NOVEMBER 2026

FIRSTNEWS



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Thanksgiving Day is a Day to Count Our Blessings

On Thanksgiving Day, we are to count our blessings and remember that we are called by God to be a thankful people. Thanksgiving Day is on the calendar once a year and 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 will share four reflections to help prepare ourselves for Thanksgiving Day with some added Scriptural reflections.

First, we are to give thanks to the Lord because He is good and His love endures forever. Isn't it good to know that we serve a good God? Psalm 136:1, "Give thanks to the LORD, for he is good. His love endures forever." Our good God that has His enduring love is reason for us to give thanks to the Lord.

Second, our words and are character should reveal that we are a thankful people. Colossians 3:17 tells us, "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 revealed by what we say, and our deeds are what we do, and both our words and our deeds should express our gratitude to God. We are to be people of integrity.

Third, know that thanksgiving to God is an essential 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.

Fourth, we are commanded in all circumstances to be people that are thankful. 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 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.

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

Blessings, Pastor Kenny



7 Russ Sheffield
8 Anthony Fernandez
8 Diggee Cotton
9 Janet Persell
11 Debbie Dean
11 James Stover
11 Lee Wolken
12 Richard Robacker
15 Barbara Delora
17 Larea King
17 Hank Dees
20 Ruth Pollock
21 Audine Ehrgott
21 Else Frank
24 Bobby Miniard
24 Lucie Blanc
25 Florent Blanc
25 Dorothy Bensell
26 Valentine Gabaldon



2 Dave & Deborah Hepler

12 Christopher & Barbara Brunner

26 Eddie & Cindy McGuire

ACTIVITIES & EVENTS

November 3rd (Tuesday) is Election Day. Remember to go vote and pray for our country.

November 5th (Thursday) Join us at Woodland Lakes Mobile Home Community in Lake Alfred at 1:00pm for our very first "Hymns in the Neighborhood" event! Please sign up in the lobby if you are available to be a singer. Any questions, see Tom Ray.

November 7th (Saturday) at 8:00am is our monthly men's meeting at the church. We will have breakfast, meeting and devotion. All men are welcome.

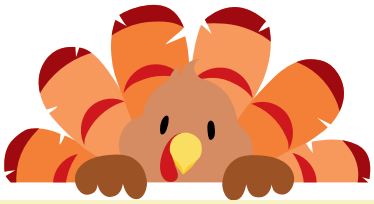
November 13th & 14th (Friday & Saturday) Ladies Weekend of Fun & Fellowship through crafts, scrapbooking, puzzles & games. The group will begin on Friday at 1:00pm and Saturday at 9:00am. See Deb Hepler with any questions.

November 17th (Tuesday) is the Florida Aquarium outing. Please confirm by November 1st. See Sara Hobbs or Joanne Williams with any questions.

November 17th (Tuesday) is the monthly CWC meeting in Fellowship Hall at 6:30pm. All women are welcome.

November 19th (Thursday) is the Leadership Council Meeting at 6:30pm in Fellowship Hall.

November 28th (Saturday) Come help us decorate the church for Christmas at 8:00am.



CWC Update:

A special thank you to all who helped with the Vendor Market! It was a huge success and we are grateful to each of you!

We are heading into an exciting season! Please watch the bulletin boards for upcoming events, including our Annual CWC Bake Sale!



YOUTH & FAMILY UPDATE:

Truth Seekers Youth Ministry: Our Truth Seekers youth group continues to grow! Please keep our young people in your prayers. If God is leading you to serve in youth ministry, I would love to hear from you!

Pop Can Fundraiser: Keep those cans coming! We'll continue collecting through Thanksgiving to support Heart Village. Every can makes a difference!

Hymns in the Neighborhood is a new ministry to reach out to our local 55+ communities. If you currently live in one of these communities please sign up to be an ambassador, our contact person for your community. Our plan is to come to the clubhouse or common area for about an hour, we will provide a light snack, devotion and a hymn sing. We will also need singers or anyone that would like to come along to be an encourager. We are planning to visit one community each month. Please sign up in the lobby or see me with any questions.

Financial Peace University: Dave Ramsey's popular program will begin in January! Help us spread the word and invite friends, family, and neighbors to learn biblical principles for managing money. This program is beneficial for everyone, especially young families! More information to come.

Thank you for your continued prayers and support as we serve our church and community!



In His Service,
Tom Ray
Youth & Family Director

