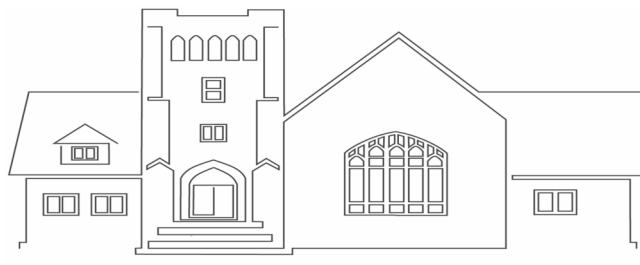


FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
NEWTON, IOWA
641-792-2790

THE MESSENGER



OCTOBER, 2011

Endings and Beginnings

Rev. Tiare L. Mathison

*'Let us pray for the mercy of the Lord;
For work begun but not completed,
For expectations not met,
For wounds not healed,
For gifts not shared,
For promises not kept,
Lord, have mercy.'*
(Book of Occasional Services, PCUSA)

The steadfast love of the Lord never ceases, God's mercies never come to an end, they are new every morning...
Lamentations 3

As we end our formal relationship on October 2, we begin our new relationship as 'former'—pastor & Congregation. It is hardly an adequate word to describe our 10 years together. You have snuck into my heart, residing there with grace and mercy through all the joys and sorrows of our personal lives, our congregation's life, our community's life and the life of the world. Together we have generated deep roots of care and friendship which will abide as long we shall live.

You are a warm and loving congregation with tremendous gifts, skills and abilities to share with Newton and Jasper County, as well as our precious country and the world. You are strong, resilient and faithful. Your witness to the resurrection power of Jesus Christ is beautiful and sustaining. Take your faith and give it away, the well will never run dry.

It is true there is some hard work ahead. There is a wound in the body that must be cleansed and healed. The Holy Spirit is already at work in you to bring about this miracle. Please stay around to participate in the joyful resurrection of the body of Christ found at 1st Pres., Newton, Iowa!!!

Let me tell you my plans. I am leaving town October 2 for St. Paul to spend some days with Isaac, as many as a college freshman will allow. I will then drive across the northern states to Seattle where I will reside temporarily with my sister Loretta and her husband (and my 4th brother after 40 years) Dick. Once I obtain work I will find an apartment big enough for Isaac and me and Toffe, our dog. I don't know yet what kind of work I will do. I will look for a call in a church or on staff of a presbytery yet remain open for 'ministry in the marketplace' opportunities as well. The Holy Spirit has gone before me to prepare a place I trust.

There is a strict separation policy for pastors upon leaving the church, especially the first year. When I obtain work I will let the session know so they can pass the information along. I covet your prayers and every time I think of you I will pray for you.

MERCIES EVERY MORNING, NEW!!!

Quarterly Rosters – Worship Leaders, Ushers, Candle Lighters

We are updating our lists of servants for each of these areas. We will KEEP YOU on the list unless we hear from you.

Also, please let us know if you would like to be added.

Please let Jenny know if you (or your child) no longer want to participate.

Worship & Music

Christian Nurture News

By Kathy Ventling, Chairperson

WOW

WOW is going to be Oct. 5- Nov. 9. The first 3 sessions will be held at 1st Lutheran, with the last three being at First Pres. There is a WOW registration form available in the church office. Anyone interested can sign up. WOW really is designed for preschool-elementary aged students. The MS/HS kids will meet on other occasions. Needs for volunteers for WOW are table parents for either the entire 6 weeks, or just the last 3, persons willing to help with craft and general activities Oct. 26, Nov. 2 and 9. Lastly, we will also need meals prepared for Oct. 26, Nov. 2 and 9.

Middle School/High School

On Sunday afternoon, September 18, 11 youth went bowling and then returned to the church for pizza. A time was then spent brainstorming on activities for the upcoming months. The first being participating in the Crop Walk on October 2. Other activities discussed was a bonfire in October, lazertag in November, and a possible ski/snowboarding day trip in January.

Little Church

We will continue Little Church, but are in need of help. We are needing volunteers to conduct Little Church. In the upcoming weeks, we will be focusing on learning the books of the Bible, and focusing on the Lord's Prayer. This is a very important component to our church life and the youth of our church. Please let me know if you can help.

Stewardship Campaign

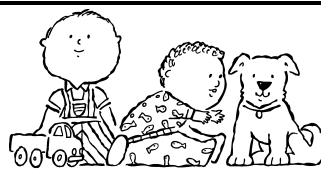
You should have received your Stewardship campaign letter and pledge card in the mail. If you haven't, please let Gary Haynes at 792-6444 or Bill Shields at 792-3435 know.

Our theme this year is *"Enough—Discovering Joy Through Simplicity and Generosity"*. As we stated on the pledge cards, we pray you may find the level of giving that is right for you as you progress in your journey of faith and commitment. Your pledges and contributions are a critical party of how we can make a difference in our church, our community and our world.

A few years ago we changed our stewardship and budget procedure. We now ask for your pledge commitments and base our budget on those figures. All committees within the church provide our committee their recommendations for budgeted items, and it is then our responsibility to determine if their recommendations can be met.

Remember, God honors your faithfulness and your acceptance at First Presbyterian church is not based upon your capacity to give. We request that you complete your pledge card and return it to the church office as quickly as possible.

Gary Haynes and Bill Shields



IT'S A BOY!

Congratulations to Paula Moore on the birth of her new grandson, Austin Theodore Nepple. Austin, the son of Paula's daughter Michelle and son-in-law Ken, was born September 23, a little earlier than expected. He weighed 7 lbs 4 oz and was 21" long. Welcoming him home was brother Davis, age 4 and sister, Avery, age 15 months.. Paula recently moved to Iowa City to be closer to her children and grandchildren. She has found a job in Iowa City and while currently living there, will officially move on October 8.

Be Praying For ...

*Ann Holdefer, who has been diagnosed with aggressive cancer. Ann is the twin sister of Jane Birkenholz and a member of our church. Ann is in Methodist hospital, and is in good spirits. Husband, Harlan, is overseeing her care.

*Mel Wohlwend, Helyn's sister, who fell and broke her fibula and tibia (the two large bones going to your ankle) as well as her ankle bone. Mel now has 2 plates and 4 screws in her ankle/bones. She had her own apartment, but has moved in with Helyn and will be incapacitated for several weeks.

*George Wilkening, who has a compression fracture of the tibia bone in his right leg. This is the bone his new knee transplant sits on. George now wears a brace on his leg and uses a walker so he keeps weight off the bone as it heals. A determination will be made in a couple of weeks if the bone is healing or if additional surgery is needed. He continues to recuperate at Larry and Linda Anderson's home.

*Val McKee's brother-in-law, Joe Morrison, who remains in critical condition following surgery on September 13 for the removal of a malignant grapefruit size tumor and most of his stomach. Since the surgery, he has had some set-backs, which have resulted in having a tracheotomy and being on a respirator. No chemo treatments have begun yet because of his compromised condition. Val remains in daily contact with her sister, Audre.

Congratulations to Chris Vernon and Denise Ditto, who were united in marriage at First Presbyterian on Saturday, September 17. Tiare officiated at the wedding.

Chris is one of Stephanie Crutchfield's older brothers. Various members of the Vernon family have been long-time members of our church. Whitney and Jane Hadley Crutchfield served as flower girls.

Chris and Denise will be residing in Des Moines.



Nomination Committee

George Wilkening, Chair

At our September 20 Session meeting, we voted to decrease the number of Elders from 15 to 12. So, we will be searching for 4 Ruling Elders and 4 Deacons.

Please be in conversation with God and see if he is calling you to fulfill one of these positions. Ruling Elders and Deacons are ordained for life. The term on each board is currently 3 years.

The definition of a Ruling Elder in the Book of Order is: *"Ruling elders, together with teaching elders, exercise leadership, government, spiritual discernment, and discipline and have responsibilities for the life of a congregation as well as the whole church, including ecumenical relationships."*

Deacons are defined as: *"The ministry of deacon as set forth in Scripture is one of compassion, witness, and service, sharing in the redeeming love of Jesus Christ for the poor, the hungry, the sick, the lost, the friendless, the oppressed, those burdened by unjust policies or structures, or anyone in distress."*

We will begin our work soon. As was listed in last month's edition, those elected to the Nominating committee for 2011 are: Gary Haynes, Bret Doerring, Sharon Black, Rick Miller and Linda Curtis-Stolper. Kathy Ventling and myself are the Elders serving on the Committee and a member of the Board of Deacons will also be included.

If your schedule does not permit you to serve as an Elder or Deacon, there is always a need for members to our various committees. Information on the work of each committee can be found on page 6.

Do not hesitate to let myself or Kathy Ventling know if you have a desire to serve as an Elder or Deacon, at any time.

Can we count on you?



Mission Committee

Stan Sturtz, Chairperson

The annual Crop Walk will be held October 2, starting at the courthouse. Several youth from our church are planning on participating with sponsorship coming from our church members. This is sponsored by Mission Coalition.

We still are needing a church representative to Companeros, which meets the first Tuesday night of each month at 7:00pm at Westminster Presbyterian Church in Des Moines. This is a committee of the Presbytery of Des Moines and the purpose given on the Presbytery website is: *“Compañeros, Companions in Christ, is the coordinating body of the Presbytery’s El Salvador mission. Their responsibilities include educating people in the Des Moines Presbytery and others about the work of the mission, assisting churches who wish to organize delegations, promoting specific projects and fundraising.”*

We are also in need of a member to chair the First Presbyterian El Salvador committee. Please let me or Linda Anderson know if you would be willing to be a part of this exciting committee.

MEMBERSHIP



MOMENT

The Membership Committee would like all church members to consider themselves part of this committee. Why?

- So many more people can be reached, brought to our church and kept enthusiastic if we all work together.
- Invite those who might be looking for a church home to visit us. Be attentive toward them and introduce them to others. Take them to the Fellowship Hour after worship. Follow-up and invite them to return.
- When you see people at church that you do not know, please make them feel welcome. Also, enjoy your fellow members and attendees.

This has always been a very friendly church and if we are to prosper, we cannot lose that. Like most churches, we have some challenging times ahead, but they will be less intimidating if we work together. So, consider yourself one of us—and reach out.

Gary Parsons and Cathy Rickers

Budget and Finance Corner

Paula Moore, Chairperson

At the end of August, we are still \$11,652 below our year-to-date budgeted pledge figure. The committees of the church should be congratulated, as they are keeping expenses under budget. Therefore, our year-to-date through August, 2011 shortfall is \$3420.

Quarterly reports will be mailed to you soon. Typically the last quarter of the year proves to be the time when many catch up their pledges and our revenues come back in line with the budget.

If you aren’t already, please consider using the Electronic Funds Transfer. You can determine if you want money withdrawn from your account weekly, semi-monthly, or monthly. This is a hassle free way to ensure your pledge stays current, even while on vacation.

Buildings and Grounds

Roger Harmelink, Chair

The sound system, which was struck by lightning, is being repaired and we hope to have it up and running in another 3-4 weeks. We have found that the costs of this will be covered by insurance.

A representative from our insurance company did an inspection of our church. Our committee is working on a few minor changes that need to be made.

Bret Doerring reports there were several factors that have contributed to the ceiling paint flaking. While those issues have been corrected, the repainting of the ceiling has been delayed. The contractor who did the sanctuary renovation wanted to monitor the repairs through out the winter, spring and summer to determine the problems have been corrected. Once they determine there are no more issues we will begin looking at repainting.



If you care to give Tiare a personal gift, you have a choice. You can write the check to the church and receive the tax benefit. Or you can write the check directly to Tiare to save her from the tax impact. *Please note that if checks are made payable to the church, the church will owe pension dues on that amount. However, Tiare will owe the pension dues on any amount paid directly to her.* We are grateful for whatever decision you make.
The Session

Movie “Courageous”

United Way survey revealed that the second greatest area of need in Jasper County is ‘support and education for positive parenting skills’.

Because of this need, a number of churches in our community recommend the movie ‘Courageous’ that is coming to our Newton Theater from Sept. 30th-October 13th.

Filled with action packed police drama, this movie is designed to challenge and inspire dads/parents to make a lifelong impact upon their children.

“Courageous—Honor Begins At Home”
 from the creators of Fireproof

Save the Date for Annual Dinners

Progressive Dinner

The calendar page is ready to turn to October – so, it’s time to sign up for the 2011 Progressive Dinner! If you’ve never participated, this is the year to start. A four-course meal is shared with church friends. We’ll gather together and share appetizers in one home; split up and travel to other homes for salad and main courses; and get back together again at the last home to share dessert together and compare experiences.

The date is Sunday, October 30, 2011, beginning at 4:00 p.m. The next course begins at 5:00 p.m., and so on, so that everyone’s full and ready to go home by 8:00 or so.

Here’s who we need:

- People to host a salad course or a main course in their home
 - People to bring an appetizer or dessert
 - People to assist with a main course

Everyone is welcome – singles and couples. We will take care of transportation for non-drivers, if you let us know when you sign up. For more information or to sign up, please contact Diane Moles, at 792-2133, or via e-mail at jasperdem@iowatelecom.net. Signup deadline is October 16th.

Thanksgiving Dinner

Reservations have been made with the caterer for our annual Thanksgiving Dinner. This year we will hold the dinner following worship on November 20. Watch Church Happenings, the bulletin and next month’s Messenger for more details.

Your Church Life Committee:
 Dan Ritter, Chair; Nancy Mott, and Diane Moles



Your Church at Work: Committee Members and Information

As mentioned in George Wilkening's Nominating Committee report on page 3, we are asking that members consider and step up to be on various committees of our church. To give you a better idea, below is a listing of the various committees and what their duties are and the current Session members on the committee.

Budget and Finance: Works with the church Treasurer and Office Manager in making sure bills are paid, offering is counted each week, monthly reports are provided to the Session and prepare the yearly budget, based on requested expenses from each committee. Elders—Paula Moore and Bill Shield

Buildings and Grounds: Responsible for the care and upkeep of the church buildings and grounds. This includes working with Utility companies and our insurance agent. Elder: Roger Harmelink

Christian Nurture: Responsible for the learning part of our church, such as Vacation Bible school, WOW, Little Church, adult Sunday School, activities for the youth of the church and bible study. Elders—Kathy Ventling and Virginia Bennett

Church Life: Responsible for the "social" life of the church with monthly activities such as potlucks, Easter breakfast, Progressive Dinner and Thanksgiving feast. Recently dubbed the "party committee". Elder—Dan Ritter

Membership: **Our newest committee that is** responsible with developing and maintaining the membership of the church through printed materials and a website, person outreach, the bread ministry and cooperation with other committees. Elder—Gary Parsons

Mission: - Responsible for our work locally (like Habitat for Humanity); statewide (help in Iowa after floods) and globally (Work Week, El Salvador and Muñoces)). Elders—Stan Sturtz and Linda Anderson

Personnel: Hires staff of the church, other than clergy; does yearly performance reviews of clergy, and reviews comments from members on any church staff, including clergy. Elders—Mickey Van Baale and George Wilkening

Worship and Music: Responsible for communion, special services, Advent Booklet, Christmas program, overseeing ushers and worship leaders. Elders—Ann Cutts and Kim Schnell

Many hands make for light work and this is true for the committees of our church. Most of the committees listed would welcome additional members from the congregation. Committees normally meet once a month at times agreed upon by the committee members.

The subcommittees, such as the Funeral luncheon committee and Sundays at 4, rely on the help from volunteers. It is greatly appreciated when you willing help when asked.

If any of these committees sound of interest to you, or if you would like more information on the workings of a particular committee, please feel free to get a hold of the Elders for that committee or Jenny at the church office.

Your Session

Highlights from Session

By Dave Boyd, Clerk of Session

- Took note of the changes we need to address under the New Form Of Government (nFOG) and made plans to develop a process by which they can be implemented
- Heard Roger's report on the insurance company inspection of our building -- no major problems!
- Empowered Personnel and our Treasurer to work with Tiare to determine most advantageous distribution of the funds voted on in the Dissolution Agreement
- Moved to reduce the Session to 12 Elders. The phase-in will keep the number a 13 in 2012 then drop to 12 in 2013.
- Reviewed plans for Fall youth ministry and for Church Life schedule -- Progressive Dinner 10/30 and Thanksgiving Feast

First Presbyterian Church
220 N 2nd Ave E
641-792-2790

Email: new1pres@iowatelecom.net
(this email goes to Jenny Verwers, Office Mgr)

Website: www.newton1stpresbyterian.org

Church Hours: M, W, Thurs: 8am to 4pm
Custodian Hours: M-Thurs: 8am to 11am

Tiare Mathison, Pastor - 641-792-2790
tmath@iowatelecom.net

The church and church office are closed on Fridays.
Tiare can be reached in case of emergencies at
641-840-0109.

2011 Fall Connection for Presbytery Women

This year's event on October 8th, offers important mission information from speakers you won't want to miss. For instance:

Morning Keynote - Rev. Linda O'Connell & Mary Lou Briles on Dakota Mini-Mission Trip

Afternoon Keynote - Rev. Sara Palmer on Beatitudes *Horizon* Bible Study

Morning and afternoon 'Loving Out Loud' Sessions:

English as Second Language - Melanie Curlee

Working with individuals with Special Needs - Susan Perkins

Multi-cultural Christian Education - Anne McGowan

Working with the Blind - Rebecca Swainey

"Challenges to inclusion: Roma (Gypsies), the Samaritans of Europe" - Rev. Doug & Liz Searles

If you haven't registered yet for *'The Language of Love'*, the Des Moines Presbytery's PW annual fall gathering, there is still time! To reserve your spot for lunch, contact Westminster Presbyterian Church, 515 -274-1534 or wpc@westpres.org with your RSVP by Monday, October 3.

If you have questions, contact PWP Moderator Rev. Linda O'Connell at: 641-203-3660 or revlinda@iowatelecom.net.



Birthdays

- | | | | |
|---|----------------|----|------------------|
| 2 | Jackie Moles | 11 | Darlene Johnson |
| 3 | Kay Parsons | 13 | Roger Harmelink |
| 4 | Bradley Ritter | 14 | Pat Koppin |
| 5 | Ian Day | 17 | Jean Linthicum |
| 6 | Paul Schnell | 21 | Ann Isrig |
| | Owen Norrish | | Lou Axtell |
| 7 | Peder Hopkins | | Charlene Brooks |
| 8 | Ben DeCook | | Jack Carpenter |
| 9 | Bev Rossow | 22 | Joshua Ventling |
| | Bradley Moles | | Scott Stanton |
| | | 23 | Bob LaBLanc |
| | | | Ryan Isrig |
| | | 24 | Lisa LaRue |
| | | 26 | Clayton Case |
| | | 27 | Jon Isrig |
| | | 29 | Jim Skokan |
| | | | Kristin Stanton |
| | | | Lori Lockhart |
| | | 30 | Tom J Weeks Jr. |
| | | | Jonnie Carpenter |
| | | 31 | Ali Stanton |
| | | | Diana Deterding |

OCTOBER EVENTS

- | | | | | | |
|----|-----------|------------------------|----|-----------|---------------------|
| 1 | 9:00 a.m. | Spanish III | 12 | 9:30 a.m. | Women's Bible Study |
| 2 | 8:30 a.m. | Deacon's | | 5:00 p.m. | WOW |
| 3 | 5:30 p.m. | Christian Nurture | | 5:30 p.m. | Spanish I |
| | 6:00 p.m. | Worship & Music | | 6:15 p.m. | Spanish III |
| 4 | 5:00 p.m. | Personnel | | 7:00 p.m. | Choir |
| 5 | 9:30 a.m. | Women's Bible Study | 15 | 9:00 a.m. | Spanish III |
| | 5:00 p.m. | WOW | 18 | 5:45 p.m. | Session Meal |
| | 5:30 p.m. | Spanish I | | 7:00 p.m. | Session |
| | 6:15 p.m. | Spanish III | 19 | 9:30 a.m. | Women's Bible Study |
| | 7:00 p.m. | Choir | | 5:00 p.m. | WOW |
| 6 | 9:00 a.m. | Men's Group | | 5:30 p.m. | Spanish I |
| | 1:30 p.m. | Park Centre Worship | | 6:15 p.m. | Spanish III |
| 7 | 6:30 a.m. | Men's Group | | 7:00 p.m. | Choir |
| 8 | 9:00 a.m. | Spanish III | 20 | 9:00 a.m. | Men's Group |
| 9 | 8:30 a.m. | Church Life | 21 | 6:30 a.m. | Men's Group |
| 10 | 1:30 p.m. | Newton Village Worship | 22 | 9:00 a.m. | Spanish III |
| | 4:00 p.m. | Building & Grounds | 26 | 9:30 a.m. | Women's Bible Study |
| | 6:00 p.m. | Budget & Finance | | 5:00 p.m. | WOW |
| 11 | 5:00 p.m. | Missions | | 5:30 p.m. | Spanish I |
| | | | | 6:15 p.m. | Spanish III |
| | | | | 7:00 p.m. | Choir |
| | | | 29 | 9:00 a.m. | Spanish III |
| | | | 30 | 4:00 p.m. | Progressive Supper |

Sunday Worship Hours

- 9:00 a.m. Adult Sunday School
- 10:00 a.m. Fellowship
- 10:30 a.m. Worship
- 11:30 a.m. Fellowship

At our special Session meeting held September 13, Sara Palmer from the Presbytery CCD (Congregational Care and Development) Committee, shared this wonderful devotion with us. As we begin our work during this transition period, may we remember the words and know that even if we seem to be God's Rag Tag Army, he is always with us, caring for us every step of the way.

GOD'S RAG TAG ARMY

by Martin Bell

I think God must be very old and very tired.... God's been on the march a long time, you know. And look at God's rag-tag little army! All he has for soldiers are you and me. Dumb little army. Listen! The drum beat isn't even regular. Everyone is out of step. And there! You see? God keeps stopping along the way to pick up one of God's tinier soldiers who decided to wander off and play with a frog, or run in a field, or whose foot got tangled in the underbrush. God will never get anywhere that way. And yet, the march goes on.

Do you see how the marchers have broken up into little groups? Look at that group up near the front. Now, there's a snappy outfit... -at least they're in step with each other. Only they're not wearing their shoes. They're carrying them in their hands. Silly little band. They won't get far before God will have to stop again.

Or how about that other group over there? They're all holding hands as they march. The only trouble with this is the people on each end of the line. Pretty soon they realize that one of their hands isn't holding onto anything-one hand is reaching, empty, alone. And so they hold hands with each other, and everybody marches around in circles. The more people holding hands, the bigger the circle. And, of course, a bigger circle is deceptive because as we march along it looks like we're going someplace, but we're not. And so God must stop again. You see what I mean? He'll never get anywhere that way!

If God were more sensible he'd take his little army and shape them up. Why, whoever heard of a soldier stopping to romp in a field? It's ridiculous. But even more absurd is a general who will stop the march of eternity to go and bring the soldier back. But that's God for you. His is no endless, empty marching. He is going somewhere. His steps are deliberate and purposive. He may be old, and he may be tired. But he knows where he's going. And he means to take every last one of his tiny soldiers with him. Only there aren't going to be any forced marches. And, after all, there are frogs and flowers, and thorns and underbrush along the way. And even though our foreheads have been signed with the sign of the cross, we are only human. And most of us are afraid and lonely and would like to hold hands or cry or run away. And we don't know where we are going, and we can't seem to trust God-especially when it's dark out and we can't see him! And he won't go on without us. And that's why it's taking so long.

Listen! The drum beat isn't even regular. Everyone is out of step. And there! You see? God keeps stopping along the way to pick up one of God's tinier soldiers who decided to wander off and play with a frog, or run in a field, or whose foot got tangled in the underbrush. God will never get anywhere that way.

And yet, the march goes on.

First Presbyterian Church
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Lectionary —

October, 2011

October 2 (27th Sunday in Ordinary Time)

Exod. 20:1-4, 7-9, 12-20; *Ps. 19*; Phil. 3:4b-14
Matt. 21:33-46

October 9 (28th Sunday in Ordinary Time)

Exod. 32:1-14; *Ps. 106:1-6, 19-23*
Phil. 4:1-9; Matt. 22:1-14

October 16 (29th Sunday in Ordinary Time)

Exod. 33:12-23; *Ps. 99*; 1 Thess. 1:1-10
Matt. 22:15-22

October 23 (30th Sunday in Ordinary Time)

Deut. 34:1-12; *Ps. 90:1-6, 13-17*
1 Thess. 2:1-8; Matt. 22:34-46

October 30 (31st Sunday in Ordinary Time)

Josh. 3:7-17; *Ps. 107:1-7, 33-37*
1 Thess. 2:9-13; Matt. 23:1-12

November, 2011

November 6 (32nd Sunday in Ordinary Time)

Josh. 24:1-3a, 14-25; *Ps. 78:1-7*
1 Thess. 4:13-18; Matt. 25:1-13

November 13 (33rd Sunday in Ordinary Time)

Judges 4:1-7; *Ps. 123*; 1 Thess. 5:1-11
Matt. 25:14-30

November 20 (Christ the King/Reign of Christ)

Ezek 34:11-16, 20-24; *Ps. 100*
Eph. 1:15-23; Matt. 25:31-46

November 27 (1st Sunday of Advent)

Isa. 64:1-9; *Ps. 80:1-7, 17-19*; 1 Cor. 1:3-9
Mark 13:24-37