

NOVEMBER 2025

FIRSTNEWS

COUNTING OUR BLESSINGS AS WE PREPARE FOR THANKSGIVING DAY



With this being our November newsletter and Thanksgiving being on November 27th, we need to be reminded that we are to be a thankful people. Thanksgiving Day is a yearly reminder that we all have reasons to be thankful. It was in 1863 that President Abraham Lincoln proclaimed the last Thursday in November as a Day of Thanksgiving. This was to be a day of religious observance, set aside as a day of prayer and praise. I would like to share four reflections to help prepare our hearts for Thanksgiving Day with some Scriptural reflections.

First, in all circumstances, God commands us to be a thankful people. I Thessalonians 5:18 tell us, "give thanks in all circumstances; for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus." The command is not to give thanks because of all of the circumstances, as sometimes the circumstances are good and sometimes, they are bad. But we are to give thanks in all circumstances, meaning that with the good or the bad, God can use all things for our spiritual development.

Second, know that thanksgiving to God is an important part of a life of worship. Psalm 100:4, "Enter his gates with thanksgiving and his courts with praise; give thanks to him and praise his name." If we are going to worship the Lord, thanksgiving is a pivotal component of that worship. We offer to God our worship with thanksgiving.

Third, our words and deeds should reveal that we are a thankful people. Colossians 3:17, "And whatever you do, whether in word or deed, do it all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him." Our words are what we say and our deeds are what we do and both our words and our deeds should express our gratitude to God.

Fourth, we are to give thanks to the Lord because He is good and His love endures forever. Psalm 136:1, "Give thanks to the LORD, for he is good. His love endures forever." God's good character and His enduring love is reason to give thanks to the Lord.

Sorina and I are thankful for each of you and we wish you a Happy Thanksgiving! Blessings, Pastor Kenny

BIRTHDAYS:

7 RUSS SHEFFIELD
8 DIGGEE COTTON
9 JANET PURSELL
11 DEBBIE DEAN
11 JAMES STOVER
15 BARBARA DELORA
17 LAREA KING
17 HANK DEES
20 RUTH POLLOCK
21 AUDINE EHRGOTT
21 ELSE FRANK
24 BOBBY MINARD
25 DOROTHY BENSELL

ANNIVERSARYS:

2 DAVE & DEBORAH
HEPLER
22 CHRISTOPHER &
BARBARA BRUNNER
26 EDDIE & CINDY
MCGUIRE

NOVEMBER EVENTS & ANNOUNCEMENTS

Welcome, Caleb Byers! Caleb will be our church intern with emphasis on families, children, and youth through the end of January 2026. We found Caleb through the intern Academy. Caleb is from Michigan, and just graduated from high school in May. We will have an all-church, carry-in meal after the morning service on Sunday, November 2nd in Caleb's honor. Be in prayer for Caleb and come to meet him this Sunday, as he begins his time with us!

The Grief Support Group meeting will meet at the church in the fellowship hall on November 6th (Thursday) at 11:15 and then they will be going to a nearby restaurant for their lunch meeting.

Mark and Kathy Fulton are First Church of God missionaries to Haiti, and they will be sharing with us during the Sunday School hour on Sunday, November 9th from 9:30-10:15am in the church sanctuary. They will also be sharing with us during our "mission's moment" at our Sunday morning service. Make plans to attend on this Special Sunday, and be in prayer for Mark and Kathy Fulton.

Come join us on Friday, November 21st to go to the Hotel Jacaranda. Come join us for the Christmas lunch. The price is \$23. Lunch is a seafood buffet with fried chicken (the price includes the buffet, drink, tax and tip). The bus limit is 20 people or you can self-drive. Be at church at 9:15am. The last day to sign up and pay is on Wednesday, November 12th. The hotel is decorated for Christmas.

On Saturday, November 22nd from 5-7pm, come join the youth, children, and their families for a game night in the fellowship hall. We will have a pot-luck meal, followed by a Bible study, and games. There is a sign-up sheet in the lobby to bring sides and desserts.

First Church of God - Winter Haven
presents

1st Annual Holiday Vendor Market

on Saturday, November 8, 2025
from 8:00am - 2:00pm

Tell friends and family!
Help get the word out!

spaces still available for new vendors

Any questions? Please contact :

First Church of God
3025 US Hwy 92 W
Winter Haven, FL 33881
863-956-4601

A Note from Caleb:

I am the new intern at our church and will be working alongside the other church staff for the next few months. I am 18 years old and I feel called to ministry. I look forward to meeting the congregation and getting to know everyone here.

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