

News From The Rock

November 2021

Solid Rock United Methodist Church • Warren, Indiana

Our mission is to make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world.

Children's Sunday School

The children's Sunday school class talked about "Who is God?" during October. In November, look for lessons about baptism and the Beatitudes.



We will be learning about God through lessons, crafts, games, and experiments.

Adults are invited after church on Sundays to see the "recharged" classroom! Ask one of the kids to give you a tour and share about their mission project.

Some needs for the children's Sunday school class:

- 10-12 small advent wreaths, wooden or another material (Needed by November 21)
- A birthday cake (Needed on November 28)
- Any nice used or new books for the classroom

Children's Library

Solid Rock is seeking donations of new or good used books for children preschool through fourth grade. A library is being established in the children's Sunday school room. Children will be able to check out a book each week to take home and read. All donations are appreciated!

Kids Club

Kids Club meets on the third Thursday of the month, from 6:00 to 7:30. A meal is provided at 6:00. Here are the topics for upcoming months.

- October: What Is Wisdom? (Proverbs 3:35)
- November: Three Things About Thankfulness (Psalm 100:4)
- December: Generosity (Psalm 37:21)
- January: Wise Kids Are Obedient (Psalm 119:44)
- February: How to Love (Proverbs 10:12)
- March: Kindness (Proverbs 11:17)
- April: A Friendly Thing Called Forgiveness (Proverbs 17:9)



Harvest Sundays

Solid Rock is continuing the tradition of collecting donations for the Bread of Life Food Pantry in the weeks leading up to Thanksgiving. Harvest Sundays will be observed on November 7, 14, and 21. Please bring your donations on one of



those Sundays and place them at the front of the church.

Firm Foundation Sunday school class

The Firm Foundation small group, which meets in the church kitchen on Sundays at 9:00 a.m., is finishing up "Forgiving What You Can't Forget" by Lysa TerKeurst. When you have experienced hurt upon hurt or your heart has been completely shattered, offering forgiveness can feel unrealistic. Lysa understands this



from
Pastor Paul



Lisa and I would like to thank our congregation for the prayers, cards, food, snacks and monetary gifts during my surgery and for Pastor Appreciation Month. I am recovering well and I look forward to being back in the pulpit on October 31st. Special thanks to Joe Haney and Mike Heath for filling in for me. Keep up the prayers!

Pastor Paul

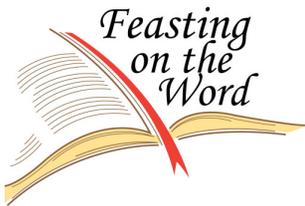
on a deeply personal level and has guided us through the realities of forgiveness. It's never too late to join our group. We'd love to have you sit in.

Beginning November 21 or 28, we will be asking "Who Needs Christmas," a study by Andy Stanley. The story of Jesus' birth was not what anyone expected: a baby ... born in the armpit of the Mediterranean ... to save us from sins that no one thought we needed saving from. The improbable Christmas story — no one could have or would have made it up. But we are talking about it 2000 years later. Why?

Our Vision: Sharing and experiencing the life-giving message of Jesus, to restore wholeness and build an intentional community of hope, relationship, and purpose for everyone.

Bible Study

Feasting on the Word Bible studies for the month of November take us through the end of the Christian year, through Thanksgiving, and into the Advent season. What a



glorious time to be alive and a follower of Jesus. As one person observed, "The more busy I become, the

more I need to take time for God's Word." Each Monday at 7:00 p.m. a group of persons gathers in the Solid Rock kitchen to share in a scripture passage, looking at how God is guiding in our faith. It is also a time when we can support our pastor as we an-

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Worship Schedule

Sunday School at 9:00
Worship at 10:00
at 485 Bennett Drive, Warren
Church Phone: 375-3871

Church Office

Office Phone: 375-3873

Monday - Thursday
9:00 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.

Closed Friday

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News deadline for the December newsletter: November 21

ticipate the coming Sunday's sermon. The scripture passages to read are listed as follows:

- November 1: Hebrews 7:23-25 (The Importance of Prayer); Jorita Banter, leader
- November 8: Mark 10:32-45 (A World Turned Upside Down); Ann Spahr, leader
- November 15: Romans 14:1-12 (Everything You Can Do); Joe Haney, leader
- November 22: Isaiah 2:1-5 (God's Transforming Word); Jorita Banter, leader
- November 29: Luke 3:1-6 (In the Name of Jesus); Ann Spahr, leader

We hope you will take the time and make the effort to have your life "filled" by feasting on the Word.

Joe Haney, coordinator

Small Groups

Small group studies will resume in February. If you would be willing to lead or assist with a small group, please contact Pastor Paul.

September Financial Update

| | |
|----------------------------|----------|
| General Fund Receipts..... | \$12,808 |
| General Fund Expenses..... | \$13,051 |

Don't Let Details Distract You From Thankfulness

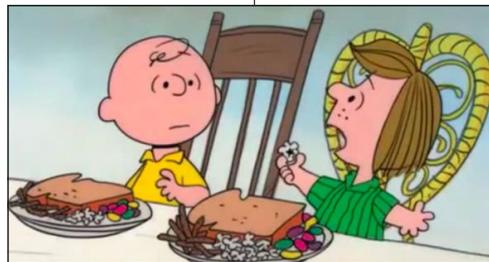
By Tracie Miles on proverbs31.org

In the early 1970s, based on the popular comic strip Peanuts, the first "Charlie Brown Thanksgiving" aired on prime-time television.

As a child, watching this show became one of my favorite Thanksgiving traditions. As an adult, it was one of the traditions I held dear with my own children. Not only because Linus'

prayer at the dinner table showed how to be thankful at Thanksgiving, but also because Peppermint Patty's behavior showed how NOT to be.

Peppermint Patty, upon sitting down at the Thanksgiving table, made the honorable suggestion to say grace before they began eating. But her reason for praying was because, "It's Thanksgiving, you know."



Peppermint Patty initiated the call to prayer out of perceived obligation, but it was her actions which proved she only had head-knowledge of true thankfulness, not heart-knowledge. As soon as Linus said Amen, she looked around the table and details began to distract her from thankfulness for the gifts they'd been given.

When her expectations of what Thanksgiving should look like didn't match up with her reality, Patty got upset and irritated. She began to verbally express her dissatisfaction and became annoyed with one of the guests (Snoopy).

She was agitated the food didn't meet her traditional requirements. She complained and yelled, having quickly forgotten all about Linus' prayer and the importance of being truly thankful. She became focused on annoyances instead of prayer and true gratitude.

Can you relate?

Unfortunately, this scene is all too familiar in households across the country at Thanksgiving. We have this idea of how we want the holiday to look, but our reality may not match up to our expectations. Difficult circumstances and details can distract us from indebtedness to God.

1 Thessalonians 5:18 says, "*Be thankful in all circumstances, for this is God's will for you who belong to Christ Jesus.*"

Here we read *when* we are to be thankful — in all circumstances. And we read *why* we are to be thankful — because this is God's will for all believers as He knows a grateful heart is a happy heart. We can be thankful no matter what we're facing, because God is worthy of our thanksgiving.

In this verse, the Apostle Paul is giving instructions on how to gain heart-knowledge, not just head-knowledge, of true gratitude. We're to be thankful in the midst of all circumstances, not merely those that are easy and pleasant.

I realize this is far easier said than done. God asks us to trust His ways even when we don't understand them. We're to

be thankful for the gifts He has given us, not focused on what we don't yet have.

Rarely do families get through Thanksgiving dinner with perfectly cooked food ... children with pristine

manners ... babies who don't cry or refrain from picking inopportune times for dirty diapers ... siblings who don't argue ... spouses who don't quarrel ... drinks that go unspilled ... or family members in total agreement about which football game to watch.

Some years, families are fractured or even distant memories.

(Continued on page 3)

(Continued from page 2)

The enemy wants to use all these side details to distract us from what we really should be focusing on: the Giver of the gifts, not the gifts themselves.

During the holidays or any day of the year, I can easily morph into a Peppermint Patty if I'm not careful. I don't want to be someone who gives thanks with her mouth and not her heart. A person so distracted by the less-than-desired details that she overlooks the indebtedness she should have in her heart for Christ — not just for how He blesses, but for Who He is.

Life's not always easy, and holidays aren't always perfect or peaceful. But we can always have a heart full of thankfulness if we remember Who gives us reasons to be thankful, not just what we're thankful for.

Dear Lord, help me when I start letting details of the holidays, annoying frustrations or unmet expectations distract me from all the reasons I have from You to be abundantly and eternally grateful. Help me have a heart full of thankfulness every day, but especially on the specific day set aside to be grateful for You. In Jesus' Name, Amen.

“Thanksgiving is Boring,” and other Thanksgiving Myths

By Lori Hatcher on crosswalk.com

It's one of the most overshadowed holidays on the calendar. Sandwiched between the ultimate candy feast of Halloween and the pomp and pageantry of Christmas, Thanksgiving to many is simply the day before Black Friday. Like consuming the obligatory green vegetable before you earn dessert, many view Thanksgiving as what you have to get through to get to the good stuff. “Thanksgiving is boring,” teenagers gripe as they anticipate the awkward small talk with out-of-town relatives over candied yams and fried turkey.

That thanksgiving is boring is one of several myths I'd like to debunk today, in honor of one of my favorite holidays.

Myth: Thanksgiving is boring.

Truth: Only if you're an ungrateful wretch.

“For although they knew God, they neither glorified him as God nor gave thanks to him, but their thinking became futile and their foolish hearts were darkened” (Romans 1:21).

Myth: Thanksgiving began with the pilgrims.

Truth: King David instituted a day of thanksgiving, complete with special food for

everyone, singing, dancing, and special prayer on the day he brought the ark of the Lord into Jerusalem. The Israelites had a feast of meat, date cakes, and raisins (See 1 Chronicles 16). He composed his first psalm on this occasion, a song of thanksgiving. His goal was to “give thanks to the Lord and proclaim his greatness.”

Myth: Thanksgiving is only for Christians.

Truth: Thanksgiving is for everyone who lives on God's earth, breathes God's air, and is the benefactor of every good and perfect gift that comes from God. God sends the rain on the just and the unjust, and it is fitting for everyone to give him thanks. Christians should be the most thankful, however, says David, “Let the whole world know what he has done” (1 Chronicles 16:8).

Myth: Thanksgiving is all about God.

Truth: Thanksgiving is all about me. Or it should be. God doesn't need my thanks, but I need to give it.

- I need to give thanks to remind myself from whom all blessings come. If I don't, I begin to get the crazy idea that I'm the source of my health, my talents, my possessions, my family, and my job.
- I need to give thanks to cultivate an attitude of gratitude, instead of entitlement.
- I need to give thanks to unseat the “little i am” (me), and allow the Great I AM (God) to rightfully sit on the throne of my life. This is called submission and humility.
- I need to give thanks to fulfill the will of God for me. “In everything give thanks, for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus concerning you” (1 Thessalonians 5:18).

Myth: We celebrate Thanksgiving to thank God for all the good things with which he blesses us.

Truth: We celebrate thanksgiving to thank God for loving us. Everything else is gravy.

Pastor/Teacher Craig Barnes puts it this way: “Being thankful is not telling God you appreciate the fact that your life is not in shambles. If that is the basis of your gratitude, you are on slippery ground. Every day of your life you face the possibility that a blessing in your life may be taken away. But **blessings are only signs of God's love. The real blessing, of course, is the love itself.** Whenever we get too attached to the sign, we lose our grasp on the God who gave it to us. . . We are not ultimately

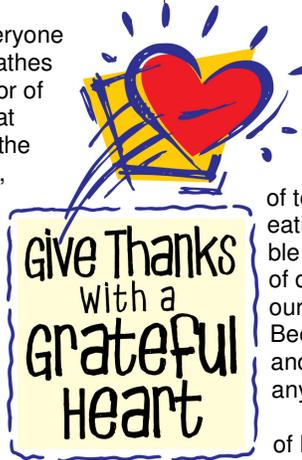
grateful that we are still holding our blessings. **We are grateful that we are held by God even when the blessings are slipping through our fingers.**”

Myth: Thanksgiving should be celebrated on the fourth Thursday in November.

Truth: Thanksgiving should be celebrated every day of the year. “And he (Jesus) took the bread, broke it, and gave thanks . . . do this in remembrance of me” (Matthew 26:26).

So when you sit across the table from your out of town relatives this Thanksgiving, eating the obligatory green vegetable before you consume a plate full of dessert, will you join me in lifting our voices in thanksgiving to God? Because when we focus on God and not ourselves, Thanksgiving is anything but boring.

“Give thanks to the Lord of lords. His faithful love endures forever. Give thanks to him who alone does mighty miracles. His faithful love endures forever. Give thanks to him who made the heavens so skillfully. His faithful love endures forever. Give thanks to him who placed the earth among the waters. His faithful love endures forever. Give thanks to him who made the heavenly lights— His faithful love endures forever.” (Psalm 136:3-7)



Paradoxes of Christian virtues

In *Reaching for the Invisible God*, Philip Yancey says each virtue in 1 Corinthians 13:13 “enfolds a paradox.” Faith “will always mean believing in what cannot be proven, committing to that of which we can never be sure.” Hope isn't “the fuel that keeps a person going” but what “emerges from the struggle, a byproduct of faithfulness.” And love — “the greatest” virtue — is very counterintuitive. “Love involves caring about people most of us would prefer not to care about,” writes Yancey. “By nature we keep records, right wrongs, and demand our rights; love does not.”

**FAITH
HOPE
& LOVE**



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Community to honor and celebrate our veterans

The Warren Community will honor and celebrate our veterans at the Veteran's Homecoming Celebration on Sunday, November 7, at the Knight Bergman Civic Center. A complimentary dinner will be served at 5:00, followed by an "Armed Forces Tribute."

Anyone who would like to share a talent that evening should contact Gina at gina@wssbps.com or 260-917-1707. Volunteers will be appreciated for cooking, serving, singing and entertaining.

Please feel welcome to wear your military uniform. Pictures in military uniform or "in action," branch of service, along with the dates of when and where you are currently serving or have served will be displayed on the screen during the event. The photo and info may be dropped off to be scanned and returned to you at Bolinger's Propane Service, 121 N. Wayne St. in Warren, by 5:00 p.m. on Wednesday, November 3.

Lord God, we gather around this table to humbly thank You for all that You have given us this past year – not just what is on this table, but who is sitting around this table. Thank you for life and laughter, for health and happiness, for relationships and memories. Thank you, too, for the lessons learned and the tears we've cried because of Your ability to grow us through them. Thank You for Your comfort and Your presence, in light of good days and bad. Thank You for what we have now, for what we had yesterday, and for what You will continue to give tomorrow. Let us never take that for granted, but to always be grateful for every good and perfect gift that comes from You. May we have hearts full of thanksgiving not only today but every day of our lives. We pray these things in the name of Jesus Christ, Your Son, **Amen**.



—Cindy McMenamini

