

Remarks from Pastor Steve

Dog Food for Thanksgiving?

The popular Peanuts comic strip, created by Charles Shultz, opens with Snoopy standing in the snow next to his doghouse. He is staring with disappointment at his bowl filled to the top, with all things, dog Food! Snoopy thinks to himself, "Here it is, Thanksgiving Day. Charlie Brown and his family are inside their house, where it's nice and warm eating their delicious turkey dinner. I'm just a dog, I get dog food!"

The pooch walks a few steps and stops. He turns and faces the reader with a smirk of satisfaction, "Well, it could be worse. I was born a dog, but I could have been born a turkey."

Ephesians 5:20 concludes a dialogue of the apostle Paul concerning worship with the following words, "Always give thanks to God the Father for everything, in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ."

When the car won't start, give thanks! When the toilet gets stopped up, give thanks! When the kids won't mind, give thanks! When a friend hurts your feelings, give thanks! When the bills exceed the bank balance, give thanks! Even when life is difficult, give thanks!

Now, how on the earth can the Lord expect us to give thanks when life goes wrong or when we are disappointed? For one thing, no matter how bad things are, they could always be worse. It may frustrate you when your car doesn't start, but you could have no means of transportation at all.

It's very aggravating for the toilet to stop up, but not that many years ago people didn't have indoor plumbing! When our children don't mind we want to pull our hair out, but at least we have children to love and about whom we can be concerned. When a friend hurts our feelings, the sense of betrayal can lead to deep depression; but if we had never had known their friendship, we would be less of a person. God has given us the opportunity to grow spiritually through unconditional love and forgiveness.

When the bills exceed our bank balance, we often feel helpless; but there was a time when unpaid bills meant going to debtor's prison or being made someone's personal slave. No matter how difficult life may seem it could be worse!

In fact, even our problems are indicative of blessings received. God has blessed us with greater material possessions than the richest of ancient kings could have ever imagined. Material blessings cannot come close to the spiritual and family provisions that have been made for us. Ephesians 4:13 tell us, "that in Christ we have received every spiritual blessing." 2nd Corinthians 9:15 says, "Thanks be to God for his indescribable gift."

That gift includes the forgiveness of sins, the righteousness of God, and the peace and hope of eternal life, all made available through the sacrifice of Jesus Christ, God's own Son, on a cruel cross.

When we stack the "indescribable gift" up against any struggles or trials that may be ours, we have no choice but to be thankful to a wonderful God who has done more for us than we can imagine or think.

Be thankful you're not a turkey.

Pastor Steve

90th Birthday Party

Everyone is invited to come and celebrate John Greathouse's 90th Birthday on Saturday, November 28th from 1-4 pm in Campbell Hall. Light snacks will be served and no gifts please. A special tribute by his family will be held beginning at 2:30 pm. Friends and family are invited to join them.



TIME TO Decorate The Worship Committee will decorate the sanctuary for Christmas on Saturday, November 28th at 5 pm. All are welcome to come help.



Operation Christmas Child

The Operation Christmas Child Shoeboxes are due at the church no later than Sunday, November 22nd. The Good News of Jesus Christ is shared with the children as they receive shoeboxes, giving them an opportunity to accept Christ as their savior.

Cookie Walk

The FCC 2015 Cookie Walk will be held Saturday, December 5th from 8 am to Noon. All church members, especially deaconesses, are encouraged to share their culinary talents in the form of cookies, candy and/or crafts to be sold. A sign-up sheet is in the narthex. Goodies can be delivered to Campbell Hall from 9 am to 4 pm on Friday, December 4th or from 6 to 8 am on Saturday, December 5th. Thanks FCC for your continued support.



News from Paul

Hey FCC,

It is Sunday evening and here I sit at my desk with my laptop propped open to get a few things done and Miss Evelyn is at her mom's for a couple of days to care of her. It is just me, the dogs and my coffee cup. Guess what Evelyn? I had a couple of windows open earlier! That's right! My house, my rules (until you come back home Tuesday morning that is)!

It was a fine day at church with Steve Morgan preaching. Sunday school is going great as we continue with a video series by Chip Ingram titled *True Spirituality*. It is nice to see everyone enjoy each other's company while at the same time wrestle with some of life's basic issues and how we can help each other learn. Come check us out sometime.

Looking back at the last week and a half or so, I would like to mention something about a couple of things. First, I sent out a text message with a need for shoes so a local (FCC) child could have something that fit. Within 10 minutes someone picked up the ball and filled the need. Every time I see this young lad and ask him how he likes them, he is all smiles. Thank you, you know who you are! The other thing I witnessed was at the Men's Breakfast. Long story short, a homeless gentleman wandered in because he saw the breakfast advertised on the marquee and thought he would check it out. I was made aware of his presence so I went over to him and explained what we were doing. Do you know what he said? He said something to the effect of, "Is this for anyone?" Well let me tell you, I made sure he was served plenty of fried potatoes, biscuits with gravy, bacon and coffee. He ate and stayed for the lesson and left with a full stomach and from what I could tell, a satisfied heart. We just never know how things like the marquee will cause someone to check out what we have to offer. Here's something else, do you know what the best marquee we have is? YOU! Let that sink in...

Until next time cowboys and cowgirls, may your coffee cup never run dry and may your oatmeal always be hot.

In His Service,

Paul Weber

Singles @ First

The Singles @ First group has planned to make cookies for the Cookie Walk and play cards on Friday, December 6th. The event will be held at Charlotte Castle's home (12 Meadowview Estates) at 6 pm and please call her at 258-6054 if you need directions.



Congregational Meeting

There will be a Congregational Meeting to elect the elders, trustees, deacons and deaconesses to serve new 3 year terms on Sunday, November 22nd at 9:30 am in the sanctuary. All church members are encouraged to attend and vote.



Baby Back Ribs

The Philippine Mission Team is selling racks of ribs for a fundraiser. Proceeds will help fund the team member's travel expenses. Ribs will be available for pick up on January 12th and 14th. The tickets are \$18 and can be purchased from the church office, any team member or by calling Paul Weber at 273-6565.

Thank You Note

Thank you to the following men who moved an entertainment center for us: Paul Weber, Steve Huckaba, Mike Davis, Carl Pacetti and Tom Dickerson. Thanks again, we really appreciated the help!

Steve and Cheryl Ballinger

Thank you to everyone who came and brought food to the Thanksgiving Dinner, the youth for the help with clean-up and helping people carry their food, and to Kenny Jones for the entertainment. A great time was had by all.

Nancy Huckaba & the Deaconesses

Mid-Week Outlet



The Mid-Week Outlet program meets each Wednesday from 6-7:30 pm for K-5 and JHH Students with supper being provided. They will not meet on Wednesday, November 25th, due to no school being held that day.

FROG/ROCK News

The FROG (6-8 graders) and ROCK (9-12 graders) are meeting each week for meetings and/or activities.



Sunday, November 22 — FROG 5-7, ROCK 6-8 pm

Sunday, November 29 — FROG 5-7, ROCK 6-8 pm

Church Life

Sunday, November 22

8:30 am Traditional Worship Service
9:30 am Congregational Meeting in the Sanctuary
9:30 am Sunday School
10:30 am Contemporary Worship Service
5-7 pm FROG and 6-8 pm ROCK Meetings

Monday, November 23

10 am Staff Meeting
6 pm Evangelism Meeting

Tuesday, November 24

7 am Prayer Time in the UIC room
Noon Community Bible Study

Wednesday, November 25

9 am "Crafts Are Us" Group
No Bell Choir Practice
No Chancel Choir Practice
No Mid-Week Outlet Program

Thursday, November 26

Happy Thanksgiving — office closed

Friday, November 27

office closed

Saturday, November 28

1-4 pm 90th Birthday Open House for John Greathouse
5 pm Decorate for Christmas

Sunday, November 29

8:30 am Traditional Worship Service
9:30 am Sunday School
9:30 am Bible 101 — new class starts
10:30 am Contemporary Worship Service
5-7 pm FROG and 6-8 pm ROCK Meetings
5 pm Discipleship 201 — new class starts

Monday, November 30

10 am Staff Meeting

Tuesday, December 1

7 am Prayer Time in the UIC room
Noon Community Bible Study

Wednesday, December 2

9 am "Crafts Are Us" Group
5:15 pm Bell Choir Practice
6 pm Chancel Choir Practice
6 pm Mid-Week Outlet Program

Thursday, December 3

6 pm Worship Team Practice

Friday, December 4

6 pm Singles @ First making Cookies at Charlotte's home

Saturday, December 5

7 am Men's Breakfast
8-Noon Cookie Walk
8:30 am Elders' Meeting
4:30 pm Leave for Lincoln University's Christmas Play



Board Splinters

The November 9th Board Meeting was opened with prayer by Richard Eident.

Elders: Steve Huckaba reported they met October 13th and November 7th and discussed the possible new constitution and will meet again on December 5th at 8:30 am.

Deaconesses: Nancy Huckaba reported they had a meeting on October 20th, have pecans for sale, will soon have the church cookbook for sale, Thanksgiving Dinner is November 17th at 6 pm, the Cookie Walk is on December 5th from 8-noon and the 2016 Officers are: Nancy Huckaba (chair), Jan Little (vice), Jan Booker (secretary) and Sally Dickerson (treasurer).

Elementary Minister: Stephanie Freeman reported that the Outlet program had 20 kids last week and 10 in Sunday School, Mid-Week is seeing new kids each week, the Bible Bucks Memory Verse program is going well, and she is taking over the church's Facebook page, Twitter and Marque Sign.

Local Outreach: Candy Tate reported that the Coats 4 Kids outreach went well, will collect the Christmas Offering on December 13 and 20 for needy families in our church.

Evangelism: Debi Buford reported that they met with a representative from Consolidated about advertising and purchased a social media program.

Christian Ed: Angela Freeman reported that the Silent Auction for the Youth Mission Team raised around \$2,500.

Stewardship: Tim Buford went over the October Financial Statements.

Personnel: Marilyn Purcell reported they met October 1st and set the Personnel budget.

Trustees: Tim Buford reported that they discussed the baptismal, snow removal bids coming in, holes were fixed so bats don't enter the church attic and moving up an electrical outlet in the nursery.

World Missions: Paul Weber reported that they met and planned their budget, between 12-15 people are going on the Philippine Mission Trip and will sell Baby Back Ribs as a fundraiser on January 12th and 14th via a drive-thru.

Other Reports: Richard Eident reported that 21 people went on the Branson trip and had a great time. Jim Long will fill an unexpired term as a Trustee. The 2016 Budget was approved.

2016 Deaconess Sign-Up

Deaconesses who have not already signed-up for the 2016 Communion Preparation List please call Robin in the church office to sign-up for your Sundays or dates will be assigned to you by the Deaconess Chairwoman.

- 2 John Myers
- 5 Amy Maninfior
- 6 Haley Mifflin, Marcia Orndorff
- 8 Barbara Browning
- 10 Marilyn Purcell
- 12 Beverly Beeler
- 13 Mary Guill
- 16 Linda Adams, Brenda Wofford
- 17 Mary Whitley, Don Wisner
- 20 Max Betty
- 21 Marlee Brand, Gene Himes
- 24 Gene Swearingen
- 27 Donica Brand
- 31 Barb Wisner



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- 1 Brian and Lisa Ingram
 - 7 Gene and Jeanette Swearingen
 - 14 Sid and Mary Guill
 - 21 Tad and Bonnie Moore
 - 27 Jeff and Amy Maninfior
 - 28 Dave and Glenda Wright
 - 29 Jack and Bonnie James
 - 30 Jim and Thelma Whetsell
 - 31 Richard and Madonna Johnson
Scott and Dolo Wishard



Men's Breakfast

The Men's Breakfast Fellowship Group will meet on Saturday, December 5th at 7 am. Please sign-up in the narthex if you plan to attend.



The Building Fund has a balance of: \$221,885.30

Amazonsmile Program

Just a reminder that when you order items from Amazon log into the smile.amazon.com website and choose to support *First Christian Church Marilyn Purcell* and .5% of your qualifying transaction will help support the missions at the church. It's that simple...shop and support missions!

Christmas Caroling

The Discovery Class will be going Christmas Caroling on December 12th and have invited all to attend. Everyone wanting to go needs to meet at the church at 12:30 pm and will return around 5:30 pm or so for a potluck. If you have any questions, please call Paul Weber at 273-6565.



Serving Communion

Sunday, November 22

8:30 am — John Armstrong, Steve Ballinger, John Greathouse, Jim Long, Denny Booker, Jack Browning, Tim Buford

10:30 am — Donica Brand (captain), Randy Albin, Chanon Fine, Dennis Goings, John Holmes, Neil Wofford

Sunday, November 29

8:30 am — John Armstrong, Steve Ballinger, John Greathouse, Jim Long, Tim Cyr, Dan Cunningham, Bill Daily, Tom Dickerson

10:30 am — Dave Whitley (captain), Jeff Maninfior, Amy Maninfior, Nick Maninfior, Bob Morgan, Dolo Wishard

Church Attendance

Nov. 8th: Traditional: 124, Contemporary: 88 = 212
 Nov. 15th: Traditional: 126, Contemporary: 103 = 229