



CROZET
UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

Dear Crozet UMC Family,

In the New Testament, the word “saint” refers to all Christian people of every time and place. We understand that some have experienced the loss of a saint this past year, and we want to remind you that our church family recognizes your loss. Sunday, November 2, is All Saints Sunday. Our worship services at 9 AM and 11AM will begin with the Procession of the All Saints Bell Banner. Church members and beloved friends who have died since last All Saints Sunday will be named aloud at the toll of a bell in their memory. An angel bell will be hung from the top tier of the bell banner in memory of the honored dead. These bells will be given to the families of the deceased.

You can help by letting me know if you are aware of any church member who has died in the past year, or if you have experienced the death of an immediate family member or close friend in the last year. Additionally, you may choose to place a small gold bell (provided at the church) on the banner in honor/memory of a saint in your life. This is a time to remember, honor, and give thanks to God for their lives and witness.

We also recognize that the joyous seasons of Thanksgiving and Christmas are quickly approaching. These are times for family reunions and children’s excitement, giving gifts of love and appreciation to others, and remembering those less fortunate while celebrating the generosity of God. If you’ve suffered a great loss, however, especially the death of a loved one, Thanksgiving and Christmas may only intensify your feelings of grief and pain. Each family member handles the loss of a loved one differently and moves through the grief process at a different pace.

Please know that Crozet United Methodist Church is here to support you. I am available for conversation and counsel. I also have many print resources on my bookshelves that I am happy to share with you.

Another opportunity for those who are grieving during the holidays is a Blue Christmas Service of Remembrance which will be held in the Sanctuary at Tabor Presbyterian Church on Sunday evening, December 22, at 5:30 PM. This event is open to the community, and once again we are grateful to partner with our neighbors at Tabor Presbyterian Church. We hope that you will allow us to offer God’s grace to you through this moving service of worship during this joyous, yet difficult, season.

Remember David’s words as he faced troubled times, “Be merciful to me, O God, be merciful to me, for in you my soul takes refuge, until the destroying storms pass by.” May God’s peace continue to be with you during these times of grief and loss, and may you be comforted by Jesus’ words, “Those who believe in me, even though they die, yet shall they live, and whoever lives and believes in me shall never die.”

Peace,

Rev. Christy Haga Turner
Pastor