



November, 2025
Volume 15, Issue 11

In this issue:

- Ministry Happenings, pages 2-3
 - Lee's Union AC Church
 - Camp Dixie Harvest Day
 - FLCON Seminar
- Points to Ponder, page 1

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Points to Ponder

MAGIC WORDS

"Don't forget the magic words."

This sentence was part of the sign-off of one of the beloved TV characters of my early childhood. When I was about five years old, I used to watch a local TV program while living in Hackettstown, New Jersey. Of the three channels we got on that old 19" screen TV, one of them showed my favorite program every morning – "Wee Willie Winkie's Wonderful Cartoon Show." Wee Willie Winkie was the guy who announced the next Bug's Bunny cartoon and was, in reality, the TV station's weekend weatherman. But during the week, he would put on an outrageous patchwork sport coat, a fedora, and a pair of dark sunglasses, and the weatherman transformed into the host of my favorite show.

One of the things that stuck with me from 1966 (now referred to as "the middle of the last century") was how he closed every show. This fellow would always end by saying, "don't forget the magic words – please, thank you, you're welcome, and excuse me." Then he would say, "and remember to attend the church or synagogue of your choice." I cannot imagine a TV host doing that today. Perhaps the closest we have is the phrase uttered by Drew Carey as popularized by his predecessor, Bob Barker, "don't forget to have your pets spayed or neutered." Just doesn't have the same ring, does it?

What highlights the difference for me is that we live in an age where respect is a quaint notion and common courtesy has become far too uncommon. In 1 Peter 2:17 we are called to, "show proper respect to everyone, love the family of believers, fear God, honor the emperor." Respect is something that should be a component of how we conduct ourselves every day. We are to show respect to everyone, even when we disagree or find ourselves provoked. In 1 Thessalonians, Paul teaches that we are to "earn the respect" of outsiders by how we treat them and represent Christ. Paul repeatedly addresses this in 1 Timothy where he mentions several times that various groups of believers should demonstrate that they are "worthy of respect."

How would showing respect to one another change our homes... our church... or our community? Courtesy and respect cost us nothing to give but offer great dividends in our interactions and relationships with others. It is possible that through the use of basic courtesies, we may open the door to someone's heart to share Christ. Regardless, when it comes to living the Christian life, let's make an effort to remember the magic words.

Rev. Joe Pritchett

Ministry Happenings...

West Bay Advent Christian Church, Panama City Beach, FL, hosted a Christmas Craft and Bake Sale on October 25th. The proceeds were used to support the Women's Home and Foreign Mission Society (WHFMS).



Garner Advent Christian Church, Garner, NC, hosted the Grateful 4 Girlfriends Gathering on Saturday, November 8th. Heart Story Ministry founder Angie Jones led and organized the event.



Mark your calendar for the Spring Ladies Retreat to be held April 17-19, 2026 at Camp Dixie, Fayetteville, NC. Keep a look out for more information in the future!

Ministry Happenings . . .



On Sunday, November 2nd, **Lee's Union Advent Christian Church** in Four Oaks, NC, proudly dedicated a new baptistry. Since September 14th, thirteen individuals have been baptized. Praise the Lord! Rev. Joe Pritchett, the SACA Superintendent, delivered a heartfelt dedication for the new baptistry.



Camp Dixie's annual College & Career Retreat is January 2nd-4th for young adults including high school seniors and graduates, college students, and grad students. It's a retreat filled with great friendships, Bible study, opportunities for service, worship, small groups, late nights, and laughter! Arrive around 3pm on Friday, January 2nd and depart before lunch on Sunday, January 4th. Cost is \$50 per person. Register online [here!](https://campdixie.com/events)

Camp Dixie's Harvest Day, held on Saturday, October 11, 2025, was a resounding success, raising over \$187,000 to support the camp's ongoing work and programs. This annual event brought together a vibrant community of supporters, campers, and volunteers, all united by a shared commitment to fostering growth and development in young people. With a variety of activities and attractions, Harvest Day offered something for everyone, with hayrides, pumpkin patches and games. The funds raised will be instrumental in enhancing the camp's facilities, expanding its outreach programs, and ensuring that more children can experience the transformative power of nature and community at Camp Dixie.



photos shared from Camp Dixie Facebook page



On November 7-8, 2025, **the Florida Conference of Advent Christian Churches**, in collaboration with Far More Consulting, hosted a seminar focused on the unique doctrines of the Advent Christian Church. The event was led by Dr. Sam Warren. A significant moment was the recognition of Rev. Chet Hart, who was honored for his 50 years of dedicated service as an ordained minister within the denomination.



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Coming Events. . .

November 23
November 27
November 30
December 25

World Hunger Offering
Thanksgiving Day
Advent Christian Village Sunday
Christmas Day

Philippians 1:4-6

⁴ In all my prayers for all of you, I always pray with joy ⁵ because of your partnership in the gospel from the first day until now, ⁶ being confident of this, that he who began a good work in you will carry it on to completion until the day of Christ Jesus.