



Palmyra First United Methodist Church

Tower Tidings

November 2026



My Cup Has Overflowed

By John Paul Moore

I'VE NEVER MADE A FORTUNE,
AND IT'S PROBABLY TOO LATE NOW;
BUT I DON'T WORRY ABOUT THAT MUCH,
I'M HAPPY ANYHOW.

AND AS I GO ALONG LIFE'S WAY,
I'M REAPING BETTER THAN I SOWED;
I'M DRINKING FROM MY SAUCER,
'CAUSE MY CUP HAS OVERFLOWED.

HAVEN'T GOT A LOT OF RICHES,
AND SOMETIMES THE GOING'S TOUGH;
BUT I'VE GOT LOVING ONES ALL AROUND ME,
AND THAT MAKES ME RICH ENOUGH.

I THANK GOD FOR HIS BLESSINGS,
AND THE MERCIES HE'S BESTOWED;
I'M DRINKING FROM MY SAUCER,
'CAUSE MY CUP HAS OVERFLOWED.

I REMEMBER TIMES WHEN THINGS WENT WRONG,
MY FAITH WORE SOMEWHAT THIN;
BUT ALL AT ONCE THE DARK CLOUDS BROKE,
AND THE SUN PEEPED THROUGH AGAIN.

SO, LORD, HELP ME NOT TO GRIPE,
ABOUT THE TOUGH ROWS I HAVE HOED;
I'M DRINKING FROM MY SAUCER,
'CAUSE MY CUP HAS OVERFLOWED.

IF GOD GIVES ME STRENGTH AND COURAGE
WHEN THE WAY GROWS STEEP AND ROUGH,
I'LL NOT ASK FOR OTHER BLESSINGS,
I'M ALREADY BLESSED ENOUGH.

AND MAY I NEVER BE TOO BUSY,
TO HELP OTHERS BEAR THEIR LOADS;
THEN I'LL KEEP DRINKING FROM THE SAUCER,
'CAUSE MY CUP HAS OVERFLOWED.



Finally, the long season of Kingdomtide will end in November, causing a change in the color of the paraments several times during the month. The first Sunday is All Saints' Day, so we celebrate resurrection with white altar cloths. The next two weeks will be green for the growth season of Kingdomtide, then on the 22nd we return to white as we celebrate "Christ the King Sunday." Finally, for Advent, which begins on the 29th, we begin using purple, the royal color, as we prepare for the arrival of the King of Kings, Lord of Lords, or the one we know as Jesus.

Our worship themes for November and early December are as follows:

November 1st – All Saints' Day: Who are the saints? And no, I am not referring to a Louisiana-based football team. Who are the Saints of God? Is sainthood some unattainable level of perfection, or is it a status God wants all of us to achieve? Using Deuteronomy 34:1-12 and Acts 10:34-43, we will explore the meaning of "The Saints of God".

November 8th: On Monday and Thursday nights, pickleball players take their places on the court. Before the first games are played, there is a bit of warm-up. The ball is hit back and forth with no score being kept because we are just getting ready. Eventually someone will ask, "Are You Ready?" When the others say, "Yes," the game begins. Apparently, God does not ask, "Are You Ready," but expects us to always be ready. Our message, "Are You Ready," will be based on Joshua 24:1-3a, 14-25 and Matthew 25:1-13.

At our 10:30 AM service, the children of our *Noah's Little Ark Christian Preschool* will provide some special music.

November 15th: When I was in retail management, one of the dreaded annual tasks was the inventory. Every piece of merchandise needed to be counted. Nothing was too small or too large to be overlooked. While no one looked forward to the job, you could not properly calculate the profit or loss without an accurate inventory. An inventory is also critical to our spiritual lives. What talents has God given to you, and what are you doing with those talents? No talent is too big or too small to be overlooked. Our message will be "Hidden Treasure," based on Matthew 25:14-30.

November 22nd – Christ the King Sunday: We often think of Jesus as the one who is always forgiving, always offering second chances (for the 34th time!). But are there limits? Is God the righteous judge? Will there be a day of reckoning? After we read from Ezekiel 34:11-16, 20-24 and Matthew 25:35-46, we will consider the reality of "The Day of Judgement."

November 24th (Tuesday Evening) – Thanksgiving Service: Once again, we will gather with our sister churches to celebrate God's goodness and give thanks for all our blessings. This year, the service will be held at Gravel Hill UMC with Dave Williams bringing the message.

Note: We are worshiping on Tuesday evening, not Wednesday, to allow time for Thanksgiving meal preparations and travel time for those visiting family and friends who are at a distance.

November 29th - The First Sunday of Advent: This year our Advent theme will be "Preparing for the End." On this first Sunday, we will read from Isaiah 64:1-9 and Mark 13:24-37 as we consider the reality that "Our End Will Come."

December 6th – The Second Sunday of Advent: We continue our theme of "Preparing for the End" with a message based on both Isaiah 40:1-11 and Mark 1:1-8, which will ask us to consider "Have you Prepared?" We will, of course, also be celebrating the sacrament of Holy Communion as we do each first Sunday of the month.

Small Group Studies

The Blessed Misfits

The Wednesday night *Blessed* group continues to meet in the South Wing and via Zoom at 6:30 PM with only an occasional week off. The group uses short-term studies, so you can join the group for just a few weeks if you would like. If you want to join, please contact Pastor Jim so he can add you to the email list and get you any material you may need for the study. The Zoom link is sent each week, so it is easy to find if needed.

For November, we will be looking at a few of the Psalms for a better understanding of this long, but often overlooked, book of the Bible. There will be no book to read, other than the Bible itself. For Advent, we will be using a book by Matthew Skinner called *Voices of Advent*.

Sunday with the Wired Word

What should a Christian think about the news of the day? *The Wired Word* discusses the news from a biblical perspective. The group meets in Fellowship Hall on Sunday mornings at 10:30 AM. Lessons are emailed to participants on the Thursday before Sunday to give you a chance to think ahead. The material provides background information, links to the relevant stories, and ideas as to how some Christians are reacting.

Feel free to check out the group any Sunday morning at 10:30 AM. Better yet, let Lee Smedley know you are interested so he can add you to his distribution list, giving you a heads-up on the topic of the week. Because the topic changes each week, this is an ideal study for those who can't commit to a weekly study.

Blessing of the Animals

Thanks to all who made our 2026 *Blessing of the Animals* successful. There were about 20 dogs. In addition, we raised over \$120 for the Humane Society through the sales of dog treats provided by the women of the church. The chicken barbecue raised a bit over \$300.

The next *Blessing of the Animals* will be held October 2, 2027 – the first Saturday in October.

Thank You!

I would like to thank everyone for the cards, prayers, and kind words after the passing of my sister. Your thoughtfulness is greatly appreciated at this difficult time.

Diane Weaber



Rise Against Hunger

Our *Rise Against Hunger* event is **Saturday, November 7th, at 9:00 AM**, when we will pack more than 15,000 meals to be distributed worldwide to those with food insecurity. We need 50-60 volunteers to make this happen. Sign-up sheets are at the Welcome Desk.

Election Day

Election Day is **Tuesday, November 3rd**; therefore, pickleball will be canceled Monday and Tuesday, November 1st and 2nd, and *Awakenings* will be canceled on Tuesday, November 3rd. We will also be selling hot dogs and baked goods, so look for sign-up sheets at the Welcome Desk if you're interested in helping. All proceeds will benefit the *Missions*.

Blood Drive

Our next blood drive is **Saturday, November 14th, from 8:00 AM - 4:00 PM** and will be located in the Fellowship Hall. Each donor will receive a \$15 Entrée certificate to The *Texas Roadhouse* in Palmyra and 2 FREE tickets to *The Comedy Zone*. An appointment is recommended, but not required to donate. Please visit the *Central PA Blood Bank* to schedule a donation at 717giveblood.org or call 1-800-771-0059.

Christmas Decorating

Do you have any plans for **Friday, November 27th**? Come help decorate *First Church* for the Advent season. We will meet at 9:00 AM. Enjoy some coffee and donuts, and finish by lunch. If you would like to help, let Judy Delvernois know at 717-215-1269. A sign-up sheet will be in the *Fellowship Hall*. Thank you to all the church volunteers!

Angel Tree Project

Our annual "Angel Tree" project has begun. 40 Angels will be available in the Narthex. Bring the present, unwrapped with the angel attached, to church no later than **Tuesday, December 1st**. We encourage you to share the joy of the Christmas season with less fortunate boys and girls in our community by participating in our "Angel Tree" project. Contact Judy Delvernois with any questions.

It's Time for Poinsettia Orders

November is the time to order your Poinsettia plants for Christmas 2026! The order deadline is **November 23rd**. We have 5+ blooms available in red or marble. The cost per plant is \$12, and they may be picked up after the 7:00 PM Christmas Eve church service. Cash or checks are accepted. Checks can be made payable to *Palmyra First UMC* and marked as "Christmas Poinsettias." Order forms are available in the Fellowship Hall. Please hand in your order forms and payment to the church office or place them in the black box at the Welcome Desk.

HUB News

Our next HUB packing event is on **November 17th at 6:30 PM** in the Fellowship Hall. For the month of November, we are in need of scrub brushes (for floors, not dishes; no toilet brushes).

Discovery Dunes November 2026

We will be learning about Jacob and Esau this month. We will also be learning about being thankful in this month of Thanksgiving.

The following are the lessons in November:

November 1: Jacob and Esau - Genesis 25:19-28 November 15: The Blessing - Genesis 27:1-46

November 8: The Birthright - Genesis 25:29-34 November 22: Jacob's Ladder - Genesis 28:10-22

There will be no *Discovery Dunes* Thanksgiving weekend on November 29th to allow the staff time to visit with family. We can always use some new helpers and teachers. We have a skeleton crew right now. Any help (once a month, once every two months, etc.) would be appreciated! Thank you!

Sincerely,

The Discovery Dunes staff

