

NOTES FROM CHERYL - NOVEMBER 2026

All Saints Day actually falls on a Sunday this year. What an opportunity to truly celebrate this observance. It is a celebration that lifts up the community of faith, that connects with history, that helps with ongoing grief and the pride we have in those who have gone before. We honor those who sustained the church in powerful ways and who are now no longer visible in our midst. Yet their presence is felt in the rituals, traditions, and environment they helped to shape. When we worship in the space they occupied, we bear witness to their ongoing influence on our lives and the identity of the church.

We bear witness. It's part of our identity. It is both who we are and what we do. As witnesses, we are willing to see. It's easy to avert our eyes and not see the world as it is, not see the suffering of our neighbors, not see the glory of God at work around us in surprising places and through surprising people. We are called to bear witness by looking into the eyes of the hurting, the marginalized, the broken and neglected. We are called to see those who are different than us and might require more effort to see. We open our eyes to the world in all its glory and heartache. To follow Christ, to believe the good news of Christ is to live bearing witness to the world as it is and to hold on to the vision of the world as it could be – to see where the kingdom breaks through.

Of course, then we must share what we have seen. On All Saints Day we can tell stories of those who have gone before, bearing witness to their influence on the community of faith. And we might tell our own story to bring hope to someone struggling with difficulties or decisions.

Where does our community need to witness today? Where are people hurting and struggling? Where are the hidden places our church needs to turn its attention to, the places where good news seems so far away? We notice and proclaim, pay attention and share the story.

Let us give thanks and rest in the peace of being in sacred places where the legacy of past saints is in our midst. What does the witness of our church sound, smell, taste like? What stories have shaped our witness in the past and today? What witness do we want to shape the future?

As we enter November, the month of giving thanks, we praise God for those who came before us. Thanks be to God!

TRUNK OR TREAT

