

A Monthly Publication

Editors:
Rev. Liz Miller and
Rev. Dr. Jack Miller

**INSIDE THIS
ISSUE:**

Prayer of
Gratitude 1

Church Signs USA 1

Hymn Story: 2
“Down to the
River to Pray”

Church Humor 2

Why Turkey on 3
Thanksgiving?

Financial Report 3

Native American 3
Wisdom

Calendar 4

Church 4
Birthdays and
Events

Elder Schedule

11/7 - Art Neumarkel
11/14 - Joyce Leak
11/21 - Don Leak
11/28 - Jim Paget

Worship Leaders

11/7 - Marcie Labo
11/14 - Nona Carter
11/21 - June Steen
11/28 - Joyce Leak

Coming Events

11/16 - 8:00 AM
Men’s Breakfast



The Messenger

**First Christian Church—Mount Vernon
and St. Clare Chapel**

Welcoming, Caring, Communities of Faith

VOLUME 1, ISSUE 7 NOVEMBER 2021

Prayer of Gratitude

Thank you, Lord, for the blessings you have bestowed on my life. You have provided me with more than I could ever have imagined. You have surrounded me with people who always look out for me. You have given me family and friends who bless me every day with kind words and actions. They lift me up in ways that keep my eyes focused on you and make my spirit soar.

Also, thank you, Lord, for keeping me safe. You protect me from those things that seem to haunt others. You help me make better choices and provide me with advisors to help me with life’s difficult decisions. You speak to me in so many ways so that I always know you are here.

And Lord, I am so grateful for keeping those around me safe and loved. I hope that you provide me with the ability and sense to show them every day how much they matter. I hope that you give me the ability to give to them the same kindness they have provided to me.

I am extremely grateful for all of your blessings in my life, Lord. I pray that you remind me of just how blessed I am and that you never allow me to forget to show my gratitude in prayer and returned acts of kindness. Thank you, Lord.



**Sunday, November 7, 2021
After Zoom Worship Services**

“Moses was the first person with a tablet to download data from the cloud.” Church Signs USA

Hymn Story - “Down in the river to pray”



The traditional Appalachian song “Down in the River to Pray” is well-known, especially since Alison Krauss and the movie “O Brother, Where Art Thou?” (released in 2000) popularized it. Yet, its composer remains a mystery, at least in some measure. Research indicates the song was written by slaves in the 19th Century who worked in the fields. Other people believe it was perhaps a derivative of a Native American tribal song that was adapted with Christian lyrics. It was reportedly published in Southern Harmony, a 19th Century hymnal, prior to many African-American spiritual songs being gathered and published during the Civil War and the post-Civil War Reconstruction period.

The song as originally composed was known as “The Good Old Way”, and is attributed to a George H. Allan in the contents section of “Slave Songs of the United States,” published in 1867. However, as originally constructed by Mr. Allan, the song entreats worshippers to go to a valley, not a river.

Whatever the message, the composer was thinking of family, as mothers, fathers, sisters, and brothers; all are addressed in the lyrics. One can imagine a slave family clinging to one another in this song’s embrace. And, we’re all sinners, the song’s conclusion reminds us. Isn’t it interesting that a song from some slaves still resonates in our culture 150 years later? (ChoralNet.com)

“As I went down to the river to pray, studying about that good old way.”



Why Turkey on Thanksgiving?



The wild turkey (*Meleagris gallop*a) is native to North America and was a staple in the Native American diet. It was imported to Europe in the early part of the 16th century by the Spaniards via Turkey (the country.) It was confused in those early times with the Guinea fowl which also arrived via Turkey, and both birds were called *turkeys* in those days. When it was assigned its Latin name in the 18th century, the name *turkey* still stuck. Native Americans called it *peru* with no reference to the country of the same name.

Turkey was introduced to the early Pilgrim settlers by the Native American Wampanoag tribe after the Pilgrims arrived in 1620. The first year for the settlers was bleak, with many dying from the journey. Their seeds, aside from barley, did not produce any usable crops. The Indians assisted the settlers, introducing them to native foods such as corn and squash and showed them how to hunt and fish. The first Thanksgiving was celebrated in 1621 at the behest of Governor William Bradford, and the Native Americans were invited guests of honor.

By the way, Thanksgiving became an official holiday in the United States on October 3, 1863 under president Abraham Lincoln. This was largely due to the lobbying efforts of Sarah Josepha Hale, editor of *Godey's Lady's Magazine* who had lobbied for 17 years for the holiday. The proclamation signed by Lincoln declared the last Thursday in November would be known as Thanksgiving Day (about.com).

By the way, Thanksgiving became an official holiday in the United States on October 3, 1863 under president Abraham Lincoln. This was largely due to the lobbying efforts of Sarah Josepha Hale, editor of *Godey's Lady's Magazine* who had lobbied for 17 years for the holiday. The proclamation signed by Lincoln declared the last Thursday in November would be known as Thanksgiving Day (about.com).



Financial Report:

Income (September):	\$3095.00
Expenses (September):	\$3,566.37
Rental Account:	\$5,227.08 (as of September 30th)
Fidelity Balance:	\$39,675.45 (as of September 30th)
Bank Balance:	\$3,001.63 (as of September 30th)

Native American Wisdom



The Elders tell us the greatest gift we can seek is peace of mind; to walk in balance, to respect all things. For us to do this, we must have peace within ourselves and peace within ourselves cannot come unless we are walking the path the Creator would have us walk. Sometimes the tests on this path are difficult, but we know that with each test we grow stronger.

Oh Great Spirit, we ask You to whisper Your wisdom in our hearts. You are the only one who knows the secret to peaceful living and the mystery of harmony. Teach us of Your peace, understanding and balance, and guide us onto your good path.

NOVEMBER 2021 (National Gratitude Month)

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7 Zoom 10:30am Worship & Meeting	8	9	10 Marine Corps Birthday	11 Veteran's Day	12	13 Regional Class
14 Zoom 10:30am	15	16 Men's Breakfast	17	18	19	20
21 Zoom 10:30am	22	23	24	25 Turkey Day	26	27
28 Zoom Class 9:30am Worship 10:30am	29	30				

November Birthdays

- } 11/5 - John Seilheimer
- } 11/7 - Ellen Hankins
- } 11/15 - Melissa Katzenberger
- } 11/24 - Debbie Morrison
- } 11/26 - Art Neumarkel

November Anniversary

- } 11/13 - Rev. Dr. Jack Miller
Ordination (2010)

November Events

- } 11/7 - Congregational Meeting
- } 11/7 - Daylight Savings Ends
- } 11/13 - Regional Class
- } 11/16 - Men's Breakfast
- } 11/28 - First Sunday of Advent



**First Christian Church - Mount Vernon
and St. Clare Chapel**

Welcoming, Caring, Communities of Faith

Rev. Liz Miller and Rev. Dr. Jack Miller - Pastors



Mailing Address:

**308 Barry Loop
Mount Vernon, WA 98274**

**(360) 510-9081— Rev. Liz
(360) 318-6068—Rev. Jack**

TO:

Website: www.stclarepastoralcenter.com

Email: disciples.mvfcc@gmail.com