November 15, 2026 **10:00 AM**

BECOMING LIKE CHRIST *AND* MAKING HIM KNOWN

COME WORSHIP THE LORD!

PREPARATION OF OUR MINDS

"I can safely say, on the authority of all that is revealed in the Word of God, that any man or woman on this earth who is bored and turned off by worship is not ready for heaven."
A.W. Tozer

WELCOME & LIFE OF THE CHURCH

PRELUDE + LIGHTING OF CANDLES: "Lac qui Parle" *(Native American melody)*
C. Callahan

CALL TO WORSHIP, INVOCATION & LORD'S PRAYER (debts)

*** HYMN:** "Brethren, We Have Met To Worship" **Hymnal #474**

*** THE PEACE**

OFFERTORY PRAYER & ANTHEM: "Christ Has No Body Now, But Ours" D. Ogden
The Sherman Church Choir

DOXOLOGY **Hymnal #808**
Praise God from whom all blessings flow;
praise him, all creatures here below;
praise him above, ye heavenly host:
praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost

(Children dismissed for "Jesus is F.U.N." time)

*** OLD TESTAMENT:** Isaiah 43:10-12 **Bible p. 719**

*** NEW TESTAMENT:** Ephesians 6:17-20 **Bible p. 1160**

*** GOSPEL:** Luke 24:44-49 **Bible p. 1048**

BLESSING OF THE OCC BOXES

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE
(Sharing our joys and burdens in prayer.)

*** HYMN:** "Glorify Thy Name" **Hymnal #44**

SERMON: "The Abundant Life: Reclaiming the Clock"

Pastor Greg Flower

*** HYMN:** "In Christ Alone" **Hymnal #181**

*** BENEDICTION and THREEFOLD AMEN**
*(*Congregation, please stand if able.)*

WELCOME TO WORSHIP

We gather to praise God and listen to God's Word. We are a fellowship knit together by Jesus Christ, who has called us and seeks our worship each and every day. We are a people devoted to "Becoming Like Christ." We would love for you to join us in worship, growth groups, prayer, and study as well as fun and fellowship through the year.

LET US KNOW…

… if you have a prayer request or wish to share a comment with church leaders.
… if you are new to The Sherman Church and wish to know more by receiving emails of a visit to answer questions about this ministry.

… BY COMPLETING THE CONNECTION CARD

Available in each pew rack; place it in the offering plate or give it to an usher.
Above all, please…

Come gather for fellowship following our Worship Service

NEXT WEEK: Pastor Greg Flower will be preaching. Continuing the series, Next week's sermon is titled "Fruitfulness" and is based on Colossians 1:6-14. It is the last in this series. Advent starts the following week, the 29th.

Church Responsibilities for November 15, 2026

Flowers: Thanksgiving Committee
Coffee Hour Host: Aimée Suhie
Nursery: Megan Tlasky

Calendar for Nov. 15th-21st

(Links for online meetings may be found at shermanchurch.org)

Sun., Nov. 15	10:00 am	**Sunday Worship Service** **Sunday School**	Nominating Meeting Discipleship Journey:
Wed., Nov. 18	10:00 am 7:00 pm 7:00 pm	**Woman's Bible Study** **Investments** **Alcoholics Anonymous**	Prayer Only: Fellowship Hall Online Fellowship Hall
Thurs., Nov. 19	6:45 pm 7:00 pm	**Prayer In The Parlor** **Alcoholics Anonymous**	Dial 667-770-1484; code 357664#. Fellowship Hall
Fri., Nov. 20	6:30 pm	**Trustees**	Church Office

ABUNDANT

OUR CHURCH:

Pastor:
Greg Flower
Ministers:
The Congregation
Minister of Music:
Penny Rose
Moderator:
Charles Mastroni

You may make a prayer request anytime by contacting the church office at info@shermanchurch.org or (860)-354-6114.
Outside of office hours (9:00 AM – 2:00 PM) or for an emergency prayer or pastoral request contact the Chair of Deacons (deacon@shermanchurch.org or 860-733-9972) or the Pastor (pastor@shermanchurch.org or 860-350-5151). Let us join together in prayer!

OUR MISSIONARIES:

- **Mesa Global**: Robert & Nina Bruneau;
- **CCCC Church Re-Planting:**
  Green Mountain Church, Chester, VT,
- **Lion of Judah Academy,**
- **Hope Academy of the Bronx.**

REMEMBER IN PRAYER

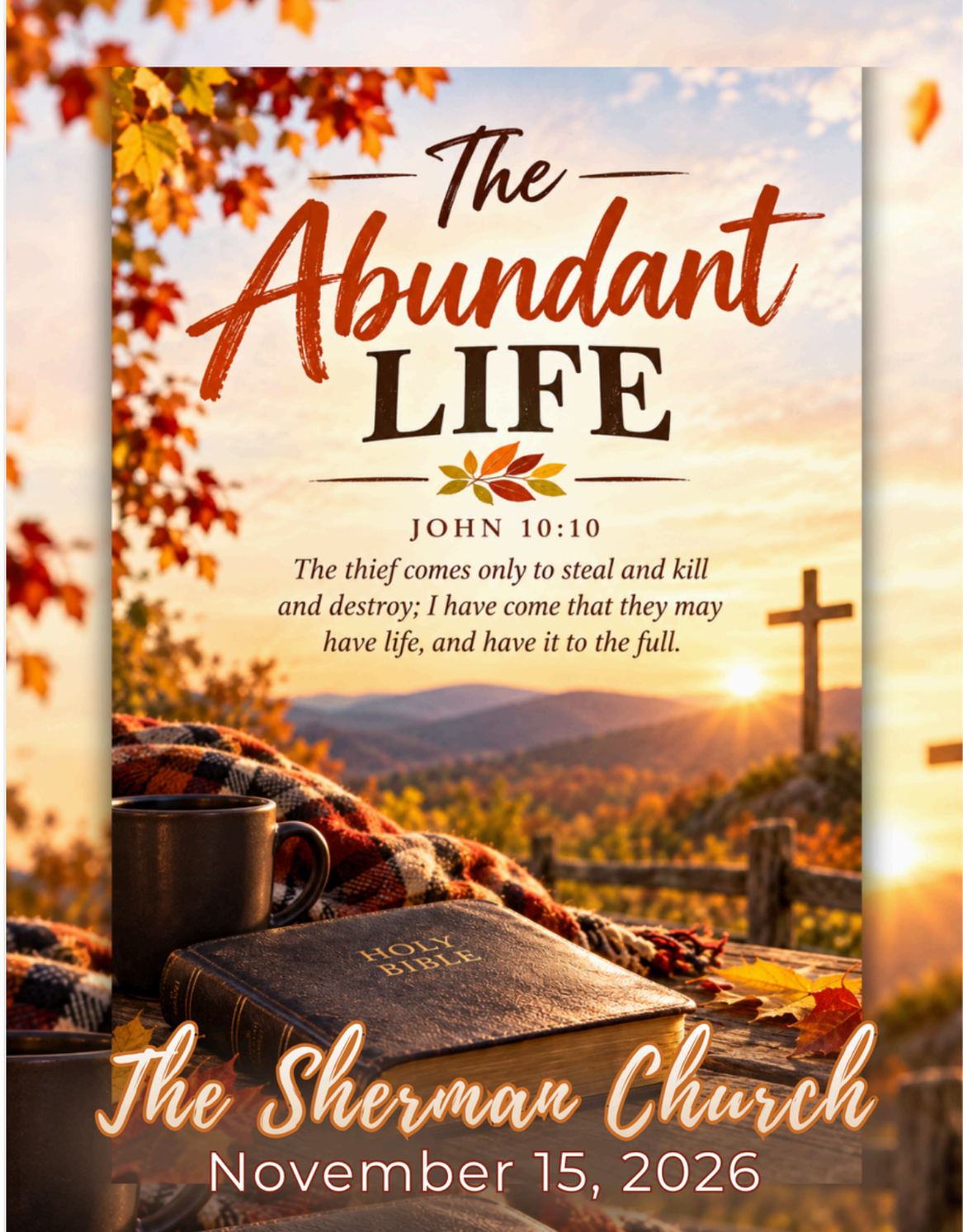
- Eliza Capehart, serving in the United States Air Force.
- John Langworthy, back injury.
- Jim Beddows, health.
- Jim and Christine Munch, health.
- Roberta Judd, health.
- Christopher Siebert, healing of foot.
- Rev. Daniel Morton, health
- Betty Freeman, health
- Chris Freeman, health, strength in the care of her mother
- Debbie Whittaker, Dawn Langworthy's sister. Healing and growing faith.
- Jill Finch, Strength and healing
- Mike Annuzzi, friend of Tim Alemany, healing
- Claire Seibert, health and healing
- Sean McGarry, friend of Caitlin Hicks, heath and healing

PRAYER IS ALWAYS OUR MISSION
Prayer is a vital part of our ministry at The Sherman Church.
You are invited to join in prayer each Thursday to pray for our church. Dial-in information is in the calendar.

FIRE EXITS are located at the rear of the sanctuary through the double doors and at the front through the doors on both sides of the altar.

THE SHERMAN CHURCH
Gathered In 1744
Continuing to invite all to know the love of Jesus

6 Church Road | Sherman, CT 06784
860-354-6114
info@shermanchurch.org | Shermanchurch.org
A MEMBER CHURCH OF THE CONSERVATIVE CONGREGATIONAL CHRISTIAN CONFERENCE



Scouts will be selling wreaths on Nov. 22nd after worship service in Fellowship Hall.

BAKERS NEEDED

CHRISTMAS COOKIE PLATES

Christmas is a time for sharing love and kindness! Once again, the Missions Committee will be preparing Christmas cookie plates for those who are homebound, have experienced a loss this past year, or may be facing illness.

If you know someone who would appreciate a little Christmas cheer, please let the Missions Committee know!

We also need bakers! Cookies should be dropped off by **December 19th**. Please label them clearly and place them in the cooler outside Fellowship Hall or in the kitchen refrigerator.

We will assemble the plates at 9:00 a.m. on **December 20th,** before worship.

Thank you to all our wonderful bakers and volunteers for helping make this annual ministry a special blessing to others!

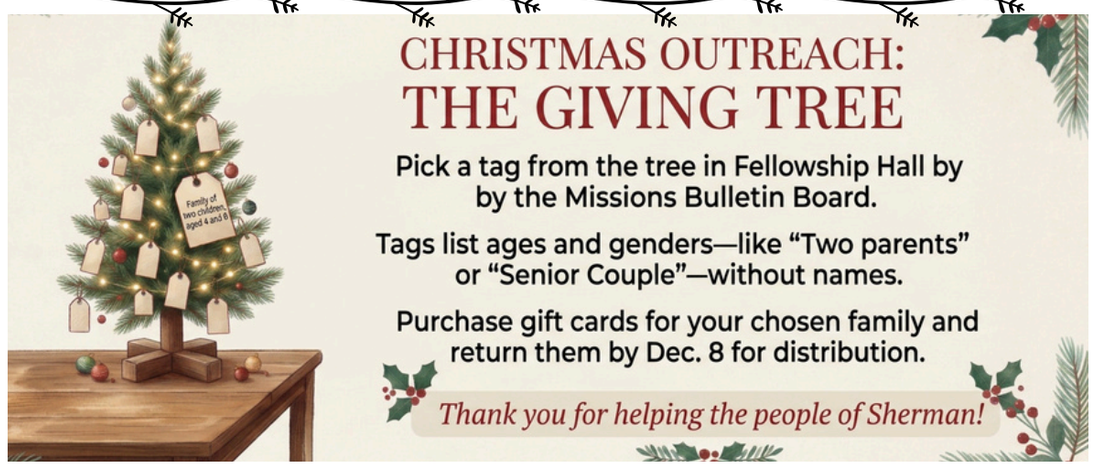
Operation Christmas Child

The Missions Committee will once again join in the Samaritan's Purse Operation Christmas Child shoebox collection, with a choice of both physical boxes and online donations. In November, during the worship service.

The brochures with instructions on how to fill a box, labels for the boxes and requested $10 donation for each box will be available in Fellowship Hall. If you would like to fill a box, we will have sturdy shoeboxes, or use one of your own and decorate it if you can. Please note when you get your brochure what is acceptable and not acceptable; NO SOAP may be included in the boxes due to customs regulations in different countries.

If you opt to donate online, you may choose what items you want Samaritan's Purse to put in your shoebox or you may just ask them to choose items. You may also follow your shoebox online to its destination. If you donate online, please do so through the Sherman Church website so we can track how many boxes were filled online.

The Sherman Church Goal Page
https://gqr.sh/24LS



For Christmas outreach, Lynne will set up a Giving Tree in Fellowship Hall with names such as "Family of two children, aged 4 and 8" or "Two parents" or "Senior Couple,"etc.
Ages and gender will be listed, but not names. Our congregation will be asked to choose a card and then purchase a gift card/cards for the family. The tree will be set up by Nov. 22. Lynne said she hopes to have the gift cards ready for distribution by Dec. 8. She added, "Thank you for helping the people of Sherman."



The Sherman Church

Christmas Pageant

It's time to start preparing for our Annual Christmas Pageant!

There will be a variety of speaking and non-speaking roles, so there is a part for **everyone** who would like to be involved.

Please use the signup and select their **top three** character choices.

Please sign up no later than **Monday, November 23.**

We look forward to having our children come together to celebrate the joy of Christmas!

Sign Up Here: https://forms.gle/A9h1NryDhEqyfxjNA



Kids Cookie Decorating Party

December 23rd • 4:00 PM – 5:30 PM

Sign up by emailing: info@shermanchurch.org

Christmas

Flowers & Memorial Donations

The Flower Committee is joyfully preparing to decorate our church sanctuary and exterior with festive touches for the Christmas season!

Once again, loved ones may be remembered and honored through free-will donations to the Flower Fund, rather than individual plant orders. Donation envelopes will be available in the pews beginning **December 6th**. Simply note the name(s) you wish to remember or honor on the envelope and place it in the offering plate.

All donations will remain confidential, with amounts known only to the church's Financial Secretary.

If you are unable to attend Sunday services, donations may be mailed to the church office. Please clearly mark your gift for the Christmas Flower Fund and include the names for the memorial folder. To be included, donations must be received by **December 22nd**.

All contributions will help fund our Christmas decorations unless otherwise specified.

Contact the church office or speak with Penny LeMasurier, Edna Coons, Lynne Gomez, Carol Voorhees, or Anna Galasso on Sunday morning, if you have any questions.

Want to join in the Christmas decorating fun? Watch for the announcement of our next Flower Committee gathering. All are warmly welcome to share in this joyful ministry!

The Call to Witness
Colossians 4:2-6

Devote yourselves to prayer, being watchful and thankful. And pray for us, too, that God may open a door for our message, so that we may proclaim the mystery of Christ, for which I am in chains. Pray that I may proclaim it clearly, as I should. Be wise in the way you act toward outsiders; make the most of every opportunity. Let your conversation be always full of grace, seasoned with salt, so that you may know how to answer everyone.

Paul's entire life is dedicated to following and proclaiming _____.

He is deliberate and purposeful in how he _____ and in everything he _____.

He wants us to be the _____.

DEVOTED TO PRAYER

Prayer is a one-on-one _____ with God.
This is the confidence we have in approaching God: that if we ask anything according to his will, he hears us. (1 John 5:14)

Paul says we should be _____ to prayer.
Devote yourselves to prayer… (Colossians 4:2)

Devoted is a _____ word.
To give all or a large part of one's time or resources to (a person, activity, or cause):

Paul says we should _____ specifically for opportunities to talk about _____.
And pray for us, too, that God may open a door for our message, so that we may proclaim the mystery of Christ, for which I am in chains. (Colossians 4:3)

MAKING OPPORTUNITIES

People who don't _____ Jesus don't know that they _____ Jesus.
They are darkened in their understanding and separated from the life of God because of the ignorance that is in them due to the hardening of their hearts. (Ephesians 4:18)

Conversations about Jesus don't generally just _____.
He asked them, "What are you discussing together as you walk along?" They stood still, their faces downcast. (Luke 24:17)

We need to be _____ in guiding our conversations to _____ whenever we can.
Let your conversation be always full of grace, seasoned with salt, so that you may know how to answer everyone. (Colossians 4:6)

BE READY

Being ready means knowing what you _____ and why.
Examine yourselves to see whether you are in the faith; test yourselves. Do you not realize that Christ Jesus is in you—unless, of course, you fail the test? (2 Corinthians 13:5)

Once you know what you believe and _____, be able to put it into _____.
But in your hearts revere Christ as Lord. Always be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks you to give the reason for the hope that you have. But do this with gentleness and respect, (1 Peter 3:15)

Once you know _____ you believe and are able to put it into _____, be willing to _____ it.
As you go, proclaim this message: "The kingdom of heaven has come near." (Matthew 10:7)

For I am not ashamed of the gospel, because it is the power of God that brings salvation to everyone who believes: first to the Jew, then to the Gentile. (Romans 1:16)

Making the most of every opportunity to _____ the life changing _____ of Jesus is part of how live out the abundant life Jesus offers.

The Call to Witness
Colossians 4:2-6

Devote yourselves to prayer with an alert mind and a thankful heart. Pray for us, too, that God will give us many opportunities to speak about his mysterious plan concerning Christ. That is why I am here in chains. Pray that I will proclaim this message as clearly as I should. Live wisely among those who are not believers, and make the most of every opportunity. Let your conversation be gracious and attractive so that you will have the right response for everyone.

The word "Devote" is a pretty strong word. It's more than just a passing interest or occasional involvement. When you devote yourself to something it means that you are fully engaged and committed. Paul tells the believers in Colossae (and us) to devote themselves to prayer **(Colossians 4:2).** Prayer is an intimate, one-on-one conversation with the Creator God of the universe. Paul tells us that we should devote ourselves to that practice.

But then Paul gets specific in what they (and we) should be praying for. He asks specifically that the believers pray that God would give them **"many opportunities to speak about His mysterious plan concerning Christ" (Colossians 4:3).** Paul, the person who wrote the majority of the New Testament, is asking for opportunities to speak. He wants them to pray that he will, **"proclaim this message as clearly as I should" (Colossians 4:4).** If the Apostle Paul needs prayer for that, how much more do you and I need those kinds of prayers. The reason He is asking them to pray that way is so that they will be able to, "**Live wisely among those who are not believers, and make the most of every opportunity. Let your conversation be gracious and attractive so that you will have the right response for everyone." (Colossians 4:5-6).** When Paul says, "Make the most of every opportunity", what he means is that when we have an opportunity to talk about Jesus, we should. We should be building our relationships with non-believers to create opportunities to talk about Jesus. To be ready to have the right response for everyone. Everywhere. All the time. It doesn't mean we talk about Jesus all the time. It means that when the opportunity to talk about Him is there, we make the most of that opportunity.

Questions:

What are some things that you are devoted to right now (sports teams, hobbies, etc.)? What does that devotion look like? Do you have that same kind of devotion to prayer? Why or why not?

How consistent and devoted is your prayer life, and in what ways are you depending on God daily rather than relying on your own strength?

Do you actively look for opportunities to share the gospel, and do you pray for God to open doors to speak about Christ with others?

Does your conduct toward unbelievers reflect the love, wisdom, and character of Jesus, making the most of every opportunity to be a faithful witness?

Are my words gracious, truthful, and seasoned with Christlike wisdom, helping me effectively communicate the hope of the gospel to those who ask about my faith?