

Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

November 1, All Saints' Day, falls on a Tuesday so we celebrate the feast of All Saints this coming Sunday. We will open our worship with one of the New Century Hymnal's most charming songs. Originally from Everyday Hymns for Little Children we have various characters and possibilities weaving in and out with a simple tune. We learn of saints unnamed who "bravely lived and died for the God they loved and knew." Lesbia Scott's original words follow as, "And one was a doctor, and one was a queen, and one was a shepherdess on the green." We conclude with "for the saints are folk like you and like me, and I mean to be one, too." The song invites us to see those around us as God's beloved, saints in our midst. We take time apart from their individual funerals and our private grief to share in our collective sorrow that they are no longer with us. We share as well our conviction that, as St. Paul says, they have moved from mortality to LIFE. . During our communion liturgy we will name the members of Open Prairie who have died since All Saints day of 2010. We will also have the opportunity to name other significant loved ones in our lives who also died since November 1, 2010.

In 1984 Places in the Heart was nominated for an Academy Award. This classic movie with Danny Glover and Sally Field opens with the accidental death of Sheriff Spaulding. Quickly following his death is the murder of the one whose accidental firing of a gun caused the Sheriff's death. The movie closes with Mrs. Spaulding, Possum, Frank and others at communion in church. As the camera pans the congregation, we see those who died sitting behind them. What could that mean?! As we celebrate the feast on Sunday, perhaps we, too, will be aware like the filmmakers, that the saints who have gone before us are still with us at Open Prairie.

Sunday's All Saints worship inaugurates a wonderful month that culminates in Christkindlmarkt and Thanksgiving. I look forward to sharing in these joyous occasions at Open Prairie.

Many of you asked what you could do for our family when Will was injured in Iraq. Goldy and I felt your support and encouragement. Will's strong recovery is in part due to your prayers for him, for us. From my heart I want to thank you for your incredibly generous gifts which came to me through our treasurer, Lisa Stefani and in cards and notes from some. Lisa noted that you wished to remain as one in the check from the congregation, which means that I have all of you to thank! While Will was an inpatient the Army took care of our expenses. This next trip will be possible thanks to you and your kindness! I'll share a more personal word on this at our semi-annual meeting this Sunday. God bless you all!

Pastor Mary Gay

UPDATE ON WILL ~Pastor Mary Gay's son, Sgt. William McKinney, is now an outpatient at Walter Reed National Military Medical Center. Building 62 is his new home. Soldiers and their families have apartments there from which they travel to the main hospital for rehab and other programs. On All Saints day Congressman Adam Kinzinger visited him, and later in the day Will visited other Representatives in Congress at the U.S. Capitol. He is making steady progress. Pastor hopes to visit sometime after Thanksgiving for a few days.

EARLY TO RISE, EARLY TO CHURCH? We love early risers, and always are glad for you to spend your Sunday mornings at Open Prairie. This Sunday you will receive a specially ordered extra hour to get ready, get dressed. Remember to set your clocks back one hour Saturday evening Nov 5, or Sunday morning before you get out the door.

SEMI ANNUAL MEETING ~ We hope all of the members of Open Prairie will make that special effort to be present this coming Sunday, November 6. Not only is it the feast of all Saints. It is also our semi annual meeting. At this meeting we will address our 2012 budget. Other business may arise, and if so we will make room for that.

November
CALENDAR OF EVENTS



**HAPPY BIRTHDAY
To YOU!!!**

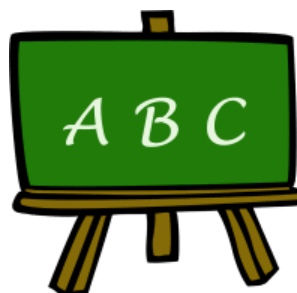
1		All Saints Day
2	5:00pm	Centering Prayer
	6:30pm	Choir Rehearsal
3	11:30-12:30pm	Blood Mobile
4	12:30pm	Ladies Lunch Bunch
	6:00pm	Church Women United
5	7-10:00am	Community Coffee Prairie Assoc. Fall Meeting
6	9:30am	Sunday School
	9:45am	Choir Rehearsal
	10:30am	Worship Semi Annual Meeting
7	7:00pm	OP Reads
9	5:00pm	Interns Meet
	6:30pm	Choir Rehearsal
10	10:30am	Ministerial Assoc Meeting
11		Veteran's Day
13	9:30am	Sunday School
	9:45am	Choir Rehearsal
	10:30am	Worship
16	5:00pm	Centering Prayer
	6:30pm	Choir Rehearsal
19	9:30-3:00pm	ChristKindl Markt
	7:30pm	Coffeehouse
20	9:30am	Sunday School
	9:45am	Choir Rehearsal
	10:30am	Worship
21	4:00pm	Christian Ed Meeting
	7:00pm	Church Council Meeting
23	5:00pm	Interns Meet
	6:30pm	Choir Rehearsal
24	Office Closed-Happy Thanksgiving!	
27	9:30am	Sunday School
	9:45am	Choir Rehearsal
	10:30am	Worship
30	5:00pm	Centering Prayer
	6:30pm	Choir Rehearsal

Nov 2	Freida Anderson
Nov 3	John Swanson
Nov 4	Darrellyn Sligh
Nov 12	Heather Hoagland
Nov 16	Jessica Gray
Nov 17	Ed Harmon
Nov 18	Jim Bickerman
Nov 18	Mary Beth Lange
Nov 19	Jamal Seymour
Nov 27	Paul Ernst
Nov 28	Joan Pyse

Church Council News
The next Church Council Meeting will be
Monday, November 21st at 7:00 PM.



During worship, childcare is available for young children from infancy through kindergarten. The children will be able to leave the sanctuary and go to the preschool room after the "Children's Moment" with Pastor Mary Gay



NOVEMBER

CHRISTKINDL MARKT

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 19



Below, you will find a work schedule for preparing for the **Third Annual Christkindl Markt to be held on Nov. 19th at Open Prairie.** Please check the schedule, and try to join us in preparing the church for this event.

Before we talk about work schedules, I would like to address the question of how our “vendors” are chosen for the market. The original intent of the Christkindl Markt planning committee was to provide a venue for local artisans to sell their creations. So rather than soliciting representatives from companies like Avon, Tupperware, or Longaberger Baskets, we decided to seek out those artisans who design and create their own beautiful and unique items. In addition, each year we invite the Princeton High School German Club to sell their Advent Calendars as a fund raiser for their activities.

This year’s market will include a chocolatier, a basket weaver, a creator of beautiful recycled picture frames, a ceramist, a photographer, a quilter, and, of course, the PHS German Club. Our own church members will be selling items that they have knitted, crafted, baked, or grown themselves. Perhaps the term “vendor” should be replaced with “artisan.”

Now, for the set-up schedule:

Sunday, November 13th, 2 - 4 pm, at the church. We will decorate a traditional Austrian tree with ornaments recently donated to Open Prairie from our Austrian friend Sabine, and we will hang banners, and dismantle the choir stage.

Monday – Friday, 10 am – 4:00 Come for as long as you can any day to help create a German Christ Child Market for our community.

Saturday, November 19, 9:30 am – 3:00 pm, The Big Event! Don’t miss it! Open Prairie needs YOU!

From, Sarah Criner

“Our Table”

Located at The First United Methodist Church of Princeton, every Monday night.

“Our hope is to offer help to families and individuals who are struggling to make ends meet, and to offer fellowship around the table for those who find themselves alone at meal time.”

**~~ Keep sending in those cartridges!
Last month we made \$33.00. ~~**



Don’t forget about the box in the church office to collect printer inkjet cartridges for recycling. We earn up to \$4 per cartridge and keep them out of the landfills!



Mission News

Your mission team has geared up for Mission 1! For 11 days, November 1st-11th, the whole United Church of Christ shares in a mission to feed the hungry and confront food-related injustice at home and overseas. Here are some opportunities to educate ourselves and one another about food-related policy issues, advocate on behalf of hungry people around the world and raise money for hunger-actions purposes and for East Africa famine relief.

We are writing letters to our congress asking our government to reform U.S. foreign assistance in a way that more effectively benefits hungry and poor people worldwide, helping to provide a major final push to Bread for the World's 2011 "offering of Letters" campaign. We would like to have at least 11 people sign up to help. Sample letters and address labels are available at the sign-up sheet in the church office.

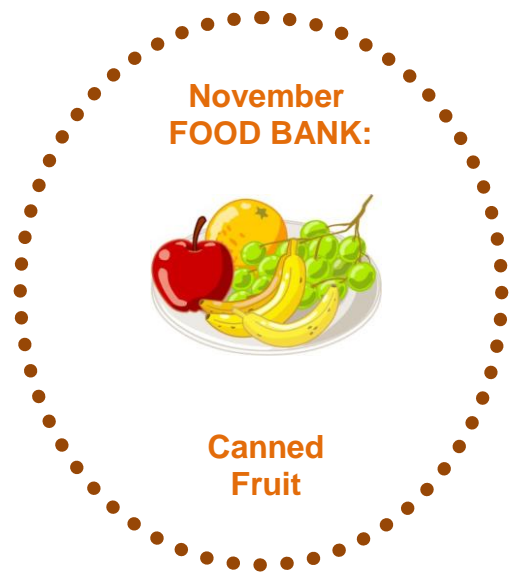
We are collecting items of healthy food for the Bureau County Food Pantry. We are looking for at least 11 people to donate items. Please sign up in the church office!

We are making an extra push to gather at least \$11 from eleven people for the Neighbors in Need collection. This offering will be shared for hunger-action purposes with agencies of justice and compassion throughout the United States and for East African famine relief that will be shared through the UCC's disaster relief ministries.

We will help serve and clean-up at Princeton's United Methodist Church's "Our Table" meal on Monday, November 7th. Please sign-up in the church office!

As an inspiration to us all, two young boys from our Sunday School each earned money for doing extra chores last week with their grandmother. Each of these boys put \$11 in an envelope and gave to Neighbors in Need! God is good all the time. All the time, God is good!

Blessings, Susan



Biloxi Work Trip

Open Prairie is booked to go to Back Bay Mission in Biloxi, MS the week of January 22-28, 2012. We need to determine if there are enough people interested in going on this trip again. Open Prairie started sending a group down there each year after Hurricane Katrina to help renovate and rebuild devastated homes. Back Bay Mission has built a very nice, new facility to house their volunteer groups, after having lost several of their own buildings in the storm. They continue to need help rebuilding homes of victims of Katrina.

You do not need to be a skilled carpenter to go on this trip. The volunteer coordinators determine jobs to fit the skill level of the group. We have done everything from putting up siding and hanging drywall to painting and cleaning. If you are interested in going on this trip in January, think you might be interested, or if you have more questions about it, please call Molly Blogg, at 815-878-4664, or email her at mjblogg@gmail.com. This has been an amazing experience for those who have gone in previous years, and we hope to be able to send a group again this winter.



My dear Open Prairie family,

I've been away for three months now, so I want to let you all know how I'm doing. First and foremost: I'm missing you all very much!

For the past three months I have been serving as a ministry intern in the First Congregational Church of DeKalb. It's a fine big church, with a very nice organ, two excellent full-time pastors, and a top-notch choir augmented by voice students from NIU. (But yes, I still really miss Open Prairie!) I've preached in the DeKalb church several times, and I've been teaching a class there on Tuesday nights: "Celtic Christian Spirituality". I'm expecting to complete my required 400 hours there sometime in the spring.

I've also finished the first six weeks of my service as a hospice chaplain. This work has been quite intense, as you might imagine, but never dull. My hospice internship will continue through February. I hope my car also lasts that long: between driving to and from DeKalb, and driving around the large territory served by my hospice team, I'm covering a lot of miles.

And what will happen when my internships are over? I wish I knew! I am hoping to find a job as a pastor, and I am hoping to be ordained to that position in the United Church of Christ. It might be as soon as this spring, God willing. Stay tuned, and please keep the Webber family in your prayers!

One final news note: I will be giving a concert of my original music at 5:00 on Saturday, November 12 at the Sycamore United Methodist Church. The concert will last about an hour. There is no charge, but a freewill offering for me will be collected. The church is at 160 Johnson Avenue in Sycamore, IL. I know, it's a long drive: about an hour and a half from Princeton. But in case you find yourself up that way on the 12th, I hope you'll stop by for my concert.

Blessings,

Adam

Community Coffee



When:

Saturday, November 5th, 2011

Where: Sheffield UCC

Time: 7:00am-10:00am

*Featuring their Famous Fresh Baked
Cinnamon Rolls*



UPCOMING MISSION TEAM MOVIE DATES:

**January 22nd
"Spitfire Grill"**

****All movies begin at 6:00 PM at the church.
Members of the mission team will provide
popcorn!**

American Red Cross Blood Drive

OPUCC still needs 5 more volunteers for the Blood Drive at the First United Methodist Church **Thursday November 3** from 11:30-5:30 (2 volunteers per shift). Shifts run from **11:30-1:30, 1:30-3:30, and 3:30-5:30**. There is a sign-up sheet in the office or call/email Dani.

Calling All Cooks!

Sunday School interns, teachers, and guest presenters meet on the second and fourth Wednesday of each month from 5:00-6:30 p.m. for a learning/planning session and supper. We are looking for folks who are willing to provide a simple supper for our group of 6-8 people. Suppers can be homemade or purchased. We are not a fussy group! If you would like to provide supper for us one evening, please contact Dani in the church office to reserve a date.



*LADIES LUNCH
BUNCH
Fridays at 12:30, All
Ladies Welcome!*

NOTE to COOKIE BAKERS:

When you deliver your cookies for Christkindl Markt, please label them with your NAME, the COUNTRY they are from, and the NAME of the COOKIE, so we will be able to label the sacks correctly!



Festival 56 presents:
Tuesdays with Morrie

November 11th-19th
Ticket information: 815-879-5656

The November 19th Princeton Coffeehouse show will feature singer-songwriter Andrew Calhoun.



John McLaughlin of WESS-FM has called him "The greatest songwriter of his generation". And The *Daily Iowan* has written "A wonderful songwriter and funny, warm performer".

www.waterbug.com/calhoun

Saturday November 19th,
at 7:30 PM

\$10.00 at the door

www.theprincetoncoffeehouse.com

Christmas Open House
"It's A Wonderful Life in
Princeton"
November 18th-20th



**UPCOMING COFFEEHOUSE EVENTS, 18
Years and counting:**

Dec. 10th – Kris Delmhorst www.krisdelmhorst.com

Jan. 28th – Peter Mulvey www.petermulvey.com

Feb. 23rd – Stacey Earle & Mark Stuart
www.staceyandmark.com

Mar. 24th – Dana & Susan Robinson
www.robinsongs.com

Apr. 28th – Rita Hosking ritahosking.com

May 26th – Nels Andrews nelsandrews.com

All shows begin at 7:30 PM. There are no advance ticket sales. All seating is general admission, and the recession-proof ticket price remains a modest \$10.00. Door open at 7:00 PM. The Princeton Coffeehouse is located at Open Prairie UCC Church, 25 E. Marion Street in Downtown Princeton. We still serve Open Prairie's fair trade coffee, as well as assorted teas and homemade desserts. For further information, check our website at

www.theprincetoncoffeehouse.com

Songs of the Season...

The Bureau County Chorus will present "Songs of the Season, a Concert of Sacred and Popular Holiday Music" on Sunday, December 11, 2011 at 2:30 PM in the Sanctuary of the Evangelical Covenant Church, 24, North Main St., Princeton, IL.

Sacred selections on the program include "The Animals' Christmas," "En Natus Est Emanuel," "Gesu Bambino, (the Infant Jesus)," "Now is the Time for Christmas," "And the Glory of the Lord" (from Messiah).

Popular selections include "Bugler's Holiday," "Grinch! - A Christmas Medley," "Jingle Bells," "Joy on Christmas Morning," "Carol" from *Wind in the Willows*, and "It's the Most Wonderful Time of the Year."

The Bureau County Chorus is under the direction of Joy E. Schertz with Jennifer Allen as accompanist.

The public is invited to attend this concert of holiday seasonal choral music free of charge. A free-will donation opportunity will be provided.

For further information, contact Ms. Schertz (815) 646-4218 or Kevin Glover, (815) 915-7478.



OP Family, the Church DVD player is broken, and cannot be fixed. If anyone has an extra DVD player laying around, we will gladly use it!

A special THANK YOU to John Swanson for taking a look at the DVD player with Pastor Mary Gay!

Nature XXVII, Autumn

*The morns are meeker than they were,
The nuts are getting brown;
The berry's cheek is plumper,
The rose is out of town.*

*The maple wears a gayer scarf,
The field a scarlet gown.
Lest I should be old-fashioned,
I'll put a trinket on.*

~Emily Dickinson



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