

YOUTH RE+MIND

Youth Announcements:

- Church Thanksgiving Luncheon – November 19th @ 12:30pm
- Youth Turkey Bowl – November 19th, 5:00-8:00pm
- Hays CISD Thanksgiving Break – November 20-24
- Thanksgiving – November 23rd
- Youth Christmas Tea Fundraiser – December 10th
- Youth Christmas Party – December 13th
- Hays CISD Christmas Break – December 18-January 4

WMU

We will begin collecting for the Lottie Moon Christmas Offering December 1 and will collect through December 31, 2023. The week of prayer is December 3-10. Our goal as a church this year is \$3,500. The WMU will meet again on Thursday, December 7th @ 10:00 a.m. in the sanctuary classroom. We'd love to have you ladies join us.

MUSIC NOTES

Happy November Everyone! What a wonderful time of the year!! As everyone is getting ready for all the Thanksgiving festivities, I want to take this time to say how thankful I am to our choir for all the hard work you put in to making our worship services so meaningful and engaging. I love each and every one of you and hope we continue to sing together for years and years to come!!! ***In His Name, Nancy***

CHILDREN'S CORNER

Happy Thanksgiving y'all, from the Children's Ministry Team, and remember "A moment of gratitude makes a difference in your attitude".

We are still looking for nursery volunteers. A sign-up sheet is posted outside the nursery. Please consider doing your part and sharing Jesus with our littlest ones.

AWANA awarded its Pumpkin Patch Palooza winners last Wednesday. The Sparks winner was Cannon Luther with 14 pumpkins and the TNT winner was Amos McDonald with a total of 15 pumpkins. Good job boys!

The "Season of Giving" starts up this month and runs through December 6th. This is a "Friendly" competition between the boys and the girls. Each night of club the children will bring a canned good. The winning team will be served milk and cookies by the other team. The children have a lot of fun and, of course, the big winner is the Buda Food Pantry.

Have a wonderful Thanksgiving and remember to count those blessings! ***The Children's Ministry Team.***

NOVEMBER EVENTS

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| November 1 | Mid-week Activities: 6:00—7:30 PM
AWANA (Sunday on Wednesday), Youth,
Adult Bible Study
Choir Practice, 7:30 PM |
| November 2 | WMU, 10:00 AM
Ladies Bible Study, 10:00 AM |
| November 4 | Men's Prayer Breakfast, 8:00 AM |
| November 6 | Security Team meeting, 6:00 PM |
| November 7 | Children's Ministry Team meeting, 6:00 PM |
| November 8 | Mid-week Activities: 6:00—7:30 PM
AWANA (make cards for homebound), Youth,
Adult Bible Study
Choir Practice, 7:30 PM |
| November 9 | Ladies Bible Study, 10:00 AM |
| November 10 | OCC Work Day, 1:00 PM |
| November 11 | OCC Packing Party, 10:30 AM |
| November 12 | Building & Grounds Committee, 12N
ALL OCC shoeboxes are due @ the church
Youth Vocal Ensemble, 4-5 PM |
| November 13 | Budget & Finance Committee, 4:00 PM
Deacons Meeting, 5:00 PM |
| November 15 | Mid-week Activities: 6:00—7:30 PM
AWANA (AWANA store), Youth, Adult Bible
Study
Choir Practice, 7:30 PM |
| November 16 | Ladies Bible Study, 10:00 AM |
| November 19 | Thanksgiving Dinner, 12:30 PM
Harvest Fest Youth Night (time tbd) |
| November 20 | Hanging of the Green work day, 9:00 AM |
| November 22 | NO MID-WEEK ACTIVITIES |
| November 23 | NO LADIES BIBLE STUDY |
| November 26 | Hanging of the Green, Morning Service
Youth Vocal Ensemble, 4-5 PM |
| November 29 | Mid-week Activities: 6:00—7:30 PM
AWANA (BARF night), Youth, Adult Bible Study
Choir Practice, 7:30 PM |
| November 30 | Ladies Bible Study, 10:00 AM |

You're Invited!

2023 Hanging of the Green @ FBC Buda
Sunday, November 26th @ 10:45 AM

CHRISTIAN CALLER

November 2023
Volume 23, Issue 11

MISSION STATEMENT:
WE DESIRE TO HONOR GOD BY
LEADING PEOPLE TO
BECOMING FULLY DEVOTED
FOLLOWERS OF JESUS CHRIST.



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BUDDY JOHNSON, PASTOR
TREY JOHNSON, ASSOCIATE PASTOR/
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A MESSAGE FROM OUR PASTOR

My complaint list! I know! I know! Your thinking I should be making a gratitude list, or a list of blessings, but instead you're making a complaint list? Weird! Right? But yes... complaint list... my complaint list: garage door broke, pool pump went out, insurance isn't picking up medication costs nor the costs for needed tests, mortgage keeps going up... whose isn't, truck needs four new tires and a lot of work on it, HOA ridiculous demands, put on too much weight, clothes don't fit any more, concerns for family, kids and grandkids in this scary world, continued grief at the loss of mom and dad and missing them almost every day... it feels like yesterday they left us and it still hurts, the church building program... can't build because we've been stonewalled for six year by the city and it's frustrating and disheartening, and now to get to the end of these six years of hard work, blood, sweat, and tears and just walk away from the project even if we know it's best, the stress of ministry that wears away, the behind-the-scenes day-to-day problems no one sees and maybe mostly take for granted... ugh... the list, it seems, goes on and on. It really does! And I'm not sharing anything that everyone else isn't going through and maybe to a far greater extent than me. And I'm not "really" complaining... truth, be known I don't have one thing to be complaining, murmuring, griping about at all. I'm very blessed! Really! I'm just citing "my complaint" list to make a point... and what is that point?

We hear the Bible say in 1 Thessalonians 5:18, *"In everything give thanks; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you."* "Everything?" Really? Everything? Yup! You heard that right. When things break down at home, the truck won't run, and your funds up and run out leaving you broke down... give thanks! When the kids worry you and your work stresses you out, and you're about to give out in it all... give thanks! When the doctor calls, and your health falls, and your weight won't... give thanks! When building plans fail, and you need to bail, and your left feeling pale... give thanks! You get. In everything give thanks!

I've thought on this quite a bit! It sounds absurd of course! Oh, don't be so pious as to think it doesn't. It does! Of course it does! The thought of being "thankful" is all of that annoying, hard-to-take stuff that hits us like one gut-punch after another is not "thank-worthy" material. It's more like "grrrr" material.

So, yea, you are probably thinking, "How do you give thanks in all things... like those things?" Well there is a peculiar verse in the Bible about thanksgiving that may help us. Maybe you've never read this one before, or if you have, you may not have thought of it this way. Maybe you've read it, but not

grasped what it is really saying. Here is the peculiar verse about thanksgiving I'm referring to. It's Psalm 116:17, *"I will offer to You the sacrifice of thanksgiving, and will call upon the name of the Lord."* Throughout the scriptures, giving thanks is described as a "sacrifice," particularly in our peculiar verse (Psalm 116:17)

When I think of giving thanks, I tend to regard it as something done in the midst of good things - a full stomach, a warm house, and a loving family, and no problems. But is this the biblical understanding of thanksgiving? Is it something we do out of the overflow of all the good things we have?

A sacrifice is a thing that costs. When the Old Testament Jews would take sacrifices to the temple, it was a sacrifice of something important to them. It was not a light matter to sacrifice to God. It took preparation, time, effort, money, and ended in the loss of something that could have otherwise been used for personal gain. If thanksgiving, then, is described as a sacrifice, then biblical thanksgiving costs. It isn't an overflow of the extra.

We are not required to sacrifice animals at an altar, but as children of God, it is highly fitting and appropriate for us to be thankful and to give thanks often. We have been given so much, from the daily provision of breath and existence to the provision of eternal security and salvation through the work of Jesus Christ on our behalf. If true thanksgiving is a sacrifice, what are we sacrificing? Anything that takes away or diminishes the favors... the graces... the mercies God has shown to us.

We should sacrifice (put to death) our complaints. It is one thing to be aware of a situation that is not right and try to correct it, but it is another to grow bitter about something that you cannot change. It's not good to be complacent, but many times God places His children in situations in order for them to grow and mature. If discontentment is our response to the will of God, then we have no room in our hearts for true thanksgiving. We have to realize we have no right to complain about things that God Himself ordained for our ultimate benefit and for His glory. Instead, give thanks that He cares enough to strengthen us in our spiritual walk.

We should sacrifice (put to death) our fears. If God feeds the sparrows and clothes the flowers (Matt. 6:26-34), do we really have a right to live in distress? There are times when concern is appropriate, and it is foolish to go through life in the fantasy that everything is going to be sunshine and rainbows. But to live as if everything could be lost at any moment is an insult to God who promises to protect, provide for and sustain His children. We have no right or reason to live as if He is too weak to control our situation. True thankfulness requires that we sacrifice our fears.

We should sacrifice (put to death) our wants. This is a tough one for anybody. We all have things we want to achieve, and most of the time these are good things. Wealth, good health, security, all these things are beneficial. But all too often these

desires can become a distraction from God's provision and will for our lives. When we set our hearts on something other than God, we are saying that God is not enough for us. We have lost sight of who He really is and how much we really need Him. How can we have thankful hearts when we are dwelling on something we don't have? True thankfulness requires that we sacrifice our wants.

What is truly needed is an eternal perspective. Think on this... God, the one who is completely satisfied in Himself and had no need of us at all, has come down to set His love on us and rescue us from eternal just condemnation. Not only that, but every day we are surrounded by evidence of His grace, and led onward by the promise of being made like Jesus, able to dwell in the presence of God because of a way that has been opened for us through Jesus Christ.

Suddenly the cares and concerns of our daily lives shrink. When our eyes are finally open to God's provision, both for our earthly and eternal lives, our complaints, fears, and selfish wants become so trivial. So let's sacrifice to God, on the altar all of our fears, and doubts, and worries... our wants, and wishes... our complaints... all the things we want to list on our complaint list. Let's sacrifice them all and instead choose to give thanks in all things. That is, Psalm 116:17, *"I will offer to You the sacrifice of thanksgiving, and will call upon the name of the Lord."* **Happy Thanksgiving! I love You, Bro. Buddy**



The poster features two cartoon turkeys wearing pilgrim hats on either side of the central text. The background is decorated with autumn leaves and pumpkins. The text is as follows:

You're Invited

CHURCH

Thanks Giving

MEAL

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 19 AT 12:30 P.M.

FOLLOWING THE MORNING WORSHIP SERVICE / SIGN UP TO BRING FOOD

THE CHURCH WILL PROVIDE THE MEAT [TURKEY & DRESSING AND HAM], BREAD, AND CRANBERRY SAUCES. YOU SIGN UP TO BRING POTATOES AND/OR SWEET POTATOES, CORN AND/OR GREEN BEANS, FRUIT SALAD, AND DESSERTS. SIGN UP ON THE POSTER IN THE CHURCH FOYER TO LET US KNOW WHAT YOU WILL BE BRINGING.