



Thanksgiving Prayer:

God whose giving knows no bounds, your Word teaches us to give thanks in all circumstances. Today we take that instruction to heart in hopes that in so doing we will more readily express our gratitude every day. No matter where we find ourselves – around a smaller table a few loved ones, at work when others are at rest, alone because it is safer—we stop to acknowledge the blessings of this life in the myriad of forms they take. We thank you, Lord of all, for the beauty of the earth and all the resources we enjoy from creation. Make us careful and humble stewards of the planet we

too often neglect and abuse. We thank you, God of mercy, for the abundance of forgiveness extended to us by you and others. Help us to forgive as we have been forgiven, trusting of the unity won for us in Christ. We thank you, Holy Comforter, for the hope of faith that calls us forward. Show us the promised, good future you have for us and grant us the courage to stay on the way when we are afraid and uncertain. We thank you, Triune God, for the gift of community in whatever way it comes to us: by blood or choice, intention or accident, large or small, next door or around the globe. Reveal to us the people you call us to love and be loved by, all of us flawed, beautiful and redeemed through grace. We thank you, Father, Son and Holy Spirit, in all circumstances, for all blessings wrestled and unexpected, complicated and lovely, overflowing and abundant, today and every day. Amen.

This Sunday, November 29, we will be worshipping together virtually; no physical worship in the sanctuary due the rising cases of COVID-19 in Avery County. You will receive an email on Sunday morning with two Zoom links, one with the worship service and a second link with the sermon. If you are not receiving the worship email, please email the church office to sign up: cpcpcusa@gmail.com This is the First Sunday of Advent. The Advent Devotions were mailed out today. If you do not receive one in the next few days, please contact the church office (828-733-1939) and we will send one to you.



Instructions for watching the recorded sermon and service. Click on one of the links provided for recorded service or sermon provided in the Sunday morning email. You will be asked to accept, opt out or view more information about downloading cookies. You will be able to view the recordings regardless of your choice. Click on the arrow to start the video. You can watch the videos on any device that is connected to the internet (smartphones, tablets, computers, etc.)



Thanks to all who prepared and delivered the 34 Thanksgiving Bags and to all who donated the funds to make it possible to include a \$100 Ingles grocery card for each household. We have received many thank you notes already and our members who delivered the bags came back with wonderful stories to share about the joy and gratitude folks expressed. One gentleman had \$11 left and didn't know how he was going to buy groceries; another woman called the church five minutes after she received her Thanksgiving bag and in a tearful voice thanked the church for caring so much. What a special way to celebrate Thanksgiving and to share the blessings God has given us!

Governor Roy Cooper issued a new executive order Nov. 23 tightening mask requirements and extending Phase 3 capacity limits and safety requirements. The order states that everyone needs to wear a mask whenever they are with someone who is not from the same household. The order also adds the mask requirement to several additional settings including any public indoor space even when maintaining 6 feet of distance. Executive Order 180 goes into effect on Wednesday, Nov. 25, and remains in effect through Friday, Dec. 11, unless repealed, replaced or rescinded by another applicable executive order.

What are the major changes under this order?

Under this order:

- A face covering will now be required in all indoor settings if there are non-household members present, regardless of the distance away.
- Under previous executive orders, face coverings were required indoors only if people were within six feet.
- Under this executive order, face coverings continue to be required in public outdoor settings if individuals are unable to maintain six feet of social distance with non-household members.
- In indoor gyms and fitness facilities, face coverings are now required when people are exercising.
- In restaurants, guests are required to wear face coverings at their table unless they are actively eating or drinking.
- Retail business locations with more than 15,000 square feet of interior space must have a worker, at each entrance open to the public, who is responsible for enforcing the executive orders' face covering and emergency maximum occupancy requirements.
- On public transportation, customers may be denied entry if they refuse to wear a face covering.
- The executive order's face covering requirements are now enforceable by law enforcement against individuals.
- Under previous executive orders, face covering requirements were enforceable only against businesses or organizations that failed to enforce the requirement to wear face coverings. Law enforcement continues to have this authority under this Order.

