



Wednesday 23 November 2020

Thanksgiving Day is Every Day

Rejoice always. Pray continually. Give thanks in every situation because this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus. (1 Thessalonians 5:16-18)

I need tell no one that 2020 has been both an eventful and challenging year that most people would like to forget as they reboot, take a do-over and skip the Coronavirus pandemic, ugly general election, and massive economic and social disruption that will characterize 2020.

If you are wistful for those days B.C. (Before COVID), a time of hugs, crowds, shouting at friends in a noisy crowded bar or restaurant, a full Michigan Stadium, sports arenas with real people in the stands, easy to find toilet paper, the freedom of sending children to school for hours each day . . . days when mask-rage was unknown and we met together in places called churches to worship God then I have news for you.

We will fully never return to the so-called “normal” of our B.C. world. Our world has changed. While some of the change is painful, a lot of it is good.

I grieve for those who are traumatically affected by the pandemic—those who fall ill with COVID-19 and their loved ones as well as workers and business owners who have been economically devastated by the restrictions and constraints placed on them in order to limit contagion. Yet, to be thankful, even now, is not only healthy but warranted. Healthy because, like trying to keep your eyes open when you sneeze, it is very difficult to wallow in despair and bitterness when you have taken on an attitude of thankfulness that looks for the good in the every-day.

Thankfulness is warranted. Most striking is the general shift in basic attitude from our hyper-individualized, “me first and me most” culture to a greater sense of community. Many wear face masks not just to protect themselves but to protect others. From more intentional support of local small business to increased giving through food pantries, there is a shift to greater concern for our neighbors. We’ve made grocery and restaurant workers, medical staffs and first responders our new national heroes, lifting up people who used to be invisible.

I also give thanks for change that is pushing all of us become more flexible, adaptable, and creative. Because we cannot safely do many things the way we used to we are trying new ways and doing things. For instance, as we safely meet through Zoom, we discover that we can now gather from wherever we are.

And we can give thanks that no matter what, God IS, and we know the hope that has always energized the people of God. Thanks be to God!

- Pastor Mark

Mission & Ministry

Thank You!

We hosted November's Tecumseh Fresh Food Initiative food distribution this past Saturday (11/21). 175 boxes of food were given away. Many thanks to all who volunteered at the event as well as those who organized and managed it, and to those who have supported TFFI with financial support and prayer. This continues to be a good and needed ministry into our local community.

Warm Heads & Hands

Each year at this time we set up our Hat and Mitten Tree in the Fellowship Hall. What starts as spindly sticks and pegs "leafs out" with the foliage of hats, gloves, and mittens that we send to the Tecumseh Service Club and related organizations who serve people in need nearby.

Although we're not meeting in the church, we are collecting for the Hat and Mitten Tree. **Bring a donation and drop it off in the labeled bin outside the North door of the church.** Thank you!

Tecumseh Service Club Donation Item

The highlight item we're collecting for the Tecumseh Service Club for December is **blankets**. Bring a blanket to church and drop it off in a bin by the North door. Thank you!

Women of Faith

... are collecting for the Women and Children's Center. They would like to deliver to them **diapers, pull-ups, and baby wipes**. Items can be dropped off in a bin placed (you guessed it) by the North door. Thank you!

Don't Let It Happen to Your Church This Holiday Season!

Imagine the disaster ... the trauma and suffering ... even the horror afflicting your beloved church!

What disaster you ask?

- Not the building falling down
- Not everyone in the congregation coming down with COVID

... but worse!

We've been looking for musicians to record music of the season to be used with our Advent and Christmas worship podcasts. So far, no one has offered their talent.

If no one comes forward, then we'll be left with the catastrophe of Pastor Mark performing all our Advent and Christmas music ... **on a kazoo!**

Only you can prevent this tonal travesty. Only you can save us from a stomach-churning Christmas.

Pick a tune, grab an instrument or sing, and contact Pastor Mark (517-260-1315 or tecumcpastor@gmail.com) before it's too late!

Hope and Expectation - A Time of Reflection for Advent

Adult Sunday School will be shifting away from racial justice and interracial relations for a few weeks. We will use our class time during the four Sundays of Advent to look into the Old Testament hopes and expectations that provide the context for understanding Jesus Christ and the meaning of his birth. We'll learn more about why the good news of a Savior born to us is so good.

When: **Sundays** until Christmas at **10:45am**.

Where: Our online church via Zoom.

Online Coffee Hour Returns

When: **Sundays** at **11:30am**.

Where: Our online church via Zoom.