

God is love and love lives here!



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Sunday, November 26, 2023

Gratitude

1 Thessalonians 5:16-19
"Rejoice always, pray without ceasing, give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you. Do not quench the Spirit.

If you were in worship this past Sunday, you heard a lot about Gratitude. We discussed the spiritual, mental, emotional, and even physical effects that living with gratitude can have on us. If we focus on what is positive and express our gratefulness for even the things that are uncomfortable the benefits range from living with greater joy to suppressing certain physical afflictions. If it were a pill, everyone would take it!

We challenged our church this week to, in a way, fill their prescriptions as we prepare for the Advent season. Our challenge was to spend 15 minutes in prayer every day with an intentional focus on what we are grateful for. Why? The writer of First Thessalonians correlates our prayer life with our praise and giving thanks. I don't believe this was accidental but much like our challenge, intentional in every way. We rejoice in all the aspects of our lives even though sometimes it may be difficult. We pray without ceasing like we're at our favorite sporting event cheering on our team. Finally, we give thanks, and show our gratitude, for all the works in our lives that make us who we are. These daily practices work in concert together so that we are in the will of God. The writer knew there were both tangible and intangible benefits from living a life in gratitude in a way that connects us with God. Gratitude, in a way, becomes another expression of our worship.

I pray that as you pray you do not quench the spirit. This final part in verse 19 is critical. In other words, don't hold back or refrain from the Lord in your prayer time. If the fire grows, don't throw water on it. Rather, let it burn and build with excitement and anticipation of what God is going to do. The Spirit works in ways at times that we don't understand in the moment but later feel its full effects. Give the Lord the time He asks for, I promise it will be well worth it as you express your heart with Gratitude.

Keep The Faith,
Pastor Tommy

Scripture and Sermon:
Ephesians 1:15-23
Pre-Game: Preparing Our
Hearts for Advent:
24 Hours of Fasting:
I Have Heard and I Pray



New Concerns

Continue Prayers for:
Family of Ann Stafford
Don & Sharron Schall
Bennie Wyatt
Donna Rushing
Bill and Suzanne
Cheryl Randall & Family

Christa Avret
Michael & Jennie Walston
Warren McDow
Betty Byrd
Leon Hudson
Mary Prater
Jim & Mary Leary
Virginia Eadie
Bill Reedy
Sarah Mayer
Cary Martin
Mac McNeal
James McNeal
Our Country, Leaders, Military

Gifts Given to the Glory of God

* In memory of Ann Stafford by Hal & Lyn Parrish, Wayne & Pauline Abbott, W.C. & Janet Hester, Ben & Kathy Blanchard



Poinsettias for Christmas

Poinsettias are now available for ordering to be delivered and placed in the church December 1 and taken home after Christmas Eve Service. We will be ordering 24 poinsettias, so be sure to order yours! Cost is \$12.50. Call or email the church to place your order.



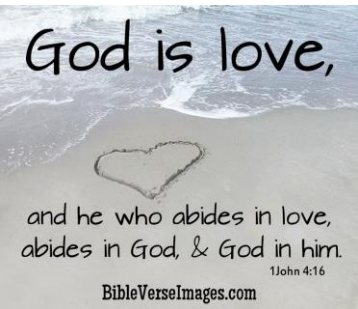
Blessing of the Bears

The Blessing of the Bears will be held in the sanctuary on Sunday, December 10th. We will accept donations of nice stuffed animals (in the box outside the office) starting next week until December 7th. These will be displayed near our altar and blessed so that they can be distributed to children in need by the Centerville Police and Fire Departments before Christmas. Thanks for your support!

Finance Report for
November 19

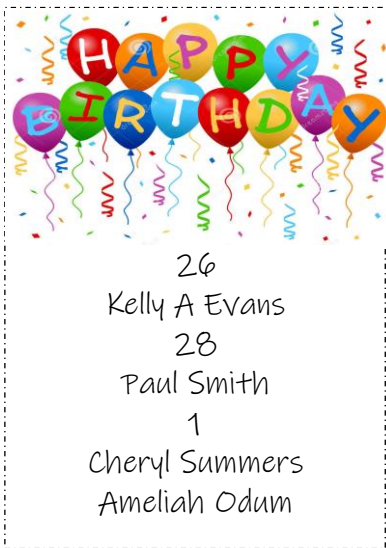
Operating Budget..... \$7,781.48
Local Mission..... 268.00
Total..... \$8,049.48

Worship Attendance:
114
Sunday School:
67





- ✓ 11-23/11-24-23- **Office Closed**
- ✓ 11-26-23 at 11:30a- **Hanging of the Greens with Soup Lunch**
- ✓ 11-30-23 at 6p- **Nominating Committee Meeting**
- ✓ 12-02-23 at 9a-2p- **Christmas Festival**
- ✓ 12-03-23 at 5p-7p- **Parsonage Open House**
- ✓ 12-07-23 at 6p- **Nominating Committee (if needed)**
- ✓ 12-09-23 at 9a-11a- Clothes Closet Toy Giveaway
- ✓ 12-09-23 at 1p-3p- Drop-in Baby Shower for Brooke McKeever at the Parsonage
- ✓ 12-10-23 at 8:30a- Staff Meeting
- ✓ 12-10-23 at 10:30a- **Blessing of the Bears**
- ✓ 12-17-23 at 10:30a- **Christmas Cantata**
- ✓ 12-24-23 at 6p- **Christmas Eve Service**
- ✓ 12-25/01-01-24- **Office Closed**
- ✓ 12-31-23 11:30a- 5th Sunday Lunch after Worship Service



Sweet Shoppe at the Christmas Festival

HELP NEEDED!! Our Church sponsored Sweet Shoppe booth at our Christmas Festival, December 2, is in need of food items to sell! We need cakes, pies, cookies, brownies, candies, snack mixes, jellies, etc. – anything that looks and tastes delicious! Buyers look for quick snacks for that day, or cakes and desserts that can be frozen for Christmas! Please bring wrapped and labeled items to the Social Hall by December 1st! (Cake plates for iced cakes will be available in the Social Hall next week!) All proceeds go to The Well at Centerville! The more you all bring in, the more we make; our success depends on our Church folks!! **Thank you!** Questions? Call Marilyn at 478-396-0735.

Bible Reading Plan	
Week of November 26 th :	
Sunday.....	1 Peter 3
Monday.....	1 Peter 4
Tuesday.....	1 Peter 5
Wednesday.....	2 Peter 1
Thursday.....	2 Peter 2
Friday.....	2 Peter 3
Saturday.....	Jude 1

Community Missions

- The next Food Pantry December 13, 11a, it will be the only one in December and will resume January 10, 2024... come on out and volunteer! You will be blessed. Our Food Pantry Team rocks!
- Clothes Closet Volunteers for November 28- Sherrill Pinckney, Joyce Wyatt
- Our Clothes Closet is open every Tuesday, 9a-noon
- The Clothes Closet will be open 11a-1p on Food Pantry days, which is the 2nd and 4th Wednesdays of the month.
- Thank you for your generosity to the Open Door Clothes Closet. Each week we see more and more clothed and cared for because of your gifts of love. **Winter is Coming** and we will be in need of several items. If you're cleaning out your own closets or looking to donate items, please consider donating to the Clothes Closet. We also ask you to look for some of the specific items listed below as you are preparing for the change in season. Thank you again for all you do to support our ministry!
Winter clothes/coats/jackets/sweaters/hoodies/pants/shoes/socks/scarves/hats/gloves; linens/sheets/blankets/throws/comforters; towels/washcloths; personal needs items; toys.
- Workers are needed in the Clothes Closet on Mondays and Tuesdays from 9a-12 noon.

Family Promise

If anyone is interested in being a volunteer please contact J.O. or Lynn, this is a very blessed ministry of our church... check out their website at <https://www.familypromisehoustonco.org/>

Open Door Mission Closet is hosting a Christmas Toy Giveaway on December 9th 9:00am until 11:00am. Please support this mission by donating a new unwrapped toy for either a boy or girl birth to age 12. Toys can be left in the office or the Clothes Closet. Let's make some children happy this blessed season.

Are you Looking for a place to serve? To get involved? We have it!

This Week's Schedule:

Sunday- November 26

Ushers

10:30a J.O. Miller, Tony Rozier
Mel Smeltz, Cheri' Cox, Roy Carter
Keith Mobley, Stevie Bowen
Joy Fleming, Sherrie Shell

9:15a Sunday School

10:30a Worship

11:30a Hanging of the Greens
With Soup Lunch

Greeters

10:30a Lynn Mayfield, Cynthia Boutwell

Communion Servers

Eric & Gloria Nelson
Susan Glidewell, LaWanna Porter

Finance Stewards

J.O. Miller, Gary Rutke, Mel Smeltz

Assisting with Children

Sunday- November 26

Nursery- Sherrie Shell, Kelly Evans, Dawn
Children- Brenda Crow

Sunday- December 3

Nursery- Linda Blanton, Dawn, Laura
Children- Katie Odum

Monday- November 27

7:30p Narcotics Anonymous

Tuesday- November 28

9a-12n Open Door Mission Closet

9:15a Movin' n Groovin'

10:00a Partners in Prayer

10:00a Yoga

6:00p Life Group III "LG3"

Wednesday- November 29

8:00a Men's Fellowship Breakfast

6:30p Choir Practice

7:30p Narcotics Anonymous

Thursday- November 30

9:15a Movin' n Groovin'

10:00a Yoga

5:30p Dulcimers

6:00p Nominations Committee

6:30p Handbells

7:30p Narcotics Anonymous

Friday- December 1

7:30p Narcotics Anonymous

Saturday- December 2

9a-2p Christmas Festival

5:00p Outreach/Christmas Parade

7:30p . Narcotics Anonymous

Sunday School at 9:15a

Are you looking to get involved in Sunday School? We have a great line up of classes to explore! Maybe you've been attending Sunday School regularly but see a topic you're interested in – it's okay to move around and try different classes – let's learn and grow together!

Sunday School Class

Seekers
Issues & Answers
New Beginnings
Christian Fellowship
Youth
Pilgrims

Studies

Favorite Scripture
Matthew
Revelations
Almost Christmas
The Prophets
Acts

Teacher

Class Members
Katie Odum
Nancy Hudson
Don Schall
Eric & Gloria Nelson
Kathy Blanchard



THE WELL AT CENTERVILLE

CHRISTMAS FESTIVAL

600 N. Houston Lake Blvd, Centerville 31028

Saturday December 2rd

9AM - 2PM



Take Pictures with Santa 9:30 AM – 12:30 PM

Bring your camera or phone

- | | | |
|-----------------------------|--------------|-------------------|
| Vendors and Christmas Items | Music | Fresh Baked Goods |
| School Choirs | Quilt Raffle | Arts and Crafts |
| Children’s activities | Bouncy House | Food |

Vendor Spaces Available
Call, email or come by the office for a vendor application