

WEEKEND UPDATE

11-18-11



Thanks giving

I have another confession to make. I have finally done what I said I would not do. I joined Facebook. I did it to keep up with kids and grandkids, not because I wanted/needed one more time sink in my life. It was about relating to folks. Once I did, I had a fearful thought, “What if no one wants to be my friend?” Thankfully, about 100 folks said they would be my friend, most of them family or extended family. It has been good, occasionally, to experience those moments of ambient intimacy as I read the posts, and sometimes post my own quips. Even one friend told me, “Welcome to the addiction!” Not for me. I can only stand so much of that at one time.

The most interesting set of posts in the past few days have been friends who have taken a challenge to say for what they are thankful all the way through the month until Thanksgiving Day. The posts have been ordinary and interesting. One friend was thankful for bedtime. Another for a sunrise, another for a sunset, and I could go on. The point is this – if each of us were to post that many days worth of thanks, for what would we be thankful?

As we approach this season of cultural Thanksgiving, I want to encourage us to spend some time with thanks giving. It is often what we read in the Psalms, it is the word we hear when we say, “Eucharist” or Great Thanksgiving, and it is often what we do this time of year. As with all things in the culture, we have taken something intended to focus us outward and give thanks, to something we believe is meant for us. It might be that we mistake Thanksgiving as being about the food, the football, the family or the frenzy – all of which is ultimately about me. However, to focus on thanks giving is to turn ourselves outward so that thanks giving is centered in another. Try it this way: give a word of thanks to someone who serves you but doesn’t really “deserve” it – say someone who carries food to you. Try thanks giving in a place that is rife with impatient

people acting out in impatient ways. I've been trying to do it lately and it is amazing how much the atmosphere can change when one practices thanks giving. Try it, you'll see, since it will also change your atmosphere and attitude. It takes less time than you think.

This weekend, remember that our United Methodist women will be leading us in worship. We will know of their contributions to mission and service on a local and worldwide scale. Also, we will be hosting a group of potential new members for lunch and for a couple hours of what it is we Methodists believe, how we as a congregation function, how we are seeking to fulfill a God-given vision and what it means to become a member. If you want to know more, come see us in the Stewart Family Life Center Meeting room at 12:15 for lunch. We will hang the greens this weekend to decorate the church for Christmas that we might give proper thanks to the One who came to us so long ago and whose presence we still await with anticipation one day.

For the rest of the week, practice a little thanks giving; notice what happens when you issue thanks to someone and meet their gaze. Be present in worship and don't forget to say a good word about the Lord Jesus Christ and invite someone, in this season, to be with you in church. Who knows, there may be someone who looks at you to give you thanks for introducing him or her to the church and Christ. It is the perfect season to seek and reach for the church, so be invitational.

See you soon in the place where we will practice thanks giving in the presence of the greatest giver of all.
Pastor Mark



Thanksgiving Blessing Baskets

*Help the choir fill the Blessing Baskets
by donating non-perishable food
items (canned or dry). Please bring
items to the church by Nov. 20th.*

If you would like to donate a turkey or ham,
please contact Roberta Harrison at 584.8065.

Belonging to Jesus

Believing in Jesus' Message

Becoming involved in Jesus' Mission

WHUMCs
Pathway of Discipleship

Beginning the Pathway

Sunday, November 20th
12:15pm - 3pm
Lunch & Childcare Provided
SFLC Meeting Room

CALLING ALL
New & Prospective Members

Discover how to start on **The Pathway**
Led by Dr. Mark Alexander

Sidewalk Sunday School
Christmas Celebration

Help give a child at Sidewalk
a Merry Christmas!

**Take A Box
Fill It Up
& Drop It Off**

Gift Boxes Available: Dec. 4th in the Narthex



SERVING IN MINISTRY

November Greeters-Team #2

- 8:00 Melba Dyal, Eldene Amundson, Norm Amundson, Betty McCann
- 9:30 Lyn Gan, Becky Martin, Misty Lindsey
- 11:00 Debbie Hand, Lee Hand, Robert Horn, Ginny Moe, Sue Minor

November Ushers-Team #2

- 8:00 Doyle Smith, Randolph Young, Sandra Young, Dick Yetter
- 9:30 Julie Perez, Ana Battles, Deanne Battles, Kevin Battles, Sheryl Shioji, Sarah Shioji
- 11:00 Phillip McCoy, Dave Chicka, Judy Chicka, Johnelle Moore, Victor Moore, John Magruder, Charlie Birkelbach

Coffee Time

9:00 Bob & Peggy Craig

10:30 Connie Smith

Muggers

Doug & Cindy Wright

Media Ministry

Manny González, Bob Phillips,

Dave Beck, Don Wilkinson,

Marty Alexander, Robert Underwood, Rick Snow

The Gathering Band

Alan Shioji, Felipe Perez, Jackie Gaines, Charles Ogren,

Steve Putnicki, Paul Behrendsen, Adrien Reyes,

Melissa Ogren, Mary Gaddy, Kerry Boone

Hospital Ministry Visitor

Bob & Peggy Craig

Acolytes

8:00 Nicholas Valenti, Sophia Valenti

11:00 Alex Martinez, Dylan Bozeman

Altar Flowers

Happy Thanksgiving

to our Western Hills family

from Dave & Suellyn Lehrsall!

Scripture

John 20:15-17