FPC's

CONNECTIONS

November 2026



Nov. 1st	All Saints Sunday, (Mike Dumas)	10:00 AM
Nov. 8th	Worship, Communion, Feast (Mike Dumas)	10:00 AM
Nov. 10th	PW Meeting (Lunch Provided)	11:50 AM
	Committees Meet	5:30 PM
	(CE, Membership, Mission, Worship)	
Nov. 15th	Worship (Pat Daugherty)	10:00 AM
Nov. 16th	***Finance Committee Meets***	4:00 PM
Nov. 21st	Sacrament Training	TBA
Nov. 22nd	Worship (Ham Singleton)	10:00 AM
Nov. 26th	**Happy Thanksgiving!**	
Nov. 27th	Church Office Closed	
Nov. 28th	***Deck the Sanctuary***	10:00 AM
Nov. 29th	First Sunday of Advent (Phil Pinckard)	10:00 AM



Born on January 17, 1931, Mary Ann Scott Lacy went to her heavenly home on October 18, 2026. The daughter of James Tate Scott and Laura Eliza Profilet Scott, and the wife of Robert Ernest Lacy, DDS, she was our beloved Mom, Momoh, Momoo.

After early years in Mississippi, she came to El Dorado as a teenager and immediately found a warm community home. At El Dorado High School, she was named Miss EHS, and she also met her beloved Rob. Mary Ann attended Millsaps College and Hendrix College before she and Rob married in 1950.

Once they returned to El Dorado to start his dental practice, she often served in her community, acting as president of the PTA, the Presbyterian Women of the Church, and El Dorado Service League, and as a Camp Fire and Vacation Bible School leader. A longtime member of First Presbyterian Church, she could always be found singing with the Sanctuary Choir on Sundays.

Mary Ann loved working with her hands, and she was a talented seamstress, needle worker, and cook. At her home, she operated The Smocking Bee shop, where she taught lessons and created her own designs. Her needlework can be seen in many families' Christmas or Easter photos! She loved cooking sweets for her family, and never let anyone leave her house hungry. Her mind was always busy, and she enjoyed reading, needlework, birdwatching, and crafting, as well as watching her favorite teams including the Saints, Ole Miss, the Razorbacks, and SMU Basketball.

Being an active grandmother and great grandmother was one of the joys of Mary Ann's life. She loved to feed them treats and teach them crafts, and she could always be counted on to play a game or dress up. Prayer was part of her daily life, and she prayed for each grandchild, great grandchild, and family member by name.

She is preceded in death by her parents James and Laura Scott, Sister Melanie Yelton (James), brother James T. Scott Jr., brother and sister in-law Sterling S. Lacy III and Emma Lee Lacy, parents in law Sterling S. Lacy II and Ruby Lee Lacy, daughter in-law Paula Lacy, husband Robert E. Lacy, and beloved granddaughter Lacy Kathryn Allen.

Mary Ann's memory will be cherished by daughter Melanie Allen (Andy); sons Robert E. Lacy Jr. and Sterling Scott Lacy (Dee Ripley); nieces Carolyn Miller (David), Ellen Lacy, Ginger Bates, Laura Ann Woods, and Kelly Scott; nephew Andy Yelton (Alex); grandchildren Sam Allen (Laura), Robert Lacy, Christopher Lacy, Joseph Lacy (Mary), Tyler Lacy (Kristina); and great grandchildren Harper Allen, Rosie Allen, Sterling Lacy, Max Lacy, Jack Lacy, and Byrdie Lacy.

Special thanks go out to her caregivers, Mekia Anderson, Paula Cotton, Britni Lusk, and Tieasha Morris.

A Celebration of Life will be held at First Presbyterian Church on Saturday November 7th at 11:00 am with a reception following.

Memorials can be made to Arkansas Children's Hospital Foundation at 1 Children's Way, Slot 661, Little Rock, AR 72202, or to the Haiti Education Foundation % First Presbyterian Church, 300 E. Main St, El Dorado AR 71730.

For thee we give thanks…..

10 Benefits of Giving Thanks by Charles F. Stanley

“Give Thanks in Everything”

Why this tough but life-giving command can change your entire outlook.

Reading the Bible isn’t always easy.

If you’ve ever thought those words but were embarrassed to speak them, you’re not alone. Sure, there’s plenty within Scripture that we comprehend without much difficulty. But at times we come across a passage that baffles us—or worse, makes us feel angry or annoyed. Sometimes it’s because we simply don’t understand what the Lord is saying through the text. But often the reason for our discomfort is that we don’t like what we’re reading. It’s easier to ignore those verses and move on to more appealing topics than to hash it out with God and do what He says. Reading the Bible is hard because, in the end, it challenges us to change.

1 Thessalonians 5:18 is one of those verses that can really get under your skin: “In everything give thanks; for this is God’s will for you in Christ Jesus.” But what about those difficult and painful situations? Being grateful for suffering seems to make no sense.

If *I* were writing Scripture, I would say, “In *most things* give thanks, for this is God’s will for you in Christ Jesus.” It’s easy to be grateful for the good things in life—a newborn baby, a raise, a new house, or encouraging news from the doctor. But what if you lose your job, discover your child is on drugs, or are told by the doctor that you have only have six months to live? How can God expect you to be grateful then?

I faced this dilemma some time ago when I hurt my shoulder and experienced excruciating pain. I read this verse and told the Lord, “I know You said this, but it’s not reasonable when I’m hurting so badly. I just don’t feel thankful.” But then I noticed that it didn’t say, *in everything give thanks when you feel like it*. This command has nothing to do with feelings. It’s a choice to do what God says. Whenever He gives us a command in the Bible, it’s for our benefit.

Gratitude impacts every area of our lives.

By giving us the command to always give thanks, God is not rubbing salt in a wound or calling us to set aside reason. He knows that being thankful in all circumstances has a powerful impact on every area of our Christian life. Here are ten lessons I've learned:

1. *Gratitude keeps us continually aware that the Lord is close by.* Even though gratefulness doesn't come naturally in difficult circumstances, a decision to thank God for walking with us through life makes us more sensitive to His comforting presence.

2. *It motivates us to look for His purpose in our circumstance.* Knowing that the Lord allows hurt and trouble for His good purposes takes the edge off the pain. Even if we don't understand why we're going through suffering, we can thank God because we know that in His time, He'll work it all for good. In the meantime, we can rest in the knowledge that He's using every hardship to transform us into the image of His Son (Rom. 8:28-29).

3. *Thanksgiving helps bring our will into submission to God.* When the situation we're experiencing is the last thing we'd ever want, thanking the Lord is a giant step toward being able to follow Christ's example and say, "Not my will, but Yours be done" (Luke 22:42). Gratitude helps us acknowledge that God's will is best, even if it's hard; in that way, we are able to release our hold on what we want. Although the circumstances may remain the same, submission changes our heart.

4. *It reminds us of our continual dependence upon the Lord.* Pride, adequacy, and independence evaporate whenever we're trapped in a situation that leaves us helpless and hopeless. If there's no way out, thanking God for His control over all things reminds us that He alone is our strength.

5. *Thankfulness is an essential ingredient for joy.* There's no way to "rejoice always" (1 Thess. 5:16) without giving thanks in everything (v. 18). That's why ungrateful people are so grumpy. Joy is an inner sense of contentment, which flows from a deep assurance that all God's purposes are good and He's in complete control of every situation. With that kind of supernatural joy, it's easy to be thankful.

6. ***A grateful attitude strengthens our witness to unbelievers.*** **The world is filled with people who are angry, frustrated, and overwhelmed with the difficulties of life. But a believer with a grateful attitude is like a light shining in a dark place. The people around you will want to know why you don't grumble and complain the way everyone else does. Then you can tell them about your amazing Savior.**

7. ***Thanking God focuses our attention on Him rather than our circumstances.*** **The key to a grateful heart begins with understanding the Lord's character because knowing His awesome attributes motivates trust and gratitude. He knows exactly what you're going through, loves you unconditionally, and understands you perfectly. When you thank Him in tough times, He gets bigger, and the circumstances become smaller.**

8. ***Gratitude gives us eternal perspective.*** **The apostle Paul is an amazing example of a man who suffered extreme hardship yet remained thankful. That's because he was able to see life from God's perspective. In 2 Corinthians 4:16-18, he says our present suffering is "momentary light affliction." If you're going through a really hard time, those words may sound ridiculous. Maybe you've been dealing with pain your entire life, or a difficult trial has dragged on for decades. It hardly seems momentary or light.**

But Paul is comparing our situations here on earth with what's awaiting us in eternity. For him, a 40-year stretch of pain and hardship was no match for the "eternal weight of glory" awaiting him (2 Cor. 4:17). What an amazing thought—your present pain has the potential to produce incomparable glory for you in heaven. Now that's a big reason to thank God!

9. ***When we're wearied by our circumstances, thanksgiving energizes us.*** **Most of us can handle short trials, but if they continue for a long period of time, the emotional and physical strain is exhausting. Should ongoing illness, unresolved relational problems, or continued financial pressures become more than we can bear, it's time to start thanking God because He has promised to give strength to the weary (Isaiah 40:29). He'll release His supernatural energy within us so we can patiently endure the trial and come out victorious on the other side.**

10. ***Gratitude transforms anxiety into peace, which passes all understanding (Phil. 4:6-7).*** **I learned this principle through a very difficult experience. When I was feeling anxious about the situation, I discovered that complaining, getting angry, and arguing with God didn't change my circumstances. Finally, in desperation, I began thanking Him. Only**

then did I receive His incomprehensible peace. My situation didn't change for quite a while, but God's peace guarded my heart all the way through that trying time.

What will you choose?

The choice isn't always easy. Most of the time, we'd rather get out of difficulties than thank God through them. But have you ever considered that He may actually want you to stay in a painful situation for a time? I know this may not sound like something a loving God would ever do, but remember, His goal is to do what is best for you, not what's comfortable, convenient, and enjoyable.

The Lord's purposes for your life extend beyond your days on earth. He's working for your eternal good. Begin thanking God today, in whatever circumstance you find yourself. After all, what's the alternative—bitterness, resentment, and grumbling? God made you for something far better: eternal, sustaining joy. The transformation starts with two simple, small words offered from the heart: *thank You.*

Say them over and over. And then say them again. Your joy will be radiant—a light shining in a dark and desperate world.

And with that being said .....





Annual Thanksgiving Meal
Sunday, November 8th

Immediately Following Worship

The Thanksgiving meal is lovingly sponsored by the Deacons.
Wood's Place Catering is providing a traditional Thanksgiving dinner with turkey and dressing, mashed potatoes, green beans, and cranberry sauce.

Please Call or email the Church office to **MAKE RESERVATIONS**.
870-863-7144 or office@fpceldorado.org

WOC/PW MEETING

First Presbyterian Fellowship Hall
on Tuesday, November 10th at 11:50 am.
Lunch will be provided
and the lesson will be given by
Julia Warren and Kathleen Waddle.

Please bring your contribution for our
Vera Lloyd
Christmas Shopping Fund



Happy Birthday!!!

November 2nd	Leslie Putman
November 14th	David Patterson
November 17th	Linda Franques
November 19th	Sarah Hatley
November 22nd	James Wylie
November 30th	Leslie Carroll

30 DAY HAPPINESS CHALLENGE

@MYJOURNEY.APP



1. CLEAN BEDSHEETS



2. LISTEN TO MUSIC



3. MEDITATE



4. FLOWERS



5. COMPLIMENT SOMEONE



6. DANCE



7. TREAT YOURSELF



8. BE CREATIVE



9. HOT BATH



10. WRITE A LETTER



11. BAKE A CAKE



12. TAKE A WALK



13. STAR GAZING



14. READ A BOOK



15. LEARN NEW THINGS



16. PAT A KITTEN



17. HELP SOMEONE



18. START A JOURNAL



19. SELF-LOVE



20. WARM HUGS



21. WATCH SUNRISE



22. EXERCISE



23. EAT HEALTHILY



24. VISIT NEW PLACES



25. LISTEN TO BIRDS



26. COOK



27. CALL A FRIEND



28. NAP



29. GRATITUDE



30. REWARD YOURSELF WITH ICE CREAM

November 29th

