First Presbyterian Church of Abbotsford

Joy Letter

NOVEMBER 2026



Pastor Don Everhard • 305 W. Elm St., Abbotsford, WI 54405 • 715-223-4001

Sunday Worship 10:30 a.m. • abbypresbyterian@gmail.com • abbypresbyterian.org

YouTube: First Presbyterian Church of Abbotsford **Facebook: First Presbyterian Church of Abbotsford**

November Birthdays

Nov. 12	Claire Pawlowicz
Nov. 15	Mara Pehkonen
Nov. 17	Paul Fischer
Nov. 18	Kevin Moberg
Nov. 20	Cheryl Foytek

Shoebox Packing Weekend

Saturday, Nov. 7 • 10 a.m.: Set up, organize and prepare gifts for Sunday's packing.
Sunday, Nov. 8 • 11:45 a.m.: Join us in the Church basement after worship to pack! Supplies are already ready for more than 80 boxes. We will inspect each box, add a letter and pray over it before shipping. Thank you to everyone who has helped share God's love!

2027 Stewardship Drive

A SEASON OF GRATITUDE AND GIVING

Beginning Sunday, November 8, our Church invites each household to prayerfully consider its support for 2027. Stewardship is one way we respond with gratitude to all God has given us.

It is more than a financial commitment. Our time, talents, abilities, prayers, and resources all help sustain worship, outreach, fellowship, and care for one another. Every person has something valuable to share, and every gift makes a difference.

We would appreciate receiving your completed pledge sheets at the Church by Sunday, November 29. Thank you for supporting the life and ministries of our Church family.

"God loves a cheerful giver." — 2 Corinthians 9:7

Mark Your Calendar!

NOV 8	Stewardship Drive begins
NOV 8	Second Sunday Singers, worship
NOV 10	Bible Study • 6:15 p.m.
NOV 22	Least Coin collection
NOV 24	Session meeting • 6:30 p.m.

Our Church Family Directory

A new directory will help our Church family stay connected. Each household will be invited to confirm contact information and share a photo.

Everyone is included: Submit a favorite photo or arrange to have one taken. Our online worship family is invited, too! Watch for forms and details.

Church Updates & Reminders — Ways to Help

Heifer International

Fresh eggs are available in support of Heifer International. John and Tineke also collect aluminum cans for this project.

Helping Families

Please remember the local food pantry and donations requested for Ronald McDonald House. Your gifts help families and neighbors in need.

Prescription Bottles

The Abbotsford Lions Club collects clean, clear, empty prescription bottles. Please save these bottles for the collection.

The First Thanksgiving

A Message of Faith and Gratitude

The very first Thanksgiving was held in 1621.

Why did those Pilgrims decide to leave England and travel to the new land of America?

King James I forced his people to belong to one Church of England, and those who would not go along with that faced imprisonment—or worse.

At the same time, there were many different religious ideas: Catholicism, coming from the invasion of the Spanish; the Reformation, led by Martin Luther in Heidelberg, Germany, criticizing the Catholic Church; the Puritans (Protestants), who wanted their Church run by elders or presbyters, not by the king or state; and some Puritans who wanted a Church without ungodly people.

The group of Puritans who wanted to leave was not large enough or wealthy enough to pay for the Mayflower and all its supplies. So they were forced to work with a group of "separatists" who were young and fearless.

They left England on September 6, 1620, with 102 passengers aboard the Mayflower, and arrived in the Cape Cod area on November 11. The ground was already frozen, and they were off to a rough start. By the next spring, half of their group had died.

But they did have a good growing season, and they were making real progress. They were getting along with their Indian neighbors, and after their first harvest, they wanted to celebrate with their Indian friends.

The celebration lasted three days, and their leader, Edward Winslow, wrote to his family back home: "By the goodness of God, we have plenty, and we wish that you could partake in it."

Is there much difference now, in our time, compared to the time of the Pilgrims at the first Thanksgiving?

No, not really. If people interfere with our faith, we still get rattled, or at least nervous.

The difference is Muslim people taking important jobs, but we can read in Genesis 16:11–15 that Ishmael was the very first leader of Islam and also the son of our father Abraham.

The message for this Thanksgiving is: Let's be truly thankful for all we do have, thanks to the goodness of our God.

And let's remember that those Pilgrims at the first Thanksgiving were sharing the produce of the land. They were able to get along with their new neighbors. They looked a lot different, but they found the good in them and made them friends.

Have a Happy Thanksgiving, and see you in Church!

John Boschma

Wishing everyone a happy, healthy and blessed Thanksgiving!

"Give thanks to the Lord, for he is good." — Psalm 107:1

Christmas Concert

Sunday, December 6 • 2:00 p.m. The Clark County Choralers will present their Christmas Concert at our Church. Invite friends and neighbors to enjoy an afternoon of beautiful seasonal music. Additional details will be emailed and posted.

ANGEL TREE

Beginning in late November, our Church will again help bring Christmas gifts and joy to children in the Abbotsford area. Watch for details on how to take part.

SALVATION ARMY BELL RINGING

After Thanksgiving, our Church seeks volunteer bell ringers for the Salvation Army Christmas campaign. Give a little time to help families in need!