# MAPLE LEAF

First Presbyterian Church of Maple Plain November 2026

***One of them, when he saw that he had been healed,***
***returned and praised God with a loud voice.***
***He fell on his face at Jesus' feet and thanked him.***
***He was a Samaritan.***

***Jesus replied,***
***"Weren't ten cleansed? Where are the other nine?***
***No one returned to praise God except this foreigner?"***

***Then Jesus said to him,***
***"Get up and go. Your faith has healed you."***
**— Luke 17:15-19**

## Mosaic Series: Starwatch with Mike Lynch Wednesday, November 4th

**We held a Starwatch with Mike Lynch event back in May, but intermittent clouds made the "watching" frustrating. Mike agreed to repeat the event, hoping for better weather. This is now scheduled for Wednesday, November 4th at 6:30pm.**

**Mike is a former WCCO-AM radio meteorologist. He sets up his optical and digital telescopes and talks extensively about the night sky. He has been doing this program for many years.**

**The event is free, but preregistration is required because there is a limit on the attendance. If you are interested in attending, please contact Laura in the church office (763-479-2158 or office@catchourspirit.org), sign up on the sheet in the office, or sign up online here: Minnesota Starwatch Program with Mike Lynch.**

**We also will be looking for volunteers to help at the event. There is a signup sheet available for this as well.**




***Betsy Wolfe***

**Have that recipe you want to try out before the big event? Give it a try and bring it to our pot-luck fellowship on November 15th.**

## Mosaic Series: Palestinian Human Rights & Why We Should Care Wednesday, November 11th

**Learn from two Jewish Americans, concerned by the lack of human rights offered to the Palestinian people. They will share from their experiences and perspectives on what peace and justice can look like and speak to actions we can take.**

**More information is on page 4.**

## Gratitude and Generosity

In worship this November, we will be focusing on gratitude – even as we continue in our series on generosity. Two words, or rather, postures, that have a reciprocal relationship.

For many of us, we intuitively understand the flow from gratitude to generosity. I'm grateful for something, or someone in my life, and it leads me to want to be generous with them. It's a way to say thank you.

But a little harder to notice, but no less real, is the way generosity can lead toward gratitude. Here we might have to pause and think, but I trust you will find in your life where your own generosity has made you even more grateful. Such as the time, a few of us went to the Open Door Mission last spring and helped serve food to those living there. Or donating an old but still wearable coat to the coat drive. Both were acts of generosity for another, but they also made me much more grateful for my next meal, my home, and my newer coat. Did it not for you?

Interestingly, in the Bible, Thanksgiving Offerings also had this effect. These were one of the most common offerings people were told to give. If someone had a reason to be thankful, they would bring an offering to the temple, give a testimony, and tell everyone why they were thankful. And then a portion of the offering was burned up/given to God, a portion was given to the priest, but most was given back to the person who gave the offering, who would then go and celebrate with family, friends, and neighbors.

What a great religious practice! You have a big bumper crop, you get a promotion, your kid makes the honor roll, and out of your gratitude you make a generous offering to say thanks; you tell the story of your gratitude; you throw a party to celebrate; and darned if you don't go to bed even more grateful than when the day started.

Perhaps a proverb says it best:

*A generous person will prosper;*
*Whoever refreshes others will be refreshed.*
— Proverbs 11:25

As we go through this month, I look forward to jumping into that cycle of gratitude and generosity with you all.

Be well and do good,
Pastor Dan.

## Men's Breakfast, November 14th, 8:00am at Church!

*Dave Tillman*



We are going back home! The renovations are nearing completion (see page 6), and by the second Saturday of November we will be able to have our monthly men's breakfast back in our own kitchen.

I'll do the cooking this month. I haven't decided what to make yet, but it will be "home" cooked.

In honor of the month, come with prayers of thanksgiving and gratitude!

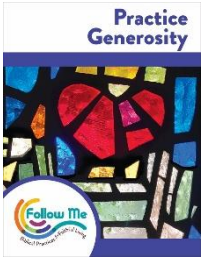
## Looking Ahead

- Wednesday, Dec. 2 – Cookies & Carols
- Sunday, Dec. 20 – Christmas Pageant
- Thursday, Dec. 24 – Christmas Eve Service

## Worship Themes This Month: Gratitude and Generosity




Starting on the first day of the month, we will gather to celebrate All Saints' Day. We will hold a worship service to pause and remember loved ones who have come before us. Especially those who have taught us how to live well. In gratitude, we remember their lives, reflect on their impact on us, and begin to think about the legacy we will leave behind.




Over the next two weeks, we will finish our Stewardship Campaign for 2027 as we focus on how we can live generously with the power we hold and how we receive and give. This will culminate on November 15th when we prayerfully and gratefully offer our pledge cards to the work of God through FPC.




The month will wrap up with a Thanksgiving-themed service, complete with a trial recipe potluck. We will gather to give thanks for this year and celebrate the gift of this community that has been with us through it all.

I hope you can join us for as many of these worshipful occasions as you are able.

November 1: All Saints' Sunday (Communion)

November 8: Share Power
Leviticus 25:1-17; Luke 18:18-30

November 15: Receiving and Giving
Acts 2:42-47

November 22: Thanksgiving (Communion)

American Red Cross | Blood Services

## Red Cross Blood Drive: November 10th

*Sue Prok*

Our next Red Cross Blood drive will be November 10th from 1 to 7pm. If you would like to donate, go to www.redcrossblood.org/give, or talk to Sue Prok to sign you up. We didn't have our normal summer blood drive event because of our in-progress renovations. So be sure to sign up for this one!

If you've never donated before, this is a great spot to try it for the first time! Right now, the Red Cross is offering Amazon Gift Cards and bonus points in their rewards program.

## Feed My Starving Children Saturday, November 21st




On Saturday, November 21st, we will again be partnering with Calvin Presbyterian Church to put into practice being the hands and feet of Christ by packing meal kits to be sent to countries who are undernourished through Feed My Starving Children.

The event will take place from 2:30–4:00pm at their Chanhassen location: 18732 Lake Drive East, Chanhassen, MN 55317. We will meet at that location.

Sign up in the office at church or click here to register.

If you have any questions or would like to discuss carpooling, please contact Pastor Dan.

# We Need to Talk

# PALESTINIAN HUMAN RIGHTS
## & WHY WE SHOULD CARE

**LEARN FROM TWO JEWISH AMERICANS, CONCERNED BY THE LACK OF HUMAN RIGHTS OFFERED TO THE PALESTINIAN PEOPLE. THEY WILL SHARE FROM THEIR EXPERIENCES AND PERSPECTIVES ON WHAT PEACE & JUSTICE CAN LOOK LIKE AND SPEAK TO ACTIONS WE CAN TAKE.**





Guest Speakers

**Ruben Slomianski** is a Jewish American raised in a Conservative Jewish household in the 1950s, whose family members include people who were displaced or lost their lives as a result of the pogroms of the early 20th Century and the Holocaust, and also now includes family members who suffer under occupation in the West Bank. He is an artist and advocate for human rights and justice for Palestinians, and he has been active with Jewish Voice for Peace Twin Cities Chapter and MN-BDS Community for several years.

**Karen Redleaf Schraufnagel** is a long-time Palestine liberation activist, developing her anti-Zionist perspective as a Jewish person with roots in both the Zionist Jewish community and movements for peace & justice. She has been organizing with MN BDS Community since helping to found the organization over a decade ago, recognizing that the essence of Palestine solidarity is to respond with action to the Palestinian Civil Society's call for BDS (Boycott, Divestment, Sanctions). Her more recent work has included leadership in the Boycott is Free Speech campaign, which is organizing to repeal the MN anti-boycott (anti-BDS) laws.

**WED | NOV | 11th | 6:30PM**

First Presbyterian Church of Maple Plain
558 County Road 110 • catchourspirit.org

Let's prep for the holidays TOGETHER!



There's lots to do in December, so let's do them together! Wrap presents, make gifts and cookies, sing carols, do crafts!

# Clearwater Forest Moms RETREAT



December 4-5, 2026

- $200 double occupancy or $125 local/commuter rate
- Includes 4 meals and all workshop supplies
- White Elephant Gift Exchange
- Make holiday centerpieces, Christmas cards, tree decorations, cookies, and more!

Follow the "register for camp" icon on our website to register!

WWW.CLEARWATERFOREST.ORG

# Renovation: We're heading into the home stretch…

***Jill Schmidt***

**Our refresh project is nearing the end, and we're grateful for everyone's patience and flexibility during the work. Because the crews aren't able to work on Wednesdays and Thursdays now that the West Village Home School kids are in school, the project has taken a bit longer than anticipated.**

**When the envisioning committee began its work, we didn't start by talking how we want the space to look (i.e., the color of the paint, the design of the carpet, etc.). Rather, we focused on defining how we want the space to feel. The committee aligned on the following direction: to create a warm, friendly, inviting space with a simple, clean feel but with personality.**

**Now, with the more visible changes, such as the flooring and the new windows in fellowship hall, starting to take shape, we hope you'll see this mood reflected in the space, even if you don't like every design choice.**

**Here is the anticipated schedule over the next few weeks:**

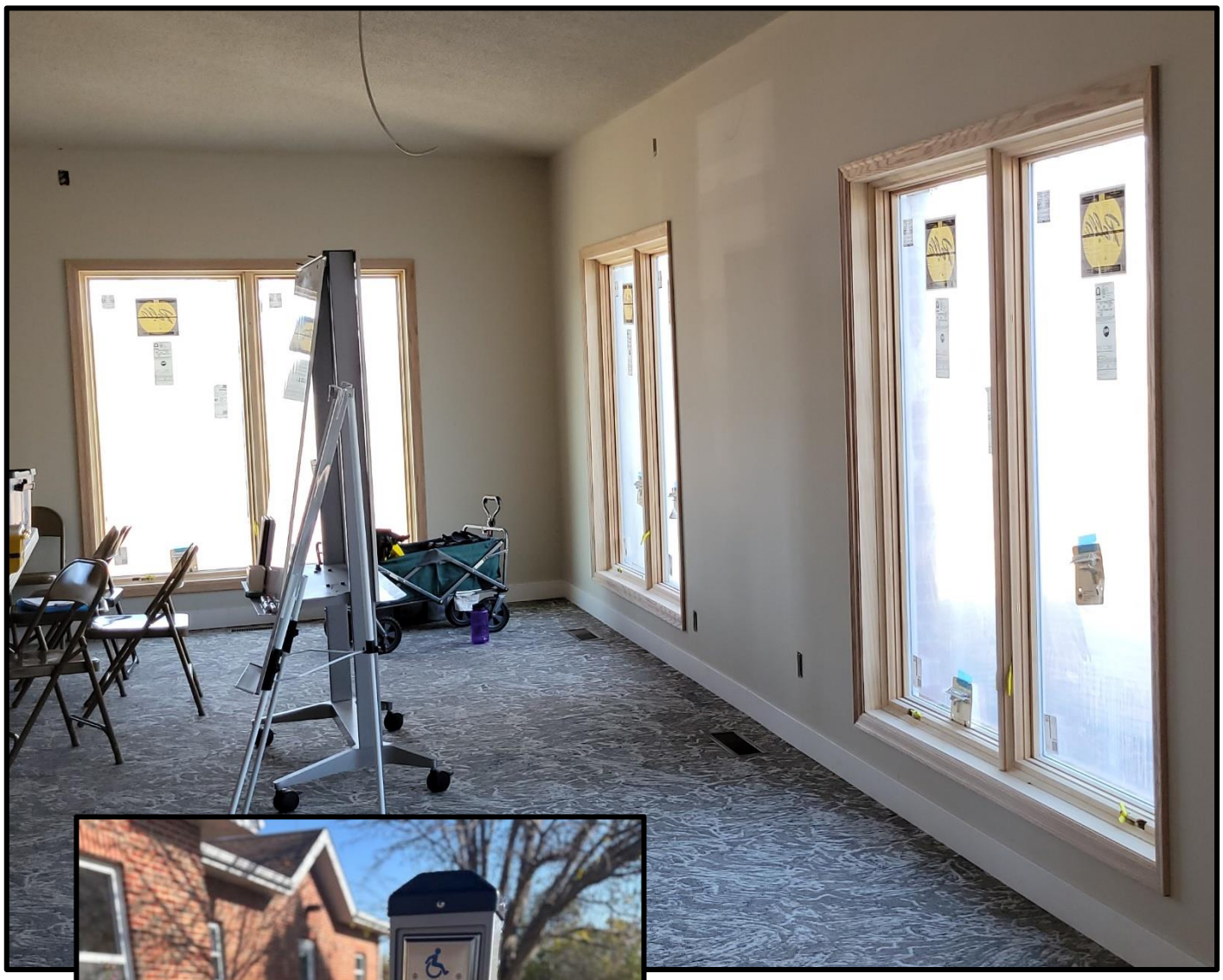
- **Week of Nov. 2: Painting to continue; remaining millwork, if any, to be completed**
- **Week of Nov. 9: Final painting and/or touch ups; lights to be installed and remaining electrical work and flooring to be completed**
- **Week of Nov. 16: Sanctuary chairs arrive**












PRESS
TO OPERATE
DOOR


AUTOMATIC
CAUTION
DOOR
record
ACTIVATE SWITCH
TO OPERATE



# NOVEMBER

| Sunday | Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday | Friday | Saturday |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| **1**<br>**All Saints' Day**<br>9:30am Worship (Communion)<br>10:30am Fellowship<br>3:00pm - 9:00pm Girl Scouts | **2**<br>11:00am - 7:00pm Children's Music Academy | **3**<br>10:00am Holy Yoga, in-person & streaming on Zoom<br>11:30am - 12:30pm CN Meeting | **4**<br>8:30am - 3:30pm West Village<br>6:30pm Starwatch with Mike Lynch | **5**<br>8:30am - 3:30pm West Village | **6** | **7** |
| **8**<br>9:30am Worship<br>10:30am Fellowship<br>3:00pm - 9:00pm Girl Scouts | **9**<br>11:00am - 7:00pm Children's Music Academy | **10**<br>10:00am Holy Yoga, in-person & streaming on Zoom | **11**<br>8:30am - 3:30pm West Village<br>6:30pm Palestinian/Jewish Speakers<br>8:00pm Choir Practice | **12**<br>8:30am - 3:30pm West Village<br>2:45pm Deacons Meeting | **13** | **14**<br>8:00am Men's Breakfast at CHURCH |
| **15**<br>Maple Leaf Articles Due<br>9:30am Worship<br>10:30am New Recipe Fellowship<br>3:00pm - 9:00pm Girl Scouts | **16**<br>11:00am - 7:00pm Children's Music Academy | **17**<br>10:00am Holy Yoga, in-person & streaming on Zoom<br>6:00pm Session Meeting | **18**<br>8:30am - 3:30pm West Village<br>6:30 Contemplative Worship<br>7:15pm Choir Practice | **19**<br>8:30am - 3:30pm West Village | **20** | **21**<br>2:30-4:15Feed My Starving Children *Chanhassen Location* |
| **22**<br>9:30am Worship (Communion)<br>10:30am Fellowship<br>3:00pm - 9:00pm Girl Scouts | **23**<br>11:00am - 7:00pm Children's Music Academy | **24**<br>10:00am Holy Yoga, in-person & streaming on Zoom | **25** | **26**<br> | **27** | **28** |
| **29**<br>9:30am Worship<br>10:30am Fellowship<br>3:00pm - 9:00pm Girl Scouts | **30**<br>11:00am - 7:00pm Children's Music Academy | **1**<br>10:00am Holy Yoga, in-person & streaming on Zoom<br>11:30am - 12:30pm CN Meeting | **2**<br>Cookies, Crafts and Carols<br>8:30am - 3:30pm West Village | **3**<br>8:30am - 3:30pm West Village | **4** | **5** |

## BIRTHDAYS

**3** Kyle Schmidt
**11** Lew Caster
**16** Garrett Lokken

## ANNIVERSARIES

**14** Jim & Julie Lokken

First Presbyterian Church
558 County Road 110
Maple Plain, MN 55359

Address correction requested.




November 2026

## First Presbyterian Church of Maple Plain 763-479-2158

Office Hours: Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday, 9am–2pm

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|---|---|---|
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| *Choir Director* | David Tillman | ChoirDirector@CatchOurSpirit.org |
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