



Sheridan First United Methodist Church

# CHIME NOTES

NOVEMBER 2018

*Volume LVIII Issue XI*



Sometimes, worship and thanksgiving can be a sacrifice. That may be because we are down, depressed, or things are not comfortable for us. Perhaps hardship or tragedy has struck our lives in some way and we do not want to thank God. Yet, the Bible urges us to give thanks to the Lord. Psalm 106:1 says, "Praise the Lord! Oh, give thanks to the Lord, for He is good! For His mercy endures forever." We are also told in Colossians 3:17, "And whatever you do in word or deed, do all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through Him." And Hebrews 13:15 says, "Therefore by Him let us continually offer the sacrifice of praise to God, that is, the fruit of our lips, giving thanks to His name." We are not told to give thanks to the Lord because we feel good. We are to give thanks to the Lord because He is good. As we approach God to ask for new blessings, we should never forget to offer thanks for the blessings He has already given. We must be just as quick in returning thanks as we are in requesting help; but many times, we are not. We are quick to ask for help, but we are slow in giving thanks.

Sometimes, giving thanks can be difficult, because we feel like we have been dealt a bad hand in life or things have happened to us that we do not fully understand. But here is something we need to remember: "In everything give thanks; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you" (1 Thessalonians 5:18). This verse does not say to give thanks in some things, or in what you believe are good things; it says to give thanks in all things.

Now, it is easy for me to give thanks when something wonderful happens to me. However, when something bad takes place, I think, "I won't give thanks for that." I don't know that we will ever fully comprehend what was good or bad in our lives until much later. I would even suggest that what you think is a bad thing today might in turn be a good thing for tomorrow or down the road.

And what you have thought of as a good thing may, in time, turn out to be a bad thing. I believe that when you look back years from now, you will be able to say that the Lord knew what He was doing.

Share this today

*It is easy to give thanks to God when you are prospering and life is pleasant; but are you just as grateful when afflictions approach and tragedy hits? We never know what*

*God has planned, but we must trust and give thanks along the way.*

A grateful heart sees each day as a gift. Thankful people focus less on what they lack and more on the privileges they have. I attended a banquet recently in which a wounded soldier was presented with the gift of a free house. He nearly fell over with gratitude. He bounded onto the stage with his one good leg and threw both arms around the presenter. "Thank you! Thank you! Thank you!" He hugged the guitar player in the band and the big woman on the front row. He thanked the waiter, the other soldiers, and then the presenter again. Before the night was over, he thanked me! And I didn't do anything.

Shouldn't we be equally grateful? Jesus is building a house for us ([John 14:2](#)). Our deed of ownership is every bit as certain as that of the soldier. What's more, Jesus cured our leprosy. Sin cankered our souls and benumbed our senses. Yet the Man on the path told us we were healed, and, lo and behold, we were!

The grateful heart is like a magnet sweeping over the day, collecting reasons for gratitude. A zillion diamonds sparkle against the velvet of your sky every night. *Thank you, God.* A miracle of muscles enables your eyes to read these words and your brain to process them. *Thank you, God.* Your lungs inhale and exhale eleven thousand liters of air every day. Your heart will beat about three billion times in your lifetime. Your brain is a veritable electric generator of power. *Thank you, God.*

For the jam on our toast and the milk on our cereal. For the blanket that calms us and the joke that delights us and the warm sun that reminds us of God's love. For the thousands of planes that did not crash today. For the men who didn't cheat on their wives, and the wives who didn't turn from their men, and the kids who, in spite of unspeakable pressure to dishonor their parents, decided not to do so. *Thank you, Lord.*

Gratitude gets us through the hard stuff. To reflect on your blessings is to rehearse God's accomplishments. To rehearse God's accomplishments is to discover his heart. To discover his heart is to discover not just good gifts but the Good Giver. Gratitude always leaves us looking at God and away from dread. It does to anxiety what the morning sun does to valley mist. It burns it up. Join the ranks of the 10 percent who give God a standing ovation. "Give thanks for everything to God the Father in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ" (Ephesians 5:20NLT).

# *The Difference Between Being Thankful & Giving Thanks*

David Maxson

06/20/15 - Daily Devotions

## **The Difference Between Being Thankful & Giving Thanks**

**Reading for June 20th: Psalm 36-39**

**Weekly reading for June 14-20: 2 Corinthians 1-5**

For it is all for your sake, so that as grace extends to more and more people it may increase thanksgiving, to the glory of God.

2 Corinthians 4:15

Did you know that there are only two verses in the whole Bible which command us to be grateful or thankful? ([Colossians 3:15](#); [Hebrews 12:28](#))

But you may be thinking, "What about [1 Thessalonians 5:18](#) which says we should give thanks always for all things?" That's right, we are commanded to give thanks. But there is a difference between being thankful and giving thanks. Being thankful is something you are, thanksgiving is something you give.

That may only seem to be a slight difference between thankfulness and thanksgiving, but when you stop and think about it there is a big difference. If you were to have asked those nine lepers who did not return to give thanks to Jesus if they were thankful for being cleansed of leprosy, what do you think they would have said? That they weren't thankful? Of course they were THANKFUL they no longer had leprosy. The problem is that they didn't return to give THANKS.

God is concerned about the giving of thanks, not just being thankful. He doesn't want our thanks because He needs it, but because we need it. It's good for us to say out loud what we feel in our hearts. Test this in your life today. Spend at least a half an hour today giving thanks for specific blessings with your lips, and then see if you're not more thankful for those same blessings in your heart.

Father, we are thankful and want to express thanks for all the specific ways you have blessed us.

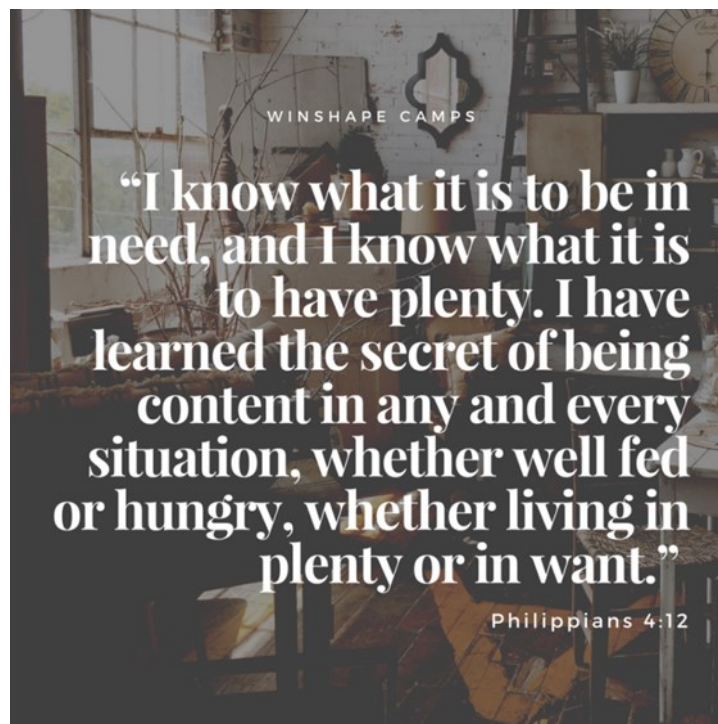
The holidays can be funny sometimes. For some people the holidays are a time of happiness and joy, but for others it can be a time that is full of sadness or grief. No matter what circumstances surround us during the holidays, we ALL have so much to be thankful for.

Take a look with me at the story of someone who you might remember from this summer. This person had every reason to be bitter and sad in the season he was in — but he wasn't.

This person had been taken away from his friends, blamed for things he shouldn't have been blamed for, and his only bed was a hard stone floor in a cold and cramped jail cell.

On top of all of this, he had to deal with the pain of iron chains around his ankles and wrists. If there was ever a person who had the right to complain or be upset, it was this guy.

Now, you may know the person that I am describing, but in case you don't, this person also taught us something very important this summer:



The man we are talking about is none other than Paul the Apostle himself!

This time, however, we are going to look at a different letter that Paul wrote: His letter to the Ephesians. Just as Paul was in jail when he wrote Philippians, he was also in jail while writing Ephesians.

We can learn a few lessons from Paul — one of them being that even in the times where circumstances can get the best of us, we still have so much to be thankful for!

Even though he was in jail, Paul chose to sing words and songs of Thanksgiving to God!

EPHESIANS 5:19-20 NIV

“...BE FILLED WITH THE SPIRIT,  
SPEAKING TO ONE ANOTHER WITH  
PSALMS, HYMNS, AND SONGS  
FROM THE SPIRIT. SING AND MAKE  
MUSIC FROM YOUR HEART TO THE  
LORD, ALWAYS GIVING THANKS  
TO GOD THE FATHER FOR  
EVERYTHING, IN THE NAME OF  
OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST.”

WinShape Camps

Take a second to read that passage again.

Think about it with me: Give thanks for everything, no matter what circumstances may come our way!

For Paul, Thanksgiving wasn't just a once a year kind of thing, but rather, it was something that he celebrated every day. It made him a joyful person in every circumstance.

Thanksgiving is just what it sounds like —the giving of thanks.

Billy Graham once said that thanksgiving should be one of the most distinctive marks of someone who believes in Jesus, and that we should not let a spirit of ungratefulness harden our heart and put an unwanted wall up in our relationship with God and with others.

*Nothing turns us into dissatisfied people more than an ungrateful heart.*

At the same time, however, nothing will bring us more happiness and joy in our salvation than a true spirit of thankfulness.

From one cover of the Bible to the other, God commands us to be thankful. The psalmist in Psalm 147 says, “Sing to the Lord with Thanksgiving” (Psalm 147:7 NIV) and Paul tells us in Colossians 3 that we should give thanks to God for everything (Colossians 3:17 NIV).



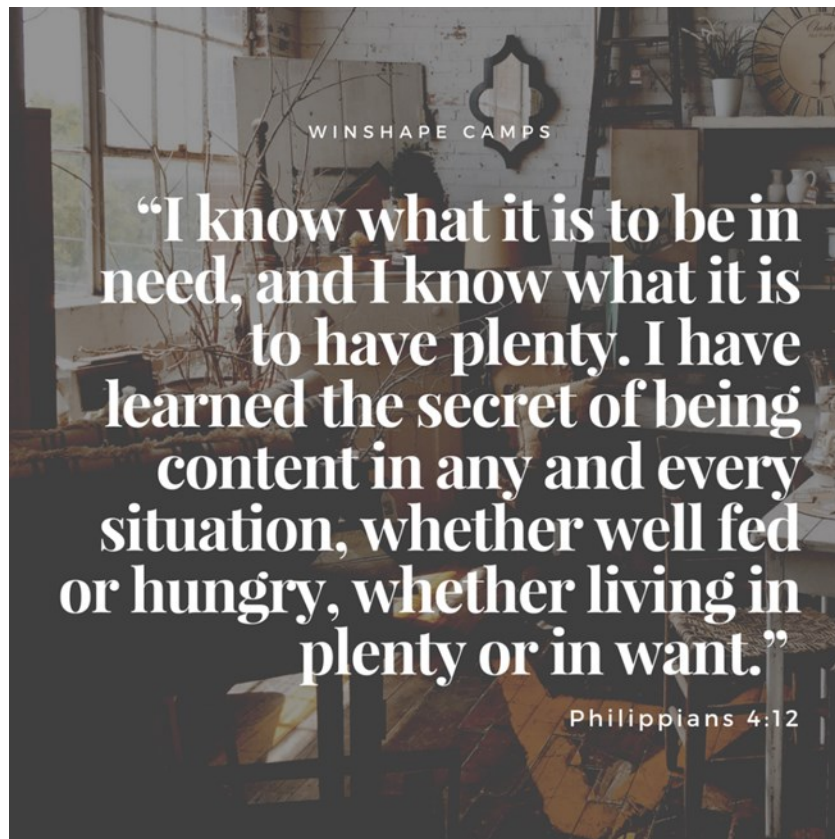
But why should we be thankful? The answer is simple. Despite whatever circumstances may come our way, God has blessed us with more than we can comprehend — and we should be thankful for it ALL.

*Give thanks for the earthly things that God has given you.*

Sometimes we catch ourselves never being satisfied with what we have, whether we are rich or poor. But imagine what it would look like if we took a step back and just realized that everything that we have has been given to us by our Heavenly Father!

My great-grandparents were the prime example of the saying “Happiness is appreciating the simple things in life.” I remember every single time we would drive to Decatur, Alabama to see them. They never had an abundance of things or the newest things. But they didn’t need them because they were content and thankful for what God had given them.

They taught me that life isn’t about having the biggest house, the most money, or even the newest oven to cook your biscuits — it’s about the being thankful for what God has given you, no matter how much or how little.



A thankful heart and spirit makes all the difference. Are we worried about having more? Or have we learned to thank God for what we do have?

## *Give thanks for the people that God has placed in our lives.*

It can be so easy to take people for granted or become bitter because they don't live up to the expectations that we have created. Instead, however, we need to be thankful for those that God has placed around us — our family, our friends, our co-workers, and those who encourage us or help us in some way.

Do you let the people around you know that you are thankful for them and that you appreciate them?

Paul began his first letter to the church in Corinth by saying “I always thank God for you” (1 Corinthians 1:4 NIV), despite the fact that they were far from perfect.

We should thank God for the people that He has placed in our life, they were placed in our lives for a reason- even if we don't know it.

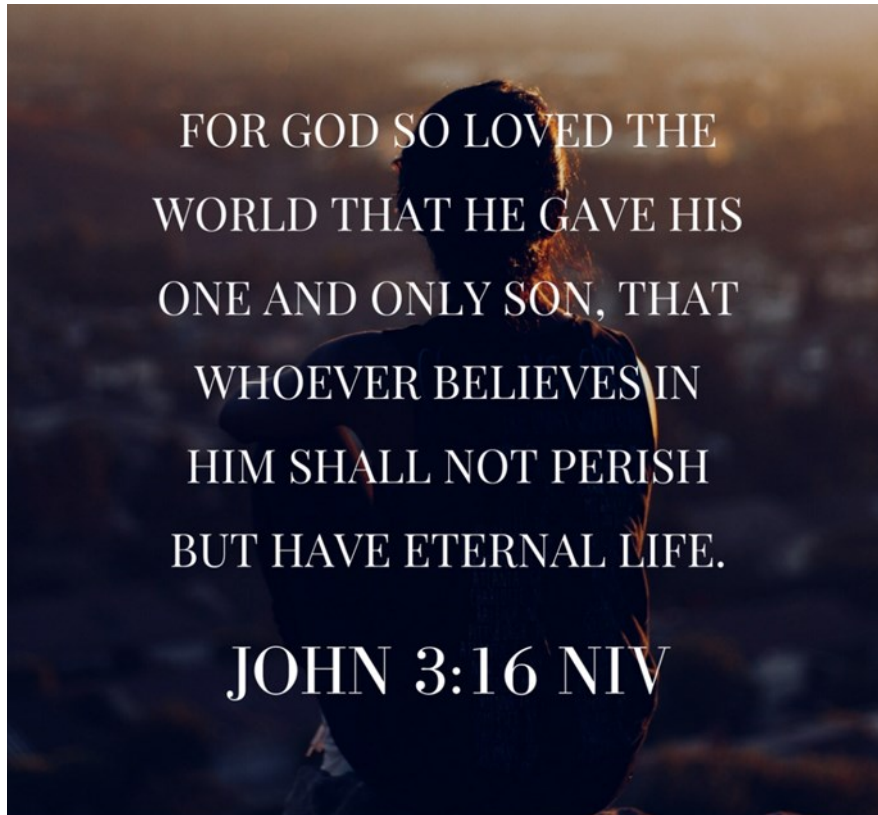
## *Give thanks to God for Salvation in Jesus, and His constant presence.*



God has given us the greatest gift of all — His son Jesus Christ, who died on Calvary and rose again so that we can spend eternity with Him.

The Bible tells us that because of our sins, we are separated from God — but that isn't all it tells us. We are also shown how God loves us.

He loves you, He loves me, and He wants us to be part of His family forever. He loves us so much that He sent Christ to die as the perfect sacrifice for our sins. All we have to do is reach out in faith and accept Christ as our Savior and Lord.



WinShape Camps

When we come to Christ it is the beginning of a whole new life! He is always with us and He wants to help us follow Him and grow in His word. We learn in Joshua 1:9 that we have no reason to be discouraged because God is always with us, no matter the circumstance or the situation.

In many countries, including our own, a special day is set aside each year for Thanksgiving. But for Christians every day can be a day of Thanksgiving, just as it was for Paul.

-Dakota Brian Hill

WinShape Camps for Communities, Red Team Camp Pastor



*“After taking the cup, **he gave thanks** and said, ‘Take this and divide it among you. ...and he took bread, **gave thanks** and broke it, and gave it to them, saying, ‘This is my body given for you; do this in remembrance of me.’” (Luke 22:17, 19)*

Don’t gloss over that passage too quickly. Read it again if you have to.

Jesus is about to be betrayed. About to be abandoned. About to be mocked, beaten, and spat on. About to be unjustly tried.

He’s about to listen to a crowd of His people yell “crucify Him!”

He’s about to pick up a heavy, wooden cross and be nailed to it.

He’s about to bear the sin of the world. He’s about to absorb God’s wrath for sin.

He’s about to breathe His last breath. He’s about to die.

For you.

And for me.

on the elements that signify the suffering and death He is about to experience ... and *He gives thanks*.

How should we respond to this? How should we respond *to Him*?

*Look to Him and give Him thanks* ... no matter what *you* are about to face.

*“Let us fix our eyes on Jesus, the author and perfecter of faith, **who for the joy set before Him** endured the cross, despising the shame, and has sat down at the right hand of the throne of God.” (Hebrews 12:3)*

*“**Give thanks** in all circumstances; for this is God’s will for you in Christ Jesus.” (1 Thessalonians 5:18)*

*“**Give thanks** to the LORD, for he is good. His love endures forever.” (Psalm 136:1)*

*“Let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, since as members of one body you were called to peace. And **be thankful**. Let the message of Christ dwell among you richly you teach and admonish one another with all wisdom through psalms, hymns, and songs from the Spirit, singing to God with gratitude in your hearts. 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.” (Colossians 3:15-17)*

# Radical Gratitude: Give Thanks in All Circumstances

June 15, , 2014

By Rick Warren

***“Give thanks in all circumstances; for this is God’s will for you in Christ Jesus.” (1 Thessalonians 5:18 NIV)***

In the U.S., we celebrate a day of thanksgiving once a year. But God wants us to be intentional about our thankfulness every day. He wants us to develop this spiritual habit, one that is reflected in the life of a radical believer. The truth is, the more deeply you understand God’s love, the more grateful you’re going to be.

So what does it mean to be radically grateful?

The Bible says in 1 Thessalonians 5:18, *“Give thanks in all circumstances; for this is God’s will for you in Christ Jesus”* (NIV). That’s radical gratitude.

*In all circumstances* give thanks, because it’s God’s will for you.

You can thank God in every circumstance because God is in control. He can bring good out of evil. He can turn around the stupid mistakes you’ve made. No matter what happens, God isn’t going to stop loving you. There are a hundred things to be thankful for in any circumstance, even when the circumstance stinks.

Radical gratitude — being thankful in all circumstances — is God’s will because it creates fellowship.

What do I mean by that? Gratitude always builds deeper relationships between you and other people and between you and God.

Whoever you want to get closer to, start expressing gratitude to that person. If you’ve moved away from your husband or your wife, you need to start doing what you did when you were dating: Express gratitude. Write little notes of kindness and encouragement. Make calls or text during the day, just to tell him or her that you’re thankful. Do the things you did at first. The reason you’ve lost that lovin’ feeling is because you stopped doing the things that created that lovin’ feeling early on, and you take each other for granted.

Do you want to build your small group? Don’t just go to small group. During the week, text them, email them, call them, write them. Say, “I’m grateful for you, and here’s why.” You’ll find that the more grateful you are for your group, the more your group will bond.

The Bible tells us to “encourage one another and build each other up” (1 Thessalonians 5:11). As you build others up, you’ll find that God builds into your life as well through your deep relationships with him and others.

Talk It Over

Who do you need to encourage or connect with this week? To whom do you need to show your gratitude?

What are some simple ways you can express your gratitude to your spouse, friend, or small group members?



Happy Anniversary

Dick and Arnola Pickett 11/21/1954

Justine Downard	11/1
George Good	11/1
Vince Lindenmayer	11/1
Melba Stephenson	11/3
Clifford Pickett	11/5
Sarah Godby	11/6
Carol Fritz	11/7
Mary Anne Ogle	11/7
Ben Kerr	11/11
Joyce Small	11/16
Barbara Walker	11/16
Ben Kinhead	11/18
Rick Davis	11/24
Avery Finchum	11/24
Maggie Adams	11/28
Holly Hawn	11/28
Scott McCullough	11/29
Jack Critser	11/30

Sunflower items needed for November and December.



Hand soap  
Multi-purpose cleaner  
Razors (women)  
Toilet cleaner  
Trash bags (kitchen 13 gallon)

## PRAYER REQUEST

### A Call to Prayer

The council of Bishops invites United Methodist to intentional prayer from 2:23p.m.-2:26p.m. each day, until the Special Called Session of the General Conference in February.

# Silent Auction

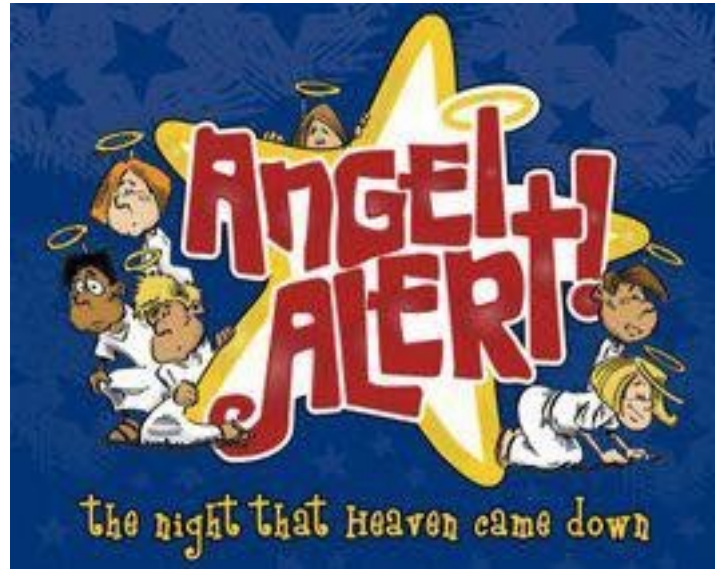
### Youth Mission Trip Fundraiser

The Silent Auction to support the Youth Mission Trip is now underway. You may view items during of-office hours which are Tuesday-Friday from 9:00a.m.-12:00p.m. and 1:00p.m-3:00p.m Closed on Thanksgiving.



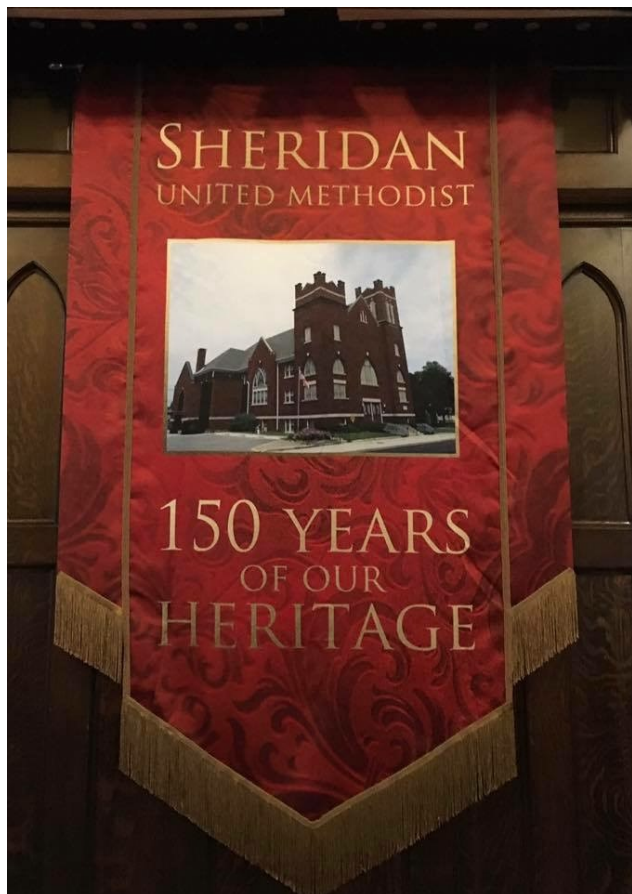
We will be Hanging the Greens on Sunday November 18 at 1:00p.m. Everyone is Welcome to help.

As we prepare for the Christmas season, you won't want to miss the children's program on December 16th during the 10:00a.m. worship service.



Children's Christmas Party.  
Sunday December 16th  
2:00p.m.-4:00p.m  
Santa will be visiting!





On Sunday November 4th we celebrated our Sesquicentennial. A very special worship with reflections from the past, special music, and a luncheon.

We were pleased to have Bryce Nelson on Saturday November 10th to do a benefit concert for The Lunch Club. Bryce sang some of his praise songs and also put us in the mood for Christmas with several Christmas songs.





James Arthur  
Apt 102  
334 S Cherry St.  
Westfield, In 46074

Mark Blessing  
5029 Skipping Stone Dr.  
Indianapolis, In 46237

LeeAnn Bridwell  
305 S. Georgia St.  
Sheridan, In 46069

Don Mendenhall  
610 Crownpointe Dr.  
Lebanon, In 46052

William Oberthur  
Room 4, The Lodge  
1667 Sheridan Rd.  
Noblesville, In 46062

Mary Anne Ogle  
Room 19  
1667 Sheridan Rd.  
Noblesville, In 46062

Helen Pickard  
22398 Mulebarn Road  
Sheridan, In 46069

Kate Pickett  
Room 205  
1667 Sheridan Road  
Noblesville, IN 46062

Janet Butcher  
104 Jaret Drive  
Sheridan, In 46069

Renate Ridge  
Room 106  
776 North Union St.  
Westfield, IN 46074

Ruth Sanders  
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7235 Riverwalk Way N.  
Noblesville, IN 46062

Melba Stephenson  
22490 Mulebarn Rd.  
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Tresa Ann Waitt  
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334 S. Cherry St.  
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Mary Walker  
925 W. 236th St.  
Sheridan. In 46069

Joan Perkins  
10312 Allisonville Road  
Fishers, IN 46038

Beverly Frederick  
808 Ginger Lane  
Apartment A  
Sheridan, In 46069

Jackie Pickett  
Room 515  
1250 West 146th St.  
Westfield, In 46074

Please remember our homebound with a card, a call, or a prayer this week. If you know of someone who needs to be added to our list, please let us know.



# NOVEMBER 2018

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1	2	3
<b>4</b> 150 Year Celebration 9:00a.m. Church School 10:00a.m. Worship Fellowship Lunch	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b> Sunflower Pantry 1:00p.m.- 3:00p.m.	<b>7</b> Mission Mt. 5:00p.m. Bible Studies 6:00-7:00p.m. Choir 7:00p.m.	<b>8</b> Learn & Play Preschool 10:00-12:00  Lunch Club 12:00p.m.	<b>9</b>	<b>10</b> Bryce Nelson Concert 6:00p.m.
<b>11</b> 8:30a.m. Worship 9:00 a.m. Church School 10:00 a.m. Worship	<b>12</b> Gleaners Food Truck 9:30a.m.- 11:00a.m  Church Council 7:00p.m.	<b>13</b> UMW Luncheon 11:30a.m.	<b>14</b> Bible Studies 6:00-7:00p.m.  Choir 7:00p.m.	<b>15</b> Learn & Play Preschool 10:00-12:00  Lunch Club 12:00p.m.	<b>16</b>	<b>17</b>
<b>18</b> 8:30a.m. Worship 9:00a.m. Church School 10:00 Worship 1:00p.m. Hanging of the Greens  UMW Bake Sale After worship ser- vices	<b>19</b> Trustee Meeting 7:00p.m.	<b>20</b> Sunflower Pantry 1:00-3:00p.m.  5:30p.m. Girl Scouts	<b>21</b> Bible Studies 6:00-7:00p.m.  Choir 7:00p.m.	<b>22</b> Thanksgiving	<b>23</b>	<b>24</b>
<b>25</b> 8:30a.m. Worship 9:00a.m. Church School 10:00 a.m. Worship	<b>26</b>	<b>27</b> Finance Mt. 7:30p.m.	<b>28</b> Bible Studies 6:00-7:00p.m.  Choir 7:00p.m.	<b>29</b> Learn & Play Preschool 10:00-12:00  Lunch Club 12:00 p.m.	<b>30</b>	