

## A NOTE FROM THE PASTORS' OFFICE

### 5 Things Christians Should Do AFTER the Elections

Pastor Joel Smit

(This political season, like most, has been a long draining one with much contention and divide. We will ALL be glad to have it behind us and hopefully move on to other things. But that doesn't mean that we do not have a civil obligation as Christians that goes beyond the ballot box. The following article appeared a few years ago – but the truth is still the same. May we apply some of these principles to us as we move forward. - Pastor Joel)

After the elections, Americans will express jubilation and disappointment over our choices. We'll call our relatives to gloat or to commiserate. We troll the losing side on social media while journalists write stories about "what it all means." We'll sigh with relief and moan in despair. In other words, on the day after Election Day we'll continue our partisan conflicts in much the same way we did on the day before the election. Fortunately, there are a few more things we Christians can do, small steps we can take to make things better for ourselves and our country.

#### 1. Pray for our new authorities.

Paul tells us to make "supplications, prayers, intercessions, and thanksgivings" for "kings and all who are in high positions, that we may lead a peaceful and quiet life, godly and dignified in every way" (1 Tim. 2:1-2). I've often been guilty of following this command in a perfunctory way, with my prayers being as generic as possible. But the election gives me—and you—an opportunity to be more specific in our intercessions and supplications.

After the election there will be dozens of people who will be in "high positions" for the first time. Let's take the time to learn their names and pray for them directly, asking that God will give them courage and wisdom. We should also pray for leaders in other areas of the United States. For example, we can pray for the Congressional representatives of the hometown we left long ago or pray for the new governor in the state where we went to college or visited on vacation.

#### 2. Heal partisan-inflicted wounds.

Throughout our country's history, there has always been a partisan divide among Americans. But over the past few years the rift has been growing wider and deeper. We have more venues, such as social media, which allow us to express partisan opinions both vocally and also (for too many of us) incessantly. The result is that we Christians are frequently highlighting our partisan differences and downplaying how much we share in common with our brothers and sisters across the political aisle.

If your partisanship has wounded others, whether intentionally or inadvertently, take some time this week to apologize and make amends. You don't have to agree with your conspiracy-minded uncle who thinks Congress has been taken over by interstellar lizards in people suits. But you can do your part to follow Paul's admonition that, "as far as it depends on you, live at peace with everyone" (Rom. 12:18).

#### 3. Trade in the pundits for the prophets.

The theologian Karl Barth once said he advised young theologians "to take your Bible and take your newspaper, and read both. But interpret newspapers from your Bible." Unfortunately, many

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# CHURCH NEWS

## Lord's Day Service

Smyrna Pres continues to offer in person and virtual worship on the Lord's day at 11:00a.m. Please remember there are measures in place to limit person-to-person contact. You can find more in-depth information on our web-site. If you plan to worship by watching the live-stream or through the Listen Line (712-432-3410, church code 04410). You can also find the service on YouTube, Facebook, Twitter, and Sermon Audio. Links to all of them can be found on our website's Live-stream Page <https://www.smyrnapres.org/live-stream>.

## King's Kids Children's Ministry Please RSVP by Monday, 11/02



The flyer features a light green background. At the top center is a logo of three stylized trees in green, orange, and red. Below the logo, the text "KING'S KIDS TIME" is written in a large, outlined, hand-drawn font. Underneath, "SMYRNA PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH" is written in a smaller, simple font. A line of text in orange reads "Calling All King's Kids! Come join us as we give thanks & have a gracious good time from 5:45 PM - 7:30 PM". Below this, "WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 4TH" is written in a large, outlined font. Another line of orange text says "Dinner \* Nurture \* Fun & Games". At the bottom, "RSVP by 12 PM Monday, November 2nd" is written in orange. The bottom of the flyer is decorated with a row of colorful houses in shades of orange, red, and yellow, with small trees and street lamps.

**KING'S KIDS TIME**  
SMYRNA PRESBYTERIAN  
CHURCH

*Calling All King's Kids! Come join us  
as we give thanks & have a gracious  
good time from 5:45 PM - 7:30 PM*

**WEDNESDAY,  
NOVEMBER 4TH**

*Dinner \* Nurture \* Fun & Games*  
*RSVP by 12 PM Monday, November 2nd*

## Operation Christmas Child

We will be participating in Operation Christmas Child again. OCC is also known as the "shoebox ministry" Children around the world receive these shoe boxes filled with toys, school supplies and hygiene items along with materials that introduce the Gospel message. There are two ways that you can choose to participate. You should choose the method that you believe is safe for you.

Option 1: The boxes, envelopes, and a general information sheet will be available for pick up beginning on Sunday, October 11th on a table in the foyer. Completed boxes should be returned to the church on Sunday, November 15th after the morning worship service.

Option 2: The second option is to purchase your box, items for the box and shipping for the box all online through the Samaritan's Purse website. The shopping and shipping is handled for you. You just pay the charge. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact Pat Jackson at [ptjackson@bellsouth.net](mailto:ptjackson@bellsouth.net).

## Christmas Poinsettia Sale

If you would like to purchase a poinsettia in memory of or in honor of a loved one, please do so by 12/11/20. They will be \$10 each, and you can pay by cash or check in the offering plate or online at [smyrnapres.org/giving](http://smyrnapres.org/giving). (Please note "Christmas Poinsettia" with your payment and list the name(s) of the people you would like to recognize.) They will be in place by 11/29/20, the first Sunday of Advent for you to enjoy throughout the season.

## Grocery Shopping Help

If you or a member of our church community that you know is more at risk of sickness and needs someone to shop & deliver groceries for them we'd like to help. We can connect you with a volunteer shopper. Call Caroline Wesley at 205-601-8818 or email [caroline.n.wesley@gmail.com](mailto:caroline.n.wesley@gmail.com). Please have cash or

# November 2020

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
1 11:00 a.m. In Person & Livestream Worship Service	2	3 Women of the Word In Person 10 to 11:30 am & Zoom Virtual 7 to 8:00 p.m.	4 <b>King's Kids &amp; Youth Meeting</b> 5:45pm-7:30pm	5	6	7
8 11:00 a.m. In Person & Livestream Worship Service	9	10 Women of the Word In Person 10 to 11:30 am & Zoom Virtual 7 to 8:00 p.m.	11 In Person Youth Ministry 6:15pm  Devotion & Prayer 6:45pm- 7:30pm	12	13	14
15 11:00 a.m. In Person & Livestream Worship Service	16	17 Women of the Word In Person 10:00 to 11:30 am & Zoom Virtual 7:00 to 8:00 p.m.	18 In Person Youth Ministry 6:15pm  Devotion & Prayer 6:45 pm- 7:30pm	19	20	21
22 11:00 a.m. In Person & Livestream Worship Service	23	24 Women of the Word In Person 10:00 to 11:30 am & Zoom Virtual 7:00 to 8:00 p.m.	25 Devotion & Prayer 6:45 pm- 7:30pm	26 <b>Thanksgiving Holiday</b>	27	28
29 11:00 a.m. In Person & Livestream Worship	30					



**NOTE: Many events & activities outside of the 11 a.m. worship will be canceled/postponed until further notice. Some may be offered virtually.**

# November BIRTHDAYS

1 Elianna Fogarty  
4 Hannah Kee  
4 Amos Grant Williams  
6 Jonah Fogarty  
7 Alycia Schulz  
8 Adam Crooks  
9 Cannon Crompton  
13 Linda Hunter  
15 Chuck Hart  
16 Keith Greenway  
18 Ed Gleason  
18 Lilli Hovey  
21 Will Holland  
23 Owen Ridings  
23 Margaret MacGregor  
24 Jim Pitts  
27 Everly Ogburn  
28 Emma Hovey  
28 Cooper Stiles  
30 Betty Cash  
30 Susan Holland

# Monthly Scripture



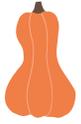
*“Let us come into his presence with thanksgiving; let us make a joyful noise to him with songs of praise!”*

*Psalm 95:2-3*

# Word Search

Find the words from the list below!

V	I	O	K	K	M	H	N	L	E	B	G	N	I	A
F	P	X	X	Y	S	T	U	F	F	I	N	G	S	Y
O	P	P	R	H	U	N	W	I	M	J	Z	Q	Y	N
M	I	U	L	X	M	X	X	I	A	P	P	L	E	X
G	E	U	C	R	A	N	N	E	R	R	I	E	S	P
Y	K	Y	E	M	I	Q	Q	Z	B	V	I	Y	P	U
A	E	C	M	E	N	S	S	U	A	S	H	U	S	M
M	K	F	E	L	D	A	A	X	Y	C	C	C	S	P
U	B	E	M	Z	Z	U	U	M	Z	B	L	W	I	K
R	M	T	U	R	K	E	E	D	E	L	K	M	V	I
M	A	S	H	E	D	P	P	T	A	T	O	E	S	N
O	S	Y	G	L	O	P	P	M	S	W	V	H	W	G
V	S	E	S	D	K	S	S	S	R	S	T	Q	E	O
Q	X	Y	K	K	P	G	G	V	B	J	J	Q	E	B
U	F	U	A	O	U	L	L	C	V	Y	T	F	P	E



Pumpkin  
Squash  
Pie

Apple  
Turkey  
Yam

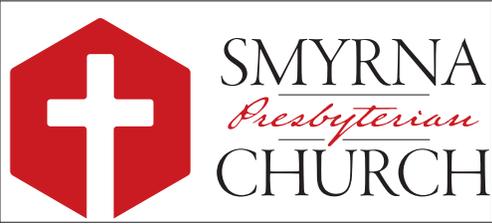
Mashed Potatoes  
Cranberries  
Stuffing



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Find us on social media!





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**RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED**