

Northern Pines News

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Celebrating November

Aviation History Month

Native American Heritage Month

Adopt a Turkey Month

Polar Bear Week
November 1-7

Cliché Day
November 3rd

Veterans Day: U.S.
November 11

Rock Your Mocs Day
November 15th

Happy Birthday Pennie!
November 25th

Thanksgiving: U.S.
November 26th

Square Dancing Day
November 29th

Trust in the Lord with all your heart, and lean not on your understanding, in all your ways acknowledge him, and he will direct your paths (Proverbs 3: 5-6).

An old Yiddish proverb says, "We plan, God laughs (If you want to make God laugh, tell him your plans)." These words are loaded with meaning in 2020. Nothing we planned in January this year, has gone the way we thought it would because of the disruption caused by the COVID-19 pandemic. I suspect that many daily planners continue to lie unused in millions of desks across the world, a stark reminder of the fact that we are not in charge.

The writer of the Book of Proverbs reminds us to trust in the LORD completely and not to lean on our own understanding (Proverbs 3:5-6). This is easier said than done, but we have excellent role models to emulate. When we study the heroes of the Christian faith, one of the lessons we learn is that they learned to inquire of the LORD first; they learned to trust in the LORD'S counsel.

For instance, when the angel tells Mary, she was going to be with child, her first reaction is "How can this be (Lk. 1:34)?" A question demonstrating both the sheer incredulity of the situation since she was still unmarried, and the impossibility of it since she was still a virgin. When Nehemiah was about to embark on rebuilding Jerusalem's walls, the Bible records first, he prayed (Neh. 1:5ff; 2:4b)," undoubtedly seeking God's guidance before embarking on this important task. And when God instructs Moses to lead the people out of Egypt to the Promised land, he asks God, "Whom will you send with me? (Exod. 33:12-13)." In other words, "God, how is this going to play out?" In each case, these characters sought out God's mind first, trusting in his guidance, rather than in their own understanding, experience, or expertise. *"They let go and let God."*

As we begin this week, let us go back to the basics by practicing our spiritual ABC's:

Ask: In what areas of my life do I need to seek God's plans/mind first (Mt.6:33)?

Believe: that his promises for you through Jesus Christ, are true (2 Cor. 1:20).

Commit: fully to his direction and enjoy ongoing guidance through the power of his Holy Spirit (John 14:26).

Despite the noise around you, may you find a peace that surpasses all understanding as you place your trust in Him, and on his purpose(s) for you this week.

Pastor Joan

The Writing Life

Many writers believe that stories are alive inside all of us, just waiting for the moment to come alive when the pen is finally put to paper. November is both Novel Writing Month and Memoir Writing Month, providing inspiration for writers to develop a fantastical fiction or share personal histories.



All peoples and cultures tell stories. It has been said that storytelling is an essential part of human nature and society. We use stories to establish

social mores, preserve history, teach life lessons, explain the inexplicable, and entertain. The act of writing transposes oral stories into lasting works of art. This is a powerful act, one that defies even death, for written stories may last for centuries and even millennia after their creators are forgotten.

November 1 is Author's Day, a perfect day for self-reflection. What do you want to write? Is there a story inside you that you've been meaning to share? If you don't believe that you have a story worth sharing, think again. What is your fondest childhood memory? What moment most impacted your life? Remember, it is also human nature to find losses more powerful than gains. In many ways, sad stories about bad decisions or grave mistakes are just as compelling as those with happy endings. The writing process begins with a thought. The next step is to jot those thoughts down as notes. Only after you've amassed a wild jumble of ideas can you begin to organize them into the cohesive form of a memoir or novel. The human brain loves patterns. Organizing your thoughts into a beginning, middle, and end—creating a pattern—will help you create order out of ambiguity and could feel incredibly rewarding.

Most importantly, keep writing! November 15 is I Love to Write Day, a good reminder halfway through the month, in case you've forgotten. Even if you never publish the book you are writing, research has shown that writing is a valuable tool for personal growth and healing. When you write, you nurture yourself, and that's worth more than the most expensive book contract.

November Birthdays

In astrology, those born from November 1–21 are Scorpio's scorpions. Scorpions are passionate and intense, yet you may never know given their calm demeanors. They value truth, loyalty, and justice in friends and family. Those born between November 22–30 are Archers of Sagittarius. The Archer's open mind, optimism, curiosity, and enthusiasm make them the travelers of the zodiac. They treasure freedom: freedom to roam, freedom of thought, and freedom to express themselves.

Will Rogers (cowboy) – November 4, 1879
William Wells Brown (writer) – November 6, 1814
Dorothy Dandridge (actress) – November 9, 1922
Neil Young (musician) – November 12, 1945
Whoopi Goldberg (comedian) – November 13, 1955
Danny DeVito (actor) – November 17, 1944
Dominique Dawes (gymnast) – November 20, 1976
Ricardo Montalbán (actor) – November 25, 1920
Tina Turner (singer) – November 26, 1939
Samuel Clemens (writer) – November 30, 1835

The lighting of the Christmas tree will be

Wednesday, December 2nd at 2pm

At Northern Pines

If you would like to honor someone with you gift, please provide the name(s) of each person you would like to acknowledge.

The deadline for you to see your loved one's name(s) in the program, which you will receive the night of the lighting, is [Wednesday, November 25th, 2020](#). Call us at 989-344-2010 should you want to donate past that date so we may make arrangements in the program listing your loved one(s).

