

NOVEMBER
2018



CONNECTING POINTS



Pastor Mike's Paper Pulpit

PAUSING TO GIVE THANKS

Harry Allen Ironside was a prolific preacher, author and professor. He has somewhere in the realm of 65 different volumes. The following illustrates his heart of thanks to his God.

The restaurant was very crowded and just as Ironside was about to begin his meal, a man approached and asked if he could join him. Ironside invited him to have a seat. Then, as was his custom, Ironside bowed his head in prayer. When he opened his eyes, the other man asked, "Do you have a headache?" Ironside replied, "No, I don't." The other man asked, "Well, is there something wrong with your food?" Ironside replied, "No, I was simply thanking God as I always do before I eat."

The man said, "Oh, you're one of those, are you? Well, I want you to know I never give thanks. I earn my money by my own sweat and I

don't have to give thanks to anybody when I eat. I just start right in!"

Ironside said, "Yes, you're just like my dog. That's what he does too!"

While I chuckle at his pithy retort, I realize that at times I am laughing at myself. It appears to me that I too often are very much like that man ... or my dog. Saying a prayer at the start of a meal is not a requirement. The food is just as nutritious with or without a prayer. What is different is my awareness of the provision and the Provider. It allows me the chance to once again be reminded that all that I receive in this life is a great gift from God.

In Genesis 22 Abraham called God, Jehovah-Jireh, the One who provides. Let us be better than our dogs and recognize the great gifts from our Provider. Let us give thanks and even use a pre-meal prayer if that is what it takes.

I will see you Sunday,



First Christian Church Elder & Contact Information

Elders

Mack Jones—267-3090
Brett LeTourneau—706-2192
Michael Piersol—559-363-5050
Scott Stutsman—559-479-1946

Secretary

Amanda Stutsman—559-674-5203

Children & Youth

Katie Barsotti—559-903-5883

Pastor

Michael G. Stipe—559-259-6879

Connecting People To God - To Each Other & To The World

THE BACK PAGE . . .

Film scores and movies soundtracks is something near and dear to my heart. Especially with film scores, if the score does not work- the scene does not either. But if a scene and film work together, it helps the viewer understand what is going on, as well as elevating the scene from a good to a great scene. A scene I think of first when it comes to this combination of scene and score is when we are reintroduced to Darth Vader in the Empire Strikes Back. After a slight cut of black before we see anything we are graced with the introduction of the "Imperial March". The menacing tones tells the viewers, these are the bad guys and we need to watch out. Slowly we see Darth Vader come into view and he explains to his minions they have found the rebels. Oh no! Now if we take the Orchestra out- we still have a good scene- but with the added menacing tones the viewer is told what to think about this person and no matter how many times you hear the "Imperial March" your mind says "oh no."

When it comes to the music and the scene if one thing is off you could really ruin the whole scene. Everything has its own unique use in these combinations, and interestingly it is something we can compare to our own community. We all have a part to play when it comes to the Christian community. Throughout the bible we see God bringing people together to accomplish his work. Just like a soundtrack and movie must work together, we too are valuable in our own unique ways and must work together. Where movie works together to help the viewer know what to think, we need to work together to point others to Jesus. "Two people are better than one. They can help each other in everything they do." Ecclesiastes 4:9 NIV

xoxo Katie

PRAY FOR OUR MISSIONARIES

Greg & Vicki Syverson
CMF International – Mexico

Vince & Gretta Payne
Panama Mission Foundation

Matt & Shelley Actis
Hope58 – Uganda

Dr. & Mrs. Yoon Kwon Chae
Korea Gospel Mission

Champions For Tomorrow
Clovis, CA

American Indian Christian Missions
Doors of Hope

Madera Community Food Bank

Madera Rescue Mission

Madera Love INC

Discover more information on the missions we support on our website: www.maderafcc.org



*"I know how to be abased
and I know how to abound.
Everywhere and in all things, I
have learned both to be full and to
be hungry, both to abound and to
suffer need." – Philippians 4:22*

Like most people, I have experienced financial highs and lows. I would speculate that the wealthiest time in my life was when I was in college, working, and living at home. My income was much higher than my expenses, and sometimes it seemed as if I couldn't spend money fast enough. (Really stupid.) When I moved to Nashville to spread my wings, I was making federal minimum wage at Starbucks and paying for rent, utilities, and groceries. Having developed spending habits based on my previous cash flow, you can imagine what happened after a couple of months. Yes, I was VERY BROKE. It took some time, but I

eventually figured out how to make it work. Regardless of income, I had been trained to pay tithes. God always provided...I think I had a few meals consisting of marked out pastries.

There are some parts of my world that stay consistent through whatever economic situation I experience. First, my dog Jacques would never fail in his loyalty to me. That little black dog would sleep next to me on a cold downtown sidewalk if that's where I ever found myself. He would walk beside me as I pushed my shopping cart. Second, my family would never fail in their love and concern for me. This is why I probably will never be living out of a shopping cart. Lastly and most importantly, GOD will never fail in His role as my Provider. He will never fail in His role as my Savior. He will never fail in His role as my All in All. I am thankful.

~Melissa

November 2018



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	<u>Birthdays</u> 8 Charles Camp 9 Louie Sucunza 16 Kathy Schwenck			1 House of Prayer 6:00am-7:00am Worship Team Rehearsal 6:00pm	2	3 Elder's Meeting—9am Board Meeting—10am
4 Bible Classes 9:30 Worship 10:45 Youth Group 6:30-7:30 	5 Life Group 6:30-7:30pm @ Mike and Vonda's home: 524 Barsotti	6  Intercessory Prayer 6:30pm-7:30pm	7	8 House of Prayer 6:00am-7:00am Worship Team Rehearsal 6:00pm	9	10 Women's Breakfast—8am @Robin Walton's home 
11 Bible Classes 9:30 Worship 10:45 Youth Group 6:30-7:30 	12 Life Group 6:30-7:30pm @ Mike and Vonda's home: 524 Barsotti	13 Intercessory Prayer 6:30pm-7:30pm	14 FCC Food Bank 10:00am- Noon	15 House of Prayer 6:00am-7:00am Worship Team Rehearsal 6:00pm	16	17
18 Bible Classes 9:30 Worship 10:45 Youth Group 6:30-7:30 Harvest Dinner — noon	19 Life Group 6:30-7:30pm @ Mike and Vonda's home: 524 Barsotti	20 Intercessory Prayer 6:30pm-7:30pm	21	22 	23	24
25 Bible Classes 9:30 Worship 10:45 Youth Group 6:30-7:30	26 Life Group 6:30-7:30pm @ Mike and Vonda's home: 524 Barsotti	27 Intercessory Prayer 6:30pm-7:30pm	28 FCC Food Bank 10:00am- Noon	29 House of Prayer 6:00am-7:00am Worship Team Rehearsal 6:00pm	30	

Calendar Connecting Points

CWF Breakfast—Saturday,
November 10th—8am @ the home of
Robin Walton
2805 Willow Drive

HARVEST DINNER
NOVEMBER 18TH
NOON FOLLOWING THE SERVICE

Join your church family for a Day of Thankfulness and a great time following the Sunday service. Look for the sign-ups in the foyer as we draw closer to the day.

This year's Harvest Offering will go to our new missionaries—The Actis Family serving in Uganda.



Matt & Shelley
Actis

Chloe,
Kennedy,
Lindsay and
Sophie

United World
Mission, Uganda.

Find out more about them at:
Actis Mission on Facebook
and Hope58.org.

The 2018 Annual Meeting is November 4th following the Morning Service. Sample Ballots and Proposed Budgets are in the hallway. Each family is asked to take one packet and prayerfully consider it as the meeting approaches.

Team Daniel

There are FOUR emphases in prayer that Team Daniel offers to you as a part of our church family.

The **FCC Prayer Team** meets each Sunday morning in Pastor Mike's office at 8:45 to seek God and prayer walk the church facility.

Prayer Hosts are our volunteer prayer folks who are available during the service to pray specifically with you and for you.

Our **Prayer Wall** is found in the office hallway. Leave a request and it will be prayed over.

The **Intercessors** meet Tuesdays from 6:30–7:30 PM to lift up our church family.

We just need YOU!

"Beware in your prayers, above everything else, of limiting God, not only by unbelief, but by fancying that you know what He can do. Expect unexpected things 'above all that we ask or think.'"
~Andrew Murray

A HEART OF THANKSGIVING

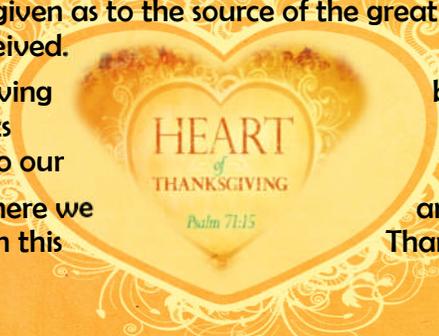
In November we will turn our attention to the idea of Thanksgiving—not the day—the concept and needed daily practice. All too often we find ourselves moving through a day without much thought given as to the source of the great gifts we have received.

Thanksgiving
our hearts
spreads to our

begins in
and
lives.

Here's where we
headed in this
month.

are
Thanksgiving



November 4th — "Nurturing a Thankful Heart"

November 11th — "Yes, This Your God"

November 18th — "How To Be Un-Thankful"

November 25th — "The Tie That Binds"