



Volume 36 Issue 11
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Love Letter



Even When it's Difficult, Give Thanks!

"Give thanks in all circumstances; for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus." (1 Thessalonians 5:18)

Give thanks with a grateful heart.

Give thanks to the Holy One.

Give thanks for he's given Jesus Christ, his Son.

And now let the weak say, "I am strong."

Let the poor say, "I am rich

because of what the Lord has done for us.

Give thanks.



How many times have you heard and/or sung the words of this hymn? Recognized as one of the most popular contemporary hymns around, *"Give Thanks"* is especially popular during the Thanksgiving holiday.

Would you believe that Henry Smith, wrote this song in 1978 when he was going through a difficult time in his life? A seminary graduate, Henry "suffered from a degenerative eye condition which would later leave him legally blind." He had trouble getting a job and worked odd jobs to make ends meet. Henry eventually lost his sight but not his hope and gratitude to God for all that God had done. During this difficult time, he remembers being especially thankful when, during a church service, he heard the pastor talk about 2 Corinthians 8:9, ***"For you know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, that though he was rich, yet for your sake he became poor, so that you through his poverty might become rich."***

Thanksgiving is a time when many of us give thanks for God's blessings with family and friends and celebrate with a special meal. However, for some, Thanksgiving may not be a time for celebration. For those who are experiencing difficulties such as being out of work, struggling with health problems, grieving the loss of a loved one or something else, Thanksgiving may be a difficult time.

In keeping with our ministry theme, **Letting God Stretch Us**, let us all be sensitive to and allow space for the range of emotions that may exist at this time and reach out to those who are hurting with a word of comfort, a prayer or quiet presence.

For anyone who may be going through difficulty, remember that God is real, loves you and understands what you're going through. Indeed, even God's Son, Jesus, experienced feelings of loneliness and isolation on the cross. His very words, "My God, why have you forsaken me" reflect his pain and anguish. Know that God does not forsake us. There isn't a place where God is not working all things for good. "It is where hidden blessings are stored. They are not always easy to find, but they are always there."

May you be thankfully stretched and blessed!

Pastor Jackie

Rev. Jacqueline Jones-Smith
Senior Pastor



Thank You, LORD!



Christ UMC invites you to **STRETCH!**

Join us in the

2019 St. Petersburg Santa Parade

Saturday, Nov. 30, 2019

The parade steps off at 5:30 pm from Albert Whitted Airport and proceeds along Beach Drive, ending by 8:00 at Straub Park, where the tree lighting will occur. Following the tree lighting there will be food, music and activities for the family in Straub Park.

Bring your enthusiasm and wear your smiles and festive clothing. Santa hats and other holiday hats are encouraged. No full-body Santa suits are permitted. Be prepared to sing Christmas carols with Wesleyan enthusiasm.

See Paul Eifler, or email him (peifle@hotmail.com) to sign up. More details are forthcoming.

50+ers Outing

Come see *The Game's Afloat or Holmes for the Holidays*, the fall play presented by the Osceola Fundamental High School Theatre Dept., November 8, 7pm. This is a Christmas themed Sherlock Holmes Parody guaranteed to be entertaining. The 50+ers are making an evening of it by meeting at the Perkins at the corner of Park Blvd. and Starkey Rd. at 5:00 for dinner, but you don't have to be 50 or + to join us. Tickets: General - \$10, Seniors/Students - \$5, retired PCSB employees - free with V.I.P. card. The play also runs on November 7 and 9, and people can go on their own. Questions, call Charlene Miller at 727-254-1176. Please indicate your interest on the green sheet.

Pueblo Nuevo Prospers

Our sister church in Matanzas, Cuba continues to worship in the joy of the Lord!

They received our gifts in October, graciously transported to them by the Oakhurst United Methodist mission team.

These included cash donated by our congregation as well as tambourines and angel wings. The need continues for 2 bicycles.

Pastor Eduardo expressed Pueblo Nuevo's great thanks and blessings to everyone at our church.



Hortin Child Development Center

It's November, the month of thanks, and we have a lot to be thankful for here at Hortin! We have been blessed with an amazing church family in CUMC and we have a school full of amazing children and parents, what more could we ask for?



We will start off the month learning about Farms and we will have a fun day with a visiting petting zoo, learning about life on the farm. Then, we will learn how to properly nourish our bodies by discovering what we should be eating with our lessons on food and nutrition.

Later this month the children will be learning about the first Thanksgiving before they don costumes of pilgrims, native Americans and even turkeys as they put on a play for their parents at our annual family Thanksgiving potluck luncheon.



We will be collecting perishable and non-perishable foods (anything that does not require refrigeration) for the food pantry at Clearview Methodist Church between November 1-15th. If you would like to bring in donations, there will be a box located in the preschool hallway.

We hope you all have a wonderful Thanksgiving filled with family, love and delicious food! GOD BLESS and HAPPY THANKSGIVING!

Jessica Passman
Hortin Preschool, Director



Clipping for Education

The UPC labels, bonus point labels, and box tops can be deposited in the church container located outside the sanctuary, or given at the office and Landis Braddock will mail them to Redbird Mission. The labels that we send are used for computers, school supplies, playground equipment, and vans to transport students and medical outreach functions in the community. Your very generous donations of labels and box tops are a part of our mission outreach in the heart of the Appalachian area of this great country of ours. Please keep clipping! Your Missions Committee



Youth Ministry Spotlight

The Youth Ministry continues to grow both deep and wide. We've added yet another member to our group. BIG thanks to: Clarissa Powell, Carol Campbell, and Diana and Jim Norred for feeding us well the past few weeks. We continue to appreciate our parents and grandparents who are encouraging and providing transportation to and from Youth Group! We couldn't do this without you. Please help us spread the word and pray for continued growth.



Special thanks to the youth and families who participated in Hortin Childhood Development Center's 28th Anniversary Celebration.

This event brought together the best of Christ Church. Combined efforts of the Sanctuary Choir, The Gathering Band, Christ Church Youth, Hortin and Christ Church Staff and those amazing children made for such a blessed morning. BIG THANKS to ALL who worked together to make this a day to remember. What a special Sunday it was! May God bless Christ Church and Hortin CDC with many more years of service to the St. Petersburg area.



Youth Group has moved to:
THURSDAYS 6:30-8:00PM



The Youth have embarked on a series we're calling, "What's Your Story". One week we journeyed through the second floor of Christ Church in a, "Trust Walk". *This is where we find a partner and with one person's eyes are closed and the other only leading with words as they navigate through obstacles. Then, we watched an, "I Am Second" vignette where Bethany Hamilton, the surfer who lost her arm in a shark attack, shared her journey of loss and triumph. Afterward, we took time to map our own spiritual journeys by putting pen to paper in a time of reflection. Some even shared their journeys with the group afterwards. This was a powerful time of sharing and going deeper into relationship with one another as The Holy Spirit led.*

amazonsmile
You shop. Amazon gives.

Don't forget that while you are shopping for holiday gifts, Pack-A-Sack or Samaritan's Purse items, to "smile" at Christ Church. Simply go to smile.amazon.com and select Christ Methodist Church Inc. (the St. Petersburg location) as your charity of choice. Then continue to shop as normal. It is that easy!

Wellness Corner

Happy November, Christ Church!

One of the kindest things you can do for your family is to plan what forms of medical treatment you want if you are unable to speak for yourself. You can plan for end-of-life at any age. Imagine the family arguments at the bedside or in the funeral home that could be avoided if we would just talk about it. The holidays are coming. Many of you will be gathering with family members at some point over the next few months. Talk about who has Advance Directives and what they want. Have all your family members heard your wishes directly from you? What about your doctors? Have you only told that one trusted person who will be your health surrogate? Save them the headache of fighting with the rest of the family or the doctors to make sure your wishes are met.

According to Stanford University, 80% of Americans state they would prefer to die at home. Unfortunately, 60% die in hospitals, 20% die in nursing homes, and only 20% die at home. Advanced planning could help change these numbers to better reflect people's desires.

What does dying well look like? Do you want the whole family around making as much noise as ever or do you prefer a few close relatives and a quiet atmosphere? Would you like music in the room? Maybe start with a simpler choice: coffin or cremation? Open or closed casket? What about that wedding ring (or another sentimental item) does it stay with you or go to a loved one? Are candles relaxing or torturous for you? Planning helps you focus on what's truly important in your final days.

Palliative

Treat pain and symptoms, such as nausea, fatigue, depression and anxiety

Help maintain the most comfortable, independent and active lifestyle as possible

Partner with community physicians to provide an extra layer of support for patients, residents and loved ones

Hospice

Provided in patients' homes or residential and care settings by interdisciplinary teams of expert professionals and trained volunteers

Ease of physical, emotional and spiritual pain and stress of patients and families.

Thirteen months of grief support also is available for families.

Hospice care is available during the last six months of life through the Medicare Hospice Benefit.

Empath Health describes Palliative and Hospice services:

Check this link for more information on Hospice and Palliative Care:

<https://www.nhpco.org/patients-and-caregivers/resources/>

Blessings and wishes for wellness,

Katrina Goodrich

Music Ministry Notes:

NOVEMBER newsletter article

The seasons of harvest, thanksgiving and expectation are upon us! The people of God have always participated in opportunities to sing and dance . . . the scriptures are full of this wisdom. Here are just a few that you might know.

Psalm 95:1 Come, let us sing for joy to the LORD; let us shout aloud to the Rock of our salvation.

Psalm 71:23 My lips will shout for joy when I sing praise to you— I whom you have delivered.

Colossians 3:16 Let the message of Christ dwell among you richly as you teach and admonish one another with all wisdom through psalms, hymns, and songs from the Spirit, singing to God with gratitude in your hearts.

Psalm 98:4 Shout joyfully to the LORD, all the earth; Break forth and sing for joy and sing praises.

Psalm 33:2 Give thanks to the LORD with the lyre; Sing praises to Him with a harp of ten strings.

Nehemiah 12:27 Now at the dedication of the wall of Jerusalem they sought out the Levites from all their places, to bring them to Jerusalem so that they might celebrate the dedication with gladness, with hymns of thanksgiving and with songs to the accompaniment of cymbals, harps and lyres.

Psalm 27:6 And now my head will be lifted up above my enemies around me, And I will offer in His tent sacrifices with shouts of joy; I will sing, yes, I will sing praises to the LORD.

Psalm 57:7 My heart is steadfast, O God, my heart is steadfast; I will sing, yes, I will sing praises!

Psalm 81:1-2 Sing for joy to God our strength; Shout joyfully to the God of Jacob. Raise a song, strike the timbrel, The sweet-sounding lyre with the harp.

Psalm 87:7

Then those who sing as well as those who play the flutes shall say, "All my springs of joy are in you."

I invite you to joyfully enter into this season with songs of gratitude and praise.

Blessings and Joy,
Carol

Music Ministry Date to SAVE

December 8 – 3:00PM **WINTER CHORAL CONCERT**

The Sanctuary Choir, Harmony Ringers and Gathering Band will present a very special concert of sacred and secular music on Sunday afternoon, December 8. We have some new surprises and delights in store, especially for the children! There will be opportunities for audience participation on Christmas Carols and the concert will end with an invitation to audience members to join the choir in singing Handel's *Hallelujah Chorus*. Please invite your friends and neighbors to this wonderful afternoon of celebration and joy!

A freewill offering will be taken.

50+ers EVENTS

Friday, November 8th, 6:30 pm

50+ers Outing to Osceola High School to see the play *The Game's Afloat or Holmes for the Holidays*

Sunday, November 24th 12:00 pm

Out to Lunch Bunch
Sign up on the green
"Connecting With You" sheet

New Member Orientation

New Members Discovery Session - **Saturday Nov.9th from 9:30-10:45 AM**. Please contact Erin, Church Administrative Assistant, at 727-822-3343 or ecouill@christchurchstpete.org to let us know you will be attending.

Noisy-Coin Offering



Our "noisy-coin" offering opportunity is on **Sunday, November 10th**. This offering will go to the *Daystar Life Center*. Also, remember to bring your food for the *Daystar Life Center*. You can place it in the grocery cart in the back of the Chapel and Sanctuary. If everyone brings just one can of food, think about the contribution we can make to help those less fortunate than we are. Thank you for continuing to support these Christ Church ministries on the second Sunday of each month.

Coin Laundry Outreach



Our Laundry Drop Outreach program meets on the first Saturday of each month. Please consider joining us as we "drop-in" at neighboring laundromats; we meet in the courtyard at **9:30 am**. Be sure to indicate on the green sheet if you would like to come. We are grateful for the donations from Christ UMC congregation as well as those from Princess Martha, which have made this ministry possible. Not only do we drop coins in the machines, but we provide laundry baskets to replace worn plastic bags, provide detergent and softener sheets, and talk with and pray for those in need. And in addition to being salty servers, we have great fun. Come join us this **Saturday, November 2nd**, or if you can't make it this month, plan for another.

Pack - A - Sack



Pack-A-Sack 4 Kids

We continue to pack and deliver to our "in need" children at St. Mark's day care. I thank all who have donated & delivered. We are always in need of donations and people who can deliver the sacks of weekend food for these children. Our next packing day is Thursday, November 7th. Please join us as we pack the bags for Pack-A-Sack. We will meet in the Chapel at 10:00 am.





Samaritan's Purse

Our yearly mission project has started. We again are packing shoeboxes for third world country children. Shoe box goodies may be the only gifts these children will receive. The boxes should be filled with school supplies, hygiene items, and small toys-fun items for children. No candy or toothpaste. Toothbrushes are ok. Any items you find you can donate and I will pack a box for you. Can't shop? I'll do it for you with the help of my grandchildren.

Holiday Food Baskets

The Missions Committee is happy to announce that we are, once again, going to put together 20 baskets filled with food for the holidays. This is something that we are happy to be able to share with families from St. Mark's Day Care (where we take the Pack-a-Sack food bags) and others who can use a little extra help during the holiday season.

Please put this date on your calendars: Sunday, November 24. On that date, after the 11:00 service, we will gather as a congregation to assemble the baskets. If you have some ribbons, fall leaves, or flowers that could be used to decorate the baskets, that would add that personal touch.

It won't take long and light refreshments will be provided. We hope that you can join with the Missions Committee to provide this blessing to others.

Food Donations

We should all be proud of that fact that, despite being a small congregation, we are able to provide for others in the community in so many ways. Many of you are faithful donors to the Food Pantry, Pack-a-Sack, and other missions of the church.

When donating food, however, we must be careful to check for expiration dates on what we provide. I'm sure that I'm not the only one who has eaten food at home that is past the "use by" or "sell by" dates, and never had a problem, we have to be extra cautious about food that we are donating. Thank you for remembering to check those dates on any food that you donate.

Caps for Babies

Another mission that our church supports is the making of knitted caps for infants. You might not have heard of that mission, but it is an active one. Recently, a large bag of knitted caps was brought to the church to be delivered to All Children's and other area hospitals. Caps that are considered to be too large for infants will be taken to other hospitals for cancer or other patients that would appreciate them.

Thank you to all who have helped to make the caps. If you are interested in participating in this mission, contact the Office and leave a message for Kitty Burris.