



October/November 2022

Reflections from the Pastor

Pastor's Viewpoint . . .

A Spirit of Thanksgiving

Paul wrote to the Thessalonian Christians, "...*in everything give thanks; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you.*" [1 Thessalonians 5 :18]. God's will for the believer, is not an optional demand. God expects the Christians to lead the parade in giving thanks.

A spirit of thankfulness is not confined to the Christian. Secular persons also express thanksgiving in awareness that they often receive blessings in life they did not earn or deserve.

To extract the most out of Thanksgiving, it is wise to begin with the awareness of God's unmerited blessings to all of humanity. Begin with Psalm 145:3-4, "*Great is the Lord, and greatly to be praised; and his greatness is unsearchable. One generation shall praise thy works to another, and shall declare thy mighty acts.*"

Our thanksgiving will increase if we recall God's faithfulness that is apparent each day. He faithfully allows His sun to warm our earth and make things grow. He sends timely rains that enable plants to become fruitful.



The pilgrims who first came to America celebrated the first Thanksgiving Day. Tested by persecution for their religious faith, they risked the rigors of sailing to the new world to worship freely.

They arrived at Cape Cod, far north of their planned destination in Virginia. Again and again, they renewed their faith and confidence in God to assist their efforts to establish a new home in America. Facing disease, death and near starvation that first winter, they faithfully planted and raised their crops.

In 1623, a severe drought threatened new danger for these early colonists. Governor Bradford led them in a special day of prayer in which they humbled themselves before God and cried out for His help. On the very day set aside for prayer and fasting, God sent the seasonal showers that sustained their crops and gave them a bountiful harvest. For that divine mercy, these struggling colonists set apart a day of thanksgiving.

As we prepare for Thanksgiving Day this year, let us ask ourselves where we might be if those first Pilgrim colonists had not put their faith in God? Then bring us closer to home by asking, where will we be if our generation fails to put its trust in the

faithfulness of Almighty God?

It is my prayer that as you move through this Thanksgiving Season, you will take time to express your gratitude to God for His faithfulness and blessings that have enriched your life.

Don't let your thanksgiving spirit be confined to one day of the year. Rather, live a life of gratitude in acknowledgment of the mighty works of God in providing your needs---past, present, and future.

Pastor Ivan Schwenn, October, 2022

CUTTING TO THE HEART OF THE MATTER ON PRAYER

Watching a TV program on the damage caused by hurricane IAN to the western part of Florida a comment caught my attention. The bridge connecting Pine Island was destroyed by the hurricane. In the aftermath attempts to get back to these areas that sustained the greatest



damage, a company that specializes in building bridges over water called Governor DeSantis saying, "If you can get the government out of the way, we can build a bridge to Pine Island in three days".

Governor DeSantis made some phone calls and to the amazement of the public, a bridge was built in three days so semi-trucks could deliver much needed supplies to this devastated area.

This made me think of prayer. So many Christians have difficulty establishing and maintaining an effective prayer life because of the "red tape" that gets in their way. Such issues as: "I don't have enough time to pray", "I fall asleep when I pray", "my telephone interrupts my prayers", just to mention some of the "red tape" Satan uses to keep us from praying.

Always Take Time To Pray

When we get serious about the matter, it will be like that Marine Contractor firm that called Gover-

nor DeSantis. Get rid of the red tape! God is standing ready to hear your heart cry.

Let the words of Psalm 90:12 motivate us to cut through the issues that are keeping us from talking to God: "Teach us to realize the brevity of life, so that we may grow in wisdom." [Psalm 90:12 TeCarta Bible].

Pastor Ivan Schwenn

ONE'S RUMMAGE ANOTHER'S TREASURES

The St. John's UMC Rummage Room is undergoing some changes, which we hope is for the best for our Church and for our Patrons. Rummage Sales are scheduled for the **1st and 3rd Saturdays of each month from 8:00AM to 12:00-Noon.** There are more than 8 rooms filled with items for everyday living like: men's and women's shoes and clothes, children's items, kitchen items of all kinds, office items, travel bags – suitcases - and tote bags.



Then there are fun things, such as board games and puzzles. If you are a reader, there are hundreds of books; fiction, non-fiction, crafts, and cooking books. For those that like collecting knick-knacks, we have numerous items, some are common and some are collector's items. Since we are entering our winter holiday season, we have Halloween and Christmas items as well.

Most prices are reasonable, but there are some items that are on the pricey side, but less than you could buy them on Amazon and eBay. We have a donated clock, which was from Boogie Beach Boxes company located on Vancouver Island, British Columbia, Canada and was made from salvaged maple tree burls. This clock was fixed and rejuvenated with wood oil and is on sale for \$65.00. A ganga-deal for someone!

If you are in our neighborhood on Rummage Day, stop in and see what we have!

Someone's rummage may be YOUR Treasure.

SUNDAY SCHOOL APPRECIATION SUNDAY



October 23rd was Sunday School Appreciation Sunday. Under the direction of Christian Education Chairperson, Daniella Mendoza, the Sunday School students directed the entire Worship Service. Alexandria Evans gave the announcements, Kyra Mendoza was the liturgist, Taylor Espinoza sang a special number, Angel Cordova had the Children's Sermon, Jaziel and Nikko Cocoa took up the offering, Daniella Mendoza delivered the message and Jaziel Cocoa pronounced the benediction.



Promotional Bibles were given to six students: Taylor Espinoza, Alexandria Evans, Alvaro Cocoa, Jaziel Cocoa, Nikko Cocoa and Rylyn Ernst.

Jackie Riegert, Chairperson of the Worship Committee gave gifts of recognition to the Sunday School Teachers and helpers: Rhonda Redman-Sunday School Superintendent, Mark Aguilar, Daniella Mendoza, Rosalina Mendoza, Jerry Ernst, and Sioux Espinoza.



Much of the work of the Sunday School goes by without much notice by the congregation at large. It is our prayer that by accenting the work of our teachers and students, we will generate more interest and prayer support.

While the Sunday School Appreciation Sunday focused on the children's area, the Sunday School Teacher's recognition also included Alan

Hayes and Sandra Cole who co-teach the Adult Sunday School class with its more than 10 weekly students.

The Church does well to keep in mind that teaching, more than preaching, should be the focus of its efforts.



Jesus preached on occasion, but He was known primarily by those who heard Him as "Rabbi" i.e., "the Master Teacher".



OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD 2022**It is that time of year again!**

Operation Christmas Child is an annual event sponsored by Samaritan's Purse. It utilizes the simple idea of a carefully packed shoebox filled with items that less-fortunate children around the world need. Packing a Christmas Shoebox is an experience in giving and evangelism.

If you are interested in sending a Shoebox for some child. You can take a picture on your cell phone of the QR code below left or copy and paste the following address

<https://build-a-shoebox.samaritanspurse.org/view/fffa5006-0ac2-406f-b4ca-a91ca2e2f4c0>

into your browser search box.



Click on the "Samaritanspurse.org website.

Click on "Build a Shoebox Online"

Choose: "Create a Goal Page"

Then: "Search for Goal Page"

Type in: ST John's UMC & Click on First St. John's box

Our goal is to make 75 boxes. You can build your own shoebox on-line and St. John's will be credited. You can also pick up a shoebox at the St. John's UMC.

**ST. JOHN'S UMC OUTREACH MINISTRIES****FELLOWSHIP MINISTRY**

The Fellowship Ministry takes place every Sunday morning following the Worship Service. Join others in a time of meeting and greeting others. Donations of crackers, chips or fruit are always welcome.

**CARD MINISTRY**

Getting a card in the mail can be a real "pick-er-upper"! You can help this ministry to continue by providing greeting cards, Christian bookmarks, stamps or by donating money to purchase more items.

THE FOOD PANTRY

Non-perishable items are always in demand. The Food Pantry can always use toilet paper, peanut butter, jelly, canned fruits, canned vegetables, spaghetti noodles and sauce, cereals, juices, breads, cookies and crackers. Items can be brought to the church on Sunday. See Frank & Cathy Mendoza for more information.

**ST. JOHN'S CHOIR**

If you love to sing, the Choir would love to have you join them on Sunday mornings. All are welcome.

BASIC WORDS OF THE BIBLE

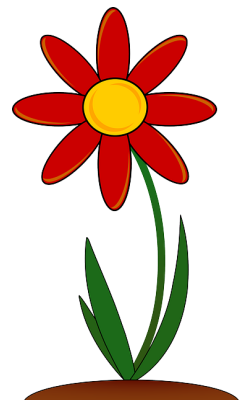
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H	T	I	F	M	O	Y	J	R	H	L	N	I
E	E	S	I	N	N	A	J	E	W	E	H	R
R	W	E	C	L	F	A	I	T	H	M	L	I
B	S	J	E	S	U	S	C	H	I	R	S	T

Words can forward, backward, vertical or diagonal within the puzzle.

JESUS CHRIST
SALVATION
JEW
GENTILE
HOLY SPIRIT
GOD THE FATHER
PERSECUTE

PRAY
TITHE
MINISTRY
BIBLE
HOLY
SACRIFICE
FAITH

MIRACLE
NAZARETH
BETHLEHEM
JERUSALEM
BAPTIZE
TEMPTATION
SIN



October/November 2022 Birthdays

October Birthdays

October 4th Donna Krenke's Birthday
October 6th Christine A. Calixtro's Birthday
October 6th Elizabeth Kuyper's Birthday
October 8th Loretta Hanson's Birthday
October 10th Daniella Mendoza's Birthday
October 11th Rylyn Ernst's Birthday
October 15th Eric Giffin's Birthday
October 20th Gary Paustian's Birthday
October 22nd Imogene Richins' Birthday
October 25th Ron Halsted's Birthday
October 26th Mark Aguilar's Birthday
October 29th Donna Claire Durant's Birthday
October 29th Bob Kuyper's Birthday



November Birthdays

November 4th Jan Shoberg's Birthday
November 5th Kirby Kegans' Birthday
November 5th Norma Mendoza's Birthday
November 6th Frank Mendoza's Birthday
November 9th Deblen Sawyer's Birthday
November 14th Charlotte Baker's Birthday
November 15th Darlene Geurin's Birthday
November 25th Margaret Aguilar's Birthday
November 27th Doris Butler's Birthday



Life brings tears, smiles, and memories. The tears dry, the smiles fade, but the memories last forever.

Malik Faisal

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Pastor Ivan Schwenn

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Office Hours: 8:00 am to 4:00 pm (Monday and Friday)

Sunday Worship - 10:00 am

Adult & Children's Sunday School - 9:00 am

Choir Practice - 9:30 - 9:45 am

Fellowship in the Fellowship Hall - 11:00 am

Office Hours: 8:00 am to 4:00 pm