

November 2021



November is customarily the time of year when we turn our minds to thankfulness, but it's been a long two years, and it feels like there is not much to be thankful for. Cynicism is on every street corner. Outrage is wrapped around every Facebook post. Hurt, exhaustion, and grief have become our default setting. Thankfulness, however, seems to be scarce.

The scriptures call us to gratefulness anyway. They call us to adore God because of who He is and what He has done. Psalms 107, for example, says, *"Give thanks to the LORD, for He is good; His faithful love endures forever."* No matter our life circumstances, the love and goodness of God do not change.

1 Thessalonians 5:18 famously commands us to, *"Give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you."* God's will for us is to be thankful no matter how bad things might appear. Even if the world is not the way we would like it to be, our blessings are still too numerous to count. The problem is not that we lack blessings, the problem is we focus on the wrong things; we are like ungrateful children on Christmas who are so upset we didn't get a new video game that we cannot enjoy the gifts we did receive.

Can I challenge you to be different this fall? Stop complaining about the politics you don't like. Stop being angry about situations you can't control. Stop hating your job. Stop wishing your life was different, and instead find reasons to be grateful. The goodness of God is all around you just waiting to be recognized and celebrated.

One discipline that helps me in my own journey is making a daily list. I try to identify three things each day I am thankful for. These aren't the life-changing big things. They aren't the generic answers either. They are the small, yet unique, moments of grace around me every day. Here's my list from yesterday. Three simple blessings for which I am thankful.

1. The smell of simmering soup
2. The joy of bedtime hugs
3. The smile on a friend's face

What's on your list? What happened today that you can thank God for, even if you had a 'bad day'? May your thankfulness turn to praise as we *give thanks in all circumstances because this is what God wants for our lives.*

Josh

UPCOMING EVENTS

FAITH PROMISE SUNDAY NOVEMBER 14

Join us on Sunday, November 14 for the Faith Promise Service. This is a time that we prayerfully consider how much we plan to give to Missions in 2022. Pledge cards will be available that day.

OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD NOVEMBER 21

It's that time of year again to fill a shoebox full of blessings for a child. Pick up a shoebox in the foyer and return the filled shoeboxes by Sunday, November 21.

THANKSGIVING DINNER NOVEMBER 21

You are invited to join us for Thanksgiving Dinner after worship on Sunday, November 21. Please sign up in the foyer if you plan to attend. We are going to do the food differently this year. If you would like to donate food to the dinner, please contact Judy Anders.

ALL-NIGHTER NOVEMBER 26-27

Join us for a night of worship, friends, and fun as we go swimming, play basketball, laser tag, eat pizza and a lot more! November 26 from 7pm to 7am on November 27. Cost is \$25 for 5th grade and up. Bring a friend and they will get \$5 discount.

HANGING OF THE GREENS NOVEMBER 28

We need help decorating for Christmas on November 28 at 4pm followed by a devotion at 6pm.



DECEMBER 5
Celebration &
Remembrance
Service

DECEMBER 17
Christmastime
Banquet &
Concert

DECEMBER 19
Christmas
Caroling

DECEMBER 24
Christmas Eve
Candlelight
Services at
4 & 6pm

DECEMBER 28-29
Youth All-Nighter

2022 MISSION TRIP

The Mission Committee is considering taking a trip to Haus Edelweiss in Vienna, Austria in 2022. This is through TCM. There are a couple different dates they are considering and there are 6 spots available to go on the trip. Pick up an info sheet in the foyer or you can call Shirley Beal with any questions.