New Covenant Connection

New Covenant Presbyterian Church
www.newcov-church.org (302)378-4446

2026

Dear friends,

Holding God's Blessings with Open Hands

It is my intent in this November newsletter to provide you with a biblical reflection on *Faithful Stewardship and Trusting God*. I believe that God has blessed each of us with so much. Some blessings are easy to recognize: our homes, our financial resources, our families, our health, and the possessions we enjoy. Other blessings are less tangible but no less valuable: our **time**, our **talents,** our **relationships**, our, and the **gifts we have been given to share with others.**

As Christians, we are called to be good stewards of all that God has entrusted to us. Stewardship is not simply about how much money we give to the church. It is about how we use everything God has placed in our care. Do we use our resources thoughtfully? Do we share generously with those in need? Do we make wise decisions that reflect our gratitude for God's many blessings?

In 1 Peter 4:10, we are reminded: ***"Like good stewards of the manifold grace of God, serve one another with whatever gift each of you has received."*** What a wonderful reminder that our blessings are not meant to be kept to ourselves. God gives us gifts so that we might use them to serve others and make a difference in the world.

Perhaps we need to think about stewardship in a slightly different way. ***Christian Stewardship is not about holding tightly to what we have because we are afraid of losing it. It is about holding God's blessings with open hands, knowing that everything we have comes from God.*** Holding God's blessings with open hands means ***three things***.

~continued~

A NOTE FROM OUR PASTOR ..1

CALENDAR 3

(EVENTS, BIRTHDAYS & ANNIVERSARIES)

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A Note From Our Pastor (Cont.)

First, it means ***living with gratitude***. We recognize that what we have is a gift from God, not simply something we have accumulated on our own. Our resources, abilities, and opportunities are blessings to be appreciated and used well. We have received blessings from God, and we are called to share what we have.

Second, it means ***being faithful stewards***. We have a responsibility to manage our resources wisely, make thoughtful decisions, avoid unnecessary waste, and share generously with others. Being good stewards means considering not only what we need today, but also how our choices affect others and the generations that follow us.

Third, it means ***living with trust***. This may be the hardest part. We can spend so much time worrying about whether we have enough, what the future might bring, or whether we are making the right decisions. We worry about our finances, our families, our health, and the uncertainties of tomorrow. Yet Jesus reminds us in Matthew 6:25-26 not to worry about our lives, what we will eat or drink, or what we will wear. Jesus points to the birds of the air, reminding us that our heavenly Father cares for them - and how much more precious we are to God!

Jesus isn't telling us to be careless or irresponsible. He is reminding us that worry and fear should not control our lives. There is a difference between being wise and thoughtful with our resources and being so anxious about them that we forget to trust the One who provides them.

Proverbs 3:5-6 encourages us to ***"Trust in the Lord with all your heart, and do not rely on your own insight. In all your ways acknowledge him, and he will make straight your paths."*** And in **Matthew 6:34**, Jesus offers these comforting words: ***"So do not worry about tomorrow, for tomorrow will bring worries of its own. Today's trouble is enough for today."***

Perhaps faithful stewardship is really about finding that balance: being thoughtful and responsible with what we have, being generous with what we can share, and trusting God with what we cannot control. We are not called to manage God's blessings out of fear that there will never be enough. We are called to manage them with gratitude, wisdom, generosity, and faith. We can plan responsibly without becoming consumed by worry. We can save wisely without becoming attached to our possessions. We can give generously without fearing that sharing what we have will leave us with too little.

When we hold God's blessings with open hands, we are free to use them for the good of others and for the glory of God. May we remember that everything we have is a gift from God. May we use those gifts wisely, share them joyfully, and live each day with confidence in God's loving care.

May God lead us in our living that we would **Live responsibly - Give generously - Trust** completely. May we be faithful stewards with grateful hearts and trusting spirits!

Your partner in ministry,

Carol

November 2026

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 ALL SAINTS DAY; Steward-ship #1	2 Deacons' Mtg@ 10	3	4	5	6 Our Daily Bread	7
8 Trustee Mtg11:30 Stew. #2	9	10	11	12	13	14
15 Stew. #3; Stewardship Celebration Lunch	16 Session Mtg 9 am	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29 Advent 1	30					

PLEASE NOTE *TIME & DATE CHANGES*: DEACONS NOW MEET ON THE MONDAY FOLLOWING THE 1ST SUNDAY OF THE MONTH AT 10 AM (with some exceptions); TRUSTEES CONTINUE ON THE 2ND SUNDAY FOLLOWING WORSHIP; SESSION NOW MEETS ON THE WEDNESDAY FOLLOWING THE 3RD SUNDAY AT 1 PM (with some exceptions)

EVERY SUNDAY - WORSHIP AT 10 AM; FELLOWSHIP 11AM; CHRIST. ED - SUNDAY(8:30 AM) AND TUESDAY (10:30 AM)

11/1 23rd Sunday after Pentecost
All Saints' Day

11/2 Deacons' Meeting @ 10 am

11/3 Birthday - Bonnie Lawrence

11/6 First Friday @ Our Daily Bread
Birthday – Sandy Phillips

11/8 24th Sunday of Pentecost
Trustee Meeting 11:30am

11/14 Birthday - Skip Leeson

11/15 25th Sunday after Pentecost

11/18 Session Meeting 10 am

11/22 Christ the King Sunday

11/24 Birthday – Russ Morris

11/25 Birthday – Jim Driscoll

11/26 Thanksgiving Day

11/29 1st Sunday of Advent

Report from the Clerk

CLERK'S REPORT

The Session met on October 12, 2026.

- Minutes of the Stated Meeting of July 22, 2026 were approved as corrected.
- Next Stated Session meeting will be November 16, 2026
- New Castle Presbytery Meetings
  - Sep 19th (Sat) Hybrid Mtg (Princess Anne, MD) Barbara Bookhart & Carol
  - Dec 1st (Tues) Zoom only Jane Adams & Carol
  - Presbytery Meeting Report: September 19, 2026
    - Increase of $2 for Per Capita assessment for 2027 was approved (from $30 to $32)
    - Employment and Terms of Call Guidelines for 2027 were approved. Minimum salary was raised to $67,500. Profession Expenses minimum is $4000 (CE travel, auto/business expenses)
    - Full report on committee reports can be found on the Presbytery website.
- **Financial Statements:**
  - YTD Revenue as of 9/30 was $109,216.41; YTD expenses were $92,178.06. We are still in the black by $17,038.35
- Membership 41
- Email Addresses:
  - Clerk: *clerk.ncpc24@gmail.com*
  - Office: newcov.office2@gmail.com
  - Treasurer: treasurernewcov@gmail.com
  - Pastor: pastornewcov@gmail.com

Yours in Christ, Pat Wright, Clerk

NOTICE OF UPCOMING CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

Friends,

We will be having a **congregational meeting on Sunday, November 29th** for 2 purposes: (1) to elect new officers, and (2) to vote on changes to our **Bylaws**. You will be receiving a copy of the proposed changes to the bylaws after the officers of your church have reviewed them.

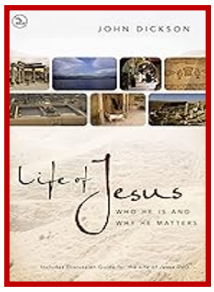
As to a Report from the **Nominating Committee**, here's where we stand. On the Session, Barbara Montazella and Pat Wright are rotating off. Barb has agreed to serve another term and we have requested an exemption from the presbytery as to whether Pat can serve another term or not, since she has already served 6 years or 2 terms. Stay tuned for this information. We are transitioning from the Deacons being a board to a ministry. Skip Leeson and Cheryl Shields are rotating off but Cheryl has agreed to serve another term along with Judy Cooke and Carol A. McBride. As for the Trustees, Bob Megonigal is rotating off and we have not found replacement for him yet. If you have any suggestions, please let us know.

As you can tell, there are many things to coordinate, but we are doing our best for our church. Please be in prayer for our efforts on your behalf.

Christian Education & Trustee Report

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION CLASSES:

In October, we began our study of John Dickson's book, *The Life of Jesus, Who He Is and Why He* Matters. We have completed Parts 1 & 2 of the book and we are studying Part 3. This study is quite different from other studies in that it is NOT a Bible study. It is a study of the CONTEXT of where the Bible was written.



It fully recognizes that what happened in the 1st century in and around Jerusalem changed the shape of the world's history. And it asks questions about WHO Jesus was and how WHO he was, and WHAT he and the early church did, have made a lasting impact. We offer classes on Sunday mornings at 8:30 and Tuesdays at 10:30 am in the pastor's office. Come one and all that you might continue to learn and grow in your faith!

And stay tuned for our upcoming **Advent Study by Adam Hamilton:** ***Faithful - Christmas Through the Eyes of Joseph.***

Jane Adams,
Christian Education Elder

TRUSTEE REPORT:

The Trustee Meetings are open to all and is normally scheduled each month on the 2nd Sunday after Worship. Our next Trustee Meeting is scheduled for Sunday, 8 Nov 2026.

The Ladies' Restroom remodeling is almost complete. The only thing left to accomplish is to add new LED lighting.

We are still looking at the issue of increasing the security around our property.

Paperwork for the placement of our Church Sign on Blenheim property has been submitted to New Castle County Land Use Department. We hope it will be on their agenda for their December meeting.

The Farmers Market has closed their operation in our Church Parking Lot until 6 May 2027.

We are in the process of upgrading our Fire Alarm system because of age and new technology.

If there are any questions or comments you would like to make, please let us know. You can use my e-mail address: al.grimminger@icloud.com

Your friendly trustees,
Al Grimminger, Bill Shields and Bob Megonigal

Mission Report

Our Daily Bread: The renovations at ODB were not yet completed for our First Friday meal in October so we prepared a cold ham and cheese sandwich, pre-prepared potato salad and a package of cookies. We prepared 240 meals, many of which went into the community refrigerator and were available throughout the week-end. We are looking at changing our menu to a casserole type meal instead of the individual sandwiches. We will keep you posted.

Christmas Joy Offering: Our next Special Collection will be the Christmas Joy Offering which will begin with Advent on November 29th. This offering supports the Assistance Program of the Board of Pensions and the Presbyterian-related schools that equip communities of color. It helps retired pastors, church workers and their families who find themselves in critical financial need and supports emerging leaders like students at the Presbyterian-related schools and colleges that equip communities of color.

PCUSA Christmas Joy Offering

Operation Christmas Child: We had another "Shoe box packing" event after Worship on October 25th. It was great fun and our Korean Church Congregation continued packing additional boxes following their service that day. We have a total of 83 Shoe boxes ready for dedication on Sunday November 8th. We will also be collecting a special offering to cover the $10/box cost of shipping for the Shoe boxes.

Winter Coat Drive: Megan Aitken is managing a Bundled Up Coat Drive to help keep our community warm during the winter months. We are collecting new and gently used coats, scarves, hats and gloves for local families in need. Bring whatever you have. We will have a tote to collect them and get them to Megan. Collection dates: 11/2 - 12/2. Let's help keep everyone warm!

Pat Wright,

Mission Elder

help your neighbor

Helping

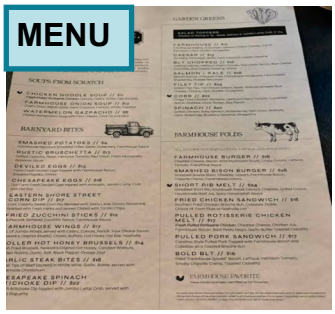
Fellowship Report

OCTOBER A Harvest Party at the Shields

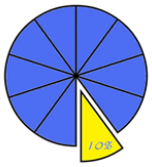
On Saturday, October 31st we gathered for a Harvest Party at the Shields - 14109 Golts Caldwell Rd, Galena, MD. Finger foods and all kinds of goodies where shared and enjoyed. Many people wore costumes and some did not, but all were welcomed warmly. And we all know how much fun is to be had at a party that is planned and hosted by the Hostess with the Mostest - Cheryl.

NOVEMBER Lunch at the Farmhouse Restaurant 11/11 at Noon

Come one and all to join in a gathering of friends at a new restaurant in Middletown - a farm-to-table restaurant at 406 S. Ridge Avenue (former site of *The Green Turtle).* Sounds like there will be some delicious food choices and fun to gather with friends at a new venue.



Stewardship & Finance



Stewardship Article - Taken from Parish Publishing

A man decided to get rid of a dog he owned. When he drove to the city, he stopped near the outskirts, put his pet out, and drove away. He spent the rest of the afternoon and evening in the city. Late that night, through the chill of the falling snow, he headed home. As he neared the edge of the city, he saw his dog sitting just where he had left him. As the car approached, the dog lifted his ears, stood up, and wagged his tail. The man drove on past. At home he confessed to his wife that his conscience was hurting him; yet he did nothing about it.

This story is a realistic illustration of spiritual errors made by God's children when they hope that someone else will assume their responsibility. The man had hoped that someone else would take the dog and look after it. Christians often think, "Oh, someone else will do it."

Christian Stewardship is a message and a mission that is learned by a lifetime of practice. Adults, as well as children, need to learn the lesson of sharing with God some of the good things He provides for them. The work of Christ is not something that someone else funds. It is an effort we all need to support. It is everyone's responsibility.

The Scriptures call each of us to a deeper awareness of the wonders of God's blessings, the gifts that He has showered on us in so great an abundance, and to the challenge to use those gifts and talents creatively and responsibly.

Each of you should have received a stewardship mailing providing you with information and a commitment card for our Annual Stewardship Campaign. Our theme is: ***All Things Bright and Beautiful***. Commitment Sunday will be November 15th, followed by an expanded fellowship time (a light lunch) for all to enjoy and celebrate the coming year of ministry together! We give thanks for how God calls each of us to take good care of our blessings, and we look forward to new opportunities for ministry in 2027!

Barbara Bookhart,
Stewardship Chair

Financial Update - Carol L. McBride, Treasurer

January - September 2026

REVENUE	ACTUAL
Total Revenue	**$133,153.79**
Expenditures	
Building/Property	$13,281.40
Personnel	$72,359.96
Other Expenses	$6,536.70
Net Expenditures	**$92,178.06**
Change to Net Assets	**$17,503.01**
Other Revenue	**$464.66**

Note: Actuals include In Kind Donations and Expense; Net Other Revenue is the Change to Fund Balances ytd.

Worship

ALL SAINTS' DAY 11/1

Every year on November 1, it is good to remember those who have blessed our lives who have died and now are in heaven. While some saints have a particular day named after them, not all do. New Covenant has been blessed by the lives of many saints over the years. We lost several saints - Frank, Karen, Kathy, Alice, and Rita - this past year but we want to take an opportunity to give thanks for the lives of any saints whom we have known and loved, and give thanks for their lives.

COMMUNION OFFERING ON 11/1 FOR *OUR DAILY BREAD*

As is our usual custom, we will receive a Communion Offering on 11/1. This offering goes to help cover the cost of food for our once-a-month meal that we provide to Our Daily Bread.

THANKSGIVING 11/26

Thanksgiving, in our country, is celebrated on the fourth Thursday in November since 1941, due to federal legislation. It has been an annual tradition in the United States by presidential proclamation since 1863 and by state legislation since the Founding Fathers of the United States. Traditionally, Thanksgiving has been a celebration of the blessings of the year, including the harvest. Got more information or trivia about this holiday, take a look at the *Frog Corner* page of this newsletter. But don't forget to stop and give thanks!

CHRIST THE KING SUNDAY AND ADVENT

The Sunday before Advent begins is Christ the King Sunday. It is the final Sunday of the liturgical year and it encourages believers to live out their faith with Christ as King. This year it is on 11/22 with Advent beginning on 11/29. This is a holy season of 4 Sundays with special Advent liturgy and messages. Please seriously consider joining in this important season as we prepare for the birth of our Lord. Each Sunday of Advent we will have lay readers do our Call to Worship and Light the Advent Wreath. What a great time of year this is, when we see many friends taking part in worship!

Barbara Montazella,

Worship Elder

Frog Corner

F.R.O.G. CORNER: ***Forever Rely on God***

Don't forget the meaning behind the acronym **R I B B I T :**
Revere, ***I***nvite, ***B***less, ***I***nspire, and ***T***rust in the Lord.

WHAT IS "THANKSGIVING" ALL ABOUT?

Thanksgiving Day, for most of us, is made up of three activities: spending time with family, flipping back and forth between football games and the iconic Macy's parade, and eating an extravagant feast. But there's only so much to catch up on with loved ones, and after you've dodged all their awkward questions about your life's hopes and dreams (and lack of a significant other), what else is there to talk about? Sure, you can rehash the same old stories and family drama, but we think there's no better way to keep the conversation flowing - and blow some minds - than with Thanksgiving Day facts. Whether you turn them into a festive and competitive game of Thanksgiving trivia or just use them to school your relatives, some of these Thanksgiving facts might just blow your mind.

Thanksgiving itself is a blend of facts, fiction, and myths: Some of the so-called origins of our **traditions** lack evidence, while many parts of the holiday are purely commercial. We barely even know what happened at the first Thanksgiving! (Although we do know there wasn't even any turkey - read on to find out what they served instead.) Learn more fun facts about Thanksgiving as we know and love it, from its origins to how we celebrate it today.

The first **Turkey Trot** dates back to the 1890s. Buffalo, New York, was the first city to host a Turkey Trot on Thanksgiving morning in 1896. Only six runners participated in the race that year, running on stretches of dirt road for roughly five miles.

Thanksgiving was originally celebrated in mid-October. The **first Thanksgiving celebration** wasn't in November at all. In fact, some historians suggest it was held in mid-October, similar to the present-day Canadian Thanksgiving. It was President Lincoln who set the November date in order to coincide with the Pilgrims' landing on Plymouth Rock.

Pumpkin pie isn't actually Thanksgiving's favorite pie. The dessert has been an important part of Thanksgiving meals since the 1700s. However, *The American Pie Council* is putting an end to the pumpkin vs. apple pie debate. According to its research, apple pies are America's favorite, with pumpkin coming in second place. Female turkeys don't gobble. Only male turkeys make the well-known "gobble, gobble" sound that has come to be associated with the holiday. In fact, male turkeys are even known as "gobblers." Females make other noises, such as purring and cackling.

The **first Thanksgiving** was actually a three-day festival. The first Thanksgiving was celebrated in 1621 as a harvest festival. It included 50 Pilgrims, 90 Wampanoag Indians, and lasted three days. Historians believe that only five women were present.

The **tradition of football** on Thanksgiving was started by college teams. The tradition of football on Thanksgiving began in 1876 with a game between Yale and Princeton. The first NFL games were played on Thanksgiving in 1920 (more on that game in a minute).

Historians have no record of **turkey being eaten** at the first Thanksgiving. The first Thanksgiving Day feast happened in 1621 with three whole days dedicated to the celebration. Although turkey was plentiful in the region and a common food source, it's likely that it wasn't actually the star of the festivities and other "fowling" were served for the occasion. Instead, "ducks, geese, and swans" are believed to have been served to the English settlers and Native Americans. There will be more Thanksgiving trivia next year so stay tuned...

Puzzle

Thanksgiving & Fall

PUZZLE 01

Find 9 words. Words may run in any direction.
Circle each word; every word appears once.

E	P	Y	J	B	P	A	P	P	L	E	S	T	B	H
S	W	E	A	T	E	R	T	O	A	G	H	E	M	F
A	U	F	G	Q	X	S	L	J	L	X	R	K	S	W
M	B	N	C	I	T	S	U	R	H	I	T	S	R	U
D	U	J	Y	L	S	D	D	P	G	Q	Z	A	F	P
I	F	O	C	H	C	I	W	D	N	A	S	B	H	F
T	V	S	U	T	S	N	P	F	Q	N	Y	D	N	W
B	D	L	A	P	S	T	U	Z	C	I	K	N	E	D
L	O	A	U	S	O	C	H	O	N	K	U	Q	Q	Z
J	T	N	M	Q	Z	T	B	T	R	P	D	F	R	N
R	E	N	N	I	D	B	A	Y	R	M	F	Y	R	D
R	G	A	C	C	L	J	K	T	K	U	Z	C	Z	F
G	P	Y	P	E	E	O	N	E	O	P	S	A	N	L
I	U	I	R	W	V	D	M	S	T	E	G	I	Y	C
T	H	U	R	O	H	F	C	H	K	E	S	K	A	W

WORDS TO FIND

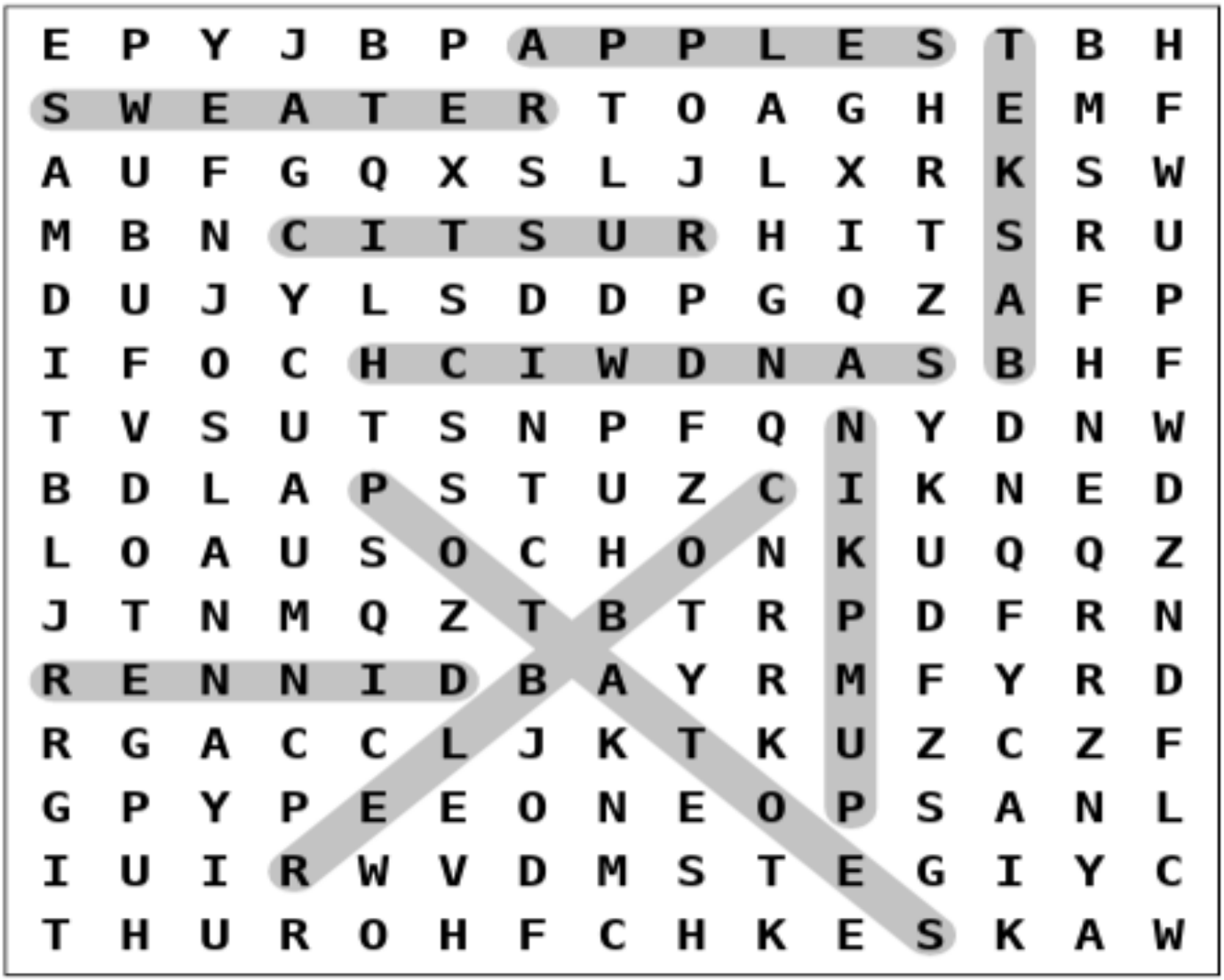
APPLES	BASKET	COBBLER
DINNER	POTATOES	PUMPKIN
RUSTIC	SANDWICH	SWEATER

Answers to Puzzle

Thanksgiving & Fall

SOLUTION 01

Find 9 words. Words may run in any direction.
Circle each word; every word appears once.



ANSWER WORDS

APPLES
BASKET
COBBLER
DINNER
POTATOES
PUMPKIN
RUSTIC
SANDWICH
SWEATER