

## First Presbyterian Church of Strasburg

News for November 8, 2025

Dear FPC family and friends,

The days are getting shorter in the evening, and it takes some getting adjusted to having more light in the morning and less in the evening. In some ways it fits the rhythm of the day, where in the morning you are rearing to go and in the evening, well, it feels like things slow down a bit. I wonder if that makes me a morning person, don't snicker, I could legitimately be a morning person. We don't see a lot happening in the Bible in the life of Jesus in the evening.

We read that when it gets to be evening he goes off by himself to pray on mountain tops. We read at the last supper that after they had their Passover meal they sang a hymn and headed across the valley to the Mount of Olives. Those are evening activities. We read about the soldiers coming and arresting Jesus in the garden, probably in the wee hours of the morning while it was still dark. The evening time is often reserved for those less than positive things that happen in life. We see all throughout the Bible the metaphor of Jesus is the light and the world is the darkness, which again takes us to evening and morning.

It was early in the morning when the women became the first evangelists of the resurrection. It was in the morning when Gideon was able to see how God had responded with the dew or without the dew on the fleece. It was in the morning when Jesus walks on the water to reach his disciples on the sea of Galilee struggling to keep the boat afloat.

When we go back to the Old Testament we read in Psalm 30:5 that joy comes in the morning after the weeping that has tarried for the night. The concept that with the morning comes a fresh start and renewal of that which was once lost or that which was once dead, is not foreign in Scripture. But the change in season also brings about the potential for the seasons to dictate how we feel and why we feel certain ways.

SAD (Seasonal Affective Disorder) is a real condition from which many people suffer. As it gets dark earlier and for longer it can create an emotional imbalance that that can also cloud our view of our future and our life. We can think that because of the darkness that it also translates into less hope for the future and less light in our lives. I know, when you say it out loud, it doesn't seem to make sense, but it is a real thing.

Here is what I would love for all of us to do this time of year. We continue to follow along with the Bible reading challenge and for me personally it is a great way to begin the day. I am normally beginning the reading of the Scripture in the dark and when I am finished it happens to be light. It is a great metaphor. But it is also a great opportunity for us to do something concrete that can provide us with a bit of hope as we begin our day, as we look to put the light back into our lives during a dark time of the year. It is an opportunity to combat this natural tendency for a sedentary and emotionally stripped perspective and replace it with one that is hopeful and focuses on the future as being one in which we have victory in our Savior. Try it out. Here is the link for the Bible reading and just pick up on today's readings in Joshua and Acts. <https://www.straspres.org/wp-content/uploads/2025/08/2025-2026-Bible-Reading-Challenge-Brochure-1.pdf>

I pray that during this time of year you are able to focus on the light of Christ which provides all the hope that we need.

Your servant in Christ,

Pastor Bob

## **HAPPENING IN THE LIFE OF FPC...**

**CHURCH BIRTHDAY BRUNCH** ~ Join us on Sunday, November 23rd at 9:30am (after the 8:30am service) to recognize, celebrate and honor the 50+ year members with a brunch in Fellowship Hall. This year's menu is tater tot breakfast casserole with ham, fruit and sweets. As in the past, we will need volunteers to bake and bring to church on the 23rd. You will be provided with all ingredients and materials necessary, including the recipe. We are also in need of help to set up Fellowship Hall on Saturday, November 22nd. There will be no Sunday School or nursery care during the brunch on Sunday, November 23rd. Please contact Theresa Rineer at 717-682-9954. Thank you!

**CHURCH DECORATING DAY** ~ On Monday, November 24th at 6pm, we will be decking the halls and preparing the church for Advent and Christmas. Come join in the fun, have pizza and help us to decorate!

**Sunday, November 30th ~ 5pm - Advent Night:** Come join us as we celebrate the first Sunday of the Advent season! This night is for EVERYONE as we wait and prepare for the celebration of Jesus' birth at Christmas. Sing Christmas Carols with Goggie and Friends! Decorate a Christmas cookie! Dinner will include lasagna and chicken tenders. Please bring a dish to share: appetizer, side, dessert or beverage. A sign-up sheet will be in the welcome area under the TV. If you have any questions, please see Beth Feiler or Andrea Petrokonis.