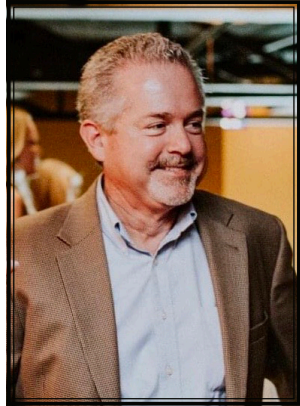


**FIRST
PRESBYTERIAN
CHURCH**
San Luis Obispo

The Kirk

October 2021



And just like that, the fall season is upon us. Students are settled in, the weather is changing (a little), and we're into the regular rhythms of the church year.

It sounds like Stewardship Season to me!

As I said last year, I love this part of the church's life. Pledging annual support to the church is an essential part of being a mature disciple, and so the partnerships we enter into reveal something about our congregation. We are all in this together—financially, prayerfully, and with our time and talent.

That's good news. As we move through the Book of Acts on Sunday mornings, we're seeing how the early Christians shared generously and saw the growth and spread of the faith throughout Judea, Samaria, and to the ends of the earth. The Holy Spirit led them to sacrificial giving, and the continuing fruit of that support is why we're a part of this church today. We are building and growing—adding new people and new ways to serve—on the shoulders of the wonderful saints who came before us. The history of the First Presbyterian Church in San Luis Obispo challenges us to unleash whatever God has in store for us next.

Isn't that something?

Over the next month or so you'll hear stories of ministries we've accomplished together in the last year, and also some new opportunities for the year ahead. It is your pledged giving that allows us to make wise plans, and to discern where we're deploying support and where we're stepping out in faith.

You've heard me talk about the church being built on a foundation of Jesus Christ, and expressed through fellowship, worship, discipleship, and mission. That's what we want to talk about during this season, and that's the vision for this church that we will be inviting you to participate in. It's going to be exciting, encouraging, and fun.

The pandemic remains a part of our planning and goalsetting, but if we've learned anything over the last year and a half, it's that nothing can keep us from being a healthy and loving congregation, worshipping God faithfully and treating each other with kindness and grace.

Blessings to you and yours, and may the Holy Spirit work in each one of us to make us stronger disciples and a healthier church.

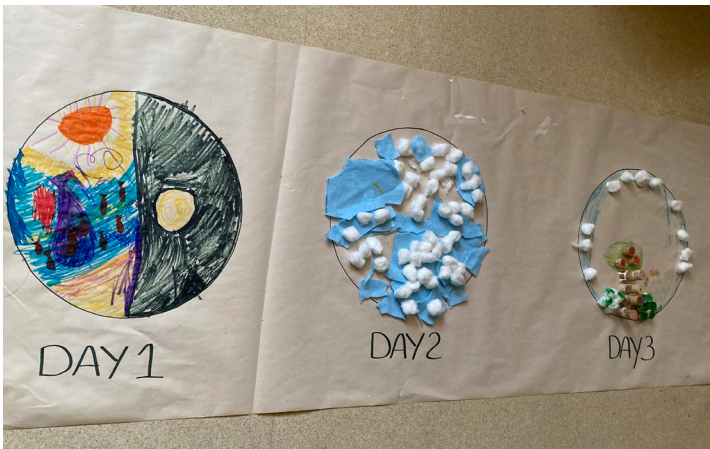
CHILDREN'S ED

Fall is definitely in the air and it feels good. We are excited to be able to do a smaller version of Wednesdays at the Rock. It's nice to have kids in the building. We are spending the first part of Fall learning about Creation - God's Creation. It has been fun having Sarah Jane join our team. Drop in any Wednesday and say "hi".

We were able to start child care on Sundays for Worship. We look forward to having the little ones again. Join us anytime.

Our kids are amazing and have taken on the challenges of the pandemic with a lot of patience and understanding. Their voices and energy have brought back the life to our building and their space. Safely - of course!

Thank you for your continued support. Watch for details of up coming activities and events. We are still figuring it all out. As you know, sometimes things change daily. We will keep you posted as we move forward.



YOUTH

The Youth have been meeting on Sundays from 5:00 to 7:00. It is a blessing to be able to meet again. We spend our time in fellowship together with bible lessons, food and of course play. Our families have been very flexible and roll with whatever comes up. We look forward to participating in the life of the church as opportunities arise. Watch for the Youth, and if you get a chance, stop and chat with them. We have a great group of Youth and they would love to get to know all of you better. We are cautiously optimistic about planning some activities for the rest of the year. Fingers crossed the the pandemic settles down.

We are so excited to have Sarah Jane join us. Who knows ... maybe music will become a thing again! Thank you for all of your support through it all! Let us know if there is anything we can do to help you out.



HAPPY BIRTHDAY!

To the following seniors (over 85) who have birthdays in October:

Marjorie Friesen – October 4

Lillian Bareither – October 12

Bob Gordon – October 19

Carol Dover - October 28

Ruth Gordon – October 31

To everyone else celebrating an October birthday.

Our church records may be incomplete. If we have overlooked someone, please contact the church office.

CONGREGATIONAL LIFE COMMITTEE

BINGO IS HERE!

Zoom Bingo will be held on Fri., Oct. 15 at 7:00!
Watch for the link in the Weekly Peak. There will be prizes!
Pam Rodewald psrmony@mac.com (805) 215-2396

Thank you,
Pam Rodewald
Chair of Congregational Life

BOOK BROWSERS

Book Browsers will continue to meet on the first Tuesday of each month at 7:00 via ZOOM.

- Oct. 5 The Book of Longings by Sue Monk Kidd
- Nov. 2 American Dirt by Jeanine Cummins
- Dec. 7 Born a Crime by Trevor Noah
- Jan. 4 Why Fish Don't Exist by Lulu Miller
- Feb. 1 When We Were Young and Brave by Hazel Gaynor
- Mar. 1 Brigid of Kildare by Heather Terrell
- Apr. 5 Last Boart out of Shanghai by Helen Zia
- May 3 The Nature of Fragile Things by Susan Meisner

PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN

NEWS BITES FROM PW BOARD

A gracious thank you to all who contributed to the Thank Offering during the month of August. The \$645 received will be used to fund small, new or expanded projects and small capital improvement projects thru grants.

Additionally, we voted to give \$1000 to our national Presbyterian Disaster Relief Fund from donations given to PW.

Women met via Zoom in September to introduce the bible study for this year. What an amazing presentation by Peggy Estes and the Virginia Terry Circle as they introduced us to the women - Tamar, Rahab, Ruth, Bathsheba, and Mary who were the grandmothers of Jesus! What have our grandmothers added to our sense of identity, as part of a particular family in a particular time and place? We will explore the lives of these women and more during the nine lessons this year as we discern how their lives may have ultimately affected Jesus. We invite all women to join one of our three current groups all currently meeting via Zoom. For details contact:

Friendship – Thursday mornings - Gloria DeKleine
805-801-9627

Virginia Terry – Wednesday evenings – Peggy Estes
805-596-0210

WOW – Wednesday afternoons – Nellie Beecher
805-801-4148

Lastly, we are excited about once again collecting gifts for Kayenta Indian Reservation part of the Navajo Nation served by one of our Presbyterian Churches. We will be collecting items listed below. They can be delivered to any of the three listed above and after November 1, items will be collected on Sunday mornings at the Welcome Kiosk or dropped by the church weekdays if we are once again open. Items will be shipped by Thanksgiving. Suggestions include: personal toiletries for women, men, and teens, kitchen towels, dish cloths, clothing – socks, slippers, gloves, caps, hats, sweaters, mostly larger sizes, also disposable school and office supplies. Contact those above for a more detailed list. No need to wrap any items.

CONGREGATIONAL CARE CORNER

Please pray for our church family, especially

For Pastor **John D’Elia** as he leads our congregation, especially during Pastor Appreciation Month,

For our **Elders** as they guide our congregation in making decisions about the life of our church,

For the members of our various church committees as they help us find new ways to worship and interact within this COVID situation,

For the **Deacons** as they care for our church family,

For **Jen Rabenaldt** and others as they stay in touch with our children and youth,

For **Scott Glysson, Sarah Jane Scott** and the other wonderful musicians of our church,

For our church members, friends & family who are undergoing treatments for various health issues,

For our church’s seniors, especially those who are alone in their homes or care centers, and for their care givers,

For those who support our worship services with their technical help to make it possible for live streaming and recording of the services,

For members, family & support personnel serving in the military,

For all of us as we serve God wherever He calls us.

If you have a prayer concern, please call the Church Office at (805) 543-5451 or write me at gdeklein@calpoly.edu. – Gloria DeKleine

FRONT PORCH FUNDRAISING DINNER

Have you noticed? The students are back in town, Cal Poly is open for in person and virtual classes and Front Porch is excited to be open as well. The welcome is out to first time freshmen, returning sophomores, who may feel more like freshman after a year on a closed campus and former Front Porch attendees. In addition to director Joel Drenckpohl and associate director Dominique (Dom) Floyd, there are three interns on staff. Let me introduce them: Hailey Firstman is continuing in her role as an intern for the second year. She graduated from Cal Poly in 2019 with a degree in Art and Design and loves getting to put that to use in her role at Front Porch. Emma Cantus is a first year intern. She graduated from Cal Poly in 2021 with a degree in Psychology. She is deciding if grad school or ministry is next for her, and is using this year for discernment. Jenna Kitner, also a first year intern, graduated from Cal poly in 2019 in Psychology. Her plans to become a teacher changed and she is excited to give back to Front Porch. All three interns found Front Porch to be a safe place to explore themselves, their spirituality, their relationships and their world while a student and want to create that same safe place for current students. “To create a way of life where every person and every moment matters”.

Susan Updegrove
Front Porch Board

ENDOWMENT IN WHICH WAYS CAN I DONATE TO THE FPC ENDOWMENT

Gifts to the First Presbyterian Church Endowment Fund can be made in diverse ways - from simple cash bequests and memorials, to permanent funds or life income plans, depending on your goals and individual situation. Below are a few of the way to make a gift to the endowment.

CASH is the most common form of charitable giving due to the simplicity and ease of delivery. Cash donations can be made via currency, check, inter-bank transfer or on-line giving.

TRANSFER of securities (stocks, bonds, mutual funds) and **ASSIGNMENT** of Life Insurance Policies and IRAs are also attractive ways to give, often providing greater tax benefits to the donor than a simple gift of cash. For example, transfers of IRA assets can be set up to pay your pledge.

REAL ESTATE provides a unique gift opportunity including avoiding capital gains tax and you can also make a gift of your home and still retain the use of it during your lifetime.

The Church Treasurer can provide written guidelines to assist your making a donation to the church.

If you are currently doing tax or estate planning and/or feel led to include a gift to the First Presbyterian Church of San Luis Obispo in your financial or estate planning, please contact any member of Endowment Committee: Peggy Estes, Don Green, Jerry Kaml, Ray McKelvey, Diane Shervem, Bert Townsend, or Virginia Walter (Chair). If you haven't already done so, please consider inserting one simple statement in our wills: *After all my bills are paid, 10% of my estate will go to First Presbyterian Church of San Luis Obispo.*

Even a modest gift will make a difference.

PEACE & GLOBAL WITNESS OFFERING

PEACE AT ALL TIMES IN ALL WAYS.
2 THESSALONIANS 3:16

On October 3, World Communion Sunday, our church along with Presbyterian Churches nationwide will be receiving the Peace and Global Witness Special Offering. Your donation to this important ministry of the PCUSA will be used in three different ways. One portion will support the work by Presbyterians for peace and reconciliation across the globe, and the second portion will go towards the work of our local Presbytery. The third portion will stay here at First Pres for local mission work in our community, and in past years has been used by the Green Pastures ministry.

You should have received a letter, an informative leaflet, and an offering envelope in the mail. You will also find information in the Sunday bulletin. In these difficult times we are all too aware of the great need for peace and reconciliation worldwide as well as locally. Please prayerfully consider giving to this once a year special offering.

Peacemaking and Social Justice Committee

WELCOME TO SARAH JANE SCOTT



Sarah Jane Scott is a born and raised northern Virginian and is very excited to be a part of the community here at the First Presbyterian Church of SLO. She grew up in the music ministry program at Grace United Methodist Church of Manassas, VA, and began singing in choirs and studying the piano at the age of five. Over the past two decades Sarah Jane has performed in dozens of theater performances and had the opportunity to study drama at the Shakespeare Theater Company in Washington, D.C. She has also had the privilege of participating in choral concerts throughout the Capitol, some of which took place at the Masonic Temple and the National Cathedral.

In addition to her musical background, Sarah Jane has a deep love for education and youth ministry. In Virginia she was granted the opportunities to accompany the youth at her home church on mission trips to Detroit, MI, Pittsburgh, PA, and Yellowstone, WV. Her experience on these trips instilled in her a great love of nature. She hopes to pursue degrees in both Music Education and Agriculture here in the beautiful state of California, and looks forward to continuing her service in ministry here in SLO.

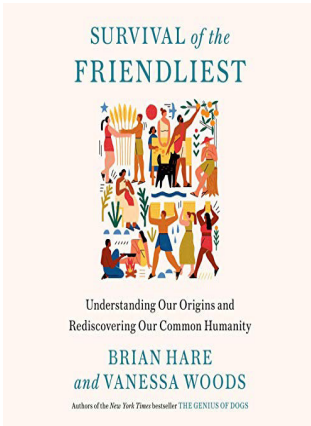
LIBRARY REVIEW

"Survival of the Friendliest" by Brian Hare and Vanessa Woods is a book that has been added to the library and is on the book cart and available for borrowing.

For most of the approximately 300,000 years that Homo sapiens have existed, we have shared the planet with at least four other types of humans. All of these were smart, strong, and inventive. But around 50,000 years ago, Homo sapiens made a cognitive leap that gave us an edge over other species. What happened? Since Charles

Darwin wrote about "evolutionary fitness," the idea of fitness has been confused with physical strength, tactical brilliance, and aggression. In fact, what made us evolutionarily fit was a remarkable kind of friendliness, a virtuosic ability to coordinate and communicate with others that allowed us to achieve all the cultural and technical marvels in human history. Advancing what they call the "self-domestication theory," these authors shed light on the mysterious leap in human cognition that allowed Homo sapiens to thrive.

But this gift for friendliness came at a cost. Just as a mother bear is most dangerous around her cubs, we are at our most dangerous when someone we love is threatened by an "outsider." The threatening outsider is demoted to sub-human, fair game for our worst instincts. Hare's groundbreaking research, developed in close coordination with Richard Wrangham and Michael Tomasello, giants in the field of cognitive evolution, reveals that the same traits that make us the most tolerant species on the planet also make us the cruelest. *Survival of the Friendliest* offers us a new way to look at our cultural as well as cognitive evolution and sends a clear message: In order to survive and even to flourish, we need to expand our definition of who belongs."



GREETINGS FROM YOUR DCE/OFFICE MANAGER

I've been thinking a lot about leadership and what that looks like. Especially for the Church. I've been thinking a lot about the Church as well. And what God's church should look and be like.

If you've been blessed to be put into a leadership position, and really haven't we all, you have been given a huge responsibility. A responsibility that needs to be taken seriously. Leaders come and go, leadership styles come and go. Some work better than others, some not at all. What are we called to demonstrate as leaders of God's Church? What are we called to emulate as followers of Christ?

Two things triggered me to write this article. The Book of Order and a quote I recently read. The Book of Order states,

The Church is the body of Christ. Christ gives to the Church all the gifts necessary to be his body. The Church strives to demonstrate these gifts in its life as a community in the world (1 Cor. 12:27 - 28):

- The Church is to be a community of faith, entrusting itself to God alone, even at the risk of losing its life.
- The Church is to be a community of hope, rejoicing in the sure and certain knowledge that, in Christ, God is making a new creation. This new creation is a new beginning for human life and for all things.
- The Church lives in the present on the strength of that promised new creation.
- The Church is to be community of love, where sin is forgiven, reconciliation is accomplished, and the dividing walls of hostility are torn down.
- The Church is to be a community of witness pointing beyond itself through word and work to the good news of God's transforming grace in Christ Jesus its Lord.

Book of Order 2019-2021 F-1.0301

That pretty much sums it up doesn't it? The quote I recently read says,

“Shallow Christianity will not last in the coming generation, and it will not grow. Cultural Christianity is fading. The Church in the twenty-first century must go big on truth or go home.” Kevin DeYoung

You may be wondering why, from this I decided to write this article? Because these are things I've been thinking a lot about. It occurs to me that if a person wants to be part of the “successful” Church that person needs to be involved. Involvement looks different for everyone. For me I have decided to put myself out there and get involved on a whole new level. This is why I applied to be a delegate for 2022 General Assembly. I am excited for this opportunity and to represent the Santa Barbara Presbytery. I'm excited to learn more about how things work at this level. I'm excited to be involved in something I care deeply about. I look forward to being part of the change of “culture” that needs to happen. I look forward to sharing what I learn and experience with you. Also, I have been elected to be on the Presbytery Personnel Committee. I was honored to be asked and look forward to serving in this capacity. All of this, in no way, will take away from what I've been called to do here, at First Pres SLO. I think it will only enhance what I have been called to do. I am deeply committed to Christian Education - on all levels - and look forward to making that a priority - on all levels. It feels like I have had these opportunities come my way for a good reason. I'm excited about this adventure and look forward to where God is taking me. Thank you for your continued support!"

Jenifer Rabenaldt

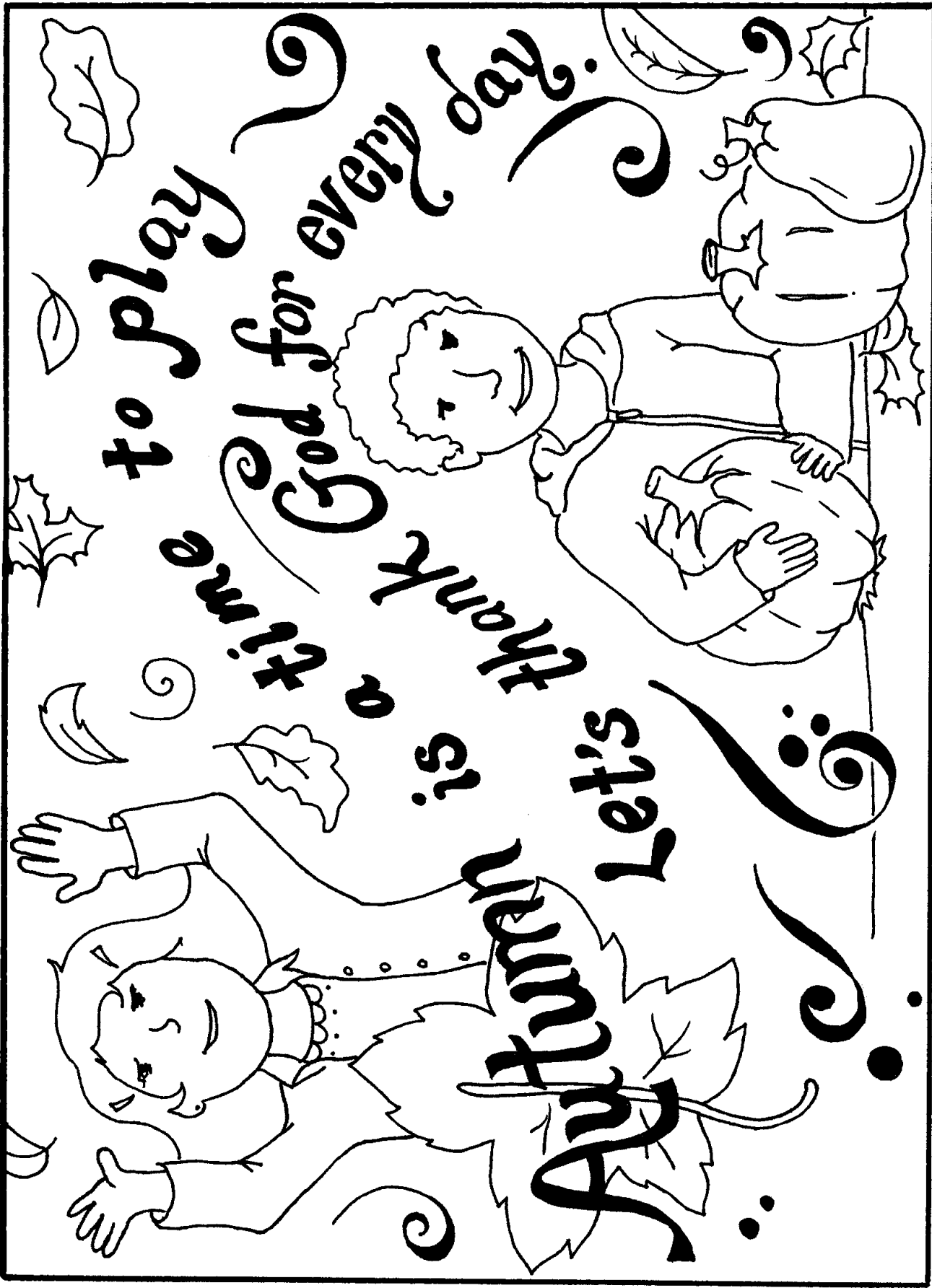
Director of Christian Education

Office Manager

805-543-5451 ext. 105

jen@fpcslo.org





It's time to play
and thank God for every day.

Autuman Let's

Bible Worksheets for Kids

Finish the Verse 1



Add words from the box to finish each Bible verse. All verses are from the New International Version.

1) "In the _____, God created the heavens and the _____." (Genesis 1:1, NIV)

2) "Your Word is a _____ for my feet, a light on my _____." (Psalm 119:105)

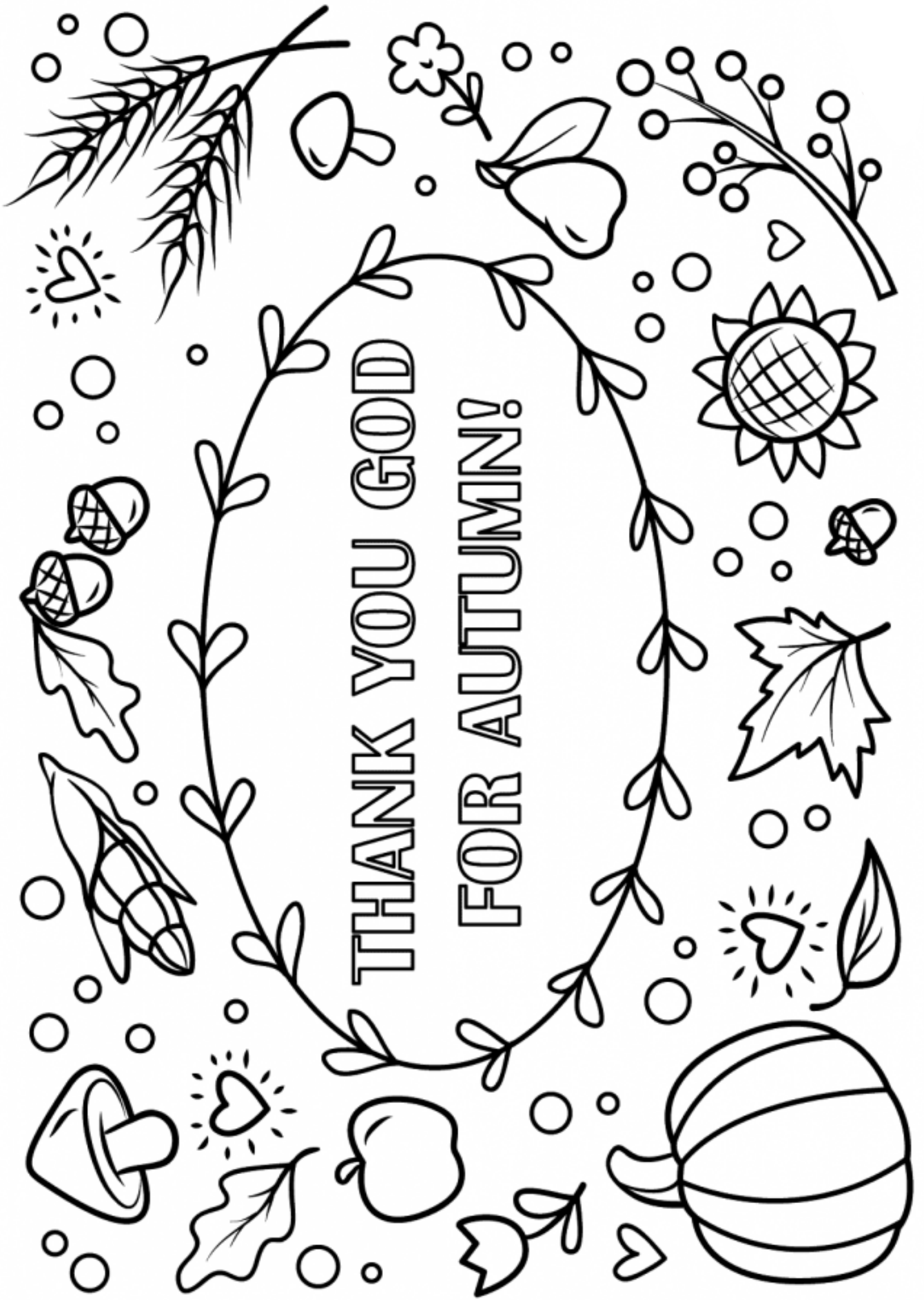
3) "Commit to the Lord whatever you _____, and he will establish your _____." (Proverbs 16:3)

4) "For God so _____ the world that he gave his one and only _____, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal _____." (John 3:16)

5) "For the _____ God gave us does not make us timid, but gives us _____, love and self-discipline." (2 Timothy 1:7)

beginning
do
earth
lamp
life
loved
path
plans
power
Son
Spirit

THANK YOU GOD
FOR AUTUMN!





FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

San Luis Obispo

PO Box 591
981 Marsh Street
San Luis Obispo, CA
93406
tel: 805.543.5451
email: churchoffice@fpcslo.org
web: fpcslo.org

PLEASE NOTE
THE OCTOBER 17 JAZZ VESPERS
HAS BEEN CANCELED