DUCK CHURCH
A GLOBAL METHODIST COMMUNITY

The Duck Call

The Monthly Newsletter of Duck Church • November 2026

Voting as a Christian

Dear Duck Church Family,

Voting time is every November in even numbered years. According to the offices up for election, or the proposed Constitutional amendments, or referendums called into question, some election cycles are more publicized than others. However, on the first Tuesday after the first Monday of every other November adult American citizens get a chance to do something quite remarkable as a civilization. We get to let our voices count.

Some consider the act of voting a civic responsibility, and everyone considers it a right if you qualify. While it's not considered a duty in the United States, meaning you are not compelled to vote, it is an important act to consider.

I'd like to take this moment to consider the importance of voting as a Christian. To be clear, I'm not going to tell you who to vote for or what party I think is the best, or my opinions on the proposed amendments. That's not my agenda; however, I do want us to think about what scripture might have to say about voting.

To start, this whole idea may seem odd because the democratic system, where people elect their leaders, is not mentioned in scripture. The word democracy simply means "power of the people." While ancient forms of democracy goes back 2500 years, the ancient system of democracy is very different than ours today. In the historical world, leaders inherited their position or won it through battle or influence. Even democracy in its infancy was only accessible by those who had high standing in society. In the Old Testament, kings were appointed by God, then anointed by prophets. The idea prevails that authority comes from above. Daniel 2:21 says, "God is the one who changes times and seasons, who dethrones one king, only to establish another."

This thought continues in the New Testament too. Romans 13:1 says, "Everyone should place themselves under the authority of the government. There isn't any authority unless it comes from God, and the authorities that are there have been put in place by God." In the Roman empire, anyone who had power, only had it because the Emperor willed it. Both the secular and religious world-views held that power and leadership come down from on high.

However, a democracy views governmental leadership a little differently. In our country, power is given by the people through an election. Abraham Lincoln put it in his famous Gettysburg Address "government of the people, by the people, for the people."

So you might ask, how can this work? How can God establish governmental leaders at the same time the people (some of whom are not Christian) elect leaders? Does this mean that the people are speaking God's will through the voting process?

I've personally struggled with this reality. In some elections the person I thought I heard God ask me to vote for didn't win. Also, it turns out that some leaders who win elections do a terrible job governing in a godly way. Some laws have proven just and godly, others have had terrible consequences and obviously go against God's law.

So then, how should a Christian think about voting?

First, pray for the Holy Spirit to speak to your spirit. This means becoming familiar with the issues. Seek to understand what's at stake to the best of your ability.

Second, understand that voting is making your Christian voice known. I encourage you to vote. Actively making a choice, and stating that voice on a voting card, is a Christian witness. And as a citizen of this country, you can't avoid giving your voice, even if you choose to make your voice silent. Stanley Hauerwas says it this way, "To refuse to take a political stance is to take a political stance." I find it most helpful to my soul to vote, so that at least I can say, I've given my witness to the best of my ability.

Lastly, we should believe that God is still above our governmental leaders and our decisions. God can still work through our sometimes "poor" decisions as a nation. God can make right what we screw up. God can redeem broken people, leaders, and systems. And God gets the last word in our politics. Your side may not always win, but God always does.

Thanks for all you do,

In Christ,

Stephen Bazan

Page One

DUCK METHODIST WOMEN FUND RAISER FOR MISSIONS

APPLE & PUMPKIN & PECAN PIE... Oh My!

Duck Methodist Women will be baking pies on **November 20th -21st**, and may be **picked up** at the church on **Sunday, November 22nd**. Each pie will be fully baked and may be taken home and frozen. **Pies will cost $20 each • (Gluten free $25) payable when you pick up. Place orders** in the collection plate or basket by the door by **November 15th or call the church office by Monday, November 16th.**

Please help support the DMW helping others... Buy a Pie!

Name _____

Phone #_____

Select:	Apple	Pumpkin	Pecan	Price
How Many?				
Check for Gluten Free ✓				
		Thank You!	Total	

clip here

Our Next Meeting
November 5th, 9:30 AM

The Duck Methodist Women

*Greetings !*We are almost halfway through October and it is time to let you know what is next for the Duck Methodist Women. We enjoyed hearing from a representative from the North Carolina Global Women, Myra Houser at our last meeting. She assured us that the new role of the District Women is one of support and encouragement to help our group become what we sense the Holy Spirit is leading us to be in our ministry. It's wonderful to know that we have those who have walked these paths before us in women's ministries and share our vision and goals.

We invite any others who would like to come to our **November meeting on Thursday, November 5th, at 9:30 AM** to join us in filling the 750 Tutkey Trot Swag Bags! Treats will be available to boost our energy as we work together. We will pray over the bags after they are filled that God will use them to touch the hearts of those who receive them.

We will have a short business meeting after we finish the Swag Bags. We have good news from our Nomination Committee on their search for volunteers to serve as officers for our group! Come find out who they will be and vote to approve them! We will also finalize Pie Sale plans and the Christmas Lunch.

Lynda Park
Co-President

November BIRTHDAYS!

11/1 - Rick Fagersten
11/5- Martha Claire Daniels
Richard Green
11/9- George Berry
Judah LaCroix
Joyce Sawyer
11/11- Jeanette Foster
11/13-Suzanne Brownell
11/16- Mystie Lucast Patrick
Ann Stafford
11/17- Jessica Boone
11/18-Linda Dail
11/19- Jared White
11/20- Paul Ferry
Ruth Ellen McCulloch
11/22- Deb Lucast
11/23- Nancy Klahre
11/28-Taunya Moore

Happy Birthday to All Y'all!

If your birthday is this month but not listed, please call the church office to be included next year.

Looking for a Great Way to Give with Ultimate Rewards...?

Give Your Time...Your Energy, Your Encouragement, Your Prayers... Your Heart.

May Your Holidays Be Blessed.

Mirror, Mirror, On the Wall… A Quotidian Exercise

As we head full speed toward the holidays of Thanksgiving and Christmas, it's a good time to look back on 2026 and reflect on what we might want to change or improve for 2027 - which is right around the corner.

Self-reflection may be one of the most difficult things we do. Do you agree? John Wesley came up with 22 questions for members of his Holy Club at Oxford University around 1729 to foster spiritual growth, personal integrity, and devotion to Christ. These questions focus on personal integrity, honesty, daily spiritual disciplines, and relational attitudes.Answer them as if John Wesley were looking over your shoulder. Buckle up buttercup, Here We Go:

- Am I consciously or unconsciously creating the impression that I am better than I really am? In other words, am I a hypocrite?
- Am I honest in all my acts and words, or do I exaggerate?
- Do I confidentially pass on to another what was told to me in confidence?
- Can I be trusted?
- Am I a slave to dress, friends, work, or habits?
- Am I self-conscious, self-pitying, or self-justifying?
- Did the Bible live in me today?
- Do I give it time to speak to me everyday?
- Am I enjoying prayer?
- When did I last speak to someone else about my faith?
- Do I pray about the money I spend?
- Do I get to bed on time and get up on time?
- Do I disobey God in anything?
- Do I insist upon doing something about which my conscience is uneasy?
- Am I defeated in any part of my life?
- Am I jealous, impure, critical, irritable, touchy, or distrustful?
- How do I spend my spare time?
- Am I proud?
- Do I thank God that I am not as other people, especially as the Pharisees who despised the publican?
- Is there anyone whom I fear, dislike, disown, criticize, hold a resentment toward or disregard? If so, what am I doing about it?
- Do I grumble or complain constantly?
- Is Christ real to me?

Ok, pencil down buttercup. Here's how to score this test based on your (a'hem) truthful number of answers:

0 to 5: good, you're probably an honest person.
6 to 10: hmmm….ok, but I'm beginning to doubt you.
11 to 21: really? We'll put you in the front pew with the super-christians.
22: Oh, pullllleasse! You're lying - I can tell and so can everyone else. Not even Saint Paul scored a 22 (see *Galatians 5:12*). Concentrate on #1 today - as will I.

Ok, I'm having a little fun with this. But we do need to periodically run this test on ourselves. Now go look up quotidian - it's a great word. Have a blessed month!

Amen? Amen.

Jim Cotter
Ministry Council Chair

Oh Hear Ye! Hear Ye!

The Duck Men will be hosting a breakfast meeting on Saturday, November 14th, 8AM at the church. Feel free to bring a friend or maybe you have a neighbor who needs to get out and be with a great bunch of guys. We'll have a delicious hot breakfast from Stackem High, a devotional, and we'll talk about what's coming up in December and beyond. *See you there!*

Jim Cotter,

Duck Men Treasurer and Secretary

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Breakfast with Santa

DECEMBER 12TH
10:00 AM
AT DUCK CHURCH

Come enjoy a **FREE** breakfast with Santa!

After breakfast, all kids are invited to stay to try on costumes and practice for the **Children's Christmas Play.**

ALL ARE WELCOME!

You are cordially invited to Join us, November 23rd at 9:00AM to help decorate our church for upcoming season of Christmas. Your help will be so very much appreciated and we assure you your time spent will be a blessing to us and to you as well. With our Thanks, We hope to see you

Monday, November 23rd
9:00AM

Worship Support Committee

Choir Notes

from **Deb Benton** Music Director

During the month of November, we usually turn our attention toward thankfulness. We see physical changes like time, leaves and flowers fading and farmers harvesting crops. It also can be a season of spiritual changes in your heart as we help and give to others in need. It is a time of thankfulness to God for providing for all our needs and care. The hymn, "All Creatures of Our God and King," is an English Christian hymn by William Henry Draper. It is based on a poem by St. Francis of Assisi. It was first published in 1919. St. Francis wrote "Cantide of the Sun," a poem based on Psalm 148 . Draper took the words and set them to music. He wrote it for his children's church Whitsun Festival. As of today, it can be found in 270 different hymn books. Draper's text is set to the tune "Lass tuns ertreuen," a German Easter tune. The text is very descriptive and celebrates the world (sun, moon, wind, water, etc.) praising God. All elements of God's creation rise up to praise Him. Every creature praises God, creating unity and thankfulness. Praising God is timeless. I am so thankful for music as a way of expressing my thankfulness to a God who is caring, loving and present throughout all seasons of life and who will never leave us.

Soli Deo Gloria,

Deb

November 2026

To God be the Glory...Every Sunset Sky.

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 FALL BACK! Daylight Savings Ends D-6 5-7 PM	2 EVERY MONDAY Prayer Group 9:00 AM Mom's Bible Study 9:30 AM 2ND - 9TH -16TH	3 Ruthie's Kitchen 3:30-4:30 PM EVERY TUESDAY AA 7:00 AM Toddler Time 9-11AM	4 EVERY WEDNESDAY Pastor's Bible Study 10:00 AM 4TH - 11TH -18TH Ladies's Bible Study 1:00 PM 4TH - 11TH -18TH Couple's Bible Study 7:00 PM 4TH - 11TH -18TH	5 DMW Meeting 9:30 AM packing Turkey Trot bags 10:00 AM EVERY THURSDAY Choir Practice 5:00 PM on the 5TH -12TH - 19TH	6	7 new MEMBERS CLASS VIA ZOOM: Nov. 5TH · 6:00 - 7:30 PM
8 D-6 5-7 PM	9 Duck Call Deadline November 9th	10	11	12	13 Duck Church Youth's Nov. 13-15 FALL CAMPING RETREAT	14 Men's Breakfast 8:00 AM Joyce Smith Memorial Service 10:00 AM Clyde Joyner Memorial Service 2:00 PM
15 Pie order date deadline D-6 5-7 PM	16 Joshua's Men 6:30 PM 2ND - 9TH 16TH -30TH	17 A Good Day to Rejoice in God's Goodness. (indeed)	18 Silver Link luncheon - noon	19	20 DMW Pie Baking Day	21 DMW Pie Baking Day
22 Pie Pick Up (between services) D-6 5-7 PM	23 Decorate the Church for Advent 9:30 AM Oh Come.. Oh Come.	24	25 Church closes at noon	Office Closed – Happy Thanksgiving	DMW PIE BAKING	
28 Pie Pick Up (between services)	29					

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WORSHIP SERVICES

Traditional Sunday Worship Services - 8 & 9:30 AM

Contemporary Sunday Worship Service - 11AM

Sunday School - 9:15, 9:30 &10:45 AM

The Care Ministry Contact Person for November is **Paige Spruill**. Please contact the church for her number.

Be well in Christ.

CARE ministries

DUCK CHURCH YOUTH

Check out what's going on at youth group this month:

November 1st: .....What's the Point
November 8th : .....Seasons
November 13th-15th :.....Fall Camping Retreat
November 22nd : .....Enjoy It
November 29th : .....No youth group
Thanksgiving Weekend

SO SATISFYING

WISDOM FROM THE BOOK OF ECCLESIASTES

Have You Ever Wondered What's the Point of Life?
Sometimes it's amazing, and sometimes it's, well, tragic, hard, and even sometimes boring and routine. What's the meaning of it all? How do we navigate the seasons of life? King Solomon gives us wisdom for how to make sense of a world that sometimes doesn't make sense. Join us for the discussion this month!

Youth Group includes: Dinner, Games, Worship, Lesson, & Small Groups

Need a Ride?

Our church bus picks up students at the Marketplace in Southern Shores at 4:45 PM on Sundays and returned to the Marketplace around 7:15 PM.

Fields of Faith

A group of Duck Church students joined youth groups from all over the beach for worship and testimonies.

Games at youth group help us build friendships that sustain our faith!

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POST OFFICE BOX 8010
DUCK, NORTH CAROLINA
27949-8010

Office Hours: OPEN

Please call Monday ~Thursday – 8:00 to 4:00 PM
Follow us on Facebook for all the latest news:
Duck Church

Prayer Requests

Please call the church office if you do not have e-mail and would like to receive notices of prayer requests.

To Communicate ~
Call us at 252-261-1525
Monday through Thursday
8AM to 4PM or
Email anytime at:
office@duckchurch.org

On-line worship: please contact the church office if you are unable to get the virtual worship service.... *God Bless.*

Duck Call deadline for December... November 9th. Thanks.

Last month we learned about the Beach Food Pantry (BFP) and the many services they offer to those in our community who may be experiencing a temporary crisis or emergency and need food assistance. The majority of individuals accessing services of the BFP are employed but can't quite make ends meet for a brief period. Others may have experienced a serious health issue or crisis that prohibits employment for a bit.

As I mentioned last month, Duck Church has supported the BFP for as long as any of us can remember – certainly before Y2K. The great thing is that our support is through both prayer AND other actions. For example:

1. Caring Hands has been caring for the BFP for years through renovation assistance and building those aqua colored produce stands!

2. The first Sunday of EVERY month is Beach Food Pantry Sunday at the Church where congregation members bring in non-perishables for the Pantry.

3. The Duck Methodist Women's group makes financial contributions - last year they made a contribution which another anonymous donor matched to purchase one of the large coolers in the shopping area!

4. Did you know we have over 30 volunteers associated with Duck Church who offer to assist the shoppers for a couple of hours every other month? Those volunteers are as young as in their 30's to as old as, well, I'm too polite to ask! Let me know if you are interested in volunteering – we are VERY flexible and always looking for new friends!

5. And finally, the HOLIDAY MEALS, and that is what makes the timing of this article so fortuitous! The BFP seeks to provide shoppers special offerings for the holidays to include a choice of a ham or a turkey and other holiday specific items such as cranberry sauce, beans, stuffing, masa, fresh produce and perishables. You can bring in extra donations for the holiday any Sunday during November and December, or, if it's easier, we will have the Giving Tree set up in the Sanctuary with envelopes specifically for the Beach Food Pantry for your financial contribution. Please consider once again supporting this mission through both your prayers and contributions!

"And if you spend yourselves in behalf of the hungry, and satisfy the need of the opressed, then your light will rise in the darkness, and your night will become like the noonday."
– Isaish 58:10