



Winter Park
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

The Covenanter NOVEMBER 2020

Harvest, Thanksgiving, and Advent

Amid our current reality, and as my thoughts shift towards a time of harvest, moments of thanksgiving, and Advent beginning Sunday, November 29th - another opportunity to celebrate God's entry into the world as a baby. I think about giving and sharing, generosity and faithfulness, and responding to the One who defines generosity and faithfulness. Within these thoughts, I'm reminded of a story I heard many years ago.

After Abraham Lincoln became president, office seekers besieged him trying to get appointments to various jobs throughout the country. Once, confined to bed with typhoid fever, exasperated, Lincoln declared to his secretary, "Bring in the office seekers; I now have something I can give to everybody."

It seems there are so many needs in the world. Wouldn't it be great to have something to give to everybody? And not merely our germs, but giving generous physical, tangible expressions of who we are that reflect portions of our time, our ability and our financial resources dedicated to God's Kingdom.

Giving is an act of worship. Giving is a faith statement. Giving reflects an attitude of gratefulness and thankfulness. Giving is our response to the gift we have received—the life found in Jesus Christ our Lord. We should always remember the words to the church in Ephesus, "For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith—**and this is not from yourselves, it is the gift of God**—not by works, so that no one can boast. For we are God's handiwork, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do. "Wise women and men have been bringing gifts, responding to God's entry into our world for millennia. During these days of thanksgiving and preparation, I pray we will endeavor to follow their example.

From Genesis onward, God is very clear about His desire to be first in our lives and to give Him the first from our labors. We should give God our first and best, not what's left. As I mentioned, our giving is a statement of faith, an act of worship. Sharing, giving, and generosity redirect our attention towards God and neighbors.

Here at Winter Park Presbyterian Church our gifts of time, talent and treasure come together, and provide for the needs of people here and far away. Our gifts come together and provide for Christian Education and Small Group opportunities. Our gifts come together and help our Deacons provide for the care and nurture of many within our family of faith. Our gifts come together and help with improvements around our campus, and they help provide for our future, as your Session looks towards the years ahead. Our gifts provide for missionaries in distant lands and locally. The giving of our time, diverse spiritual gifts and our collective resources prompts those around us to lift their eyes, see the glory of God and demonstrates our desire to be faithful stewards of all we have been given. These are extraordinary times. Which simply means: As part of the Body of Christ, we can do extraordinary things.

In the coming days, we will have an opportunity to build upon what God has done, to be part of "Genesis onward" as we dedicate our gifts of time, talent and treasure looking ahead to 2021 and bidding a not so fond farewell to 2020. Stewardship along with Budget and Finance are working towards funding these various ministries and need your commitment.

You will probably hear this repeated many times. I believe the first step to giving is to take no step, but rather bend your knees, kneel before the Lord your God and pray, "Lord Jesus, You have given me life and the resources of time, ability and money. How would You have me respond in the coming year to Your goodness, grace and mercy?"

When faith drives our giving, it is like the example of the loaves and fish. The little boy gave what he had, and God multiplied it, so all were filled. When we respond to God's gift - **Jesus** - simply bringing the first and best of our resources, God's miracle occurs and there ends up being something for everybody.

Blessing amid the harvest, happy Thanksgiving and a joyful Advent to all,

Pastor Darren



Welcome Back

WORSHIP WITH US SUNDAYS AT 10:30 AM.

**RECORDED SERMONS CAN BE FOUND
ONLINE AT WWW.WINPPC.ORG/SERMONS.**

Living Nativity



In strange times it is human nature that we seek out something familiar to bring us light and life. Living Nativity is a long held tradition of Winter Park Presbyterian Church. An opportunity for us to find Fellowship and service as we provide the community around us with the story of the Birth of Jesus Christ. 2020 has been a difficult year, for so many of us. But with your help, we believe that we have the property, space, and dedication to pull off Living Nativity this year and make it spectacular...but with a few changes.

Instead of our ordinary Living Nativity where people cluster and gather together for a prolonged period of time, Community Life and Outreach Committee plans to turn the Church into a walking museum of tableaus that tell the story of the Birth of Christ. Using lighting, tents, costumes, live animals, the carillon, and volunteers, it is our hope that we will safely provide our Living Nativity in a new, fresh, and inviting way for the community.

What do we need to make this work? You.

We want to attempt something that has never been attempted at WPPC. It's going to take all of us. It's going to require volunteers. It's going to require us to step outside of our box and maybe try something that we haven't done in years past. We'll need more people to be angels and shepherds and wise men than before. We'll need a couple of Marys and a couple of Josephs. We're going to need people to serve as narrators and speakers through the night; people willing to serve in a parking lot and act as tour guides. We'll need people willing to help with set up and people willing to help with tear down.

We can do this! I've seen this church do amazing and fascinating things in the last five years. From the depths of my soul I know and truly believe that we as a church can come together and accomplish anything God asks us to. It's going to be different, it's going to be a lot of work, but I believe that with all of us working together we can make this into the highlight of the year for us as well as for the community. If you are free on December 19 from 7-9pm, please contact me. If you have grandchildren or friends or family in the area who are free and willing to volunteer, please contact me. If you neighbors are looking for some way to give something awesome to the community, please get in touch with me! We will make sure that every precaution is in place and that people have a job appropriate for them. We can do this WPPC! We just need you!

~Rev. Emily Wasser

Library News

A symbol is an object that represents a truth, an idea, or a quality. We are governed by symbols of many kinds. We obey traffic lights, salute the U.S. Flag, transact business with checks and money, use words—spoken or written—to communicate ideas.

The word “symbol” comes from two Greek words—*syn* and *ballein*—meaning to throw together. Symbols were frequently used by Jesus. He referred to himself as “The Good Shepherd,” “The Door,” “The Light of the World,” and “The True Vine.”

Today, symbols are used in churches for ornamentation with spiritual significance suggesting ideas for meditation. Today the cross is the symbol of Christianity the world over.

There are many religious books in the library and also a lot of biographies and fiction. A section of Nicholas Sparks books are all good reads with the new addition being, “The Rescue.” This is a story involving a five year old boy with problems plus two adults. Another interesting read is, “Sleeping at the Starlite Motel” by Bailey White. Her stories are always rich with perception and grace.

~Doris Anguish, Librarian

Advent Booklet

We would love to have you contribute to this year's Advent Booklet. Have you been to a place in the great outdoors, or in a Church, or in any setting where you were overwhelmed by the beauty of the setting and especially felt God's presence? Do you have a picture of it that you can share or can you do some artwork of it? We would like people to submit these pictures, along with a paragraph or two about why this setting was so meaningful to them. You can also submit simple scenes of nature (birds, flowers, etc.) that we can use throughout the booklet. We are hoping to make this a very special booklet and would love for you to contribute your talents to it. Please submit your pictures and writing to Phyllis Woods at phylliscw@cfl.rr.com no later than Nov. 20th.

Poinsettias

If you would like to purchase a poinsettia in honor/memory of someone, please fill out the form on the back page of this newsletter and return it to the church office. We are limiting orders this year to 20 poinsettias, so please get your dedication in ASAP to reserve yours.

Deacon's Den "Thankfulness"

*Rejoice always, pray continually, give thanks in all circumstances; for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus.
Thessalonians 5:16-18*

This teaching has always run against the grain of my family's culture. My mother's relatives bluntly called things as they saw them. If a situation was miserable, they acknowledged the misery, gritted their teeth, and moved forward. Pollyannas drew mocking glances for their unnatural cheeriness in the face of disasters.

To be fair, I'd also have to say that family members didn't always march in a doom and gloom parade. They knew how to enjoy good times. And they counted on a few relatives, during crises, to offer the relief of humor. Great Aunt Margaret told the best jokes right before a funeral.

I eventually discovered that the "realism" of my upbringing leaned too hard toward the negative. Our tendency to expect the worst possible outcomes sometimes guaranteed their arrival. And even if our presentiments were accurate, we missed out on good things while worrying about the future. The natural gifts that life offers couldn't be grasped by hands clenched in fear.

Time and distance gave me room to discover that good may eventually come from bad, that life isn't set with traps for the foolish and forgetful. Sweet moments await those paying attention to the present. Many years ago, I had a revelation during a lunch date with my wife. I told her, "Maybe we're just going to be happy."

In the end, I think that thankfulness is based on trust. If we trust in God's promises, then present and anticipated difficulties no longer inspire dread. God wraps us in love and goodness despite the suffering we experience. Thankfulness grows from that knowledge.

I doubt, however, that radical trust in God is easily achievable for me and many others. Ingrained early training will not suddenly move on. It has a will of its own and won't easily accept an eviction notice. I think, instead, that Paul's verses invite us to walk on a path of thanksgiving. Our understanding will grow through the practice of rejoicing, praying and giving thanks in all circumstances.

Like any form of training, this will feel uncomfortable and unnatural at first. Playing guitar chords for the first time seemed like an exercise in awkwardness. Speed and fluency grew through faithful repetition.

Perhaps our practice serves as an invitation to God. We open ourselves to wonderful possibilities as we move forward toward joy. And God rushes eagerly to meet us.

~Dennis Schmalstig, WPPC Deacon

Central Florida Coalition for the Homeless

Wondering how our friends at the Central Florida Coalition for the Homeless are coping with the Pandemic?

We've all had to make adjustments as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic but can you imagine the changes required for staff working and guests living at the Central Florida Coalition for the Homeless?

Our WPPC "Feeding the Homeless" team recently inquired how the Coalition is managing and what changes have been required. We explained that our congregation has supported the Coalition for over 40 years, providing the evening meal on the 4th Friday of each month in addition to offering reading materials to all guests and toiletries to our Community guests (those living outside the Coalition). WPPC has continued supporting the Coalition during this crisis by donating the cost of preparing the meal (\$340) each month. We also asked members of our congregation to donate COVID-19 supplies requested by the Coalition; a car-load was delivered October 15th.

Here are questions we asked followed by Coalition answers:



How are meals being served? *Meals for our guests are served during staggered times to allow for as much social distancing as possible. All meals are served from the Men's Service Center Dining room. The dining room in the Center for Women & Families has been converted into an isolation area for anyone experiencing symptoms and will remain closed indefinitely. Community (guests living outside the Coalition) meals are still served nightly—however, they are served "to-go" from the front entrance of our property in order to limit the traffic onsite.*

How can the men socially distance with 10 men in each room? *Some beds have been removed in order to allow for more distance. All beds either have 6 feet in between or a partition in between.*

Has the Coalition reduced the number of guests to ensure social distancing? *We accepted no new guests in the Men's Service Center from March 15 to July 15 in order to ensure the safety of existing guests and give the staff time to work out social distancing solutions.*

Is the Coalition kitchen staff cooking most of the meals? *The Coalition staff is currently prepping and serving all meals.*

Are guests that have jobs able to come and go in order to work? *Our guests are able to leave the property. Each time someone enters or re-enters the property, they will be required to complete a brief health screening form and temperature check. This goes for staff, guests, visitors, volunteers, etc. Face masks must be worn at all times by anyone on our property.*



Recently, the Coalition asked us when we would feel comfortable to begin cooking for and serving at the facility. Considering most of our volunteers that prepare the food are in a high-risk age range, it would not be possible to socially distance while preparing the main dish (salad or beef & pasta), making/cutting brownies or making PB&J sandwiches. In addition, how would we socially distance while riding the bus or serving at the Coalition? We believe the best answer is to wait until at least January, 2021, to restart this mission physically; at that time we will revisit this

decision considering how the COVID-19 is progressing in Central Florida. We will still provide the Coalition the funds (\$340) that we would normally spend each month to prepare the meal. Coalition will continue to prepare the meals using our donations until we are able to return.



Global Market 2020 Opportunities

The Compassion Committee regrets the cancellation of the Global Market due to the virus. The market has been an important source of funding for many organizations that make a critical difference in the lives of people. We have arranged for you to continue to support several of these organizations. You can write a check to Winter Park Presbyterian Church and place on the memo line the name of the organization. These checks can be submitted to Carol Achenbach or given to the church office.

Heifer International

Heifer International address poverty and hunger facing families throughout the world. Families receive an animal, along with training and how to care for it, using the latest methods and skills for marketing. People can choose to give a general gift or fund a specific animal— for example, a goat (\$120), a heifer (\$500 for \$50 a share), flock of chickens (\$20), sheep (\$120). We will also have gift cards in the Global Market mailbox if you wish to send these cards to others. For more information about Heifer International go to <http://heifer.org>.

Society of Saint Andrews

Society of Saint Andrews decreases hunger by providing healthy food to people in need. It organizes teams of people to glean fields and orchards and then distributes it to organizations that provide food to people. Last year our Florida chapter, with the support of 3,158 volunteers, collected 2,868,087 pounds of fresh produce that was distributed to 148 foodbanks, pantries, and other local feeding agencies. With a doubling of need this year, *Saint Andrews* has distributed 40% more food. Winter Park Presbyterian Church has been a long supporter of *Saint Andrews* and Barbara Sayles, the local director. For more information about the work of *Saint Andrews* go to www.EndHunger.org.

Transitions Ukraine Orphan Foundation

The *Ukraine Orphan Transition Foundation* addresses the critical needs of Ukrainian orphans who have transitioned from the orphanage and face high risk of death or major problems. Audrey Ball Santiago began working with children in the orphanage following a WPPC mission trip. She also began pulling together a group of individuals in Odessa, Ukraine to provide an essential support network. The organization has now developed two important life lines: transition homes to give them support they need as they begin their life as young adults (beginning at age 16 in Ukraine), and houses that young families were able to “purchase” at subsidized rates and with sweat equity. More information can be found on their [Facebook page](#).

Alliance for Reforestation Guatemala (AIR)

AIR uses a multifaced approach to improve the lives of people. *AIR* works with local rural communities to train them in more productive ways of farming, helps plant trees to reduce dangerous landslides and create productive tree farms and forests, builds fuel efficient stoves that reduce fumes that create lung damage, provides for school scholarships, and works with local school to promote environmental education. In the last twenty five years *AIR* staff members, community members, and volunteers have planted 6 million trees and built 875 fuel efficient stoves. *AIR* tech staff have helped train over 5000 families. *AIR* uses local professionals, trees and products. WPPC volunteers have joined *AIR* staff and community members and have left with an appreciation of the value of the *AIR* program, its staff, and founding director Anne Hallum. *AIR* also received several United Nations awards for excellence. For more information www.airguatemala.org


Zantoun Peace Olive Oil

Zantoun Peace Olive Oil enables Palestinian farmers to help support their families. As a side benefit, the oil is also excellent and many of you have enjoyed using it or sharing it as a gift to others. We will be able to order some oil this year. The cost of \$20.00 per bottle. We will be accepting orders until November 5th. Please give your order to the church office or contact Mary VanHook (vanhookjay90@gmail.com or 407 359 2388). You will be able to pick up your bottle when it arrives. Orders will be placed by the church mail boxes and you can place your payment in the Global Market box. Payment must be either in cash or check to the church with olive oil on the memo line.

Bible Quiz

After Jesus healed 10 men at one time, how many returned to thank him? What had been their ailment?

A. five; blindness
 B. all 10; deafness
 C. one; possession by demons
 D. one; leprosy



Answer: D (See Luke 17:11-19.)

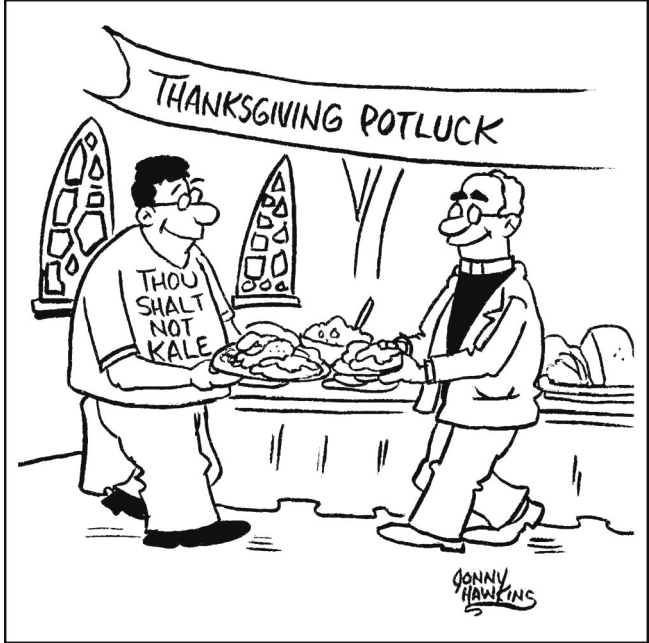
Puzzle!

Write the words below in alphabetical order inside the squares. Then read down the second column to discover the sentence that begins and ends Psalms 146, 147, 148, 149 and 150.

FEAST
KHAKI
MOUTH
ESSAY
LLAMA
ORBIT
CARRY
UDDER
BRUSH
ITEMS
APPLE
LEARN
CIDER

A					

Answer: _____ !



PUZZLE

Glad gatherings

The first Christians met together over a meal. Today church families still gather to break bread and thank God.

Follow the instructions below. Then write the remaining words in order from left to right and top to bottom to complete the verses.

	A	B	C	D	E	F
1	They	found	broke	bread	acts	in
2	houses	their	homes	beautiful	and	round
3	ate	world	beginning	together	follow	thought
4	with	numbers	glad	happiness	lesson	and
5	thanks	sincere	disciples	gathering	hearts	tradition
6	celebrate	good	praising	Christian	God	river

Cross out all words in column E with double letters.
 Cross out all words that are books of the Bible.
 Cross out all words in column B that end in d.
 Cross out all words in column A that have more than 4 letters.
 Cross out all words in row 5 with 3 syllables.
 Cross out all words in the table with 9 letters.
 Cross out all words in column F with 2 or more vowels.

_____ . ACTS 2:46-47, NIV

Answer: Praise the LORD!
 Answer: They broke bread in their homes and ate together with glad and sincere hearts, praising God. Acts 2:46-47, NIV



This is the time of the year that we talk about gratitude in the classroom. Lessons about thankfulness help develop skills in listening, problem solving, self-expression, vocabulary, sharing, taking turns, large and small muscle groups, and memory.

Here are a few quotes from our students who were asked to name something or someone for which they are thankful. We hope you find them as thoughtful and heartwarming as we do!

"I'm thankful for..."

"... food and water." – Ayla, age 4

"... God and Jesus." – Carolina, age 4

"... my mommy and our school." – Cole, age 5

"... my mom for giving me love." – Zachary, age 4

"... all of these kids helping me." – Shawn, age 4

"... my sister, my mommy and daddy. I'm thankful for Captain America." – River, age 4

"... Daddy. He goes to work and wears a real shirt." – Natalie, age 2

"... Mommy. We have toys and cars at my house." – Reid, age 2

"... I'm happy that I have my grandma." – Jayden, age 4

Wishing you a harvest of blessings, good health and good times. Happy Thanksgiving!



The Alligators VPK class made apple pies to take home and share using fresh apples and a crust made from scratch.




The Llamas VPK class went to the playground to find apples hidden by their teacher before beginning a unit about apples.



The Llamas VPK class gathered leaves on campus, then brought them back to the classroom to discover the differences in their leaves. Afterwards, they painted using the leaves.



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<u>1</u> Sharon Goodson	<u>2</u>	<u>3</u>	<u>4</u>	<u>5</u> Martha Heine Tiffany Seidule Edmund Short	<u>6</u> Debbie Pauzar	<u>7</u> Barbara Ogburn Ronald Peterson
<u>8</u>	<u>9</u>	<u>10</u>	<u>11</u> Gay Jung	<u>12</u> Sawyer Bartholomew Elaine Ellman Christine Rich	<u>13</u> Allen Shaw George Sumrall	<u>14</u> Helen Ammerman
<u>15</u>	<u>16</u>	<u>17</u>	<u>18</u> Gayle Ernst	<u>19</u> Avery Erb Lauren Wagner	<u>20</u> Martha Campbell Sevilla Morse Reta Peterson	<u>21</u> Dail Pribil
<u>22</u> Sean Tallungan	<u>23</u> Curtis Harrison	<u>24</u>	<u>25</u>	<u>26</u>	<u>27</u>	<u>28</u>
<u>29</u> Samantha Blood	<u>30</u>					

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		<u>1</u> Lucy Martin	<u>2</u> Jackson McCurdy	<u>3</u> Rene Cuthill	<u>4</u> Chris Rudolph	<u>5</u> Beverly Tavel
<u>6</u> Doris Anguish	<u>7</u> Betty McKinney	<u>8</u> Annabelle Bartholomew Terry Irwin Sylvia Reaves Dawn Sumrall John Trexler	<u>9</u> Ellenorr Osterhaus	<u>10</u> Reta Jackson	<u>11</u> Linda Morse	<u>12</u> David Lee
<u>13</u> Berta Hall	<u>14</u> Alissa Mahoney	<u>15</u> Linda Beaty	<u>16</u> Lee Newsom III	<u>17</u> Jamison Fagan Melinda MacDade Don McCarter Ann McDonald	<u>18</u> Betty Gale Case	<u>19</u> Julie Kent Holly Small Stephen Smith
<u>20</u>	<u>21</u>	<u>22</u>	<u>23</u> Lee Adler Cynthia Nants	<u>24</u> Corinne Dodd	<u>25</u> William Darcy Julia Frazier	<u>26</u> Luke Gettys Julie Rankin Ellis Roe
<u>27</u> Jerry Osterhaus Clark Ranson Peter Rice	<u>28</u> Howard Evans	<u>29</u> Gary Henderson Ellen Skelton	<u>30</u>	<u>31</u> Patrick McAllister Glenn Riccio		



The Rev. Dr. W. Darren Bess, Senior Pastor
 The Rev. Emily Wasser, Associate Pastor
 Carolyn Achenbach, Director of Operations/Accountant
 Cindy Mitchum, Executive Assistant
 Barbara Hordern, Administrative Assistant
 Justin Chase, Director of Music
 Penny Walsh, Organist
 Susan Davis, Director of Handbells & Children's Music
 Tricia Wilson, Director of Preschool Programs
 Kenny Lovelace, Sexton

SESSION

2020

Doris Anguish
 Marilyn Bryant
 Rick Davis
 Steve House
 Larry Seel
 Bob White

2021

Phillip Anderson
 Lisa Dreasher
 Jayne Leach
 Shaheed Mohammed
 Peter Rice
 Nelson Roe

2022

Theresa Coker
 Bonnie Gaughan
 Fran Morrissey
 Sean Tallungan
 Michelle Trahan
 Jay Van Hook

DIACONATE

2020

Ardyth Austin
 Cathy House
 Caroline James
 Jim McKinney
 Dennis Schmalstig
 Matt Straub

2021

Mike Galyean
 Reta Jackson
 Julie Kent
 Curtis Koon
 Sara Van Arsdel
 Jeanne Vinci

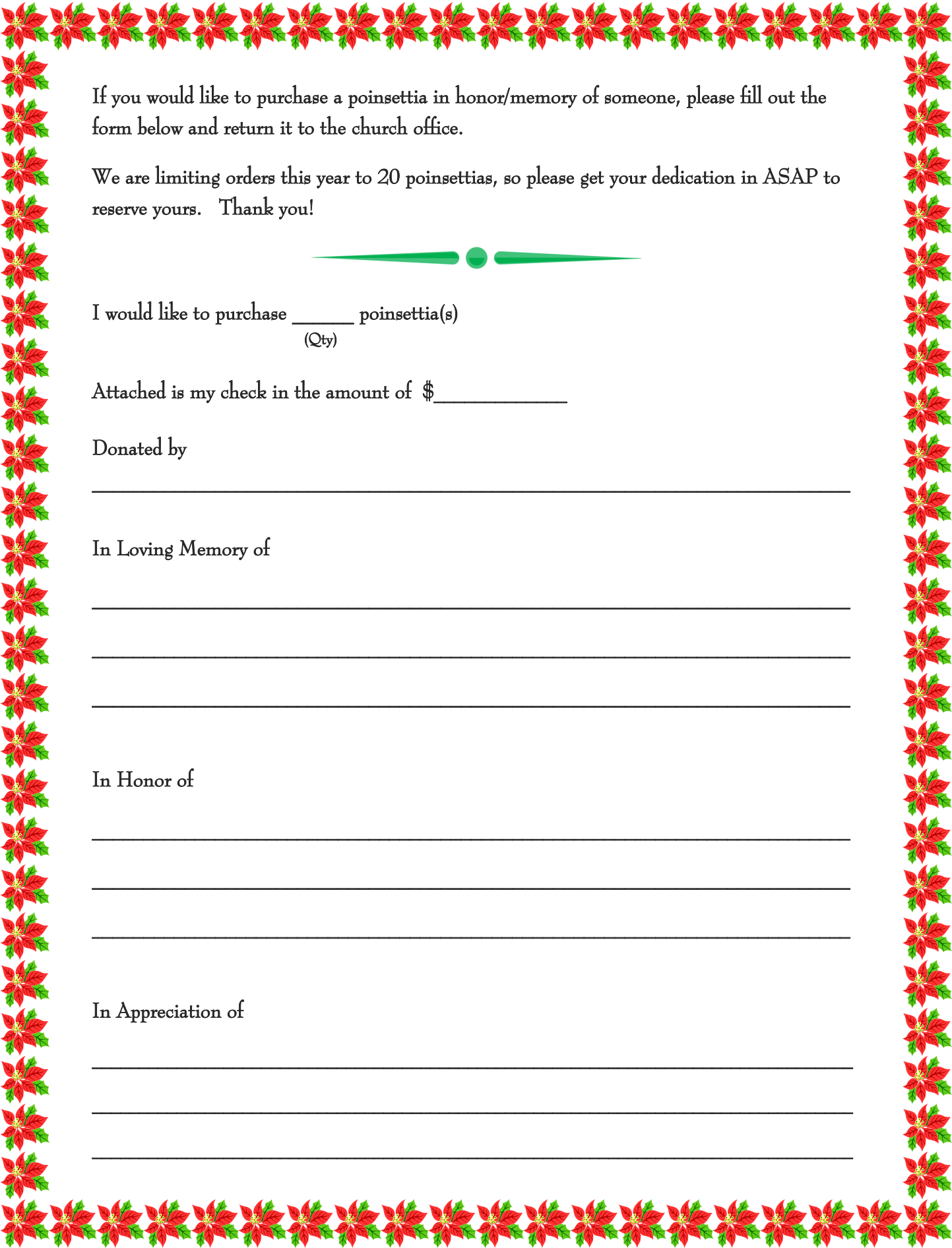
2022

Susan Davis
 Jane Munns
 Rachel Myers
 Christine Rich
 Meg Ball Thomas

MISSIONARIES

Rev. Gordon and Dorothy Gartrell - Brazil
 Jenny Bent - Dominican Republic
 Mark Hare - Haiti
 Dr. Dan & Elizabeth Turk - Madagascar

For Covenanter or Sunday bulletin submissions, please fill out a publicity request online at <http://winppc.org/publicity-request/> or contact Cindy Mitchum at cindym@winppc.org or 407-647-1467.



If you would like to purchase a poinsettia in honor/memory of someone, please fill out the form below and return it to the church office.

We are limiting orders this year to 20 poinsettias, so please get your dedication in ASAP to reserve yours. Thank you!



I would like to purchase _____ poinsettia(s)
(Qty)

Attached is my check in the amount of \$ _____

Donated by

In Loving Memory of

In Honor of

In Appreciation of
