

Give Thanks



*Celebrating our 45th Bazaar,
Saturday, November 5, 8:00-3:00 pm.*



*Thanksgiving Dinner
November 13*



*Stewardship Sunday
November 13
@ 10:00
One Worship Service
Dedication of
Operation Christmas
Shoe Boxes.*



*Confirmation Sunday
November 20 @
10:00 am
One Worship Service*

“Gratitude for God’s Grace”

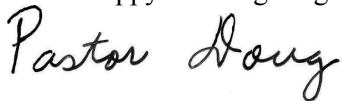
There seems to be a lack of gratitude in our nation today. Ingratitude is often rooted in a form of entitlement. The obvious attitude of entitlement is that I have it coming to me. A more subtle version of entitlement is the belief that I have earned it myself through hard work and the application of my abilities. Both versions will rob of us gratitude.

In scripture, the Apostle Paul writes, “always and for everything give thanks in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ to God the Father.” Paul warns us not to fool ourselves into thinking that what We have is our own doing. He tells us that “every good and perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of the heavenly lights, who does not change like shifting shadows. He chose to give us birth through the word of truth...(James 1: 17, 18.)

The gift that serves as the greatest motivation for thanksgiving is that we have been given a saving relationship with God through Jesus Christ that is contrary to everything that we have earned. Who of us would ever say to the Lord, As a sign of your love for me, would you die on a cross to pay the price of the guilt of my sin? Once you have done that would you wipe clean the slate of my guilt by your forgiveness? Then would you please live in me, protect me, guide me and bless me more than I could ever imagine?” No, we would never ask for what we have been given.

During the Thanksgiving season, give thanks to God for His saving grace through Jesus Christ His only son. Put it at the top of your list of gifts you have been given by a gracious God. Count your many blessings and remind yourself daily of what a good God we serve. Don’t be surprised if a lasting sense of gratitude fills your heart and molds your attitude in a positive transforming way.

Happy Thanksgiving everyone.



Pastor Doug

Youth fundraiser dinner

The youth will serve a dinner on November 20 after the one worship service being held at 10:00 am.

The confirmation students will be confirmed that morning. It is a very special day for the youth.

GO TEAM Update:

The GO Team continues to meet and discuss ways that we can be involved in God's work in Jerusalem, Judea and the ends of the earth. We are also excited to see how you are following through with your faith promise giving. Previously we had supported Circles and Weekday Bible School.

One action taken on the local front is submitting a request to Church Council to join in the Missional Church Network here in Newton/Harvey County. That was approved and we are now in the partnership of a dozen churches that are connected to live out our calling as a Christian community to encourage, be effective witnesses, and meet needs.

We were pleased to have the Fogelmans here for a visit and to hear of their mission work plans. And this last month we decided to support the Fogelmans by giving them \$600 to go toward the funds they need to be able to realize their goal of going to Sudan. Then we will support them \$100 monthly.

We also heard about Cookson Hills in Oklahoma and got a report of their great needs and the work they are doing to meet the needs of those around them. Recently Dave and Kay Ediger spent a week there on a short term mission trip with Volunteers in Mission. The decision was made to send \$500 of the faith promise money to the mission work there.

We want to put your money to work for God in each of the different areas of Jerusalem, Judea and the ends of the earth. We are striving to do this in a prayerful and conscientious manner.

We also ask for your prayers as we develop a relationship with Hilltop United Methodist Church in Zimbabwe with whom we have signed a "Chabadza Covenant Partnership." Communication issues and following the appropriate channels have been sources of frustration as things are moving very slowly. Despite those frustrations we ask you to be praying for our sisters and brothers there on a regular basis.

There are 3 trips to Zimbabwe in the planning stages for 2012. You can be thinking and praying about if this is something you would like to consider.

Thank You!

Your kindness will always be remembered by my re-reading, many times, the beautiful cards, and kind words. You made my 90th birthday extra special.

Love to all,
Edna Curtis

Connect, Serve, & Grow ~~~ *By Roy Pumphrey, Executive Minister*

"Come now, let us reason together, says the LORD: though your sins are like scarlet, they shall be as white as snow; though they are red like crimson, they shall become like wool." Isaiah 1:18 (ESV)

Isaiah chapter one begins by describing the evil the people of Judah are doing. In verses 16 and 17, God tells them to wash themselves to remove the evil. They are to cease doing evil. They are to learn to do good. They are to seek justice and correct oppression. They are to bring justice to those at the margins of society.

In verse 18, God says to them, "Come now, let us reason together." In effect he is asking them to consider whether or not they want a life without God, which is full of evil, injustice, and oppression, or one with God that is good, just and includes all. In verse 19, God tells them if they are obedient, that is, they wash themselves of evil and learn to do good, then they will experience the kind of life he gives.

The only one who has been able to live this obedient life, however, is Jesus Christ. The good news for us, if we become his disciples, is that he will give us this life, that is, his own life (Galatians 2:20). When we are his disciples, and he lives in us, we will see that our lives are full of love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control. So, as we go into November and Thanksgiving, we can truly live with gratitude in our hearts to God because of this gift of life given to us.

MISSION MOMENTS ~~~ *by Jay Anderson*

Last month I attended a seminar on "Discipleship and Church Planting" led by George Patterson, who was a missionary church planter in Latin America for 20 years. Since then he has started 800 churches in 17 countries on four continents. He has trained 130 church planters and 1500 college students who continue to do a similar ministry. Praise God for such people who are so productive in their ministries.

Here is what he does after gathering a handful of new believers like our small groups.

1. Worship. Ask. What are you thankful for? Share needs, confession, offer forgiveness. What did you learn last week and apply.
2. Bible Study. What does the story-passage teach us about God-Jesus? What does it tell us about ourselves? What are you going to do about it? How will our lives change? Practice what you are learning.
3. Pray. Who are three people you can share this truth with? Pray for them right now. Obey the commands of Jesus. Practice telling the Jesus story to others this week. Did you last week? Accountability.

Let me know if you are interested in being in a very small group to learn how to witness to our faith and will practice what we learn.

Decorate Church for Christmas

We will meet at 4:00 pm on Sunday, November 27, to decorate the church for Christmas. We need everyone's help. Please mark your calendar and plan to help.

Thank You!

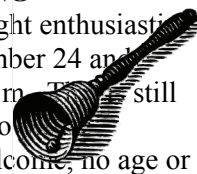
Thank You! goes to all the ladies who helped bake over 200 pounds of peppernuts.

A total of 20 ladies volunteered their mornings for one, two, three or all five Friday baking sessions. Some of the ladies started the morning as early as 7:30 a.m. and ended around 11:45 a.m. Half pound bags of peppernuts will be for sale at the bazaar Nov. 5th. All of the proceeds from the peppernuts go to fund missions. ~ Sharon Decker and Kay Ediger

Our own FUMC Bells have begun to RING again! Music is coming from the hands of eight enthusiastic members! Rehearsals commenced on September 24 and will continue on Sunday afternoons 3:00 – 4:00 p.m. There is still a learning and growing group of musicians, so please consider coming to the bell table – all are welcome, no age or gender to be excluded!

Sometimes we all fear showing our vulnerability to learning something new because it may expose something we don't want others to know about us. BUT a music group (Bells or Choir) opens us up and builds confidence in ourselves, confidence in the resources of faith and confidence in learning from fellow faith travelers. Come take a journey of joy with the Bell Choir!

Lorraine Morgan, Brenda Tofteland, Jan Glimpse, La Rita Claassen, Carolyn Schroeder, Jan Sanford, Janet Moore, Bev Stigge form the new FUMC Bell Ringers. Judy Kolb is recuperating from health issues.



FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

801 North Main
Newton, KS 67114

Phone: 316-283-2150
Fax: 316-283-1544

E-mail: info@firstchurchnewton.org
Return Service Requested

We're on the Web

www.FirstChurchNewton.org

This newsletter has been prayerfully prepared for:

Office Hours: M-T, 8:30 am-4:00 pm
Friday 8:30 am—12:00 pm

- Dr. Doug Tofteland, Lead Pastor
- Jay Anderson, Missions Pastor
- Roy Pumphrey, Executive Minister
- Roxie Truan, Administrative Assistant
- Beverly Stigge, Choir Director
- Barry Fulmer, Praise Team Leader
- Karen Kaufman, Organist
- Mary Beth Davies, Organist
- David Portlock, Custodian



Southwestern College Worship Outreach

Southwestern College World Witness Team, a praise and outreach team will take part in the services Sunday, **November 6**. The World Witness Team, is a group of students that encourages, witnesses, and demonstrates their faith. Please mark your calendar and attend worship on November 6.

nas Child—The power of a simple gift!

When children open their shoe box gifts, the harsh world around them fades and their wonder and joy as they see the treasures within. Yet the impact of Operation Christmas Child is far beyond smiles and laughter. These simple gifts become Gospel gifts, opening hurting hearts to experience the transforming power of Jesus Christ. In the shoe box distributions, boys and girls are offered Gospel booklets that explain God's love in their own language. There is no better gift than sharing Jesus with kids all



over the world. Join us in this mission:

PRAY. Pray that God will touch the heart of every child who receives a shoe box gift, and that He will bring many children and families to faith in Christ.

PACK A GIFT. A shoe box filled with small toys and other gifts can open hurting hearts to God's love. You can find instructions in Fellowship foyer.

GIVE. It costs \$7 per box to cover shipping and other project costs.

We will be collecting boxes until November 13. For questions contact Janet Fulmer.

One Worship Service, November 13 with a Thanksgiving Dinner in fellowship hall.