

All Saints Day
November 1, 2009
John 11:32-44, John 14:1-4

Today we will celebrate All Saints Day by reading the names of people who have gone on before us and lighting candles. This is a celebration, but it is a solemn celebration. Some of us are still deeply grieving, for others time has taken away some of the sting of loss. We acknowledge that each of the people we celebrate had many relationships, but we today we will read one specific role they played in our lives.

All Saints day originally commemorated the lives of early Christian martyrs whose names and dates of martyrdom were not known. The Greek testament in our Bible refers to all baptized Christians as Saints (holy ones). Paul even called the Christians in Corinth (his problem children), saints. Perhaps his admonishment to “become what you are.” All Saints Day has now become a celebration of all those who have achieved “sainthood” and a day of prayer for all who are still striving for perfection.

Hillcrest Congregational Church, UCC
 All Saints Day Celebration
 We Remember and Honor

	Betty Johnson	Mother of Robert W. Johnson
	Dr. Bob Johnson	Father and father-in law Robert W. Johnson Ana Luisa Johnson
	Joshua G. Johnson	Son of Robert W. Johnson and Ana Luisa Johnson
*	Bob Voris	Former Choir Director- Gloria Karam friend of Virginia Stoops
	Marie Grace	Mother of Larry Waugh, Doris Lynch
	Doyle Stoops	Friend of Virginia & Richard Angstadt Husband of Virginia Stoops
	Tom Mc Call	Friend of Virginia Stoops
	Jean McCall	Friend of Virginia Stoops
	Leila Voris	Friend of Virginia Stoops
	Steward Hyslop	Father of Richard Hyslop
	Donald Boyes	Father of Sally Boyes Hyslop
	Abernathy	Friend of Hyslop Family
	Gladys Landis	Aunt of Hyslop Family
	Dorothy Dyck	Aunt of Hyslop Family
	Clifford Boyes	Uncle of Hyslop Family
	William Charles Barrett (Dad)	Father of Loletta Barrett
	Frederick Midgett	Husband of Ursula Midgett
*	Freddy Smith	Wife of Don Smith
	Bill Johnson	Friend of Don Smith
	Barbara Johnson	Friend of Don Smith
	Alice Jensen	Mother of Carol Jensen
	Jill Kapko	Friend of Carol Jensen
	Dorothy Ford	Mother of Walt Ford
*	Randy Brunk	Friend of Diana & Walt Ford
	Bob Gilmore	Friend of Diana & Walt Ford
	Charles Odell	Father of Dick Odell
	Ione Odell	Mother of Dick Odell
	Carroll Odell	Brother of Dick Odell
	Ruth Odell	Sister- in-law of Dick Odell
	Randy Odell	Son of Dick Odell
	Marian K. Anderson (born 11/1/1895)	Mother of Betty Park
	Mary Romero	Mother of Reyna's daughter-in-law
	Mary Huffer	Grandmother of Reyna Family
*	Tony Mueller	Friend of Gail Stier
*	Hart Miner	Friend of Gail Stier
	Duane Loncharich	Friend of Gail Stier
	Howard Freeland	Grandfather of Karen Frey
	Harriette Freeland	Grandmother of Karen Frey

	Edgar Olson	Father of Jan Lynch
	Sheryl Scott	Sister of Jan Lynch
	Patty Howell	Nana and Mother of French family
	Harvey Whitson	Husband of Hannah May Whitson
	Phebe C. Thomas	Mother of Hanna May Whitson
	Idris Thomas	Father of Hanna May Whitson
	Vi Jones	Mother of Ruth McCoy
	Don Jones	Father of Ruth McCoy
*	Ray L. Madsen	Husband of Ruth McCoy
	Beverly Hamlin	Friend of Ruth McCoy
	Jane Urton	Friend and mentor of Ruth McCoy
	Ted Bertness	Friend of Ruth McCoy
	Howard McCoy	Father of Howard McCoy
	Ethel McCoy	Mother of Howard McCoy
	James A. McCoy	Brother of Howard McCoy
	Hide Shinoda	Mother of Grace S. Nakamura
	Helen Ely Brill	Teacher of Grace S. Nakamura in Manzanar Internment Camp
	Todd Nakamura	Elder Brother of Yosh Nakamura
	Mabel Sheldon Williams	Teacher of Yosh Nakamura in Gila River Internment Camp
	Jim Verdery	Son of Charlotte Lightfoot
	Sylvia Horstmann	Friend of Charlotte Lightfoot
	Chet Horstmann	Friend of Charlotte Lightfoot
	O. B. Smith	Father of Dorothy Odell
	Fred Renze	Father of Carol Ferguson
	Paul Rebber	Father of Debbie Carter
	Chet Carter	Father of Philip Carter
	Arthur Wolf	Husband of Jean Wolf
	Anita Squires	Friend
	Ann Lynch	Sister
	Jerry Nommay	Father of KC Coonis

* Indicates person who was part of Hillcrest Church.

Each of people whose names we have spoken now reside in the arms of God. They have complete freedom and joy. They may seem to have died, and for us their departure was thought to be a disaster. But they are at peace; they have realized immortality. God has found them worthy and welcomed them. They shine forth. They are the brightest stars in the sky. Love abides in them, and they reside in God forever. They understand Truth and watch over us with God.¹

And God has loved us so much, that we too are called children of God. Beloved, we are God's children now, even though we do not know what will come. What we do know is this: when God is revealed, we will be like God, for we will see God as God is.²

We can live in hope for the future. A future in which God will destroy death; Mourning, crying, and pain will be no more. People of every nation will gather in peace and sing praise to God. God will make a home and live with us and we will all be God's people. God will make a feast of rich food and wine and the people will hunger and thirst no more. And God will wipe away every tear. God will, and God is now, making all things new.³

¹ (Wisdom of Solomon 3:1-9 adapted)

² (1 John 3:1-2 adapted)

³ (Revelation 7: 9-12, 16-17; 21:1-6 Isaiah 25:6-8 adapted)