

Weekly Communication – October 30, 2026

Hello everyone, hope you are all prepared for the ghosts and goblins out searching for candy on Saturday night.

Hallowe'en is the contraction for *All Hallows' Even* (the evening before All Hallows' Day). All Hallows' Day is now referred to as All Saints Day (November 1) and All Souls' Day (November 2). I've attached a little background on All Saints Day and All Souls Day for your reading pleasure. The list of upcoming events in November is also attached.



We announce the death of **Helen Klassen** (Medicine Hat, Alberta), who passed away on October 23, 2026, at the age of 79.

She was predeceased by: her husband Marvin Klassen; her parents, Helen Mah and Dick Mah; her siblings, Harry Mah, Jean Martens and Margaret Dorazio; and her grandchildren, Bryan Nielsen and Dakota McKim.

She is survived by: her children, Edie Wilburn (Kevin) of Medicine Hat, Kathy Nielsen (Billy McKim) of Medicine Hat and Brent Nielsen of Regina, Saskatchewan; her grandchildren, Candace, Cody, Brandon, Amanda, Ashley, Hayley, Nicky, Katryna, Darcy, Shawn and Casandra; her sisters, Sara Dyck of Regina and Betty Martell of Saskatoon, Saskatchewan.; and her pet Jovi. She is also survived by ten great-grandchildren.

The funeral service will be held in the PATTISON FUNERAL HOME & CELEBRATION OF LIFE CENTRE on Saturday, October 31, 2026, at 1:00 p.m., with Pastor Roland Weisbrot officiating. The service will be livestreamed. Those who wish to attend virtually may visit Helen's obituary page on our website for the link.

Upcoming Events for November:

November 1: Peace United Church Roast Beef Dinner at Irvine Community Hall

November 7 Gift and Goodies Market at Fifth Avenue Memorial United Church

November 11: Remembrance Day (Westminster United Church will be closed)

November 29: Carol Fest at Fifth Avenue Memorial Church

Details for these events are in last week's Communication.

All Saints/ All Souls Day

November 1 and 2, 2026



All Saints' Day is a Christian festival commemorating all the saints, known and unknown. It is a time to honor and remember the lives, deeds, and sacrifices of these exemplary individuals and recognize the spiritual bond between those in heaven and the living.

The origins of All Saints' Day trace back to the early Christian church. By the 4th century, the Christians in the East started celebrating a feast in honor of all martyrs, with various dates selected by different communities. The Western Christian Church, particularly under Pope Gregory III (731-741), began

commemorating all saints on November 1st, consecrating a chapel in their honor in St. Peter's Basilica, Rome. In Canada, as a predominantly Christian country, All Saints' Day is observed both by the Roman Catholic Church and several Protestant denominations, reflecting the nation's rich history of religious pluralism and spiritual diversity.

In Canada, All Saints' Day is celebrated in a diverse array of ways, reflecting the unique denominations and cultural backgrounds of its people. Many attend special church services, where prayers are offered for all the saints in heaven, and candles are lit in their memory. Some families may visit the graves of their beloved departed and decorate them with flowers or symbols representing the saints.

Some distinguish between All Saints' Day on November 1 and All Souls' Day on November 2, with the former focusing on those identified as "saints" and the latter focusing on "the faithful departed." In our Protestant traditions, we understand that the "communion of saints" includes all those who have gone before us in the faith and have now joined that "great cloud of witnesses." Those who first received the visions in the Book of Revelation—in the face of struggle and oppression, rejection and death—needed a vision that pointed toward hope. The vision painted by Revelation is at times complicated, confusing, and downright bizarre. The important thing is not all the wild details, but the overall point. In Revelation, the message is simple: God wins. In chapter 7, when the tensions in Revelation are heightening and everyone on the earth observes that a great day of wrath is coming, the people cry out: "Who is able to stand?" Who is able to hold fast when the day of the Lord comes? "A great multitude that no one could count, from every nation, from all tribes and peoples and languages"—that is who is able to remain firmly rooted. As we go about life, we don't always feel like beloved children of God. Many of us are all too aware of our own foibles and failings. We suffer under the brokenness of our world. But who will be firmly with us through all this? A great multitude, the communion of saints, the cloud of witnesses that no one can count. Nothing can overcome the truth that God's ultimate desire is to redeem all Creation.