

Connections

LAKWOOD BAPTIST CHURCH

NOVEMBER 2022

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Share the gift of *JESUS*

through a simple shoebox by November 13

Volunteer during National Collection Week

November 14- 21



Welcome Home.

A Message from **Dr. Jerry Horner**

MINISTER OF DISCIPLESHIP & OUTREACH

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Revisionists of American history have made every effort to explain away the true origins of our tradition of Thanksgiving. Try as they might, however, they cannot change what is clearly written in historical documents that have been preserved. For example, the following paragraph is a proclamation made by Governor Bradford in 1623, three years after the Pilgrims settled at Plymouth:

To all ye Pilgrims,

Inasmuch as the great Father has given us this year an abundant harvest of Indian corn, wheat, peas, beans, squashes, and garden vegetables, and has made the forests to abound with game and the sea with fish and clams, and inasmuch as he has protected us from the ravages of the savages, has spared us from pestilence and disease, has granted us freedom to worship God according to the dictates of our own conscience. Now I, your magistrate, do proclaim that all ye Pilgrims, with your wives and ye little ones, do gather at ye meeting house, on ye hill, between the hours of 9 and 12 in the day time, on Thursday, November 29th, of the year of our Lord one thousand six hundred and twenty-three and the third year since ye Pilgrims landed on ye Pilgrim Rock, there to listen to ye pastor and render thanksgiving to ye Almighty God for all His blessings.

Like those early Pilgrims, on one Thursday this month we set aside time to give thanks to God. There's certainly nothing wrong with proclaiming a special day on which to give thanks, but the Bible tells us that thanksgiving should be a continual, daily attitude. Ephesians 5:19-20 tells us, "Speaking to one another, in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody in your heart to the Lord, giving thanks always for all things to God the Father in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ." We are instructed in 1 Thessalonians 5:16-18, "Rejoice always, pray without ceasing, in everything give thanks, for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you."

These verses speak of praise and thanksgiving, with the important words "always," "continually," "in all circumstances." These words are not restricted to church services. They apply to a continual attitude of the heart that we are to have. In order to maintain this kind of attitude, we must guard against at least three other attitudes that keep us from being thankful. One is our pride, which causes us to feel that we have no one to thank but ourselves, because, after all, we worked hard for everything we have. A second attitude to avoid is a critical spirit or constant complaining. This attitude will enable us always to find something to complain about instead of being grateful. A third attitude is carelessness. Suppose the stars came out only once a year? Then we would stay out all night to watch them, but they are there every night and we have grown accustomed to them. The Israelites grumbled because they had no food, so God miraculously sent manna to cover the ground each day except the sabbath. Then they started grumbling because it was the same thing every day. They had a miracle straight from God every day, but they were not satisfied.

One day a reporter said to the great writer Rudyard Kipling, "Mr. Kipling, I read that somebody calculated that the money you make from your writings amounts to over a hundred dollars a word." Then he reached into his pocket and pulled out a hundred dollar bill. He gave it to Kipling and said, "Here's one hundred dollars. Now, give me one of your hundred dollar words. Mr. Kipling folded the bill, put it in his pocket and said, "Thanks!" I would say that it's more like a million dollar word, and if we would all adopt an attitude of thanksgiving, our lives would be changed. If any nation ought to be thankful to God and grateful for His goodness, it ought to be America. If any people in America ought to be thankful to God and grateful for His goodness, it ought to be those who proclaim to be Christians.

FALL BACK
1 HOUR
November 6



HAPPY
Thanks Giving



A Message from **Andrew Spires**

MINISTER OF STUDENTS & SINGLES



The Christian History of Thanksgiving:

We are probably all familiar with the Thanksgiving story, how the Pilgrims were aided by the Wampanoag Native American tribe so that they could survive in the New World. How these two groups, which could not have been less alike, bonded together and enjoyed an informal celebration of thanksgiving for God's many blessings. We've added much to that original story in our celebration of Thanksgiving. We all love our family get-togethers with a feast of turkey and the like while watching parades and football. However, what is the true Christian history of Thanksgiving?

The Pilgrims, as we call them, were actually renegade members of the Church of England. Refusing to adhere to regulations and doctrines within the church, this group became known as the Separatists, because they officially separated from the Church of England. Now, the Pilgrims were not Puritans, though there are some doctrinal similarities. The easiest way to understand the difference is that the Puritans stayed in the Church of England and sought to reform it from within, while the Pilgrims fully separated from it. The Puritans also came to America but about ten years later (1630). After separating from the Church of England, the Pilgrims began to enjoy newfound religious freedoms but soon found it harder and harder to make a living. So, they moved to the Netherlands where, for a while, things were pleasant, but they soon began to worry that their children would be affected by a different culture. In 1620 they moved again, this time to the New World where they would hope

to create a new British colony where they could enjoy religious freedoms not afforded them in the Old World. Sixty-six days later they landed at what we now call Plymouth Rock, after missing their original intended destination.

As you know from the Thanksgiving story, around half of those who left for America died between the Atlantic crossing and the first winter. By God's providence, the surviving Pilgrims learned how to cultivate the land from the Native Americans, and soon they began to thrive. What we now call the First Thanksgiving was more akin to an Old World Harvest Festival which lasted for three days. Days of thanksgiving were nothing new, they were common in England. English thanksgiving practices commonly included spending the day at church, fasting, and offering prayers of thanksgiving to God. Sounds much different than our feasting and football today doesn't it? George Washington set aside days of thanksgiving during the American Revolution and during his time as President. Washington's 1789 Thanksgiving Proclamation is a favorite of mine as it makes it abundantly clear that our nation owes its very existence to the divine providence of Almighty God. Much later (1863), Abraham Lincoln, in the midst of the Civil War, made Thanksgiving an official Federal holiday.

As we reflect on another year let us remember our forefathers, believers who risked it all to follow their God. Around 35 million people today can trace their lineage to the Mayflower crossing. While we are blessed to enjoy religious freedom here in the U.S., this freedom has also diluted this (cont.)

(Andrew's article continued)

country with every non-Christian religious belief imaginable. Many have forgotten our country's Christian heritage and most Thanksgiving celebrations are devoid of any religious thought. Let us remember that even though they suffered greatly and so many died, those original Pilgrims still found it essential to thank God for their blessings. While their tenacity is impressive and inspiring, our thanksgiving is essential.

I believe a lack of thankfulness towards God is rampant in most believers' prayer lives. So, let me challenge you to daily practice a spirit of thanksgiving. Daily thank God for your family, your career, your home, your friends, and even your trials and tribulations. Wake up each day and think; "What do I need to thank God for today?"
God bless,
drew



A Message from **David Stephens**

CHILDREN'S MINISTER



We are coming into the heart of the last quarter of this year and we have much to be thankful for. We see all the Christmas items that seem to be put out earlier each year. There are even people who never take down their Christmas lights. I in-part, fall into that category of people. There is still a Christmas flower arrangement that is up in my house from last year. It never got changed out, and now it's back in season. We must remember Thanksgiving because we have much to be thankful for. As we enter into this holiday season let's be thankful for what Jesus did for us foremost, and also we just need to be thankful for how blessed we are. We have a freedom that is like no other. The freedom we have in Christ must fuel the freedom we have in our current environment and we must remain vigilant in maintaining our free state or we will lose it. When I think about Thanksgiving, I am very thankful for my wife, my children, my family, my church family, my health, my home. I have so much to be thankful for, and it's important that we thank God for all of these things. But, to get to the heart of the matter, I'm the most thankful for the friendship that I have with Jesus. We say in very simple words in pre-school ministry. Jesus is my best friend forever. Is it really that simple? Yes it is! And, the really neat thing that we all can. We can talk to Jesus. WOW, mind blowing, we can talk with our friend, and wait, he desires to talk to us. WHAAAT, the God of creation wants to talk to little me? We can pray, and he hears us and speaks to his beloved. When we pray we touch the heart of heaven. I want to pray to move mountains with great faith. We must also understand that when we pray for a mountain to be moved and it's not moving

that doesn't mean we don't have great faith. God's just using this situation in a different way. God is a healing God whether our prayers for healing are realized or not. Are we praying "please save me" type prayers, or are we praying "glorify your name through this situation" type prayers.? Are we praying Acts 4 prayers that would be sound like; "I'm considering their threats; God enable your servants to preach the Gospel regardless".

I recently heard a talk on when Jesus healed the centurion's servant. As I read over this story one word in verse 9 of chapter 7 of the book of Luke stood out to me. It's the word "marveled". When Jesus heard these things, He marveled at him, and turned around to the crowd that followed Him, I say to you I have not found such great faith, not even in Israel! (NKJV)

There is a possibility that something that I do could amaze Jesus. The centurion understood the concept of authority, and Jesus' authority. He had faith that all Jesus needed to do was say the word and his servant would be healed, he didn't need to come to the house at all. The centurion wasn't trying to be amazing. He had great faith. Do we pray with great faith?

Calendar

Our big event for November will be **November 9.**

This evening from 6-7:30 our AWANA kids will be **packing Operation Christmas Child Shoe boxes.**

All are invited to come and help us reach our goal of 600 boxes.

We have the supplies needed, so at this point we are asking for support for covering the shipping which is \$10 per box packed.

Please prayerfully consider helping!

Lakewood Happenings

November 2022

SUN	MON	TUES	WED	THURS	FRI	SAT
		10:30am Women's Bible Study		8:45am VK/WMU Leaves for Prattville		
		1	2	3	4	5
Andrew Spires Time Changes	10:30am Amen Choir	10:30am Women's Bible Study 6:15pm Alleluia Choir	6:00pm AWANA OCC Packing Night	6:30pm Women to Opelika Chonda Pierce	5:30pm Senior Game Night Soup	
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
Israel Jane 5:00pm Deacons Meet Shoebox deadline	OCC drop off	10:30am Women's Bible Study OCC drop off	6:00pm AWANA 7:00pm Finance Team meeting OCC drop off	6:30pm JEG/BW OCC drop off	OCC drop off	OCC drop off
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
Dr. Horner Turkey Bowl	10:30am Amen Choir LAST DAY OCC drop off	6:15pm Alleluia Choir	No Events	Thanksgiving Office Closed	Office Closed Tree lot opens pm	
OCC drop off	20	21	22	23	24	25
Andrew Spires	10:30am Amen Choir	6:15pm Alleluia Choir	6:00pm AWANA			
27	28	29	30			

September Giving

	BUDGET	CTB	MISSIONS	OTHER	TOTAL
9/4	\$24,429.64	\$285.00	\$1,075.00	\$706.00	\$26,495.64
9/11	\$14,355.10	\$100.00	\$958.59	\$875.00	\$16,288.69
9/18	\$13,842.00	-	\$505.00	\$325.00	\$14,672.00
9/25	\$10,331.64	\$100.00	\$573.00	\$793.36	\$11,798.00

ONGOING ACTIVITIES:

SUNDAY

9:00am Contemporary
Worship
10:00am Bible Fellowship
11:00am Blended Worship

WEDNESDAY

6:00pm Prayer Meeting
6:00pm AWANA
6:30pm Youth Worship

In Memory of:

David Mathews
For Hygiene Kits
From Pat Holland
Mr. & Mrs. Bill Norris
For Student Ministries
From – Henry Needle
Mr. & Mrs. Fred Van Horn
Holton G Woolard
For General Fund
From – Mr. & Mrs. Jerry Barbaree

Stella Hughes
For LOAF
From – Patricia Thomas

Billy Norris
For Amen Choir
From – Glenda Medley
Myra Currier
Cynthia Hickman
Jerri Lewis
Peggy Martin
Fran Loftin
Carolyn Jones
For General Fund
From – Donald Reese
Terry Grimes
Mr. & Mrs. Jerry Barbaree
For Orchestra
From – Mr. & Mrs. Cecil Robinson

For Gideons
From – Gail Brantley
For OCC
From – Margaret Wilson

Pansy Slocumb
For Orchestra
From – Margie Jackson
Mr. & Mrs. Fred Van Horn
Jerri Lewis
Mr. & Mrs. Cecil Robinson
Pat Holland
Fran Loftin
Mr. & Mrs. Wayne Harris
George Kennedy
Cindy Robinson
Mary Miller

For Amen Choir
From – Glenda Medley
Gail Head
Peggy Martin
Myra Currier
Lamar & Brenda Martin
Carolyn Jones
For General Fund
From – Mr. & Mrs. Jerry Barbaree
Terry Grimes
Mr. & Mrs. JD Whitehead

For Children’s Ministry
From – Gail Brantley
For Music Ministry
From – Gary & Kathy Hollon
For OCC
From – Margaret Wilson

Becky Smith
For Student Ministry
From – Fran Loftin
For Children’s Ministry
From – Ed & Pat Pawlok
For General Fund
From – Linda McCart
Mary Rushing
Mike & Jennifer Tyrell
Mr. & Mrs. Jerry Barbaree
For Bereavement
From – Mr. & Mrs. JD Whitehead
For OCC
From – Margaret Wilson

Natalie Hollon
For Student Ministry
From – Janet Turner

In Honor of:

Gail Brantley on her 80th B-day
For AWANA OCC from Myra Currier

**MARK YOUR
CALENDAR**

PRAYER TREE DATES

DECEMBER 5TH, 12TH & 19TH

7:00PM FRONT LAWN

**ENJOY A NIGHT
OF PRAYER AND PRAISE**

SPONSORED BY WOMEN’S MINISTRY

**BE A PART OF THE
AWANA OCC Box
PACKING PARTY**

**WEDNESDAY,
NOVEMBER 9 @ 6PM**

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