

Triumph *Newsletter*

NOVEMBER 2025

The Lord's Prayer

The Lord's Prayer is the most famous prayer in history. Online, you can find it written in 1,698 languages and dialects—a remarkable testimony to how far the words of Jesus have reached across the world.

There are moving stories from World War II of Allied soldiers kneeling in prayer with German prisoners they had earlier been trying to kill. The prayer would begin in one language or another—perhaps a frightened American whispering, *“Our Father, who art in heaven,”* or a weary German murmuring, *“Vater unser im Himmel, geheiligt werde dein Name.”* The words were different, but the cadence was familiar and the intent unmistakable. Even in the midst of war, the Lord's Prayer united enemies in a moment of shared faith and hope.

Interestingly, both Matthew and Luke record Jesus teaching this prayer, but in different settings. This suggests that Jesus didn't teach it only once—He shared it many times, helping His followers truly learn how to pray. (Many scholars believe this was true of much of what we call *“The Sermon on the Mount.”*)

Jesus never intended the Lord's Prayer to be a museum piece—something framed and admired from afar. Instead, it is a living, breathing guide that shapes our hearts and aligns our will with God's. That's why at St. Thomas, we pray this prayer every week in worship.



We also invite you to join us for our upcoming sermon series on *The Lord's Prayer*, as we explore together what this powerful prayer teaches us about living faithfully today:

- **November 9, 2025** – *"The Lord's Prayer: A Posture of Faith"* – Matthew 6:7–15
- **November 16, 2025** – *"The Lord's Prayer: The Daily Bread We Need"* – Luke 11:1–13
- **November 23, 2025** – *"The Lord's Prayer: The Joy of Forgiveness"* – Psalm 32

Each message will help us take a deeper look at the words we pray so often, discovering new meaning, fresh inspiration, and practical guidance for our daily walk with God.

Make the Lord's Prayer a part of your daily rhythm of faith. When prayed with sincerity and openness, it not only connects us with God, it has the power to change us and transform the world.

Advent and Christmas at St. Thomas UMC

Join Us for a Season of Hope, Joy, and Celebration!

The Advent and Christmas season is one of the most beautiful times of the year at **St. Thomas United Methodist Church**—a time when our church family gathers to prepare our hearts for the coming of Christ. There are so many meaningful ways for you and your family to participate this year!

We begin our celebrations with the **Hanging of the Greens on Sunday, November 30 at 10:00 AM** (One Combined Service). This special service marks the beginning of Advent as we decorate the sanctuary and learn about the meaning and symbolism behind each part of our holiday adornment.

Throughout the season, we invite you to take part in our **Advent studies on Sunday mornings and**

Wednesday evenings, using the book *Awaiting the Already*. This engaging study will help us experience the story of Christ's birth as told in each of the four Gospels—reminding us that Advent is not just about waiting for Christmas, but preparing our hearts for Christ's presence here and now.

Mark your calendar for our big community event—**"Santa at St. Thomas: Carols, Cocoa, and Cookies"**—on **Saturday, December 13 from 5:00–7:00 PM**. Bring your family and friends for pictures with Santa, joyful carol singing, delicious cocoa and cookies, and a **walk-through Nativity** complete with **live animals, a Shepherds' Meal, and more!** It's a wonderful way to share the joy of Christmas with our neighbors and community.

On **Sunday, December 14**, both worship services will feature our inspiring **Christmas Cantata**, presented by our Chancel Choir and musicians. Then, on **Sunday, December 21**, join us for our **Traditional Worship at 9:00 AM** and the **Children's Christmas Pageant at 11:00 AM**, where our youngest members will tell the story of Jesus' birth in their own special way. That evening, at **7:00 PM**, we will gather for our **Longest Night Service**—a quiet, contemplative service for those who find the holidays difficult or who are simply seeking peace and comfort amid the busyness of the season.

We'll conclude our Advent journey together on **Christmas Eve, Wednesday, December 24**, with two beautiful **Candlelight Services at 7:00 PM and 11:00 PM**. Each service will include **Holy Communion** and the cherished tradition of singing *Silent Night* by candlelight—a radiant reminder that the Light of Christ shines in even the darkest places.

Come and celebrate with us this Advent and Christmas season at **St. Thomas UMC**—a time to worship, learn, serve, and rejoice together in the good news that **Christ is born!**



KITCHEN MINISTRY

ST. THOMAS UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

Hello! Here are the menus for November:

Nov. 4:

Caprese Salad

Balsamic Chicken Sandwiches

Pumpkin Sugar Cookies

Kids: Chicken Nuggets

Nov. 11:

Garden Salad

Swedish Meatballs with Egg Noodles

Coconut Cake

Kids: Hot Dog

Nov. 18:

Thanksgiving Feast

Nov. 25:

No Dinner-enjoy your Thanksgiving!

We are going to ask that you sign up for the Thanksgiving Feast by Nov. 11 so we know how many to plan for. Thanks for your help with this.

We are planning to have the Christmas Day Dinner on a smaller scale this year. We want to celebrate our 25th year and honor the memory of our beloved chef, Frank Priest, who was instrumental in starting this meal. Please look for signups during the month of November and prayerfully consider your part in this gift to the community. Thank you!

Staff Parish Relations Committee

Welcome Samantha!

The Staff Parish Committee is pleased to announce that Samantha (Sam) Spencer will be joining our staff as a part time (ten hours/week) Children and Youth Coordinator. Sam will work with Kristi and our youth/children volunteers in planning and implementing programs. Sam grew up in this church and loves St. Thomas. We are very happy to welcome her to our staff. All positions for youth and children are now filled, which is a blessing, as these are often the hardest positions for a church to find.



Staff Appreciation Month:

November is Staff Appreciation Month. You will receive a letter from the SPRC chair outlining our plans. November 23rd we will have a reception after each church service with cake and coffee in the narthex.



On Friday, October 24th, 29 OWLS met at Great American Buffet for lunch. Everyone enjoyed the buffet and the opportunity to pick and choose what tasty offerings appealed to them most. It is safe to say no one left hungry. In addition to great food, the fellowship was evident from the chatter, laughter, and volume.

DATE CHANGE Because of Thanksgiving, our November lunch outing will be on the 3rd Friday. We will be meeting on November 21 at Montclair Family Restaurant, 17001 Dumfries Rd, Montclair, VA at 1:00 pm. This is a new destination and they are excited that we are coming to them. As usual, please RSVP via Connect Card or by

contacting Marian Ludlow or Lynn Furlong no later than November 18.

December will also be a date change. The OWLS will be meeting on Friday, December 19. The place is yet to be determined. Please check the next newsletter and the church bulletins to find out where we will be going.

We had hoped to go to the train show to support Frank Hale and then have dinner afterward. However, the dates do not align so we will not be going to the train show. However, please plan to go to the train show on your own. The train show will be at the Community Center, the old Marstellar School, December 11-14.



A Senior Christmas

Once again the Missions Council is providing gifts for the permanent residents of Manassas Health and Rehab. We have been doing this for a number of years and it has been very successful. All 118 residents receive gifts. You will find the signup genius on our website under Events. You will see the wish lists here. Choose as many as you like. Please wrap your gifts in gift bags, if possible. Gift bags are easier for the seniors to open. Bring your wrapped gifts to the narthex after our Christmas tree goes up, usually after Thanksgiving. The last day to bring your gifts will be December 14th during church services. They will be delivered on the 15th. If you have any questions or need help, see Cathy Campbell or email sstechur@yahoo.com or 703-346-6439. Thank you for your support. Let's give the Seniors a Merry Christmas!





United Women in Faith

September and October have been very busy with Apple Pies and preparations for our Annual Holiday Bazaar. Final totals aren't in yet, but it was a beautiful day with lots of shoppers enjoying our Crafts, Jewelry, and Good as New shops, then stopping in for lunch and finishing with a treat at the Bake Sale. Our Apple Pies are all sold out, but we do still have White House Ornaments! All of the proceeds will be donated to mission supporting women and children.



White House Ornaments - Still Available!

White House Ornaments are available to purchase for \$25 each in the Church Office. This year, the Official White House Christmas Ornament celebrates the 150th anniversary of State Dinners at the Executive Mansion. The design features the china service from both the Reagan and Clinton administrations.



Christmas Party - Save the Date!

Join us for our Annual Christmas Potluck and Gift Exchange on Friday, Dec 5, at 6:00pm in Room 300. Bring a dish to share and a wrapped gift (under \$25 value). All ladies of the church, and friends, are invited. Transportation provided if needed!

Walking Group

Change of date: this month the Walking Group will meet on Sat, Nov 8 at 9am. We'll meet at the Manassas Battlefield Visitor Center Parking lot and we leave at 9:05am. We don't walk that fast so you can always catch up if you are late. All ladies welcome!

Dorcas Circle

Please join us for a wonderful lesson on a woman of the Bible by Lois Dymond, and an enlightened discussion afterward. We will meet this month on Tues. Nov. 11, at 1:00 in Rooms 300/302. All women are encouraged and welcome to join us. Bring a friend!

Ladies Book Club

The Book Group will be discussing IT CAN'T HAPPEN HERE on November 14th. Sinclair Lewis's book IT CAN'T HAPPEN HERE was written just before WWII and gives Lewis's vision of a takeover of the US by a fascist group. Lewis, winner of the Pulitzer Prize for literature, uses sarcasm and wit to bring his story to life. The Ladies book group meets at 10:30 am in room 304. All are welcome even if you haven't finished reading the book.

Bring a dozen cookies (store bought or homemade) to share to our Christmas party and discussion of SKIPPING CHRISTMAS by John Grisham on December 12.

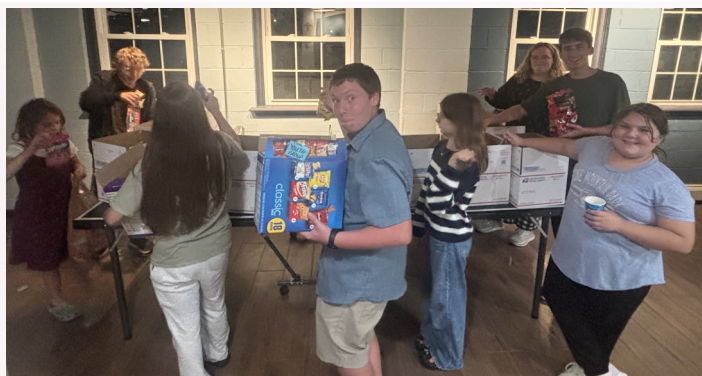


October was an exciting month for The Pack, our youth group. We relaunched our very own Sunday School program led by Samantha Spencer, a former Pack member, and John and Cheryl Rosko who have been faithful leaders of The Pack for many years, even since Sam was a student! This team is an answer to my prayers and I am so thankful for their commitment. The Pack members have been learning a lot and having a great time together.

We had two Pack Nights in October, packing care packages for college students and having our annual Pumpkin Carving Competition. The Pack did a great job preparing the care packages and the students who received them were very happy. Laney Schoch, the reigning champ, took the prize once again for the Pumpkin Carving Competition. We also helped the UWF with pie making for their Apple pie sale. We helped make 32 pies!

November will be a very busy month. The youth will join the Tweens for the Veterans Day dinner on November 9 and Friendsgiving will take place on November 23. Between those Pack Night events, on November 14, the Youth will travel to a weekend retreat near Richmond hosted by the Virginia Conference of the UMC. We will miss our church family that weekend but we hope it will be a fulfilling experience for all! Due to the retreat, there will be no Pack AM Sunday School on November 16.

The Pack will also be part of our service and Advent Wreath Making Workshop on November 30 at 11am. This is a whole church event, so please sign up and join us!





October has wrapped up successfully, closing with Trunk or Treat. We had 95 volunteers assisting the 678 kids and their families who came to visit us. The event was so much fun and it was a testament to how well our church can work as a team to pull off spectacular things.

In October, the Tween helped the UWF make 32 apple pies, helped at the bake sale, and hosted our Halloween party. We did some service for our church AND had lots of fun!

November will bring our 4th annual Veteran's Day Dinner on the 9th. If you are a Veteran please sign up to attend. Families are welcome and Veterans will be invited to share their experience only if they want to do so. 3rd-12th grade students are welcome to attend the dinner with the Veterans.

November will wrap up by kicking off the Advent season with The Advent Table: Wreaths & Refreshments. All are welcome to sign up. Each household will make a fresh Advent wreath complete with candles and a light lunch/brunch will be served.

We will also begin the Sunday School series Joy Story. Joy Story is a five-week Christmas teaching series from Grow Curriculum that uses the theme of toys to teach children that Jesus is God's greatest gift and the source of true, lasting joy. The series covers the Nativity story from the Gospels and teaches kids about the joy that Jesus's birth brought into the world.

We are looking forward to spending the Christmas season together!



Trunk or Treat with Lilo and Stitch



8899 Sudley Road, Manassas, VA 20110

Rev. Matt Sergent, Senior Pastor

stthomasumc.org

703-368-5161

Newsletter Deadline:

15th of the month

Please email all articles to both:

samantha.bouquet@stthomasumc.org

receptionist@stthomasumc.org

Upcoming Events

- | | |
|-----------|--|
| Nov 2 | DAYLIGHT SAVINGS TIME ENDS
Worship Services at 9am and 11am |
| Nov 8 | UWF Walking Group Battlefield Visitors Center |
| Nov 9 | Veteran's Day Dinner Fellowship Hall 5:00pm |
| Nov 11 | Dorcas Circle 1pm |
| Nov 14 | Ladies Book Club Room 304 at 10:30am |
| Nov 18 | Tuesday Night Dinner Thanksgiving Feast |
| Nov 23 | PACK Friendsgiving Youth Building 6:00pm |
| Nov 27-28 | CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED FOR THANKSGIVING |
| Nov 30 | Hanging of the Greens Worship Service 10am
The Advent Table: Wreaths & Refreshments |

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	November Birthdays					1
2 Jane Amstutz Hank Heuser	3	4	5 Sandy Bryan	6 Debbie Barnard	7	8
9	10	11 Daniel Ometz	12	13 Alicia Hamilton	14 Janel Weed	15 Comfort Adjei Melanie McAndrews
16	17	18 Jill Guice	19	20	21 Roxanne Sutton	22 Theresa Thompson Jeff Thornton
23	24 Lee Becker	25	26 Brenda Farrar	27 Karen King	28 Jeff Barlow Cindy Enke	29
30						