

What Is All Saints Day?

All Saints Day, also known as All Hallows' Day, is a Christian holiday that is observed on November 1st in Western Christianity. It is a Christian memorial day celebrating all church saints, whether known or unknown, long passed or recently passed away, and whether martyred or not. It is, then, a day set aside to honor all those who trusted in Christ alone to save them and who strove to live to His glory. All Saints' Day is part of a broader tradition that includes All Hallows' Eve (Hallowe'en) on October 31st and All Souls' Day on November 2nd.

The Origins of All Saints Day

The origin of All Saints' Day can be traced back to the early Christian Church when it was established as a day to remember and celebrate the martyrs who had died for their faith. Over time, the scope of the holiday expanded to include all faithful Christians who lived virtuous lives.

Pope Gregory III (731-741) is often credited with establishing November 1 as the date for All Saints' Day. This date was chosen to coincide with the dedication of a chapel in St. Peter's Basilica in Rome to "All the Saints." It was an attempt to unify the various local celebrations of saints' feast days and set a universal date for honoring all the saints.

In Methodist tradition, the Beatitudes are read during worship. In Latin communities, many visit the grave sites of loved ones and relatives to pay tribute. There, or at home, families will often have a feast which will include the deceased's favorite foods. In Italy, on All Saints Day, bread is baked and shared among loved ones.

All Saints Day at Pocahontas

Sunday, November 1 is always the date of All Saints Day. Protestant denominations generally celebrate it on the Sunday before Nov. 1, if it doesn't fall on Nov. 1. Each year we especially remember the **first saints** (those in the Bible), the **saints in Christian history** (Heb.11), and our own **PBBC saints who have gone to be with the Lord in the past year**. We also remember **our personal saints** who passed at some point in the near or distant past; who were powerful examples of the faith to us. **Lastly, we remember that because of Christ's life united with our own, we who are alive are also saints.** Many times the apostle Paul addressed his letters to the believers in various cities as "saints".

We at PBBC remember all of our deceased saints, in part, with the use of a beautiful red banner which has the words "For All the Saints" embroidered on it. The banner will be in our church foyer for the month of October and everyone is invited, any time you are at church, to fill out a dedication card with the name(s) of your deceased loved ones on it and to pin a bell or bells on the banner in their memory. We will also use the cards to create a worship guide insert which will contain all of the names. As for the banner, you may pin as many bells on it as the number of names on your card, *or less*. Prior to the service, we will make sure that all names are represented on the banner by a bell. During the service, the banner will be brought forward in silence, followed by the singing of the hymn "For All the Saints." From there, we will continue remembering the PBBC saints ***who went to be with the Lord this year***, with the reading of brief eulogies. It is a very moving service.

The saints we will be remembering this year are: Virginia Arendall, Kent Pegram, Joshua Moore, Walter Sharpe and Richie Colledge. If you are a family member of one of them, we would like to have an 8x10 photo of the person, (which we will give back to you) and a brief bio of his or her life.

All Saints Sunday is always a very special time of worship and thanksgiving. Come and remember all those who have meant so much to your faith.

I love you! Susan

OCTOBER WEEKLY EVENTS

Mondays:

Alcoholics Anonymous at 7 p.m. in the Rakestraw Fellowship Hall.

Wednesdays:

Community Bible Study at 11 a.m. to noon in the pastor's office.

Sanctuary Choir Rehearsal at 5:30 p.m. in the choir room

OCTOBER MONTHLY EVENTS

PICKERS & FIDDLER'S MUSIC FEST

Saturday, October 10 from 10:00 a.m. to noon in the Rakestraw Fellowship Hall (and every 2nd Saturday of the month). What a talented group of singers and musicians come and share their gifts with us each month at Pickers & Fiddlers! You come too, and bring your friends to hear great music free of charge. Bring your own instrument and play/sing! We'll have some coffee and delicious goodies from Linda Bullock for you to enjoy. We will also give away one of her homemade desserts, which we do at each Pickers.

COMMUNITY MEAL

Thursday, October 15 at 5:30 p.m. in the Rakestraw Fellowship Hall, (and every 3rd Thursday of the month.) All are welcome to come serve, eat, and fellowship with our neighbors of Henry County and Bassett, so invite your friends

and relatives! Workers should arrive at 5:15. If you would like to contribute a dessert, contact Lindy Koger at 276-734-2096.

STEWARDSHIP COMMITTEE MEETING

Monday, October 19 at 5:30 in the conference room (and every third Monday of the month).

DEACONS' MEETING

Tuesday, October 20 at 7:00 p.m. in the conference room (and every 3rd Tuesday of the month).

FEED AMERICA FOOD DISTRIBUTION

Tuesday, October 27, 12:30 – 1:30 p.m. at the Light Electric Building, 24A Governor Stanley Hwy, (and every last Tuesday of the month). There is also a worship service beforehand at 9:00 a.m. and a lunch, free of charge, is offered at 11:30 a.m. at the same place. All are welcome.

SPECIAL OCTOBER EVENTS

BLESSING OF THE ANIMALS SERVICE

Sunday, October 4 at 4 p.m. in the church picnic shelter. For this wonderful service, we will read a few scriptures, sing a couple of hymns about God's glorious creation, and pray a blessing over every pet. Invite your friends and neighbors to

bring their pets. The service should be 45 minutes or less. All pets should be brought on a leash or in a carrier. Exotic pets such as snakes will need to be fully contained.

GRACE NETWORK PUMPKIN PATCH

Thursday, October 8 from 4:00 – 7:00 p.m. at FBC Martinsville, 23 Starling Ave. Come work this GN fund raiser. GN is a local food bank and benevolence ministry supported by the churches of Henry County including our own. You may choose to work any time within our church's 3 hour block. Please sign up to do that with Jean Garvin. It's a fun time!

PBBC 2027 BUDGET PROPOSAL

DISCUSSION AND LUNCH
Sunday, October 11 after the worship service.

PBBC PROPOSED BUDGET 2027 VOTE

Sunday, October 18, during the 11:00 a.m. worship service. *This morning's worship service will be all-music.* If you would like to sing/play/both in this service, please let Rob Bailey know.

CHURCH PICNIC

Saturday, October 24 beginning at 3 pm in the picnic shelter.

We'll start gathering at 3:00 and eat at 5:00. Please bring a side dish or dessert to share. There will be a corn hole competition, and children, there will be bouncy houses!

CHURCH QUARTERLY BUSINESS MEETING with DINNER

Sunday, October 25, after worship in the Rakestraw Fellowship Hall. All are welcome and encouraged to come.

TRUNK O' TREATS

Saturday, October 31 from 5:30 to 7:00 p.m. in the church parking lot.

Start planning your costume and how you will decorate your car. This is always a great night for us with some 300 kids who attend! Arrive to set up around 4:30 p.m. *In case of rain, we will hold this event in the fellowship hall.* **Much of our candy and Halloween trinkets are provided by church members. Look for a collection box in the church foyer, and thank you so much for anything you can provide!**

HEADS UP: EARLY NOVEMBER

2ND ANNUAL QUAIL & CHUKAR HUNT

Saturday, November 7. Meet time: 8:00 a.m. in the church lot. The hunt will be at Bones Farm, Franklin County, and will end at dark. The cost is \$60 each

and covers quail and chukar. You may also hunt pheasant at \$16 each, but if you want to do that, you'll need to tell Carlton Craig by Oct.25. (Money will be collected with sign up.) Also, sign up for the hunt with Carlton or Frank Bullock by Oct. 25. Be sure to specify if you will be hunting or simply spectating. For more info contact Carlton at 276-340-5487 or Frank at 276-252-4293. **Requirements to hunt:** Valid VA Hunting License, Blaze Orange Hat, Shooting (safety) Glasses, and a Blaze Orange Vest Suggested. **Shot size:** 7 ½ for quail and 5 for chukars and pheasant. Hunters must clean their own game. A meal will follow the hunt.

ALSO: DAYLIGHT SAVINGS TIME ENDS ON 11/1 SO PLEASE SET YOUR CLOCKS AN HOUR BACK THE NIGHT BEFORE ON OCT. 31 (you gain an hour)

COMMUNITY ECUMENICAL PRE-THANKSGIVING SERVICE

Each year, on the **Sunday afternoon before Thanksgiving (Nov. 22 this year)**, several of our area churches of different Christian denominations gather to worship together at the John D. Bassett Event Center (formerly Bassett HS). This event is sponsored by the organization called the Greater Bassett Area Community.

The service begins at 3:45 p.m. and is led by the ministers of the various churches. It also features guest singers

and musicians. This year we will once again be very ably led in worship by "Branches", the women's vocal ensemble. During the service, an offering will be collected and divided between the two local food banks.

After the service we have a food fellowship in the cafeteria. The GBAC and folks from the different churches help provide the refreshments. We will also have the help of the GBAC with setting up, and with breaking down tables and chairs after the event. If you would like to be involved with set-up, decorating, and/or clean-up for this event, please speak to Pastor Susan or call the church office and let our church administrative assistant, Freda, know.

DEACON RECOGNITION, ORDINATION & INSTALLATION

In this Messenger, and also in our upcoming worship guides, there will be an insert containing a list of all those church members who are eligible to serve as deacons. (To be eligible, a person must be a church member for at least a year.)

Every eligible person's name will be on it, so if you do not wish to be considered, you will need to call our administrative assistant, Freda Collier (276-629-5394) and tell her that you want to remove your name from the eligibility list. Please do this by 12:30 on Wednesday, November 4. (On Sunday, October 18, you can also tell

Ronnie Koger if you want to withdraw your name from consideration.)

Absentee ballots can be obtained through the church office. These will also need to be submitted by or before November 4. However, *they will not be able to be filled out until the revised eligibility list goes out in the November Messenger, or as an insert in the worship guide.*

So, in summary, by **Wednesday, November 4** or before, all absentee ballots will need to be turned in to the church office. **Sunday, November 15** will be ballot (election) day in the worship service. Then **Sunday, November 22** will be the big day on which we recognize and thank the deacons who are concluding their time of service, ordain new deacons with a special prayer time known as “the laying-on-of-hands,” and install all of our deacons. *It is such an important occasion in the life of our church. Please make every effort to be present.*

A NOTE FROM OUR MUSIC MINISTRY

LITTLE ANGELS DAYCARE