

The End is Near—Thank Goodness

Hello, Church!

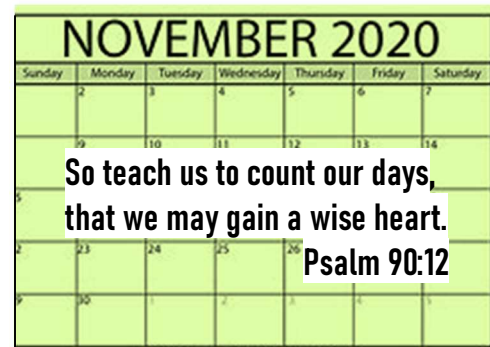
Good News! 2020 is coming to a close. And even better news for those of us who follow the Christian calendar, the new year starts for us on November 29, with the first Sunday in Advent. As I turn the page on my calendar, I see the month of November bookended by All Saints' Day on one end and Christ the King Sunday on the other. We start the month remembering all the saints who have gone before us, and end the month remembering that Christ is in charge, now and forever. And then the new year begins with the first Sunday in Advent.



Part of me wants to rush ahead to a new and hopefully better year, but then I am reminded by Psalm 90 of the gift of each new day. To count them. To be grateful for them. To make them count.

I see when I look closely between the bookends, that there are several sacred national days of import. Election Day, Veterans Day, and Thanksgiving Day. Days to act, remember, and be grateful. I see that 10 of our members have birthdays in November, and one couple will celebrate an anniversary. I see that we will gather in a Congregational Meeting on November 8 to elect new officers, spiritual leaders, to guide us in the years ahead. And I see ordinary days, when the sun will rise, and bread will be broken, and friends will call, and work will be done, and rest will greet us at the close of day.

Fortunately, with all that is on my calendar, there is still space for mystery, for pop-up possibilities, if you will. As you turn your calendar to November, I invite you to bookend each day with gratitude. Thank God in the morning for the rest of the night and the gift of a new day. Pause in the evening to thank God for the events of the day, for the gifts of creation, the voices of friends and neighbors, the good work you were able to accomplish, the unexpected challenges and surprises.



In so doing, may we come to the new year, with wiser hearts, having counted each day, and having made each day count.

Your Friend and Pastor,

Caroline

What is All Saints Day?

Excerpted from pcusa.org

All Saints' Day is a time to rejoice in all who through the ages have faithfully served the Lord. The day reminds us that we are part of one continuing, living communion of saints. It is a time to claim our kinship with the "glorious company of apostles ... the noble fellowship of prophets ... the white-robed army of martyrs" (*Te Deum*). It is a time to express our gratitude for all who in ages of darkness kept the faith, for those who have taken the gospel to the ends of the earth, for prophetic voices who have called the church to be faithful in life and service, for all who have witnessed to God's justice and peace in every nation.

To rejoice with all the faithful of every generation expands our awareness of a great company of witnesses above and around us like a cloud (Hebrews 12:1). It lifts us out of a preoccupation with our own immediate situation and the discouragements of the present. In the knowledge that others have persevered, we are encouraged to endure against all odds (Hebrews 12:1-2). Reminded that God was

with the faithful of the past, we are reassured that God is with us today, moving us and all creation toward God's end in time. In this

context, it is appropriate for a congregation on All Saints' Day to commemorate the lives of those who died during the previous year.

Taken from the Companion to the Book of Common Worship (Geneva Press, 2003, 150-151)



Therefore, since we are surrounded by such a great cloud of witnesses, let us throw off everything that hinders and the sin that so easily entangles.
Hebrews 12:1a

November Sermon Series

Days that Count

It was poet, mathematician, and physician Oliver Wendel Holmes, Sr., who said, "Some people are so heavenly minded that they are no earthly good." Our scriptures this month seem pretty heavenly minded, but they have everything to say about the earthly good we are to do here and now. Let's make these days count, and let God take care of the days ahead.

Sermon topics and lectionary readings:

November 1: All Saints Day

All Saints Sunday

† Revelation 7:9-17

† Matthew 23:1-12

November 8: Wedding Day

† Revelation 19:6-9

† Matthew 25:1-13

November 15: Adoption Day

† Ephesians 1:1-14

† Matthew 25:14-30

November 22: Thanksgiving Day

Christ the King Sunday/Dedication Day

† Ephesians 1:15-23

† Matthew 25:31-46

November 29: New Sermon Series Begins

First Sunday in Advent

Prayer for Election Day

Excerpted from pcusa.org

Everlasting God, you have taught us to search for you with all our heart and to seek the welfare of the land where you have placed us.

Send your Spirit upon those who lead, pour your wisdom on those who are elected, and restore by your mercy all who are not chosen.

Through your same Spirit, visit your people in the struggles that no vote can resolve; show us where what you call from us is love and forgiveness and mercy; empower your church to overcome evil with good.

Amen!

Westminster Happenings

- Wednesday
October 28** | **Bell Choir Rehearsal**
Meet from 5:30 P.M. to 6:30 P.M. to make friends and make music.
- Wednesday Evening Study Group**
Facilitated discussion at 7:00 P.M. in person or via Zoom.
Help us kick off a new study—Spiritual Disciplines (see page 5).
- Thursday
October 29** | **Pop Up Prayers on the Porte Cochere**
Share socially distanced prayer and devotional time at 8:30 A.M.
Start your day by connecting with God and your Westminster family.
- Sunday
November 1** | **Days That Count: All Saint's Day**
Communion
Worship at 10:00 A.M. in person or via live streaming on our website.
Be nourished by worship and enriched by music from our new bell choir!
Note: Candidates for Session Classes of '21 and '23 will be announced.
- Quest: Youth**
Lunch, leisure, and learning at Noon.
- Tuesday
November 3** | **U.S. Election Day—Your Vote Matters!**
Visit your assigned polling place at your convenience.
Prayerfully consider every candidate and vote your conscience.
- U.S. Election 48-Hour Prayer Vigil**
Pray for our nation and its citizens as we exercise our right to vote.
Vigil begins today at 6:00 A.M. and ends on November 5th at 6:00 A.M.
See suggested prayers on pages 2 and 7.
- Wednesday
November 4** | **Bell Choir Rehearsal**
Meet from 5:30 P.M. to 6:30 P.M. to make friends and make music.
- Wednesday Evening Study Group**
Facilitated discussion at 7:00 P.M. in person or via Zoom.
Continue exploring Spiritual Disciplines by looking at compassion.
- Sunday
November 8** | **Days That Count: Wedding Day**
Worship at 10:00 A.M. in person or via live streaming on our website.
Prepare for the arrival of the Bridegroom.
Note: Immediately prior to worship, we will have a brief congregational meeting for the purpose of electing Session members to the Class of 2021, Class of 2023, and 2021 Nominating Committee.
- Quest: Youth**
Lunch, leisure, and learning at Noon.

Westminster Happenings, *continued*

Sunday
November 8,
continued

Stated Session Meeting

Meet at 4:00 P.M. to conduct the business of the church.

Monday
November 9

Presbyterian Women: Circle Meeting

Meet at 10:00 A.M. in the Sanctuary or via Zoom.
Discuss study materials on “Women’s Lament.”

Veterans Day

Pray for those serving now or who have served in our armed forces.
Church office closed for the holiday.

Wednesday
November 11

Bell Choir Rehearsal

Meet from 5:30 P.M. to 6:30 P.M. to make friends and make music.

Wednesday Evening Study Group

Facilitated discussion at 7:00 P.M. in person or via Zoom.
Conclude this series by discussing gratitude as a Spiritual Discipline.

Thursday
November 12

Pop Up Prayers on the Porte Cochere

Share socially distanced prayer and devotional time at 8:30 A.M.
Start your day by connecting with God and your Westminster family.

Sunday
November 15

Days That Count: *Adoption Day*

Worship at 10:00 A.M. in person or via live streaming on our website.
Celebrate the joy of being adopted as God’s own child.

Wednesday
November 18

Bell Choir Rehearsal

Meet from 5:30 P.M. to 6:30 P.M. to make friends and make music.

Wednesday Evening Study Group

Facilitated discussion at 7:00 P.M. in person or via Zoom.
Prepare your heart by joining our study “Names for the Messiah.”

Thursday
November 19

Pop Up Prayers on the Porte Cochere

Share socially distanced prayer and devotional time at 8:30 A.M.
Start your day by connecting with God and your Westminster family.

Sunday
November 22

Days That Count: *Thanksgiving Day*

Christ the King Sunday (see page 7)/ Stewardship Dedication Day
Worship at 10:00 A.M. in person or via live streaming on our website.
Enter His gates with thanksgiving, and into His courts with joy!

Westminster Happenings, *continued*

Wednesday November 25	Bell Choir will <i>not</i> rehearse. Wednesday Evening Study Group will <i>not</i> meet.
Thursday November 26	Thanksgiving Day Give thanks and praise to our God who provides “more abundantly than we could ask or imagine.” Church office closed.
Friday November 27	Holiday Church office closed.
Sunday November 29	First Sunday in Advent—<i>new sermon series begins</i> Worship at 10:00 A.M. in person or via live streaming on our website.

Join Us on Wednesday Nights for Two Great Studies in November

You won't want to miss exploring these significant topics, so mark your calendar for 7:00 P.M. every Wednesday evening. You can participate with others gathered in the sanctuary, or Zoom in from the comfort of your easy chair.

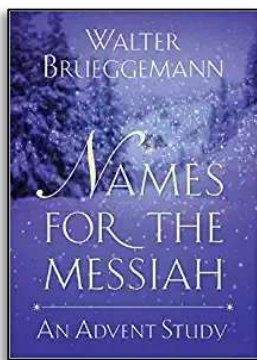
Study #1: Spiritual Disciplines

Beginning October 28, we'll devote three Wednesday night sessions to delving into Spiritual Disciplines, and how they help us be more Christlike and more connected with God. The first session is an *Introduction to Spiritual Disciplines*, followed by discussion of *Compassion as a Spiritual Discipline* and *Gratitude as a Spiritual Discipline*. Materials can be obtained from TheThoughtfulChristian.com; be on the lookout for details from Caroline about how to get your copy. Don't miss this opportunity for fostering spiritual growth through understanding these disciplines more deeply.



Study #2: Advent Study

We'll start our Advent season early by beginning *Names for the Messiah: An Advent Study* on November 18th. If you are like many of us, you may hear the stirring music of Handel as you consider these powerful names, one each week: “Wonderful Counselor,” “Mighty God,” “Everlasting Father,” and “Prince of Peace.”



The author of this study is Walter Brueggemann, an American Protestant Old Testament scholar and theologian who is widely considered one of the most influential Old Testament scholars of the last several decades. He is the author of numerous books, and is the William Marcellus McPheeters Professor of Old Testament Emeritus at Columbia Theological Seminary.

You can order your copy of the study guide and also a companion devotional book from Amazon.com or your favorite bookseller.

Words for the Women of the Church

Submitted by Mary Anne Wilson

Please mark your calendar for the November 9th Circle meeting. The lesson is "Women's Lament."

Our members have been busy! Theresa is getting us information on Thornwell, as we may want to remember them at Christmas.

Caroline took flowers and a basket of yummy goodies provided by Lynn, Kathy, and Mary Anne to Pinecrest to honor our very deserving teachers (see page 11). Nancy is feeding the United Ministry folks on the 21st, as Kathy West and Theresa have done earlier.



PLEASE remember the food pantry!

If you don't feel comfortable being at Circle in person during this pandemic, your presence on Zoom is just as important to us! Check your emails for the link.

If any of our women of the church would like to be a part of any project that Circle initiates, please call Mary Anne at 992-7599 or email me at matwilson4@gmail.com. I will be glad to fill you in.



Let Them Eat Cake!

Best wishes and sincere prayers for these members and friends with November birthdays:

- ❖ 1st – Mac Hubbard
- ❖ 11th – Rick Hobson
- ❖ 12th – Joyce Alexander
- ❖ 13th – Larry Duncan
- ❖ 23rd – Holly Hubbard
- ❖ 28th – Nancy Dozier & Dave Jones

Congratulations are also in order for these loving couples celebrating their wedding anniversary:

- ❖ 1st – Mac & Holly Hubbard
- ❖ 8th – John & Mishie Bacot

If you haven't already done so, please send your family's special dates to the church office (wpcgwd1@gmail.com) or call 864.229.3595.

Thank You for Your Service!

As our nation celebrates Veterans Day on November 11th, please lift up in prayer all those who served (and are serving) God and Country honorably in the U.S. armed services. We can be thankful for the sacrifices they made to defend our freedoms, especially freedom of religion. To learn more about Veterans Day, visit: <https://www.va.gov/opa/vetsday/vetdayhistory.asp>.



Good Stewardship

"Like good stewards of the manifold grace of God, serve one another with whatever gift each of you has received."

1 Peter 4:10



Please support our church family financially by giving online on our website, in the offering plate, or by mail:

Westminster Presbyterian Church
2330 Cokesbury Road
Greenwood, SC 29649

Christ the King Sunday: Jesus Reigns Supreme!

Excerpted from pcusa.org

The festival of Christ the King (or Reign of Christ) ends our marking of Ordinary Time after the Day of Pentecost, and moves us to the threshold of Advent, the season of hope for Christ's coming again at the end of time.

The day centers on the crucified and risen Christ, whom God exalted to rule over the whole universe. The celebration of the lordship of Christ thus looks back to Ascension, Easter, and Transfiguration, and points ahead to the appearing in glory of the King of kings and Lord of lords. Christ reigns supreme.

Christ's truth judges falsehood. **As the Alpha and Omega, the beginning and the end, Christ is the center of the universe, the ruler of all history, the judge of all people.** In Christ all things began, and in Christ all things will be fulfilled. In the end, Christ will triumph over the forces of evil.



Such concepts as these cluster around the affirmation that Christ is King or Christ reigns! As sovereign ruler, Christ calls us to a loyalty that transcends every earthly claim on the human heart. To Christ alone belongs the supreme allegiance in our lives. Christ calls us to stand with those who in every age confessed, "Jesus Christ is Lord!" In every generation, demagogues emerge to claim an allegiance that belongs only to God. But Christ alone has the right to claim our highest loyalty. The blood of martyrs, past and present, witnesses to this truth.

Taken from the Companion to the Book of Common Worship (Geneva Press, 2003, 151)

A Prayer for Election Day

From The Presbyterian Outlook, November 5, 2016 by Jill Duffield



Almighty God, as people go to the polls this day we pray first and foremost for peace. May the sense of community and connection be greater than any division or difference, no matter how entrenched. Knowing we will vote in schools, churches, synagogues, and other communal gathering places, may our commitment to care for one another grow as we stand in lines, talk to our neighbors and recognize we have more in common than we often realize. May we show one another kindness and respect, today and in the days to come.

We thank you for the freedom to vote our conscience, of which you alone are Lord. After this election, we are keenly aware that even if the political rhetoric fades, the acrimony it highlighted will remain. Grant us the courage to step into the breaches and not shrink back into our enclaves of homogeneity. Send your Spirit to drive us to the places where you are already working to bring reconciliation. Remind us relentlessly that you are greater than every category we devise, more powerful than any estrangement we have created, eternal, ever present and always calling forth justice, peace and abundant life. Show us today and everyday how to live in the love of Jesus Christ, the perfect love that casts out fear. *Amen!*

Greenwood Place November Update

Submitted by Fred Murphy, Executive Director



Greenwood Place continues to provide a place for our Members to come and participate in our work-ordered day. We are so thankful to be able to continue this program for them. On October 13th, Greenwood Place was able to celebrate its 4th anniversary. Started in 2016, it has grown from 0 members to now having 66 members on roll.

While this pandemic has required that we adjust some of our activities and availability, we still see a need to provide a place for our members to come each day we open (we now open Monday thru Thursday). Participation is still limited to 10/11 members per day, and we often have to limit who can come, because we have more wanting to participate than we have space. We still serve a broad area with members coming from as far away as Plum Branch and Newberry. That speaks to their support of the Clubhouse. We pray that we will be able to continue to serve them.

As an update to funding requests, Greenwood Place has submitted its request for funding to Self Regional Healthcare Community Health. Self Regional has been very supportive of Greenwood Place in the past, and we are hoping that they will again provide funding for Greenwood Place. We should hear about this funding in November. A grant opportunity opened up on October 19th from South Carolina Cares Nonprofit Grant Relief Program. This program is designed to provide assistance to nonprofits affected by this pandemic. Grants are available ranging from \$2,500 to \$25,000. Grants will be awarded and funded this year.

On another note, Carol Scales, one of the founders and a pillar within the Clubhouse has asked to be allowed to step down from the Board of Greenwood Place. She will be greatly missed, but I know that her wise counsel and advice will always be available to the Clubhouse.

As always, we ask for your continued thoughts and prayers for the members and for Greenwood Place.

Editor's Note: *At the recommendation of the Missions & Outreach Committee, the Session voted to eliminate for the remainder of 2020 the \$100 per month facilities use fee that Greenwood Place gives us.*

Opportunity for Service: Greenwood Place Board of Directors

If you have heart for those living with mental illness, consider volunteering your time and talents to Greenwood Place by serving on their Board of Directors. As a 501(c)(3), they rely on their Board for sound leadership and good governance. Directors must be willing to help establish strategies, ensure adequate financial resources, and participate in both monthly and occasional called meetings. Organizational skills are a plus. And the willingness and ability to participate in fundraising events and grant-writing are essential. For more information, contact Fred Murphy: fm.greenwoodplace2016@gmail.com.

Who Should You Call in a Mental Health Crisis?

Downloaded from <https://www.nami.org/press-media/in-the-news>

Posted on Sep 18 2020 from *USA Today*

"Amid a nationwide movement for racial justice and police reform sparked by the recent killings of several Black men and women, many people have spoken out against police shootings of people experiencing mental health crises. "A person shouldn't lose their life because they're experiencing symptoms of a mental health condition," said Angela Kimball, national director of advocacy and public policy at NAMI. "People deserve help, not handcuffs." **Nearly 15% of men and 30% of women booked into jails have a serious mental health condition**, the National Alliance on Mental Illness estimates."



If you observe someone experiencing what may be a mental health crisis, be aware that **Beckman Center for Mental Health Services** has a crisis hotline that you can call:

Greenwood Mental Health Clinic

Crisis Hotline: (864) 223-8331

To learn more about Beckman and its services, visit their website: bechmancenter.com. For general issues related to mental health, visit the website of the National Alliance on Mental Illness: nami.org.

Show Your Team Colors...

Team PC(USA), that is! Let your face mask show not only that you can about public health and safety—let it also show your love, as God first loved us.



The Missions & Outreach Committee is happy to announce that we have **exceeded** our goal of donating \$1,500 to Presbyterian Communities of South Carolina for them to use for purchasing personal protective equipment.

Almost all of the special masks have already been purchased by and delivered to congregations around our area and around the country. But we have a *limited* supply that are still available for you to buy for your own use or to share with others.

If you would like to order a mask, contact the church office: 864,229.3593 or wpcgwd1@gmail.com.



Let Us Pray...



For Those in Our Church

We lift our prayers for those dealing with health and other issues, including especially these friends, families, and caregivers:

- The family of T.K. Alexander, Spears' brother
- Lynn Bornemann
- Mary Corley
- Kathy Gillespie's sister, Betty
- Laine Horowitz
- Charles Wendell Green, Tracy Rainey's brother, and his wife, Jane Green

*"Then after fasting and praying, they laid their hands on them, and sent them off."
Acts 13:3*

We pray daily for our prayer partners and the special concerns on their heart. We pray always for our friends at our sister churches, New Faith, Ware Shoals, First Presbyterian, Abbeville Presbyterian, and many others.

We pray for the ministries of our church, especially:

- Bell Choir
- Quest: Youth
- Prison Ministry
- Thornwell Home
- Greenwood Place
- NAMI
- Camp Fellowship
- Food Pantry
- Camp Fellowship
- Food Pantry
- Greater Greenwood United Ministries



For Those in Our Hearts

We pray for these members of our wider community:

- Charles Alexander
- Aiden Brown
- Tom & Lucia Bryson
- Ashlyn Buchanan
- Carolyn Cockfield
- Scott Crandall
- Debbie Dill
- Kiersty Duncan
- Alberta Eichelberg
- Charlotte Gero
- Betty Gossam
- Dee Greene
- Lois & Bob Grice
- Jo Heron
- Family of Doris Hobbs
- Lucia Horowitz extended family and friends
- Jimmy Hughes
- Norma Hoviss
- Di Litwer
- Marcail Little and family
- Family of Ashley Mahon
- Bill & Suzy Mitchell
- Chris Murphy
- Margaret Rada
- Terrance Reece
- Howard Thomas
- Jack Waldrup
- Ed Watkins
- Jeff Williams
- Sarah Willis



For the World

We pray for all our neighbors everywhere who we are called to love as we love ourselves:

- For peace and wisdom in our community and country during this election season
- For the Door of Hope ministry, saving children in South Africa
- For all those affected by the world-wide COVID-19 pandemic, especially world leaders
- For those hurt by structural racism and systemic poverty
- For those living with mental illness
- For our enemies

And God Saw That It Was Good...



Presbyterian Women treated the Pinecrest Faculty with homemade goodies and sign



Macie Hale Watkins hanging out at church with her good friend, Jesus



Yes, and....!



Dashe and Caroline on the move, power-walking the Lander track

Let the Bells Ring Out!



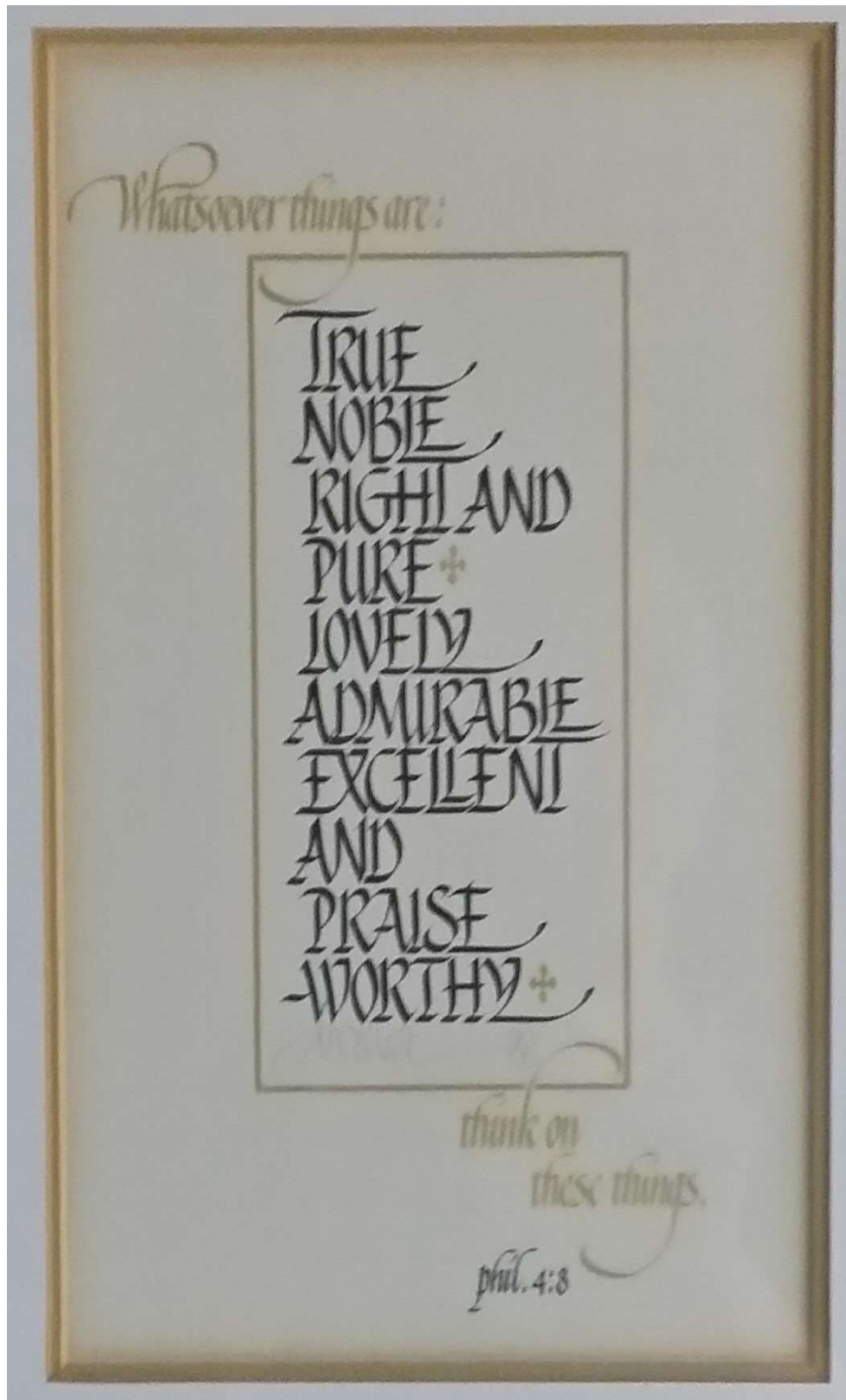
You don't want to miss our Westminster Ringers in their premier performance during worship on Sunday, November 1.



Keeping God's House in Good Order—New Gutters are a Must



Whatever...!



Calligraphy by Michael Podesta (<https://www.michaelpodestadesign.com/>)