



BETHANY CHURCH

NEWSLETTER ❖ NOVEMBER '25

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It's October 23 as I type these thoughts. Did you know all the remembrances attached to 10/23?

National Croc day—not the kind with thick skin

and teeth, the ones people wear on their feet. National Mole day—not the dark spots that appear on our skin, a spy, a spicy Mexican sauce or the small burrowing mammal but the unit of measurement in chemistry: a very large number of particles (6.022×10^{23}). National Boston Cream Pie day—any freebies to find? National TV talk show host day—any worth watching? Nation iPod day—any of those relics around? National Slap Your Coworker day—sounds like a script for a misdemeanor assault charge.

So what was the psalmist thinking about when God's Spirit had them write: "This is the day the Lord has made; let us rejoice and be glad in it." Psalm 118:24 Was it a certain day of the week or year this targeted? Maybe something especially good had happened the day these words for worship were documented, OR maybe it was a hard season of life and faith and hearts needed to be directed toward something beyond the day to day earthly stuff.

The psalm begins and ends with the same thought: "Give thanks to the Lord, for he is good; his love endures forever." Every day gratitude can rise up because God is unchangeably good! Every day we can engage in thanksgiving for God's love because it is an everlasting, enduring, active love. Every day God is present with us. Every day He provides freedom.

Freedom from anything that causes us to fear. Every day God is a reliable, capable refuge opposed to the weak promises of people to have our backs. Every day the Lord God is the Helper who provides strength and inspires songs to arise within. Every day the Strong One is salvation. He doesn't just supply us with the weapons to win the war; but He fights for us and with us with His mighty right hand. Every day He can take on any of our enemies with one arm. Every day He blesses us as we come to Him. Every day He make His light shine upon us. EVERY DAY there are countless reasons to rejoice and be glad about who God is and what He has done, is doing, and will do. Thank You God for Your marvelous work!



REACH

LOVE

SERVE

Puzzle!

Complete each friend pair from the Bible, using the verses as hints. Then write the circled letters in order on the blanks below to complete Proverbs 17:17.

David &	— — — — —	○	—	2 Samuel 15:37
King Agrippa &	○	— — — — —	—	Acts 25:13
Naomi &	○	— — — — —	—	Ruth 1:22
Paul &	—	○	— — — — —	Acts 16:25
Joshua &	— — — — —	○	—	Numbers 14:6
Peter &	— — — — —	○	—	Luke 5:8-10
Job &	B	— — — — —	○	Job 2:11
Elijah &	—	○	— — — — —	2 Kings 2:1-14
Zophar &	—	○	— — — — —	Job 2:11
Jonathan &	— — — — —	○	—	1 Samuel 18:1
Peter &	— — — — —	○	○	Luke 5:8-10
Jesus &	—	○	— — — — —	John 11:20
Jesus &	— — — — —	○	—	John 11:5
Timothy &	— — — — —	○	—	2 Timothy 1:1
Jesus &	○	— — — — —	—	John 11:5
Mary &	— — — — —	—	○	Luke 1:39-40
Job &	— — — — —	○	— — — — —	Job 2:11
Aaron &	○	— — — — —	○	Exodus 4:27

“
 — — — — —
 — — — — —”

PROVERBS 17:17a

Honoring Our Veterans



Veterans Day has its roots in what was called Armistice Day, when a peace agreement ended World War I on November 11, 1918. President Wilson proclaimed that Armistice Day was to be marked with solemn pride in heroism and with gratitude for victory as well as the “opportunity it has given America to show her sympathy with peace and justice.” In 1954, the remembrance was renamed Veterans Day to honor all U.S. military personnel. It’s a reminder to pray for and honor all who serve and sacrifice, to support and assist their families, and to pray that God will bring peace on earth.

Thankfulness in action → →

Thanksgiving is a spiritual exercise, necessary to the building of a healthy soul. It takes us out of the stuffiness of ourselves into the fresh breeze and sunlight of the will of God.

—Elisabeth Elliot, *Keep a Quiet Heart*

To speak gratitude is courteous and pleasant, to enact gratitude is generous and noble, but to live gratitude is to touch heaven. —Johannes Gaertner

Let gratitude be the pillow upon which you kneel to say your nightly prayer. And let faith be the bridge you build to overcome evil and welcome good. —Maya Angelou



By Dr Scott Turansky

Anger in children can be loud, messy, and disruptive. It may come with stomping feet, slammed doors, tears, or defiance. As a parent, it's easy to focus on the behavior—because that's what you see. But if we only respond to the surface-level expression, we miss an incredible opportunity to shape the heart.

Many parents approach anger with urgency. “Stop it right now.”

“Calm down.” “Go to your room.” These responses are understandable in the moment, especially when the house feels like it's unraveling. But what if there were a deeper way to help your child—one that doesn't just manage the moment but trains their heart for a lifetime? Let's take a look inside the storm of anger and discover how a heart-based approach can help both you and your child respond differently.

Anger is a Signal, Not the Real Problem

Think of anger like a warning light on your car's dashboard. When it flashes, you know something's going on under the hood. You wouldn't just smash the dashboard light and expect the engine to be fine. Yet that's often what happens when we tell kids to “just stop” being angry. We silence the signal without addressing the underlying issue.

Anger is usually a secondary emotion. Behind it may be frustration, fear, shame, or disappointment. A child who explodes because they “never get a turn” may be dealing with an internal sense of injustice. A child who yells when a parent says “no” may be struggling with entitlement or unrealistic expectations. Anger gives us clues about what's happening in the heart.

As parents, our job is not just to suppress the emotion but to explore it. “What's going on inside right now?” is a much more powerful question than “What's wrong with you?” Helping children connect their feelings to deeper beliefs is a transformative step in emotional growth.

Training, Not Just Correction

Most anger episodes don't resolve with a single conversation. What kids need is training. Just as you'd teach your child to ride a bike or tie their shoes, they also need practice handling big feelings. A heart-based parent sees anger as a skill-building opportunity, not just a behavioral issue to correct.

Training involves both **instruction and experience**. You might sit with your child after a meltdown and say, “Let's talk about what happened. What were you feeling when your sister changed the channel?” You're helping your child name their emotions and see the sequence that led to the explosion. Then, you guide them to develop a plan: “Next time you feel that way, what could you do instead of yelling?”

The key here is practice. Children don't master emotional regulation overnight. That's why it's important to put them in **low-stakes, controlled situations** where they can rehearse better responses. Maybe you play a game where they intentionally lose and practice using calm words. Or perhaps you role-play a frustrating homework moment and walk through it together with a script.

Training also means celebrating small wins. If your child starts to recognize their triggers or uses a new phrase instead of yelling, affirm it! You're building emotional muscle, one moment at a time.

Empowering Your Child with a Plan

Many children feel powerless when anger rises. They don't know what to do with the surge of emotion. Instead of relying on punishment or lectures, a heart-based approach gives them tools—and responsibility.

Help your child develop their own **anger plan**. This gives them ownership and makes them an active participant in their growth. Their plan might include:

Things to say to themselves (“It's not worth it,” or “Take a breath”)

Things to do (“Walk to my calm spot,” “Get a drink of water”)

People to ask for help (“Ask Mom for a hug,” or “Tell Dad I need space”)

As a parent, you'll have your own plan too. You might step back instead of escalating. You may pre-load calming strategies during peaceful times. Your plan is about structuring family life to support emotional growth.

Over time, you want your child to internalize the truth: **“This is my problem, and I can grow.”** That mindset moves them from reactive to proactive, from explosive to resilient.

Invite God Into the Emotional Journey

Parenting the heart means you don't do this alone. God cares deeply about our emotions—and He offers both comfort and strength for the journey. Throughout Scripture, we find examples of God meeting people in their emotional turmoil with the phrase, "I will be with you."

To **Jacob**, God promised presence on a hard journey (Genesis 28:15).

To **Moses**, He offered companionship in overwhelming leadership (Exodus 3:12).

To **Joshua**, He gave strength and courage for the unknown (Joshua 1:9).

To **us**, Jesus says, "Peace I leave with you... Do not let your hearts be troubled" (John 14:27).

Teaching your children that God is with them—even in their anger—is a profound gift. It helps them realize they are not alone and that their emotions don't scare God. You might encourage them to memorize a short verse like **Psalm 56:3**—"When I am afraid, I put my trust in you"—and use it as a calming phrase in moments of emotional overload.

Even better, model this for your children. Let them see you pause, pray, and reset when your own anger rises. Your example gives them a living blueprint of what emotional maturity looks like.

The Bottom Line: Big Emotions Are a Big Opportunity

Anger isn't the enemy. It's a teacher. It reveals what's happening in your child's heart and gives you the chance to come alongside them with compassion, wisdom, and training.

When you shift from control to coaching, from reacting to training, you'll not only see fewer outbursts—you'll help your child grow into a person who handles emotions with strength and grace. That's the power of a heart-based approach.



Where do you live?

A man who resided near the border of two states had been told for years his house was in Minnesota. But when a new survey revealed that he actually lived in Wisconsin, he proclaimed, "Thank goodness! I never could bear those cold Minnesota winters."

Defining where we live certainly affects our attitude. Followers of Jesus, or saints, consider their true home to be in God's dynamic presence. St. Paul was so connected to God through prayer that mystical experiences left him not knowing whether he was in or out of his body (see 2 Corinthians 12:1-10). Living with one foot in heaven and the other on the way there, Paul could know peace. "Whether we live or whether we die, we are the Lord's," he concludes (Romans 14:8). Christian saints who are still living on earth can rest assured: Our true home is always with the Lord.

A gratitude game

Years ago, ads for a toy-store chain featured an animated kangaroo jumping on a frown to turn it upside down. That reminds me of family life, which can feel like a nonstop attempt to keep everyone happy. Busy schedules, grumpy kids and tired parents can be a bad combo. When our family needs to turn frowns upside down, we play the thankful game. The rules are simple: We take turns sharing one thing we're thankful for. Everyone plays. No one can pass. No repeats are allowed. Our kids, now teens, still chime in.

As we share gratitude for football, Grandma, hugs, warm brownies, coffee and more, kids tend to stop bickering, and adults get a mental reset. Try playing — and bring on lots of smiles!
—Janna Firestone

The Awakening We Need~Why the Reformed Pray for Revival

by Pastor Ray Ortlund ~ Nashville, Tennessee

The word *revival* speaks of life renewed. It's about depletion lifted to restoration, refreshing reinvigoration. It's about weary you and me reenergized with new sparkle in our eyes, new spring in our steps, new steel in our spines. And isn't that very renewal our constant need?

God did not create us as perpetual motion machines, grinding life out by our own energies. He created us to need Him, and to have Him, in His fullness of "grace upon grace" ([John 1:16](#)). His endless grace meeting our endless need is why the gospel speaks of "*newness of life*" ([Romans 6:4](#)) as normative Christianity — not only at conversion, but constantly thereafter, even moment by moment.

How could it be otherwise? The Bible summarizes our earthly journey like this: "The Spirit helps us in our weakness" ([Romans 8:26](#)). It doesn't speak of our "weaknesses" (plural) but of our "weakness" (singular). Why? Because it's not as though we have a weakness in this area of life over here and another weakness in that area of life over there. The truth is, weakness pervades the whole of our existence. Weakness is not one more experience we have alongside other experiences. Rather, weakness is the platform on which we have all our experiences. We have never yet known a single moment of non-weakness. *But the Holy Spirit helps us in our weakness.* And revival is a mighty surge of Spirit-given help for weak Christians like all of us.

What Is Revival?

Revival is ordinary Christians experiencing extraordinary power from on high, so that the gospel gets traction in us and through us with astonishing impact. It cannot be scheduled — not by us, anyway. It is of God. My dad and mom were speaking at a Christian college in the early 1970s. The Holy Spirit was moving with reviving power. With happy wonder, the students kept saying, "Can you believe this is happening to us?" That is not the kind of comment we tend to make when we execute our own ministry plan really well. The divine and miraculous nature of authentic revival is why we make no allowance here for false, worked-up "revivals" of our own making.

The Bible encourages us to pursue this kind of revival with this wonderful prayer: "Will you not revive us again, that your people may rejoice in you?" ([Psalm 85:6](#)). Let's think that simple prayer through, asking three questions.

1. Who Does the Reviving?

God does: "Will *you* not revive us again?" In fact, the word *you* is emphatic in the Hebrew text. Revival is a work of God. That's why we *pray* for revival.

Do we also labor toward revival? Yes. We always want to serve in such a way as to "prepare the way of the Lord" ([Isaiah 40:3-5](#)). Like Elijah, we build the altar. But it is God, *and God alone*, who sends down the sacred fire ([1 Kings 18:30-39](#)). If our churches become swept up into any movement, any dynamic, generated by our own brilliance or cool, why should anyone even *care*? Why should *we* care? If our churches grow by socially acceptable forms of shrewd marketing and trendy programs, then we're left with a tragedy: churches that are total failures brilliantly disguised as massive successes. We are to be living proof that the risen Jesus is actually moving in this world — and nothing less. *That* is success (if such a word even applies).

When our Lord above pours out his Spirit upon us ([Acts 2:33](#)), He lifts us into new experiences of his wonder-working grace, with surprising conversions, hidden sins openly confessed, broken relationships tenderly restored, timid Christians publicly emboldened, and so forth. That miracle is revival. To quote the title of a J.I. Packer book, it is "[God in our midst](#)." When this happens, a merely routinized Christianity crumbles, yielding to the powers of revived Christianity.

Jonathan Edwards certainly understood revival this way — as an intervention by God. It's why, in his writings about the First Great Awakening, he had to use words like *surprising*, *remarkable*, *extraordinary*, and *wonderful* to describe what he saw happening. Far from threatening Reformed theology, the God-centeredness of revival validates Reformed theology.

And the great thing about the miracle of revival is that we, even we, can receive it. We can be as unimpressive as we truly are, but with the gospel and the Holy Spirit, we simple, plodding, and sometimes exhausted Christians are equipped in every essential to receive afresh the felt presence of the risen Christ with powerful effect.

2. Who Needs Revival?

We do. *The people of God* need revival: “Will you not revive *us* again, that *your people* may rejoice in you?” Does the world need revival too? Of course. In fact, the old prophecy declares that “the earth will be filled with the knowledge of the glory of the Lord as the waters cover the sea” ([Habakkuk 2:14](#)). And our Lord won’t stop until the very “trees of the forest sing for joy” ([Psalm 96:12](#))! But revival starts among us, his own people.

“Revival is a work of God. That’s why we pray for revival.”

Can we deny that we need revival? Over the last decade or so, we Bible-believing Christians in America have suffered significant losses. We were surging forward. Personally, looking around at the gospel-driven movements among us, I was thinking, “If we stay low before the Lord and steward this blessing wisely, this could accelerate into historic awakening over the next ten or twenty years.”

But we’ve faltered. Our moral failures, our doctrinal betrayals, our relational fractures — we have taken many hits. From my vantage point, we are not in the position of strength we were just a few years ago.

If we think we don’t need revival, how much further must we fall before our hearts break and we humble ourselves? I believe that we orthodox, serious-minded, gospel-loving Christians need revival — *now*. Let’s seek the Lord for it.

3. What Difference Does Revival Make?

A wonderful difference! “Will you not revive us again, that *your people* may rejoice in you?” Revival *gushes* with overflowing joy in Christ. It is so cheering to get right with God and with one another, to get free from past regrets, to stop hanging back in timidity and face the future with new confidence in the One who holds “all authority in heaven and on earth” ([Matthew 28:18](#)).

I remember a turning point in my own life during the Jesus Movement of the late 1960s. It was my junior year in college. I was tied up in knots with doubts about Christ. My deepest foundations were being shaken by some bad teaching. Then God mercifully moved in on me, when some friends invited me to a Christian rock concert on New Year’s Eve 1969.

When I walked in that evening, my heart was heavy with doubt. Three hours later, I *floated* out with a joy I had never known before. What made the difference? Not a brilliant argument (though I certainly respect brilliant arguments). No, God gave me something deeper, and even primal. He gave me *happy certainty*. He gave me joy from above, as a first-order, self-authenticating, direct and immediate experience of Reality — his very presence.

That night, I was sitting in the Pasadena Civic Auditorium with my friends, minding my own business. The curtains parted. There stood a rock band of “Jesus freaks” with their long hair and electric guitars. They began to play. Imagine a mash-up of Jimi Hendrix and Eric Clapton. I loved it.

But what got me was *their simple message*. The song that absolutely wrecked me riffed on this call-and-response lyric: “Jesus loves me; I love Jesus.” (Needless to say, this was not the traditional children’s song “Jesus Loves Me”!) These direct, honest, uncomplicated gospel words landed on me as an astonishingly bright and luminous new thought.

Prayers We Won’t Regret

By God’s reviving power, on that night in Pasadena, his message was experientialized to my heart as *real* — more real than anything else in all this world. It entered my being at a level down beneath my doubts. Those words exploded in my experience with a joy I could not deny — and I didn’t want to. Naturally, I still had many questions, and even more questions. But now I was free to think it all through with a joyous confidence that Jesus offered everything I was seeking. And I’ve never been the same since.

What if we examine ourselves for every trace of improperly limited Christian experience? What if we dare to ask the Lord to lead us into fresh green pastures and beside new still waters, so that we rejoice in him as never before? What if we let *him* decide whether our Christianity today is all that he can give us? What if all we offer him is our humble openness — our open Bibles with our open hearts? Do we really fear that we would ultimately regret going that low before our gracious Lord and Savior?

“Will you not revive us again, that your people may rejoice in you?” May [Psalm 85:6](#) grab our hearts and never let us go!

Sunday, November 2, 2025

Scripture Reading: Isaiah 1:10-18

*Trust the past to God's mercy, the present to God's love,
and the future to God's providence. —St. Augustine*

It's the first of the month. This means that, for many of you, your next Social Security check will be arriving soon, or be deposited into your bank account.

Are you aware that you owe your Social Security check to a rickety, wobbling chair?

Here's the story. It was a rickety chair that allowed the New Deal to happen. Go back to the 1930s. The United States was deep into the Great Depression. The national unemployment rate hit 24.9 percent. People were hungry, lining up for blocks in major cities to get a cup of soup.

Franklin Roosevelt, who had just been elected president, was speaking at a rally in Chicago. In the audience was a Giuseppe Zangara, an anarchist who was only five feet tall, but ten feet tall in his heart. He blamed all of his myriad problems on capitalists and politicians. He didn't know the president from Adam, but the misguided soul thought that he was responsible for all of his sordid problems. Zangara bought a five-shot .32-caliber revolver and got ready.

Zangara, a short man, was no taller than Zacchaeus, but rather than climbing a tree, he stood on a chair to get a better view. He climbed up on the chair, raised his pistol, took aim — and, just at that moment, *the chair wobbled*. His shot went wild, and — tragically — the mayor of Chicago, who was shaking hands with Roosevelt, took the bullet instead and later died.

If Roosevelt had been shot and killed, his conservative running mate, John Nance Garner, would have become president. Most historians agree that Garner would never have brought in the sweeping reforms FDR did. If that chair hadn't wobbled, our history would have been very different.

You never know. Perhaps Congress would have passed a different form of Social Security. The point is that you never know how something as small as a wobbly chair might change the course of history. The Bible reminds us that “The human mind plans the way, but the LORD directs the steps” (Proverbs 16:9). Even in the tiniest details of life, God's hand is at work in ways we may never fully understand. Life is full of moments where small, unnoticed events have huge consequences. A single conversation, a brief delay, or even a shaky chair can alter history. The same is true in our own lives. Our actions, no matter how small, can shape the future in ways we cannot imagine.

—Timothy Merrill

Prayer: Loving and merciful God, to borrow the language of Francis of Assisi, make me an instrument of your peace. Help me to sow love, kindness and mercy. In Jesus' name. Amen.

Daily Bible Readings

Sunday: Acts 19:11–41;

2 Corinthians 1-3

Monday: Ezra 5-7

Tuesday: Ezra 8-10

Wednesday: Nehemiah 1-3

Thursday: Nehemiah 4-6

Friday: Nehemiah 7-9

Saturday: Psalms 124-126

Verse to Remember

May those who sow in tears reap with shouts of joy. Those who go out weeping, bearing the seed for sowing, shall come home with shouts of joy, carrying their sheaves. —Psalm 126:5-6

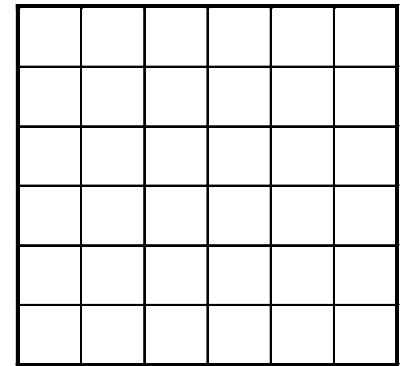
November 2025

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
						1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30						

WORD SHUFFLE

S	O	R	E	L	Y
M	U	S	T	E	R
C	A	M	E	R	A
F	L	A	M	E	S
S	T	O	L	E	N
W	A	I	T	E	R

Notice that the diagonal letters in the box to the left spell SUMMER. Shuffle the order of the words so the same diagonal spells WARMER.



PYRAMID PUZZLE

ORANGE

Reduce the six-letter word “orange” to the **left** by one letter at each descending step so each step makes a new word.

To the **right**, descend the stairs by adding one letter to the “O” at each step to make a new word.

O

Solution to Word Shuffle: waiter, camera, sorely, flames, stolen, muster

Solution to Pyramid Puzzle: ORANGE, range, rang, ran, an, a, O, on, one, tone, stone.

Sunday, November 9, 2025

Scripture Reading: 2 Thessalonians 2:1-5, 13-17

Life is God's novel. Let him write it. —Isaac Bashevis Singer

A few years ago, a headline made the rounds: “Staying in Touch with Pop Culture Key to Long Life.” It was based on a lighthearted study suggesting that keeping up with pop culture — knowing who’s who in music, movies and memes — might help older adults stay mentally sharp and socially connected. The idea was that staying culturally aware helps keep you engaged with the world, builds common ground across generations, and may even offer a small boost to emotional well-being.

Now, while knowing who Taylor Swift is or what’s trending on Netflix may spark a conversation with your grandkids, real life — true life, abundant life — can’t be measured in social media savvy or the successful tracking of celebrities. Staying in touch with pop culture may keep us in the loop, but *staying in touch with God is what keeps us alive in spirit.*

The Bible says, “And this is eternal life, that they may know you, the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom you have sent” (John 17:3). Eternal life isn’t just about living forever. It’s about living deeply, purposefully and joyfully right now through a relationship with God.

So, by all means, stay culturally connected if it brings joy or helps you relate to others, but don’t neglect the spiritual connection that matters most. Here are three simple ways to stay in touch with what really matters:

Stay in touch with Scripture. Pop culture changes with the seasons; God’s word stands forever. “The grass withers, the flower fades, but the word of our God will stand forever” (Isaiah 40:8). Make it a daily habit — even a few verses a day — to let God’s voice guide your heart and mind.

Stay in touch with God through prayer. We check the news. We check our phones. But do we check in with God? Prayer is how we stay connected to the One who holds all things together — including us.

Stay in touch with people. Jesus didn’t isolate himself from the world. He ate with sinners, comforted the lonely and walked with the outcasts. Staying relationally connected is part of how we live out the love of God.

It’s not just what you know — it’s who you know. So yes — know what’s trending. Laugh at the memes. Enjoy the music. Because keeping up with pop culture has benefits. But keeping close to Christ keeps you truly alive. This is the real key to a long and meaningful life.

—Timothy Merrill

Prayer: O God, you are my strength and hope. Thank you for being the constant in my life that never changes. In Jesus’ name. Amen.

Sunday, November 16, 2025

Scripture Reading: Malachi 4:1-2a

*Lose an hour in the morning, and you will spend
all day looking for it. —Richard Whately*

I'm going out on a limb here, but my guess is that most elderly people are morning people. Agree or disagree? There is some data to support this notion.

Studies show that as people age, their internal body clock tends to shift earlier, leading them to wake earlier and feel more alert in the morning hours. Researchers often call this the “morningness effect,” noting that older adults (ages 60–80) perform better on cognitive tasks in the morning compared to the afternoon.

There is something especially sacred about the morning, particularly for those who have walked a long road through many seasons of life. For the elderly, morning is not just the start of another day — it is a blessed reminder that God has sustained them through the night and granted the gift of one more sunrise.

In some Asian households, there is a quiet daily ritual in which an aged person takes a tea cup or drinking vessel and turns it upside down at night before going to bed. Then, upon arising, turns the same cup right side up, as a symbolic gesture of gratitude. Once again, the cup is right side up, empty and ready to be filled with whatever blessings may come during the day.

The Bible says, “The steadfast love of the LORD never ceases; his mercies never come to an end; they are new every morning; great is your faithfulness” (Lamentations 3:22–23, ESV). The prophet Jeremiah wrote these words during one of Israel’s darkest hours: “His mercies are new every morning...” What a stunning promise! That no matter our age, no matter what yesterday held, God meets us each day with fresh mercy.

The psalmist was a morning person: “O LORD, in the morning you hear my voice; in the morning, I plead my case to you and watch” (Psalm 5:3). In another psalm, he prays, “Satisfy us in the morning with your steadfast love, so that we may rejoice and be glad all our days” (90:14).

So, morning people, let us arise today, and say with the psalmist, “This is the day which the LORD hath made; we will rejoice and be glad in it!” (118:24, KJV).

—Timothy Merrill

Prayer: Lord, thank you for the gift of this morning. Thank you for the breath in my lungs, the light in the sky, and that I have been given one more day to love you, serve others and reflect your mercy. Amen.

Daily Bible Readings

Sunday: Acts 23-25

Monday: Acts 26-28

Tuesday: Ephesians 1-3

Wednesday: Ephesians 4-6

Thursday: Philippians 1-4

Friday: Colossians 1-4

Saturday: Psalms 130-132

CAPITAL CROSSING:

Directions: Place the capitals listed below in the correct spaces to complete the crossword.

4 Letters

Lima

Oslo

5 Letters

Hanoi, Paris

Seoul, Tokyo

6 Letters

Athens, Boston, Havana, London,

Lisbon, Moscow, Pierre, Saigon, Topeka

7 Letters

Caracas

Jackson

Raleigh

8 Letters

Belgrade

Bismarck

Brussels

CapeTown

Santiago

9 Letters

Amsterdam

Bucharest

Stockholm

10 Letters

Sacramento

BatonRouge

Washington

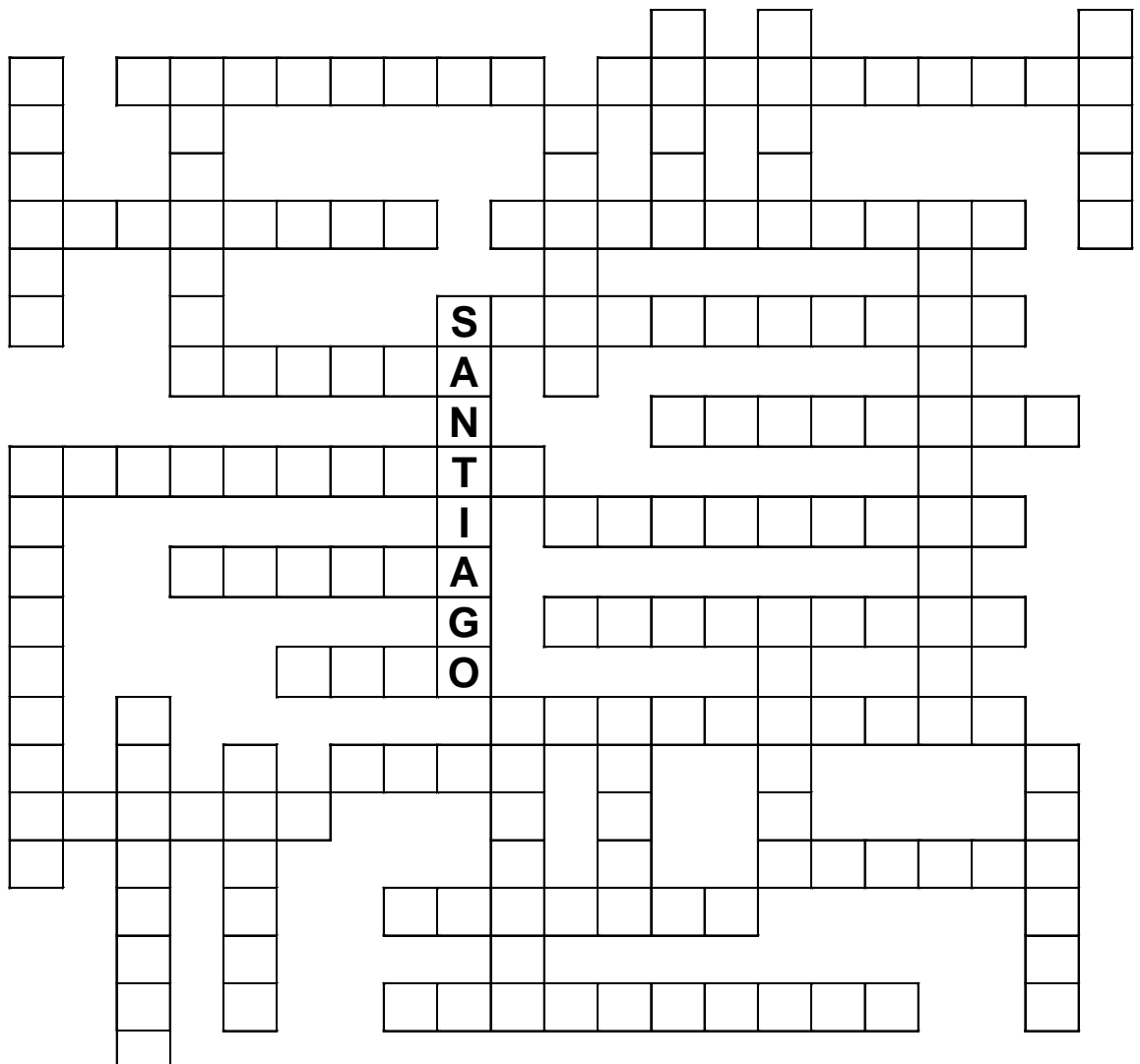
Copenhagen

MexicoCity

11 Letters

Springfield

Tallahassee



VETERANS DAY IS TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 11. "It's about how we treat our veterans every single day of the year. It's about making sure they have the care they need and the benefits that they've earned when they come home. It's about serving all of you as well as you've served the United States of America." —President Barack Obama.

Thanksgiving Sunday, November 23, 2025

Scripture Reading: Colossians 1:11-20

Gratitude is the ability to experience life as a gift. —John Ortberg

Thanksgiving Day

*Over the river, and through the wood,
To grandfather's house we go;
The horse knows the way to carry the sleigh
Through the white and drifted snow.*

*Over the river, and through the wood—
Oh, how the wind does blow!
It stings the toes and bites the nose
As over the ground we go.*

*Over the river, and through the wood,
To have a first-rate play.
Hear the bells ring "Ting-a-ling-ding,"
Hurrah for Thanksgiving Day!*

*Over the river, and through the wood
Trot fast, my dapple-gray!
Spring over the ground, like a hunting-hound!
For this is Thanksgiving Day.*

*Over the river, and through the wood,
And straight through the barn-yard gate.
We seem to go extremely slow,—
It is so hard to wait!*

*Over the river and through the wood—
Now grandmother's cap I spy!
Hurrah for the fun! Is the pudding done?
Hurrah for the pumpkin-pie!*

—Lydia Maria Child

Prayer: Loving God, I praise you for all of your bountiful blessings! You are rich in mercy and grace, and I am the grateful recipient of all you offer. In Jesus' name. Amen.

Daily Bible Readings

- Sunday:** Hebrews 1-4
- Monday:** Hebrews 5-7
- Tuesday:** Hebrews 8-10
- Wednesday:** Hebrews 11-13
- Thursday:** Philemon; 1 Peter 1-2
- Friday:** 1 Peter 3-5
- Saturday:** Psalms 133-135

PROVERBIAL ANIMALS

Many expressions in our language use animals as metaphors. Consider, for example, "Wise as an owl," or "To take the bull by the horns." Below are more of these expressions. Unscramble the words to find the animals in the proverbs.

PAE	_____	1. To go _____ over something.
EBRAEV	_____	2. An eager _____ .
RDIB	_____	3. To sing like a _____.
GOD	_____	4. To be in the _____ house.
FOWL	_____	5. To be a _____ in sheep's clothing.
RUYTEK	_____	6. To talk _____.
RUILQSER	_____	7. To _____ away your money.
SMUPOS	_____	8. To play _____ (pretend to be dead).
EMU	_____	9. Stubborn as a _____.
NOLI	_____	10. _____ -hearted.



RIDDLE

I am weightless and can be seen. When I am put in a barrel, I make it lighter.

What am I?

(Answer to the right)

Answers to Proverbial Animals:

1. ape, 2. beaver, 3. bird, 4. dog,
5. wolf, 6. turkey, 7. squirrel,
8. possum, 9. mule, 10. lion.

Solution to Riddle:

A hole.



First Sunday of Advent, November 30, 2025

Scripture Reading: Isaiah 2:1-5

We have this hope, a sure and steadfast anchor of the soul. —Hebrews 6:19

There's an old story of a woman who, nearing the end of her life, asked to be buried with a fork in her hand. When asked why, she said: "At church dinners, after the meal was cleared, someone would always lean over and say, 'Keep your fork.' It meant something better was coming — dessert! I want people to see the fork and remember that the best is yet to come."

This is what hope looks like. Even after a long life full of both blessings and trials, the Christian can still say with confidence: "The best is yet to come."

Advent is the season when hope lights the first candle, pushing back the long shadows of the year. But what is hope?

Hope isn't wishful thinking. It's not crossing our fingers and hoping for the best. Real hope is anchored in the faithfulness of God.

Many of us know from experience that life is filled with seasons — seasons of illness, loneliness, loss or waiting — when hope feels hard to hold onto. Seniors especially have known the long wait for answered prayers, for healing or for reconciliation. Yet it is precisely in these seasons that Advent speaks the loudest.

Theologian Karl Barth once said: "What other time or season can or will the church ever have but that of Advent?" In other words, all of life, in a sense, is lived in Advent — in the waiting, in the longing, in the trusting that God is still at work even when we can't yet see all God has promised.

Today, we wait — not for a Savior to be born, but for a Savior to return. And while we wait, we live in hope — a hope that has roots deeper than circumstances.

The apostle Paul prays for believers to be so full of God's hope that it overflows: "May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that you may abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit" (Romans 15:13).

As we light the first candle of Advent, remember: Your hope is not behind you. It's still ahead. God's promises have no expiration date.

—Timothy Merrill

Prayer: God of Hope, kindle in our hearts a flame that never dies. Fill us with joy and peace in believing. Let our hope overflow, because the best truly is yet to come. In Jesus' name, Amen.

Daily Bible Readings

Sunday: 2 Peter 1-3

Monday: 1 Timothy 1-3

Tuesday: 1 Timothy 4-6

Wednesday: 2 Timothy 1-4

Thursday: Titus 1-3

Friday: 1 John 1-2

Saturday: Psalms 136-138

Circle Scramble



DIRECTIONS: In the circles of letters below are 10-letter words. Each circle has the letters of the word in the correct order. But you must determine where each word begins and in which direction the word is reading. Write your answer in the space provided.

1. **D**
A I
R C
E A
D T
E

4. **D**
N O
E S
C C
S R
E

7. **F**
E R
R E
E T
R N
I

2. **O**
S P
T A
R E
O H
P

5. **U**
N M
E E
R R
A E
T

8. **N**
E O
L R
L T
A I
C

3. **D**
N U
A M
R M
O E
M

6. **E**
S Y
T R
E A
R E
Y

9. **A**
N T
E E
V R
U E
J

Solution: 1. eradicate, 2. apostrophe, 3. memorandum, 4. crescendos, 5. remunerate, 6. yesteryear, 7. interferer, 8. citronella, 9. rejuvenate.