



# COVENANT PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

September Newsletter



2023

2618 NEW ALBANY ROAD  
CINNAMINSON, NEW JERSEY

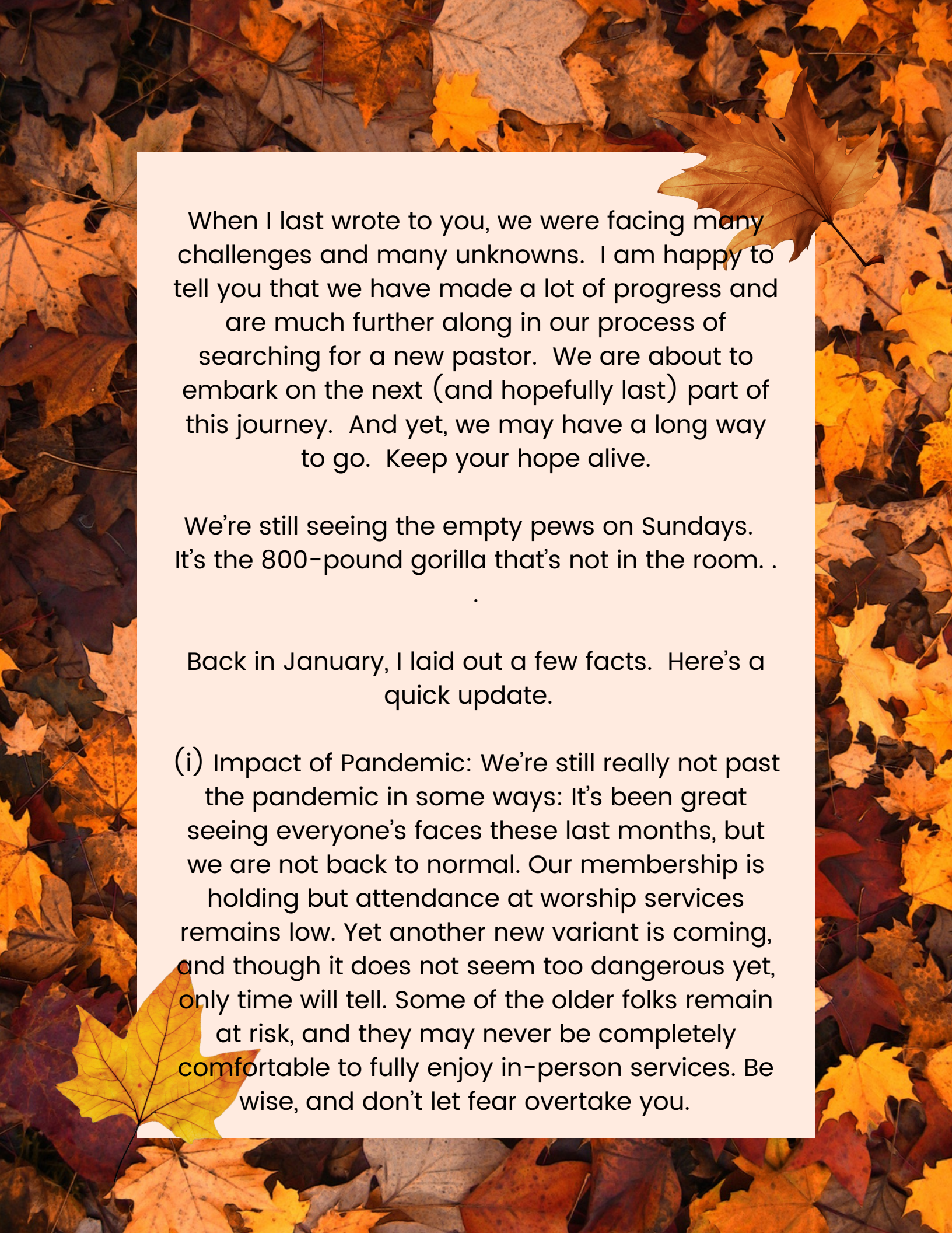


[COVENANTPRESCHURCH.ORG](http://COVENANTPRESCHURCH.ORG)

# Message from Session

Romans 8:28

“18 I consider that our present sufferings are not worth comparing with the glory that will be revealed in us. 19 For the creation waits in eager expectation for the children of God to be revealed. 20 For the creation was subjected to frustration, not by its own choice, but by the will of the one who subjected it, in hope 21 that[h] the creation itself will be liberated from its bondage to decay and brought into the freedom and glory of the children of God. 22 We know that the whole creation has been groaning as in the pains of childbirth right up to the present time. 23 Not only so, but we ourselves, who have the first fruits of the Spirit, groan inwardly as we wait eagerly for our adoption to sonship, the redemption of our bodies. 24 For in this hope we were saved. But hope that is seen is no hope at all. Who hopes for what they already have? 25 But if we hope for what we do not yet have, we wait for it patiently.”

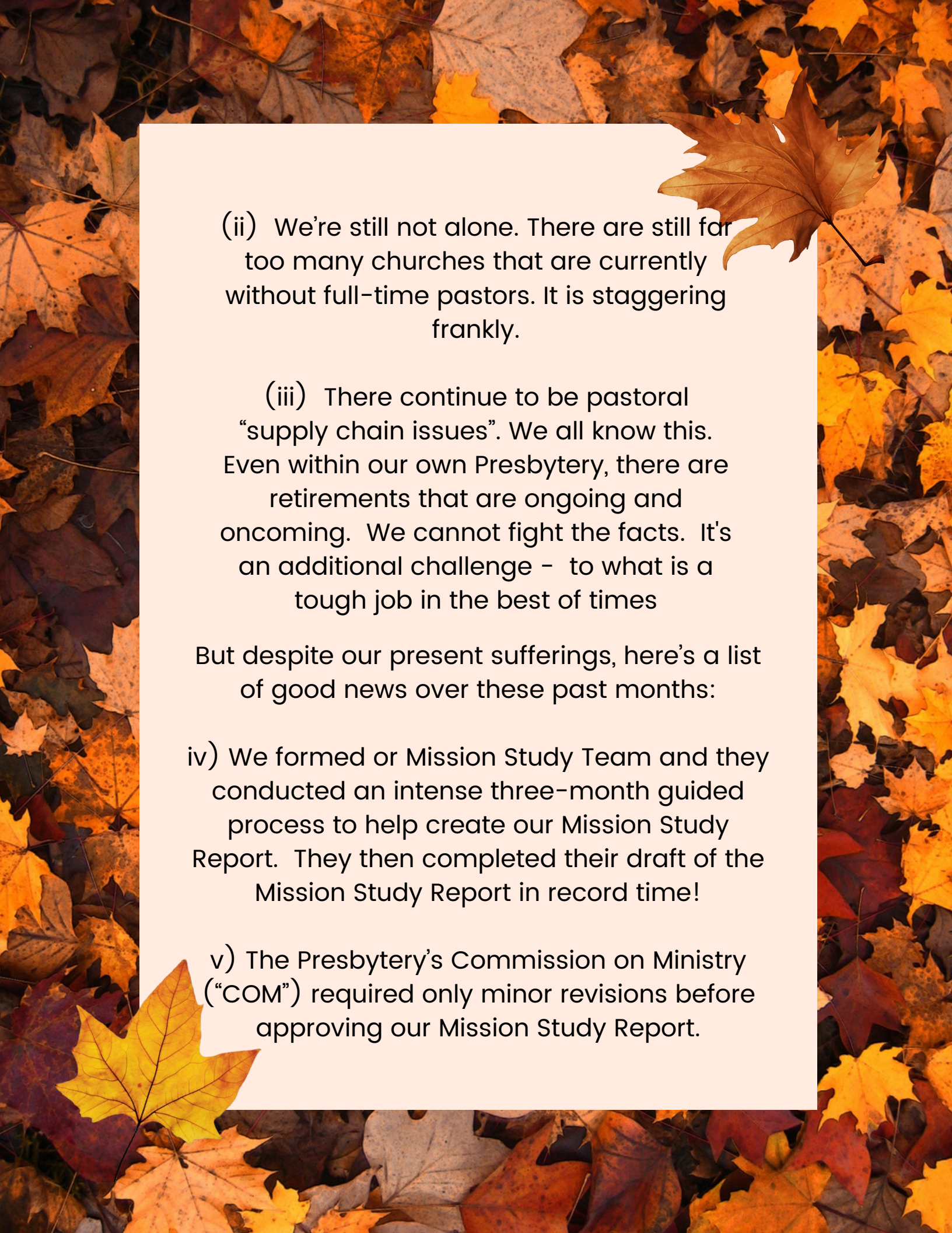


When I last wrote to you, we were facing many challenges and many unknowns. I am happy to tell you that we have made a lot of progress and are much further along in our process of searching for a new pastor. We are about to embark on the next (and hopefully last) part of this journey. And yet, we may have a long way to go. Keep your hope alive.

We're still seeing the empty pews on Sundays. It's the 800-pound gorilla that's not in the room. .

Back in January, I laid out a few facts. Here's a quick update.

(i) Impact of Pandemic: We're still really not past the pandemic in some ways: It's been great seeing everyone's faces these last months, but we are not back to normal. Our membership is holding but attendance at worship services remains low. Yet another new variant is coming, and though it does not seem too dangerous yet, only time will tell. Some of the older folks remain at risk, and they may never be completely comfortable to fully enjoy in-person services. Be wise, and don't let fear overtake you.



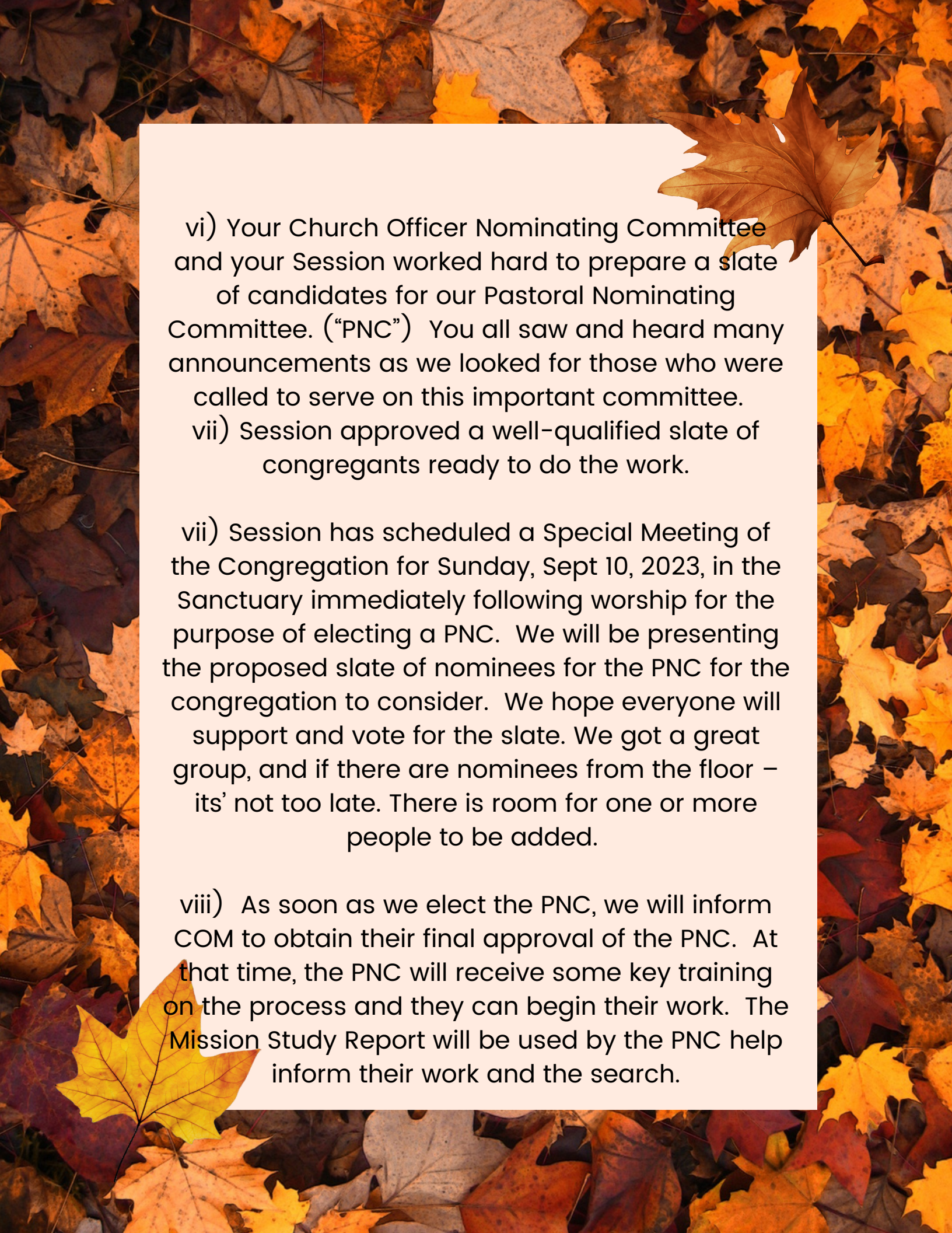
(ii) We're still not alone. There are still far too many churches that are currently without full-time pastors. It is staggering frankly.

(iii) There continue to be pastoral "supply chain issues". We all know this. Even within our own Presbytery, there are retirements that are ongoing and oncoming. We cannot fight the facts. It's an additional challenge - to what is a tough job in the best of times

But despite our present sufferings, here's a list of good news over these past months:

iv) We formed our Mission Study Team and they conducted an intense three-month guided process to help create our Mission Study Report. They then completed their draft of the Mission Study Report in record time!

v) The Presbytery's Commission on Ministry ("COM") required only minor revisions before approving our Mission Study Report.

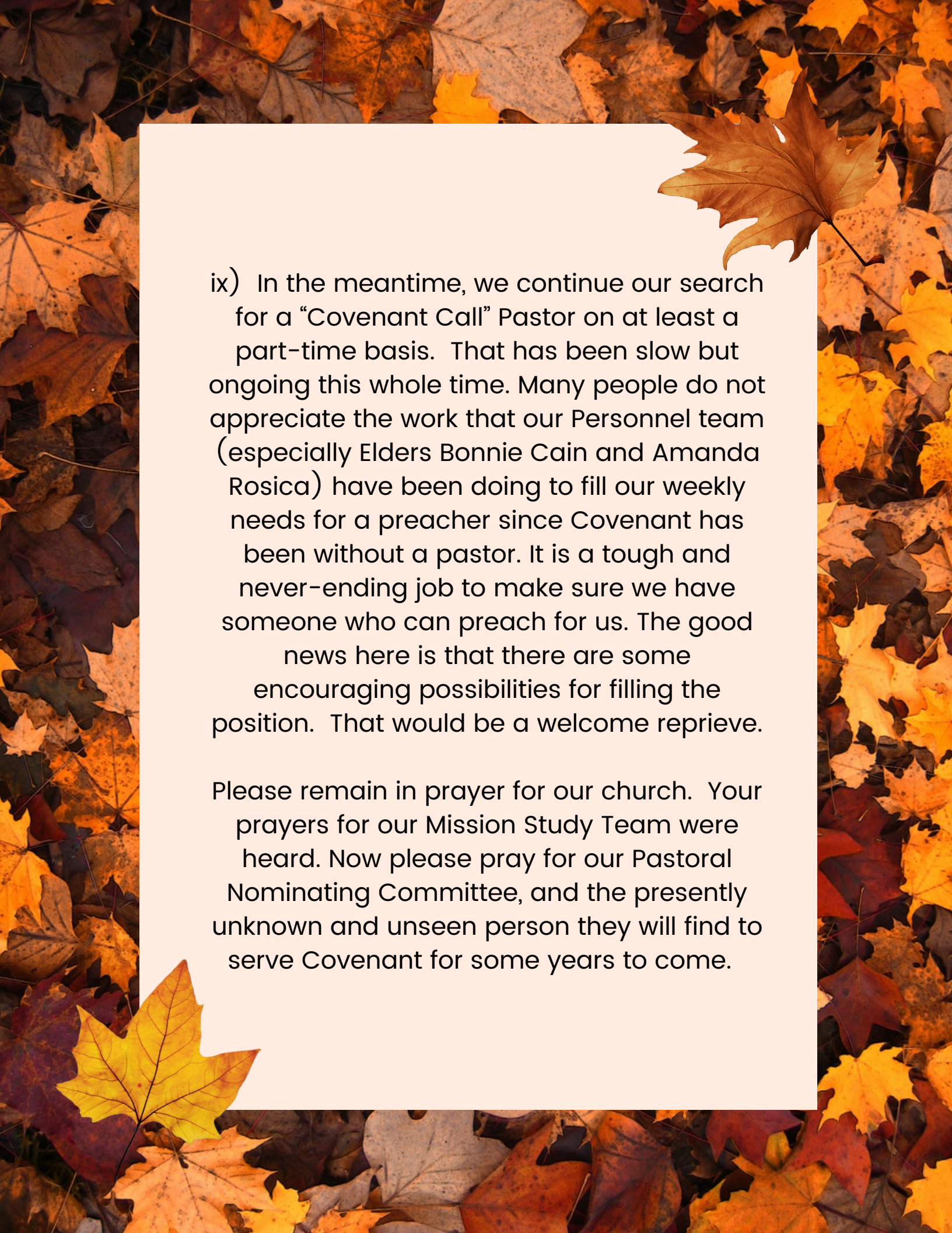


vi) Your Church Officer Nominating Committee and your Session worked hard to prepare a slate of candidates for our Pastoral Nominating Committee. (“PNC”) You all saw and heard many announcements as we looked for those who were called to serve on this important committee.

vii) Session approved a well-qualified slate of congregants ready to do the work.

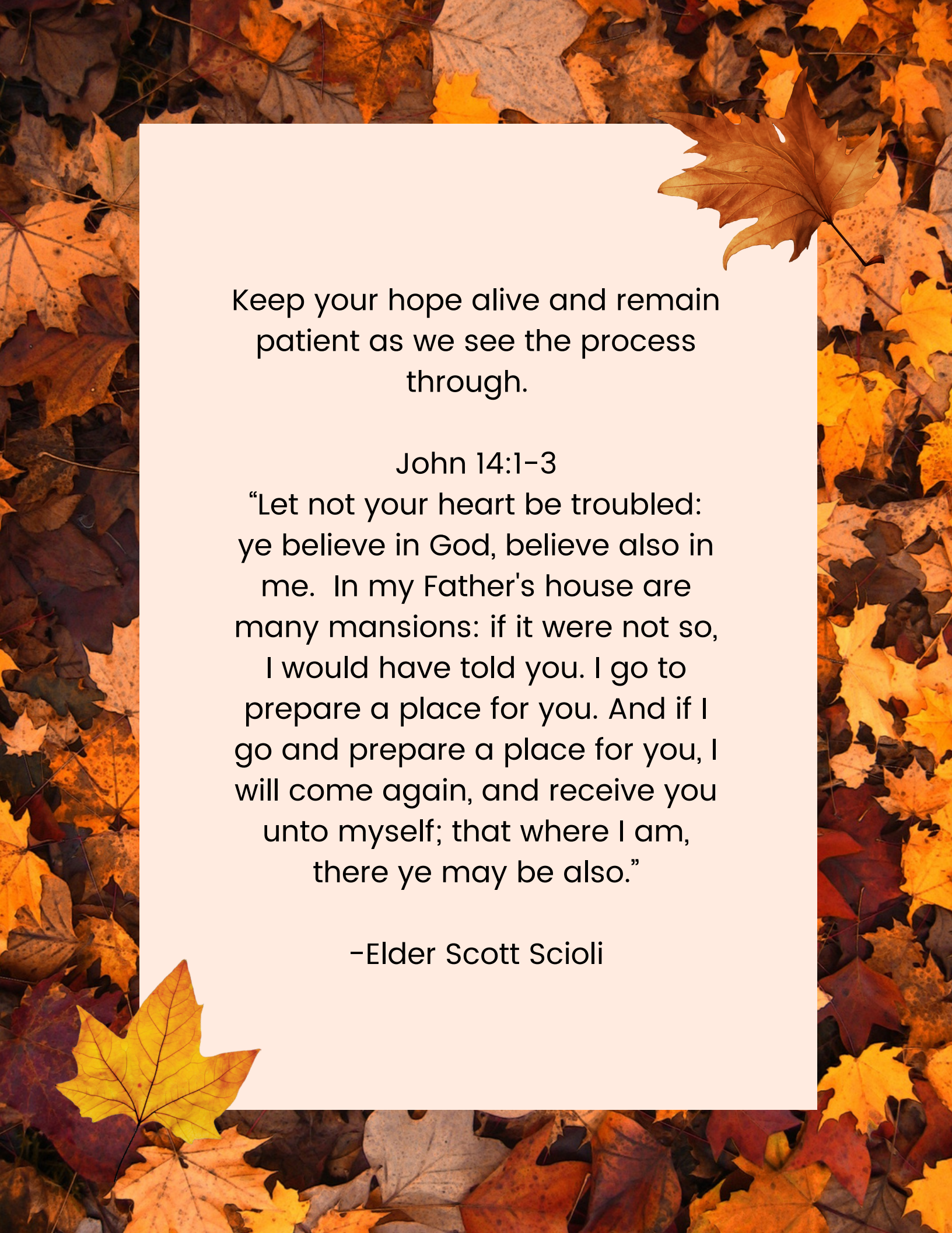
vii) Session has scheduled a Special Meeting of the Congregation for Sunday, Sept 10, 2023, in the Sanctuary immediately following worship for the purpose of electing a PNC. We will be presenting the proposed slate of nominees for the PNC for the congregation to consider. We hope everyone will support and vote for the slate. We got a great group, and if there are nominees from the floor – its’ not too late. There is room for one or more people to be added.

viii) As soon as we elect the PNC, we will inform COM to obtain their final approval of the PNC. At that time, the PNC will receive some key training on the process and they can begin their work. The Mission Study Report will be used by the PNC help inform their work and the search.



ix) In the meantime, we continue our search for a “Covenant Call” Pastor on at least a part-time basis. That has been slow but ongoing this whole time. Many people do not appreciate the work that our Personnel team (especially Elders Bonnie Cain and Amanda Rosica) have been doing to fill our weekly needs for a preacher since Covenant has been without a pastor. It is a tough and never-ending job to make sure we have someone who can preach for us. The good news here is that there are some encouraging possibilities for filling the position. That would be a welcome reprieve.

Please remain in prayer for our church. Your prayers for our Mission Study Team were heard. Now please pray for our Pastoral Nominating Committee, and the presently unknown and unseen person they will find to serve Covenant for some years to come.



Keep your hope alive and remain patient as we see the process through.

John 14:1-3

“Let not your heart be troubled: ye believe in God, believe also in me. In my Father's house are many mansions: if it were not so, I would have told you. I go to prepare a place for you. And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again, and receive you unto myself; that where I am, there ye may be also.”

-Elder Scott Scioli

# Schedules



## Preachers



**9/3: Rev. Jonathan Miller**

**9/10: Rev. Beth Thomas**

**9/17: Rev. Frank Zeidler**

**9/24: Lane Snapp**



## Greeters/Ushers

**9/3: Pat Rothenhofer & Sandi Pascone**

**9/10: Carol Grunigen & Treva Grunigen**

**9/17: Joy Connolly & Jim Bender**

**9/24: Carol Ortlip & Mary Lou Newborg**



# **Flower Delivery**

**9/3: Cynthia Joffe**

**9/10: Ann Rosica**

**9/17: Christy Jeffries**

**9/24: Joan Samph**



# **Refreshments**

**9/3: Karen Schwartz**

**9/10: Barbara VanTassel**

**9/17: Leslie Todd**

**9/24: Bonnie Cain**

# Music

## Attention Ringers!

We will have our first bell rehearsal on Monday September 11 at 7:00 PM. All are welcome to ring!



## Attention Singers!

We will have our first rehearsal on Sunday September 10 after the service. We will begin performing in the service on September 24. All are welcome to sing!

**The choir will return to worship  
services on September 24.**

**Choral Anthem:  
9/24: Great is Thy Faithfulness,  
arr. Hanson**



**Throughout the month of  
September, preludes,  
postlude, and special  
music will be presented by**



**Philip Keveren, Mark  
Hayes, Joel Raney, Lloyd  
Larson, John Purifoy,  
Philip Keveren, Martha  
Mier and Marilyn Ham.**



**We welcome Nina Zubaidi as a  
guest violinist in September!**

# Happy Birthday

**1 Treva Grunigen**

**2 Adam Lambersky**

**11 Betty Graham**

**12 Bob E. Seither**

**14 Grace Raymond**

**19 Jim Bender**

**23 Dave Sutton**

**24 B. Ann DuBois**

**24 Cheryl Cinque**

**24 Marilyn Davidoff**

**27 Christy Jeffries**



# HAPPY ANNIVERSARY

**9/5 Sue & Chris Kirvan**

**9/12 Cherie & David Raymond**

**9/12 Jeanne & Mike Martin**

**9/14 Julia & Craig Slater**

**9/18 Linda & John Blimegger**



## **Christian Caring Center**

**Non-perishable food items may be brought the  
1st Sunday of the month and placed in the  
narthex. Thank you for your continued  
generosity.**



# MESSAGE FROM CYNTHIA JOFFE

I would like to thank the congregation for their thoughts and prayers and best wishes during my recent recovery. You have sent many cards and provided many visits to cheer me up and make my days go faster. I greatly appreciate the love and kindness you have shown me. I still have several months to go but I have definitely turned a corner. I hope to see you in church.

God bless you all.  
Cynthia





# SPECIAL MEETING OF THE CONGREGATION

The Session has called a Special Meeting of the Congregation to be held Sunday, September 10, following worship services. The purposes of this meeting are considering the proposed slate of nominees for the Pastoral Nominating Committee ('PNC') and electing a PNC.



# YOUR PARTICIPATION IS NEEDED!



## VOLUNTEERS

Members are invited to participate in our services. Please contact Bonnie Cain or Greg DiBona if you are interested in reading scripture or leading our worship services. We are also in need of more volunteers to operate the camera and soundboard. Please contact the church office if you are interested.





# COLLECTION FOR THE PEOPLE OF MAUI

Within hours of the devastating fire that swept through Lahaina, our Presbyterian Disaster Relief program staff were already working to coordinate with emergency workers on site. Along with continuing prayer support, Presbytery leadership invites your tangible signs of support and compassion by contributing to the Presbyterian Disaster Relief program to aid ongoing relief efforts.

Please send checks to the Covenant Presbyterian Church (Memo: Maui). Covenant will send the donation to the Presbytery for Southern New Jersey. Thank you for your support and contribution.





## MONTHLY MEETINGS AND SCHEDULES

Women's Bible Study – resuming September 10 at 11AM at  
Betty Herskovitz's home

Choir Rehearsal – resuming September 10 at 11AM

Bell Rehearsal – resuming September 11 at 7PM

Christian Education (Bonnie Cain and Amanda Rosica) – as  
needed

 Deacons – 2nd Tuesday, 7:00 PM 

Fellowship (Amanda Rosica) – 3rd Wednesday, 7:00 PM

Finance and Stewardship (Mike Martin) – 2nd Monday, 7:00  
PM

Men's Breakfast – Tuesdays, 7:00 AM

Membership (Nancy Perritt) – as needed

Mission (Mary Lou Newborg) – as needed

Music and Worship (Leslie Todd) – Sunday, September 17th  
following the church service in the lounge

Property Care (Chuck Rosica and Bob Jeffries) – determined  
by chairperson

 Session – 4th Thursday, 7:30 PM 