November 22, 2026 **10:00 AM**

BECOMING LIKE CHRIST *AND* MAKING HIM KNOWN

COME WORSHIP THE LORD!



PREPARATION OF OUR MINDS

Worship is the submission of all our nature to God. It is the quickening of conscience by His holiness, the nourishment of the mind with His truth, the purifying of the imagination of His beauty, the opening of the heart to His love, the surrender of the will to His purpose.
- William Temple

WELCOME & LIFE OF THE CHURCH

PRELUDE + LIGHTING OF CANDLES: "Prelude in F" J.S. Bach

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

*** HYMN:** "For the Fruit of All Creation" **Hymnal #379**

*** THE PEACE**

OFFERTORY PRAYER & ANTHEM: "For the Beauty of the Earth" J. Rutter
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:** Psalm 98:1-3 **Bible p. 592**

*** NEW TESTAMENT:** Colossians 1:6-11 **Bible p. 1165**

*** GOSPEL:** John 15:5-8 **Bible p. 1068**

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

*** HYMN:** "We Gather Together" **Hymnal #376**

SERMON: "The Abundant Life: Fruitfulness" **Pastor Greg Flower**

*** HYMN:** "Sing to the Lord of Harvest" **Hymnal #375**

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

We gather to worship God, grow in faith, and share in fellowship through Jesus Christ. Our mission is "Becoming Like Christ," and we welcome you to join us in worship, prayer, study, and activities throughout the year.

LET US KNOW…

If you have a prayer request or would like to share a comment with church leaders.
If you are new and would like to learn more about The Sherman Church.

COMPLETE A CONNECTION CARD

Cards are available in each pew rack. Place yours in the offering plate or give it to an usher.
Above all, please

Come gather for fellowship following our Worship Service

NEXT WEEK: November 29th is the **First Sunday in Advent.** Pastor Greg Flower will preach "Hope for the Future" from Mark 13:24-37. December 6th is our Children's Christmas Pageant, so Communion Sunday moves up a week to next Sunday, the 29th.

Scouts will be selling wreaths after worship service in Fellowship Hall.

Church Responsibilities for November 22, 2026

Flowers: Thanksgiving Committee
Coffee Hour Host: Penny LeMasurier
Nursery: Kristin Stephens

Calendar for Nov. 22nd - 28th

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

Sun., Nov. 22	10:00 am	**Sunday Worship Service** **Sunday School**	
Wed., Nov. 25	6:30 pm 7:00 pm	**Youth Group** **Alcoholics Anonymous**	Church Office Fellowship Hall
Thurs., Nov. 26 *Thanksgiving Day*	9:00am 7:00 pm	**Thanksgiving Service** **Alcoholics Anonymous**	Come as you are! Fellowship Hall

ABUNDANT

OUR CHURCH:

Pastor:
Greg Flower
Church Secretary
Jessica Jacques
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

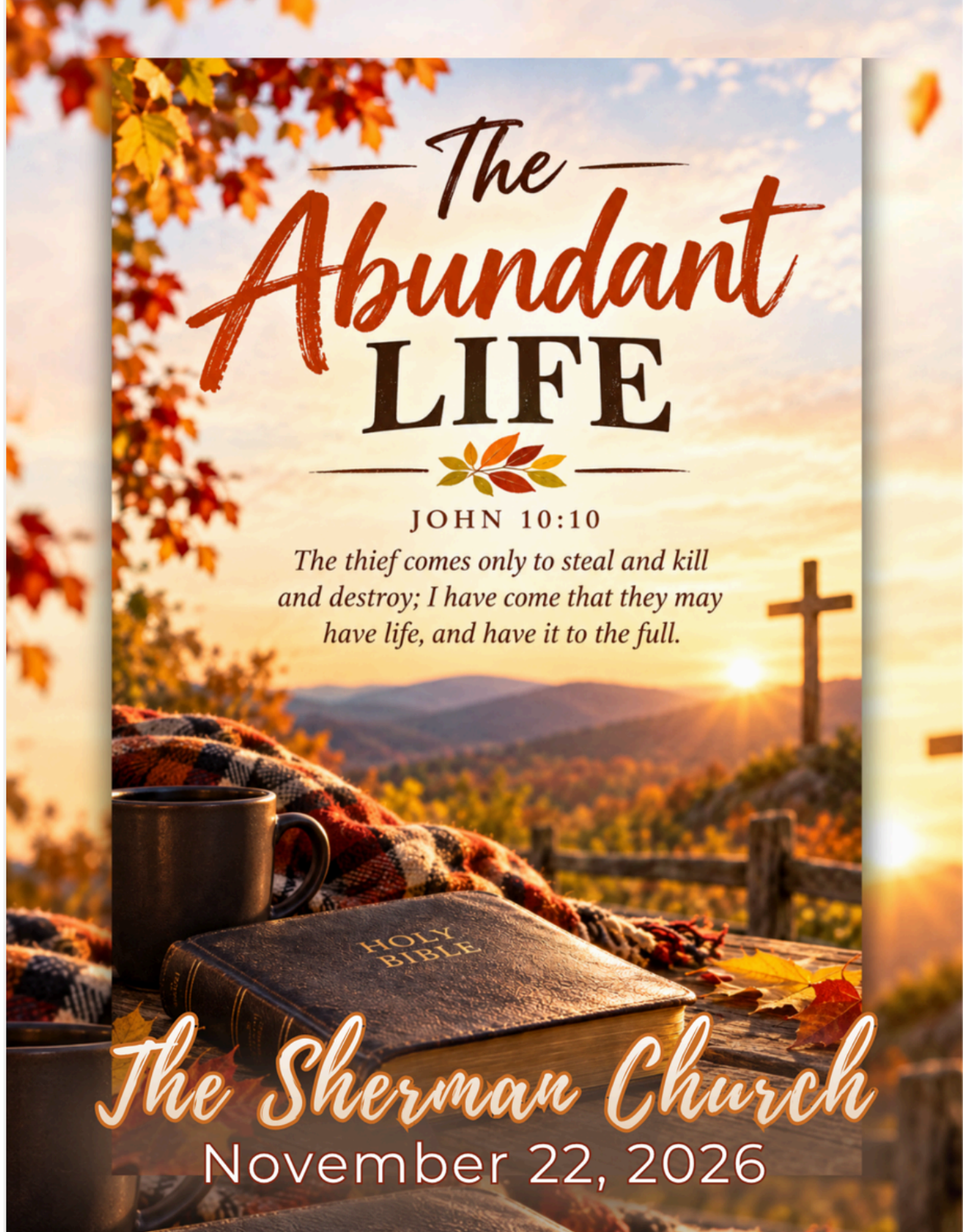
- Eliza Capehart, serving in the United States Air Force.
- John Langworthy, back injury.
- Jim Beddows, health.
- Jim and Christine Munch, health.
- Roberta Judd, health.
- Christopher Siebert, healing of foot.
- Rev. Daniel Morton, health
- Betty Freeman, health
- Chris Freeman, health, strength in 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, health 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



A Non-Turkey Potluck Dinner will take place Monday, Nov. 30, at 6:30pm in the Fellowship Hall. All are welcome.
Please RSVP to the church office at 860-354-6114.

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!

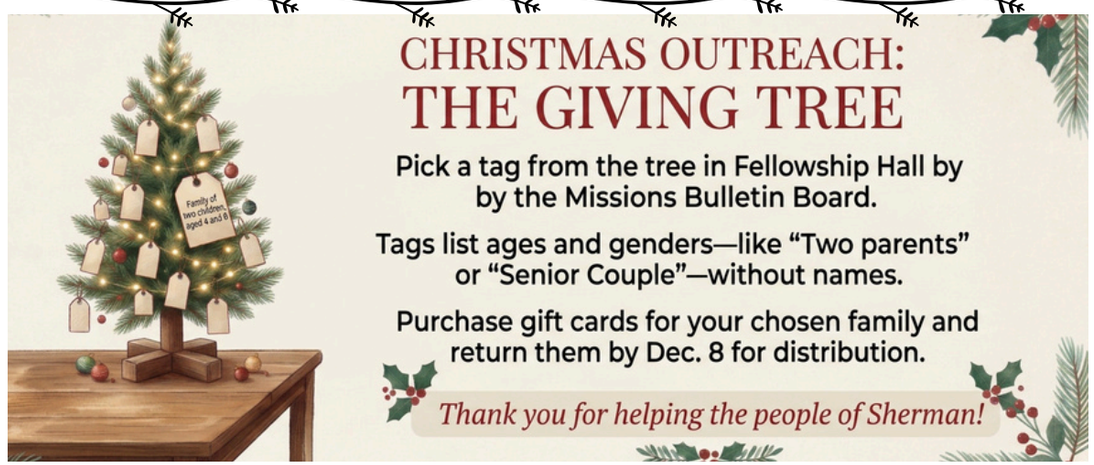
Operation Christmas Child

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

Flower Fund

In Memory and Honor of..

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. 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 your names.
To be included, donations must be received by **December 22nd**.

Contact the church office or speak with Penny LeMasurier, Edna Coons, Lynne Gomez, 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!

Fruitfulness
Colossians 1:6-11

In the same way, the gospel is bearing fruit and growing throughout the whole world—just as it has been doing among you since the day you heard it and truly understood God's grace. You learned it from Epaphras, our dear fellow servant, who is a faithful minister of Christ on our behalf, and who also told us of your love in the Spirit. For this reason, since the day we heard about you, we have not stopped praying for you. We continually ask God to fill you with the knowledge of his will through all the wisdom and understanding that the Spirit gives, so that you may live a life worthy of the Lord and please him in every way: bearing fruit in every good work, growing in the knowledge of God, being strengthened with all power according to his glorious might so that you may have great endurance and patience

The Gospel is the Good News of the _____ of sin by Jesus.

We spread the Gospel because the Gospel _____ lives.

We don't change lives, the _____ does.

Our _____doesn't change lives, the Gospel does.

We _____ God by the way we live, and the way we live will produce _____.

WHAT IS FRUITFULNESS?

"Bearing fruit" often refers to living a life that _____ God.
because we have heard of your faith in Christ Jesus and of the love you have for all God's people—the faith and love that spring from the hope stored up for you in heaven and about which you have already heard in the true message of the gospel that has come to you. In the same way, the gospel is bearing fruit and growing throughout the whole world—just as it has been doing among you since the day you heard it and truly understood God's grace.(Colossians 1:4-6)

But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, forbearance, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control. Against such things there is no law. (Galatians 5:22-23)

Being fruitful can mean using the unique _____ and talents God has given each person for the benefit of _____.
His master replied, "Well done, good and faithful servant! You have been faithful with a few things; I will put you in charge of many things. Come and share your master's happiness!" (Matthew 25:21)

WHY BE FRUITFUL?

We are _____ by God to be fruitful.
For this reason, since the day we heard about you, we have not stopped praying for you. We continually ask God to fill you with the knowledge of his will through all the wisdom and understanding that the Spirit gives, 10 so that you may live a life worthy of the Lord and please him in every way: bearing fruit in every good work, growing in the knowledge of God, (Colossians 1:10)

Jesus promised that those who _____ in him will "bear much fruit".
I am the vine; you are the branches. If you remain in me and I in you, you will bear much fruit; apart from me you can do nothing. (John 15:5)

We glorify God by using our gifts, talents and abilities to _____ the Kingdom of God.
We have different gifts, according to the grace given to each of us. If your gift is prophesying, then prophesy in accordance with your faith; if it is serving, then serve; if it is teaching, then teach; if it is to encourage, then give encouragement; if it is giving, then give generously; if it is to lead, do it diligently; if it is to show mercy, do it cheerfully. (Romans 12:6-8)

HOW TO BE FRUITFUL

Understand that it's not about following a list of _____.
Woe to you, teachers of the law and Pharisees, you hypocrites! You travel over land and sea to win a single convert, and when you have succeeded, you make them twice as much a child of hell as you are. (Matthew 23:15)

Honestly _____ your life.
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)

Confess any _____ in your life and _____.
If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness. (1 John 1:9)

Get rid of any _____that drag you away from your call.
"I have the right to do anything," you say—but not everything is beneficial. "I have the right to do anything"—but I will not be mastered by anything. (1 Corinthians 6:12)

Make a habit of _____ Scripture.
All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness, so that the servant of God may be thoroughly equipped for every good work. (2 Timothy 3:16-17)

Make a habit of _____.
Devote yourselves to prayer, being watchful and thankful. (Colossians 4:2)

Make a habit of _____(Do whatever He tells you).
On the third day a wedding took place at Cana in Galilee. Jesus' mother was there, and Jesus and his disciples had also been invited to the wedding. When the wine was gone, Jesus' mother said to him, "They have no more wine." "Woman, why do you involve me?" Jesus replied. "My hour has not yet come." His mother said to the servants, "Do whatever he tells you."
(John 2:1-5)

Bearing spiritual fruit is part of how we live out the abundant life Jesus offers.

Fruitfulness
Colossians 1:6-11

In the same way, the gospel is bearing fruit and growing throughout the whole world—just as it has been doing among you since the day you heard it and truly understood God's grace. You learned it from Epaphras, our dear fellow servant, who is a faithful minister of Christ on our behalf, and who also told us of your love in the Spirit. For this reason, since the day we heard about you, we have not stopped praying for you. We continually ask God to fill you with the knowledge of his will through all the wisdom and understanding that the Spirit gives, so that you may live a life worthy of the Lord and please him in every way: bearing fruit in every good work, growing in the knowledge of God, being strengthened with all power according to his glorious might so that you may have great endurance and patience.

There are a lot of people who have changed the world. People who have had an idea and unleashed that idea on the world. And sometimes we wish those things had just stayed in the idea phase. Someone had the idea and then created the Snuggie for dogs. Someone invented New Coke. Hair in a Can. Crocs. A person had those ideas and then used their gifts, talents, and abilities to bring to reality things no one wanted.

God does not have bad ideas or plans. Sometimes we don't understand or like his plans, but they are always good. His best plan has always been the salvation of all mankind through faith in Jesus. That is the Good News. Paul tells us in Colossians 1:6 that, "*This same Good News that came to you is going out all over the world. It is bearing fruit everywhere by changing lives, just as it changed your lives from the day you first heard and understood the truth about God's wonderful grace."* That Good News changed my life. Chances are it changed yours as well.

As believers of that Good News, as followers of Jesus, we are called to share that Good News all around the world. That's what Paul is referring to when he says the Gospel is "bearing fruit." We are called to be fruit bearers. We are called to bring the Good News to people everywhere so that they may have their lives changed as well. What will it look like for you to do that?

Questions:

What would you say it means to bear fruit, or to be fruitful?

How did you first hear the Gospel? Who told you about it, and how did they do it?

How is the Gospel bearing fruit in your life today, and what evidence can others see that Christ is transforming you?

Are you growing in the knowledge of God's will through regular study of Scripture and prayer, or have you become spiritually stagnant?

When was the last time you told someone about the Gospel? Who was it and how did you do it?

Does your walk with Jesus please Him in every area of life, or are there areas where you might be resisting His lordship?

What will you need to change or do differently to be more fruitful?