THE CHURCH GATHERS

Pre-Service Music Allegro moderato from Poetic Tone-Pictures Edvard Greig

Call to Worship

Loving God, the saints through all the ages praise you.
Your glory shines. Alleluia!
The saints in our lives have borne witness to your grace.
Your mercy raises us to new life. Alleluia!
Fill us with your spirit, that we may be your saints, shining with your light in the darkness.
Your love shines in us; and we praise you and serve you. Alleluia!

Hymn For All the Saints UMH #711

Prayer of Confession

The Lord be with you.
And also with you.
We join our hearts together as one to speak aloud our need for God and God's grace:
God of all the saints, we give thanks for those whose faithful lives have shown us how to hope. And we confess the times we surrender to despair, carry our struggles alone, or forget the great multitude surrounding us. Forgive us when we fail to offer courage, comfort, and hope to others. Shepherd us again toward your presence and promises, and renew in us your hopeful Spirit.

silence for prayer

Words of Assurance

God's grace gathers us into the great communion of saints and leads us to springs of living water.
God's mercy meets us in every hardship, wipes away our tears, and renews our hope.
In the name of Jesus Christ, we are forgiven!
In the name of Jesus Christ, we are forgiven! Thanks be to God! Alleluia! Amen.

TO HEAR THE WORD AND REFLECT

Music Ministry We Come to Thee Valerie Showers Crescenz

Children's Time Where Children Belong TFWS #2233

SHARING IN WORSHIP TODAY

Acolytes - Nuri Francis, Sydney Maxam
Liturgists - Amy Gardner, Anna Griffiths, Andrew Aryeetey
Musicians - Intergenerational Choir, Julia Hanna
Ushers - Lou Davelman, Reggie Cann, Momo Wolapaye, Paul Manulik, Phil Doren

TODAY'S FLOWERS ARE GIVEN

ON BEHALF OF LOVE LIVES ON, DEDICATED TO THE BLESSED MEMORY OF ALL OUR DEPARTED LOVED ONES

BY LAVERNA ALBURY

Scripture Reading Revelation 7:9-17 (p. 235)
This is the Word of Life. **Thanks be to God.**

Sermon "The Ones With Hope" Christina Lelache

TO RESPOND IN FAITH

Prayers of the People

Offertory "Forlana" from Five Bagatelles for Clarinet and Piano
Scott Collins, Clarinet; Julia Hanna, Piano

Holy Communion UMH #13

The Lord's Prayer

Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. And forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us. Lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil, for yours is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory forever. Amen.

Prayer After Receiving

Eternal God, we give you thanks for this holy mystery in which you have given yourself to us. Grant that we may go into the world in the strength of your Spirit, to give ourselves for others, in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

AND SCATTERS TO BE IN THE WORLD

Hymn Shall We Gather at the River UMH #723

Benediction

Postlude When the Saints Go Marching In
Scott Collins, Clarinet; Julia Hanna, Piano

PRAYER CONCERNS

Prayers for all giving and receiving hospice care. May strength, calm, compassion, and rest be available to them.
Prayers for all who are participating in our democratic process this week: voting, driving people to the polls, talking to family, friends, and neighbors about the issues that matter to them.

HAVE PRAYER CONCERNS?

For our Prayer Chain, call Yvonne Macdonald at 609-577-8369 or email her at yvonnee.mac@verizon.net. Email Tyler at tyler@princetonumc.org when you or a family member is in the hospital or in need of a pastoral call.

WELCOME TO

Princeton United Methodist Church

We are a diverse faith community,
engaged in enlivening spiritually thirsty people
to joyfully respond to God's love
and grow as disciples of Christ,
so that together we may experience the fullness of life.

SCAN TO CONNECT WITH US!

ANNOUNCEMENTS

SPECIAL COMMUNION OFFERING

PUMC's November Communion Offering will support scholarships for United Methodist students pursuing undergraduate and graduate degrees. United Methodist Student Day, celebrates the value of education to our denomination. Our offerings will support learning and spiritual development of future church leaders worldwide.

BAGS OF BLESSINGS

We will once again sponsor Bags of Blessings, a Food Drive supporting the hungry in our community served by Arm in Arm. Please bring your non-perishable food to the Sanford Davis room on Nov. 8, 15, and 22.

STAFF

Pastor - Rev. Jenny Smith Walz
Administrative Director - Tyler Mathiasen
Director of Youth Ministry - Brooke Foster
Director of Children's Ministry - Blessing Gwatana
Music Director - Tom Shelton
Director of Communications - Abby Gillette
Church Sexton - Gilmar Enamorado
Custodial Staff - Santos Gonzales, Mario Villatoro

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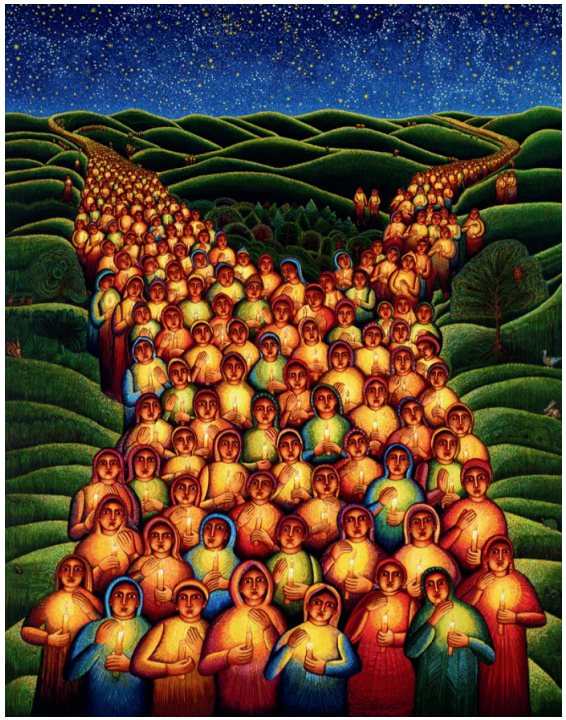
CHURCH CALENDAR

www.princetonumc.org/calendar

NOVEMBER 1, 2026

ALL SAINTS SUNDAY



Festival of Lights
by John August Swanson

PRINCETON
UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
7 Vandeventer Ave., Princeton, NJ, 08542
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Reading Revelation with Hope:

a brief guide for approaching a challenging book

Revelation is filled with beasts, angels, plagues, songs, numbers, worship, violence, and visions of creation made new. It can feel unfamiliar or frightening. These guideposts can help us read it with greater confidence and care.

Begin With What Revelation Is

- An apocalypse. The Greek word means an unveiling or revelation. The book uses vivid visions to disclose what ordinary sight can miss about power, suffering, worship, and God's purposes.
- A prophecy. Revelation speaks God's truth into its own time and calls communities to faithful response. Prophecy is more than prediction.
- A pastoral letter. John writes to seven real churches in Asia Minor facing pressures from Roman imperial society and from within their own communities.

Carry These Guideposts

1. Look for symbols, not secret codes. Images and numbers evoke Scripture, worship, politics, and shared cultural knowledge. They are meant to shape imagination, not supply a timetable.
2. Remember the first hearers. Whatever Revelation means for us must be connected to something it could have communicated to its original churches.
3. Read with the whole Bible. Revelation constantly echoes Genesis, Exodus, the Psalms, Isaiah, Ezekiel, Daniel, and other biblical texts, often without announcing the quotation.
4. Watch the contrast between the beast and the Lamb. Revelation exposes power built on violence, deception, exploitation, and coerced allegiance. Jesus conquers as the slain and living Lamb, through faithful witness and self-giving love.
5. Resist the urge to identify every image with one contemporary person or event. Revelation helps communities recognize recurring patterns of domination and discern how to follow Christ within them.
6. Keep reading to the end. The book's destination is not escape from creation. The holy city comes down; God dwells among humanity; creation is healed; and the leaves of the tree are for the healing of the nations.

Questions to Ask as You Read

- What does this passage reveal about God, Jesus, worship, power, or faithful witness?
- What destructive pattern is being exposed? What alternative does the Lamb reveal?
- What hope does this vision offer to a community under pressure?
- How might this passage reshape what we notice, trust, resist, or practice now?

For Further Exploration

BibleProject, "Book of Revelation Guide" and other videos
https://bibleproject.com/guides/book-of-revelation/
Robyn J. Whitaker, Revelation for Normal People A short, accessible introduction.
Scot McKnight with Cody Matchett, Revelation for the Rest of Us A discipleship-centered exploration of faithful witness amid worldly powers.

PUMC All Saints' Sunday 2026

Rick Engel
PUMC Member

Richard Gordon
PUMC Member

Jane Wilson
PUMC Member

Felix Ode Adoga
Father of Blessing Gwatana

Sunday Adoga
Uncle of Blessing Gwatana

Janice Davelman
Sister of Lou Davelman

Madeleine Mezazem
Mother-In-Law to
Nkechi Mezazem

Billie Carroll
Relative of Nancy Ranieri

Elizabeth Blazer
Relative of Nancy Ranieri

Betsy Carstensen
Mother of Chip Carstensen

Lt. Col. Anthony Abdullai Ibrahim
Father of Abu Ibrahim

Jill Marie Ostberg
Stepdaughter of Pat Ostberg

Rev. Dick Bowyer
Brother of Kay Houston

Richard Cunningham
Friend of the Wolopaye Family

Gyude Bedell
Friend of the Wolopaye Family

Charlotte Bedell
Friend of the Wolopaye Family

Wayne Smith
Friend of the Wolopaye Family

Marlon Negassa
Friend of the Wolopaye Family

Euphemia Brown
Friend of the Wolopaye Family

Louise Miller
Friend of the Wolopaye Family

Priscilla Payne
Friend of the Wolopaye Family

Jackson Selly
Friend of the Wolopaye Family

George Subah
Friend of the Wolopaye Family

Quaqua Subah
Friend of the Wolopaye Family

Marie Scott
Friend of the Wolopaye Family