

CONTACT

FIRST CHURCH OF GOD

of the Churches of God, General Conference
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November, 2025

*Thankful, Grateful and
Blessed*



*Happy Thanksgiving!
November 27th*



ELDER'S PAGE



Always giving thanks for all things in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ to our God and Father.

Ephesians 5:20 (NASB)

Being Thankful for all God does for us.

I was thinking about November. It is a busy month with a lot to be thankful for.

I think about Veterans Day and I am thankful for the Veterans service for our country. They didn't have to do it...they volunteered.

I think of the Thanksgiving Holiday when we get together with our loved ones and eat a lot of good food, remembering past Thanksgivings and have a good laugh. Seeing family we don't always see the rest of the year. It is a great time to get together. It's also a busy time and we are glad when we can take a breath and relax.

We also need to be thankful for what Jesus has done for us remembering His sacrifice for us and listening to our prayers and providing for the things we need.

Here are a few things I'm thankful for:

Jesus

Jesus's Love for me even when I don't deserve it

Salvation of Loved ones

My brothers and sisters in Jesus

Deb, Amy, Dan, Isaac, Emma, Tanner, Sarah, Barry, Trey

My house, car, food and clothing

All this I am thankful for plus much more. I cannot imagine any of this without Jesus.

What are you thankful for this month.

Be Blessed in Jesus!

Elder, Tom Baum



More School News

We missed this last month, but Emilie Morris also placed first in the Literature Fair at Center McMechen and presented at the County Lit Fair at John Marshall on October 4th. Emilie is the daughter of Steven and Ashley Morris and granddaughter of Jay and Michelle! And, of course, we can't leave out Great-Grandma Charlene Anderson!!

Josilyn Fields placed first in the County Literature Fair and will move on to the Regional Fair at West Liberty University on November 1st. Good Luck, Joss!

Steven Morris and the Varsity Football team for Sherrard Middle School finished with only 1 loss on the season and at their game on October 16th, the 8th graders were given John Marshall T-Shirts as a "passing of the baton", so to speak. Good Luck, Steven!

The Middle School Volleyball season has come to an end. The 6th Grade team at Sherrard (Sydney Fields) ended the season in first place for their age group. (There are no playoffs or championships for the 6th grade teams.) The eighth grade team (varsity), coached by Sydney's Mom, Rebekah, participated in the PAC8 Championships.

In other news, Josilyn Fields auditioned for the Christmas Play at the Strand Theater in Moundsville and was accepted into the cast. They will be presenting "Elf Jr.". Stay tuned for dates and times!! Congratulations Joss!

Masyn Inclan, Granddaughter of Mark and Shelly Martin has been recognized for her outstanding accomplishments both on and off the court.

Masyn is a senior defensive specialist for the John Marshall High School Girls Volleyball Team. She achieved an incredible milestone this season - she recorded her 1,000th career dig! This season alone she recorded over 400, a testament to her dedication, athleticism and leadership. She has also earned 4 varsity letters in volleyball and an additional 6 letters in basketball and softball. All this while maintained a GPA above 4.0.

Masyn's drive, determination, and humble spirit reflect the values of faith, perseverance, and excellence that inspire us all. Her family and church community celebrate her continued success and the example she sets for young athletes everywhere. Congratulations, Masyn - we are very proud of you!

If you would like to include any examples of "proud Mom & Dad or Grandma/Grandpa" moments, or just to give the kids a "Pat on the back" - get the information to Dru Fox by the 20th of the month to be included in the next month's issue.



I apologize for any items or articles not included in this publication. The CONTACT had to be completed early this month due to Dave and I being out of town from the 22nd – 26th. I had to have everything typed, printed and assembled before we left to have it available on the 26th and mailed before November 1st.



Children's Church

Our Sunday morning kids ministry continues to pour God's love into the next generation of believers. The students spent October learning about Moses and in November they will learn about the story of God guiding His people through the wilderness.

Continue to pray for our kids to hold onto the truth of God's love and to be bold to tell their friends about Him.



Titus Women

Titus Women continue to work on diving deep into the book of Job. We welcome any ladies to come and join us on Wednesday nights at 6:00 pm.

As we head into the holiday season, our schedule will be a little different. No meetings on November 12th and 26th. We are also taking the month of December off.

**LOOK FOR THE SPECIAL FOOD PANTRY ARTICLE AT THE
BOTTOM OF THE CALENDAR!!**



The women who attended the Women's Retreat in October had a wonderful time. I think we are getting the hang of it now. We had enough room in the fridge for all the food and we still ate good!! It was a refreshing time of fellowship and fun. We got to know each other a little better and we still like each other! No Bail money was required and we had enough room in the cars for all our purchases!!

Congratulations to Mary Rowan who won the door prize!! We couldn't have planned it better.

Thank you to Patti Fox for organizing our weekend! We had a great time!!



The BackPack Ministry is up and running and in full swing once again. These dedicated individuals show up every week and pack around 168 food packs for the students at Center McMechen Elementary School. The work out of the parsonage on 10th and Logan streets in McMechen every Wednesday at 12 noon. These packs provide some much needed food for families in our community and the children are very appreciative.

If you would like to join this vital ministry, show up on any Wednesday and they will put you to work.

The items for these backpacks are purchased in bulk and many are businesses help out but donations are always appreciated.



Prayer List:

Debbie Baum
Fred Brautigan
Kathy Coleman
Mary Crow
Rick Evans
Jim Hall
Jim Hockney
Braden Irwin

Richie Lehew
Shelly Martin
Ruth & Charles Myers
Heather Neff
Rylin Richards
Janice Sayre
Taylor White
Church Construction

*Rejoice in hope, be patient in tribulation, be constant in prayer.
Romans 12:12*



New Small Group

Our new Small Group (we still don't have a name) met for the first time on Tuesday, October 7th. Although the turnout was small, it was a great time of sharing.

The purpose of this group is to give everyone a chance to share their joys, sorrows, burdens, dreams – anything that's on your mind and heart that you just need to share with someone who won't judge! We will laugh with you or cry with you, but we will definitely PRAY with you!!

If you would like more information, see Michelle Morris or just come and join us on November 4th at 6:00 pm.

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A brief History of the First Church of God, McMechen, WV

The McMechen First Church of God was established in 1871 by Elder J. W. Davis and is part of Allegheny Region of the Churches of God, General Conference based out of Findlay, Ohio. The founder of the Churches of God, General Conference was John Winebrenner.

The church members first met in houses and later would share the original Methodist Church building (near what is now the McMechen Cemetery).

Our first independent church building was built on a purchased lot on Gravel Street (now 6th Street) in 1875.

In 1907, they purchased the property on the corner of 10th & Logan Streets and began construction of a new church. It is said that many members of the congregation put their own houses up as collateral for a loan of \$15,000 to build the church. The building was completed in 1908 and dedicated on the Sunday after Easter.

On June 2-3, 2017, the church building was completely destroyed by fire. Sunday services on June 4th were held at the Methodist Church.

The building may have been destroyed but the CHURCH (its **people**) still worship together, serve the community and our ministry has never stopped. We continue to meet, now at the former Boggs Run Lutheran Church, while working through construction of a new building at the site in McMechen.

Churches of God, General Conference - What We Believe (our Statement of Faith):

- We believe that the Bible is the divinely inspired Word of God, the only infallible rule of faith and practice.
- We believe in one God, eternally existent in three persons – Father, Son, and Holy Spirit – one in essence and community.
- We believe in God the Father, the almighty Creator of heaven and earth.
- We believe that Jesus Christ our Lord is the Word made flesh – fully God and fully man. We believe He was conceived by the Holy Spirit, was born of the virgin Mary, lived a sinless life, was crucified, died and was buried, rose again on the third day, and ascended into heaven.
- We believe in the divinity of the Holy Spirit, who indwells the believer. The Holy Spirit convicts of sin, enables the believer to live a holy life, comforts, teaches, and bestows spiritual gifts.
- We believe humanity is created in the image of God, has fallen into sin, and can be born again by the Spirit, justified freely by grace, and saved through the atoning work of Jesus Christ alone.
- We believe that the Church is the body of Christ, the people of God, whose mission is to make disciples of all nations and to be salt and light in the world.
- We believe baptism, the Lord's supper, and feet washing to be ordinances of the Church.
- We believe in the return of Jesus Christ, the resurrection of the body, the final judgment, everlasting life, and the new heaven and new earth.



COG Prayer Chain

As most everyone knows, there is a prayer chain at the McMechen First Church of God. I was asked to take it over and I was happy to do it. However, it has been a learning process for me. I have a smart phone, which is apparently a lot smarter than me!

I was able to rename the group and list the members. We had had some “copycat” lists due to individuals just starting their own threads. This resulted in duplicate lists on our phones. So, this “official list” was created. It was successful for a good while, but somehow, a “copycat” list got created again and we have had some difficulty with content. I believe I have fixed it. It seems that if someone wants to be added, I must start an entirely new thread, because some of us have iPhones and some of us have android phones. I added someone but didn’t save it as a new post area and that person kept disappearing from the group. Hopefully, I have that fixed. So, from now on, if we add a member, I will have to form a new thread and inform everyone which one to keep and which one to delete. The current thread has this icon:



Please use the most CURRENT thread. The background color on the praying hands emoji is grayish green as of this article.

Also, there are **guidelines** for the prayer chain. They are:

1. Use only the most current thread to make your request. This way, we do not get multiple threads and get duplicate messages.
2. Kept your request short and to the point. This way, we avoid confusion and the requests remain accurate.
3. It is not necessary to respond with an answer. But if you do, please keep it short such as "praying" or "prayers", a heart or praying hands emoji is fine. A long answer, prayer, or graphics blow up people's phones, and some people do not have unlimited texts which can result in extra cost. A GIF also takes up storage on phones, and we want to avoid that.
4. Pray for the request immediately if possible. If you're driving or not near your phone, pray as soon as you are able.
5. Updates are welcome! It helps us to keep up with the request. Again, in a short, concise manner to keep everything as mainstreamed as possible.
6. Think of this as a prayer 911! It is for IMMEDIATE prayer requests. We all pray for things every day like a loved one with a cold, COVID, or the flu; maybe a chronic condition or other needs, and that is a concern, but those requests should be listed on the church prayer list or perhaps your social media of choice. This prayer chain is for immediate needs such as, a someone who is being rushed to the hospital for a heart attack, a diagnosis of a serious disease, surgery, etc. You would not call 911 and give a medical history. You briefly explain the problem and get help. The same here. Briefly give the circumstance and go pray.
7. Please do not carry on a conversation on the prayer chain. Just pray. Questions can be asked and answered in person later. Praying immediately is the important thing!

Hopefully, this clarifies a few things. If you have any questions, please let me know. Also, if anyone is smarter than me and has some pointers on how to add or delete people, PLEASE let me know!

This is a **very important** and **vital** ministry, and we want to keep it easy and reliable. Thanks to all who participate in this ministry. You are invaluable!



Happy Birthday to you!
Happy Birthday to you!
Happy Birthday dear...

Happy November Birthday to....

- 2 Don Lehew
- 6 Bonnie Cuichta
- 6 Fred Buskirk
- 10 Beth Wolfe
- 14 Becky Stiles
- 15 Michelle Morris
- 16 Rebekah Martin
- 17 Wendy Younger
- 20 Jay Morris
- 20 Danielle Wolfe
- 21 Sandy Sperling

Happy Birthday to you!



Happy November Anniversary to....

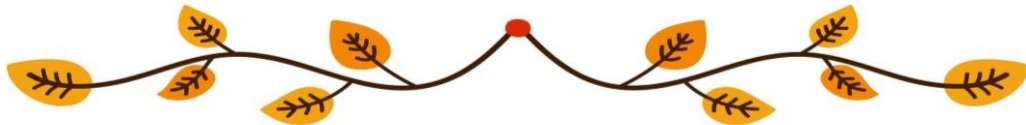
- 3 Tom & Debbie Baum
- 5 Chet & Terri Miller
- 11 Todd & Jeanne Wolfe
- 19 Marty & Judy Fox
- 20 Don & Elizabeth Lehew
- 23 Shawn & Paula Straughn

Hang Out Dinner Group!

On Tuesday, October 14th, the Hang Out Dinner Group went to dinner at the El Paso Restaurant in Moundsville. As always, everyone had a great time and ate very well.

Next month they will be going to Fabio's Pizza in Wheeling on Tuesday, November 11th at 6:00 pm.

If you would like to join them, please let Tom Baum know.



It's the Most Wonderful Time of the Year.....



We had such a great time last year, we want to do it again! If you like to decorate – you are in for a treat!!! AND we will even provide lunch!! Can't beat that!

Come join us on **Saturday, November 29th at 10:00 am** and decorate to your heart's content. It is a tradition to have the church all "decked out" for the first Sunday in Advent, which is Sunday, November 30th this year!

We have 4 Trees to put up and decorate, bannisters, pews, Nativity sets, wreaths...all to help transform the church and prepare for the Advent of the Savior.



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November, 2025



SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
<p>Hang Out Dinner Group Tuesday, November 11th at Fabio's Pizza, 20th & Main streets Wheeling at 6:00 pm</p>						1 Saturday Evening Worship 5:00 pm AA Group 7:00 pm
2 Sunday School 9:00 am Morning Worship 10:35 am	3 IronMen 6:00 pm	4 Piecemakers Quilt Club 5:00 pm	5 Prayer & Bible Study 10:00 am Backpack 12 noon Piecemaker's Quilt Club 1:30 pm Titus Women 6:00 pm	6	7 <p style="text-align: center;">Annual Congregational Meeting 7:00 pm</p>	8 Saturday Evening Worship 5:00 pm AA Group 7:00 pm
9 Sunday School 9:00 am Morning Worship 10:35 am	10 IronMen 6:00 pm	11 Piecemakers Quilt Club 5:00 pm <p>Hang Out Dinner Group at 6:00 pm</p>	12 Prayer & Bible Study 10:00 am Backpack 12 noon Piecemaker's Quilt Club 1:30 pm Titus Women 6:00 pm	13	14	15 Saturday Evening Worship 5:00 pm AA Group 7:00 pm
16 Sunday School 9:00 am Morning Worship 10:35 am	17 IronMen 6:00 pm	18 Piecemakers Quilt Club 5:00 pm	19 Prayer & Bible Study 10:00 am Backpack 12 noon Piecemaker's Quilt Club 1:30 pm Titus Women 6:00 pm	20	21	22 Saturday Evening Worship 5:00 pm AA Group 7:00 pm

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
23 Sunday School 9:00 am Morning Worship 10:35 am Community Thanksgiving	24 IronMen 6:00 pm	25 Piecemakers Quilt Club 5:00 pm	26 Prayer & Bible Study 10:00 am	27 Happy Thanksgiving! 	28	29 “Deck the Halls” Saturday Evening Worship 5:00 pm AA Group 7:00 pm
30 Sunday School 9:00 am Morning Worship 10:35 am Dinner Church 6:00 pm Turkey Dinner		Community Thanksgiving Service Sunday, November 23 rd at 7:00 pm at the United Methodist Church			 Deck the Halls! Join us on Saturday the 29 th At 10:00 am to decorate the church for the Holiday Season! Lunch will also be provided!	



Food Pantry Announcement – Any Assistance is welcome!

We have recently been inundated with requests for assistance with food. With the recent government issues, some programs are being cancelled and/or delayed indefinitely so the need is great. Since our Food Pantry had not been utilized for a while about 80% of the food that we had was expired and we cannot use it. We packed Food Boxes for 4 households on October 29th and have another 5 boxes to fill on November 5th. We had some monetary donations that helped with some of the cost of filling the 4 boxes but the fact is, we need to restock our Food Pantry.

Any donation of non-perishable food items is greatly appreciated. Canned vegetables, canned fruit, spaghetti sauce, spaghetti noodles, soups. Things like peanut butter, jelly, macroni & cheese, etc. We are also in need of monetary donations in order to purchase perishable items such as bread, milk and any meats we can provide. We would also appreciate help packing the boxes. Right now, plans are to pack the boxes on Wednesdays from 11:30 am – 3:30 or 4:00. This is not first come, first serve. People will call and request assistance, we will get information regarding how big the household is, any children and/or allergies, etc, and will set a time for them to pick up the food box. We are also in the process of setting up guidelines to help us keep records and make reports to Council and the Congregation.

Monetary donations can be sent to the church, just make sure it is designated as a “Food Pantry” donation. We will also have a container in the back of the church for donations.

If you have any suggestions or would like to help with this much needed ministry let Patti or Dru Fox know.