

# Pastor's Pen

Thanksgiving!

***"Rejoice always; pray without ceasing; in everything give thanks, for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus."***

**1Thes. 5:16-18**

On this Thursday, we will celebrate Thanksgiving. Several surveys show that 85 to 90% of Americans celebrate Thanksgiving. That's between 293 million and 310 million people celebrate Thanksgiving every year.

How did Thanksgiving become a national holiday? In 1863, President Abraham Lincoln proclaimed Thanksgiving a national holiday to be celebrated annually in November. In 1942, President Franklin D. Roosevelt issued a proclamation, and Congress passed a joint resolution that made Thanksgiving the fourth Thursday of November.

I remember this was such an important holiday in our home when I was a boy. I would watch the parade with my brother while my mom would spend the day in the kitchen. I was in awe of the giant balloons that headed down the parade route: Underdog, Bullwinkle, Dino the Dinosaur, and many others. Football was something we always watched on Thanksgiving and then we would have our big dinner. What was never talked about on Thanksgiving was God.

As we get ready to celebrate Thanksgiving this year, we need to reflect on the words of Paul to the church in Thessalonica: ***"Rejoice always; pray without ceasing; in everything give thanks, for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus."*** As followers of Christ, we do not need a holiday to thank our God. Rejoicing, praying, and being thankful should be upon a believer's lips at all times. This Thanksgiving, you may have the opportunity to be with family members and friends who do not know Christ. I would encourage you to pray for wisdom and God's blessing when you share Christ with them this Thursday. We have all heard you don't talk politics or religion on Thanksgiving. I have no problem not talking politics, but do not be intimidated or discouraged from sharing the hope that you have in Christ.

As you reflect on all the areas of your life that you are thankful for, remember that the greatest gift we have ever received is our salvation. Let us, ***"Rejoice always; pray without ceasing; in everything give thanks, for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus."***

Your shepherd,

Pastor Mark

## Grace Gems

The Thanksgiving Habit- J. R. Miller, 1904

***"O, Give thanks to the Lord, for He is good; His mercy endures forever!"*** 1 Chronicles 16:34

***"In everything give thanks, for this is God's will for you who belong to Christ Jesus!"*** 1 Thessalonians 5:18

The annual Thanksgiving Day in America, has grown to be a national festival. It is a day of rejoicing. It summons all the people to gratitude. It is fitting that a people who have received untold blessings, should set apart one day on which all should recall their mercies, think of God as the Giver of all and express their grateful feelings in words of praise.

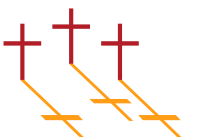
### Quote of the Week

**"It is only with gratitude that life becomes rich!"**  
-Dietrich Bonhoeffer

But it is not intended that the other three hundred and sixty four days shall be empty of thanksgiving, because one is named as an especial day of rejoicing. We cannot crowd into any one day—all the thanks of a year. Indeed, on no one day can we be grateful for another day. No one person can give thanks for a whole company of people. So no one day can give thanks for any but itself. All the days should be thanksgiving days. Any that is not, lacks something, and stands as imperfect days in the calendar. We are told that we may count that day lost in which we do no kindness to anyone. In like manner may be set down as a lost day that one in which no songs of gratitude rises from our hearts and lips to God.

Anybody can be thankful on one day of the year. At least it ought to be possible for even the most gloomy and pessimistic person to rouse up to grateful feeling, on the high tide of an annual Thanksgiving day. No doubt it is something to pipe even one little song in a whole year of discontent and complaining—the kind of living with which some people fill their years. God must be pleased to have some people grateful even for a few moments in a long period of time, and to hear them sing even once in a year. But that is not the way He would have us live. The ideal life is one that is always thankful, not only for a little moment on a particularly fine day. "Praise is lovely," that is, beautiful—beautiful to God. The life which pleases Him is the one which always rejoices.

Nowhere in the Bible can we find either ingratitude or joylessness commanded or commended. All ungrateful feelings and dispositions are condemned. A great deal is said in disapproval of murmuring, discontent, worrying, and all forms of ingratitude. Again and again we are taught that joy is the keynote of a true life. It is not enough to rejoice when the sun shines, when all things are going well with us, when we are in the midst of prosperity; we are to rejoice as well when clouds hide the blue sky, when our circumstances seem to be adverse, or when we are passing through sufferings.



# Weekly Gatherings

## Bible Classes

Old & New Testament Classes  
Ladies Class  
Young Adults    Young Parents  
Youth            Surge  
Sunday Morning @ 9:00AM



## Weekday Meetings

Mondays | 7PM Men's Bible Study

Wednesdays | 6:30PM AWANA



## Family Groups

Thursdays @ 7PM  
Please see website for locations



## Build the Body Teams

If you would like to serve on a BtB Team and need to sign up, please contact the team leader at the appropriate email address on the back of this bulletin.



## Youth Study

Wednesdays @6:30PM  
Youth Study; AWANA & Surge!



## Service Times

Sunday Services 10:30AM  
Sunday School 9:00AM  
Children's Church @11:00AM



Giving from service on 11/17/2024

General Offering .....\$5,992.59  
Building Fund .....\$3,172.00  
Uganda Missions .....\$150.00

Total.....\$9,314.59  
Attendance ..... 217

**Christmas SOS goal \$8,000.....so far \$200.00**

*Build the Body Ministries*

Women's Ministry-women@ghbcva.org  
AWANA-awana@ghbcva.org  
Outreach Ministry-outreach@ghbcva.org  
Worship Ministry-worship@ghbcva.org  
Men's Ministry-men@ghbcva.org  
Children's Ministry-children@ghbcva.org  
Youth Ministry-youth@ghbcva.org  
Prayer Team-prayer@ghbcva.org  
Maintenance-maintenance@ghbcva.org  
Fellowship-fellowship@ghbcva.org  
Communications-communications@ghbcva.org  
Front Line-frontline@ghbcva.org  
Security-security@ghbcva.org



GRACE HARVEST BIBLE CHURCH

GO GATHER GROW GO

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# Grace Harvest Bible Church

Nov 24, 2024

Welcome