "falling" back of the clocks. An extra hour of sleep! It's also All Saints Day when we think about our loved ones that have passed on to a better place.

The following Sunday, November 8th we will ordain our new Elders, Johnna Jackson and Scott Worden. But let's not forget about our member #1, Vernie Holdman. She will be celebrating her 90th birthday in the Activity Center starting at 3:00!

On November 15th we again have two activities: The church service will take place in the Activity Center with the Veteran's Day Brunch right after. That afternoon, Dr. Alfred Lee will hold his annual concert in the Sanctuary at 2:00. You won't want to miss it!

Christ the King Sunday is November 22nd, where we honor Jesus Christ as the universal sovereign and King of creation. Following the church service, we will "Hang the Greens". Fellowship Time will be replaced with a light lunch for all those who stay and help put up the tree and prepare the Sanctuary for Advent.

But wait, there's more! That's right, there are five Sundays in November. The first Sunday of Advent is on November 29th. You will all get to enjoy the fruits of your labor from the previous Sunday with the Sanctuary fully adorned!

Please join us this month as we celebrate together.
Karen Ostlund, Worship Elder

FINANCIAL REPORT

Financial revenue in September 2026 was $22,989.03. Revenue increased during the month by $7617.52 due to increased contributions to the General Fund.

Church expenses during the month were $10,047.33. Expenses during the month decreased by $3138.55 when compared to August 2026. Exceptional expenses for the month included electrical usage and Air Conditioner repairs (Sanctuary and Event Center). Kirk's investment account decreased by $1901.11 in September due to stock market reductions.

Kirk continues to maintain two bank accounts and three Certificate of Deposit accounts with Eagle Bank in Fairfield Bay. In addition, the Kirk holds a Mutual Fund Investment account through the Presbyterian Foundation.
Wayne Slaughter, Finance Elder

November 1 – Daylight Savings Time Ends
November 8 – Birthday Celebration for Vernie Holdman – Activities Center 3:30 pm
November 11 – Veteran's Day
November 15 – Veteran's Day Brunch
Worship Service in Activities Ctr.
November 15 –Dr. Alfred Lee – Sanctuary -2 pm
November 21 – Alzheimer's Support Group
November 26 – Thanksgiving
November 22 – Hanging of the Greens
November 26 – 27 – Church Office Closed
November 29 – First Day of Advent
December – Kirk Angel Tree
December 6 – Jim Davis CRE Commissioning Ceremony – Sanctuary – 3 pm
December 16 – Church Christmas Dinner
December 19 – Alzheimer's Support Group
December 24 – Christmas Candlelight Service
December 25 – Christmas Day

STEWARDSHIP

Gratitude begins with recognizing that we have received something valuable, sustaining, and freely given. That spirit of thankfulness is both the foundation and the fuel of good stewardship. Today I want to emphasize how deeply grateful we are for the volunteers whose faithful service keeps our church running week after week. Their contributions are not always acknowledged as often as they deserve, and too few receive a personal note of thanks. The time, talents, and resources each volunteer shares are gifts that strengthen our church and help build a caring, supportive community.
John Kralik wrote a book some years ago called *A Simple Act of Gratitude*. In it he said, "Until you learn to be grateful for the things you have, you will not receive the things you want." The book is about how expressing gratitude will give us positive emotions and writing down what we are thankful for makes us see that our natural tendency is to notice the many bad things that happened to us each day. But what if, instead, we purposely focused on one good thing? .

Kralik said "Gratitude presses outwards and that creates good feelings in the universe. A lot of that comes back to you eventually."

November is National Gratitude month, and the beginning of the season when many people may begin to think about what they are grateful for in their life. While it is nice to count your blessings during the holidays, practicing gratitude for the big and small things in your life can benefit your life all year round. .
Wayne Slaughter, Stewardship Elder

NOTES FROM THE TOOLROOM

Hooray!! The leaks in the roof have been repaired. The leak in the Sanctuary was caused by old, deteriorated and cracked caulking around the slanted windows in the rear. This resulted in visible damage to the drywall in the southeast corner, which when removed revealed some mold issues and water rot to some of the framing. All of the window caulking was removed and replaced, the interior damage was repaired, drywall replaced and repainted. There was some evidence of similar damage on the northeast wall, so the caulking on those slanted windows was also removed and replaced. This leak was rather easy to diagnose and address, but expensive, because of the amount of interior repair required and the tedious work to remove all the old caulking. Final cost of repairing this leak was around $6500.

The leak in the Parlor was a different story. We had the contractor on the roof 5 times with a hose trying to find where it was leaking. Thought it was found on the first attempt, did some simple caulking. Next rain it still leaked. There was a dip in the asphalt shingles that held water, water came into the Parlor when we sprayed with the hose on the shingles. Next rain the leak was not repaired. For the 4th and 5th attempts we repaired cracked areas in the membrane of the flat roof above the Parlor. Next rain it still leaked. Finally, we are on the roof spraying water for an hour and a half, with no luck, no water leaking into the Parlor. One guy in the parlor, one on the roof with their telephones so they can keep track of each other. I'm up and down the ladder several times. We get a gush of water into the Parlor. That's it we holler into the phone! Do that again! I'm still spraying in the same place. No leak. Back up onto the roof. We follow the path of the water. Find a dime sized hole in the flat roof membrane on top of the Parlor where it curves up to meet the Sanctuary wall. Appears to be damaged by a hail stone. Next rain, 3 weeks later, we confirm that the leak is repaired, the ceiling tiles are replaced in the Parlor and the plastic bins to catch the leak are put away! The cost to repair this leak was around $4600. A whole lot of labor went into this one.

Now, there is another project looming. The mortar between the blocks on the front of the Upper Room has begun falling out. Some of the blocks are loose and pulling away from the building. The damage is too extensive to resolve with caulking. Because the blocks are stacked, you can't take them out from just anywhere and fix the damage. It will be necessary to remove all the blocks from the northeast window over to the corner of the building. Then restack the blocks back with new mortar. This will also result in repainting the entire front of the church. Haven't gotten the bid on this yet, but it will be expensive.

Ken Ostlund

NOVEMBER VOLUNTEERS

Ushers

11/1 Kathy Horner & ?
11/8 Grant & Scott Worden
11/15 Kathy Horner & ?
11/22 Patti Leitner & ?
11/29 ?

Liturgists

11/1 Brian Horner
11/8 ?
11/15 Brian Horner
11/22 ?
11/29 ?

Fellowship

11/1 Kathy & Brian Horner
11/8 Men's Club
11/15 Veteran's Brunch
11/22 Karen & Ken Ostlund
11/29 Betsy Slaughter

Flowers

11/1 Nancy Mueller
11/8 Becky & Gregg Staton
11/15 Patti Leitner
11/22 Patti Leitner
11/29 1st Sunday of Advent

November

11/3 Carolyn Cloud
11/9 Vernie Holdman
11/11 Linda Morrison
11/12 Wanda Boyd &Grant Worden
11/27 Melanie Kennedy & Wayne Slaughter