

Reaching UP

**United
Presbyterian
Church**

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Pray ... with Thanksgiving

by Dr. Ralph F. Wilson

http://www.joyfulheart.com/thanksgiving/pray_tnx.htm

I've heard a lot of droopy prayers in my life. Hey, I've prayed a lot of them, too.

- Prayers of desperation — God, you've got to help me!
- Prayers of self-pity — God, things are so awful!
- Prayers of resignation — God, if you want to leave me unemployed, then I can't stop you!

But I'm learning how to pray a different kind of prayer — prayer said with thanksgiving. I learned it from St. Paul who, writing from prison, taught me a most powerful lesson. He said,

"Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God." (Philippians 4:6 NIV)

Strange. Here he is suffering himself, yet he's telling me to pray with thanksgiving. Thanksgiving is the seasoning that makes our prayers edible to God. After all, who wants to hear people whine all the time? I've learned that you can't whine and give thanks in the same breath. Self-pity and thankfulness don't mix any better than oil and water.

In fact, mixing thanks with prayer somehow changes it. When we remember what God has done for us in the past and think about who he is in the present — and express that in thankfulness — our prayers become more gentle, more trusting somehow. Thankful prayers are offered with faith. And faith is an essential ingredient for prayers that God chooses to answer.

We remember the Pilgrims on Thanksgiving Day, not so much for their turkey dinner, but for the sheer faith that inspired them to give thanks in a year that saw nearly half their number die of sickness. Yet they prayed with thanksgiving.

When your annual day of feasting is over, you may bemoan your extra helpings of dressing, mashed potatoes, and pumpkin pie. But if you can hang on to the "thanks" part of Thanksgiving, you'll be a different person. Because when you learn to talk to God about your needs — mixed with a healthy dose of heartfelt thanks — then you have crossed the divide from whining at God to real prayer.



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Happy thanks-giving!



There are several words that most people around churches consider to be almost bordering on profanity. But both are important to consider – even though the mere mention of them may make us squirm uncomfortably. The words are “evangelism” and “stewardship.”

Let’s talk about stewardship. I overheard a quote this week that I thought was profound. This person observed, “Stewardship is made up of everything that happens after you say...I believe.” Do you remember speaking these words, “I believe in God, maker of heaven and earth. I believe in Jesus, His only Son. I believe in the church.” Throughout your life you have said a host of other “I believes...” Each of those was then followed with how you lived out that belief. When you said, “I believe in God,” then it is up to us to show that in our lives, our attitudes, in our actions and our words. That’s where stewardship makes its appearance. Stewardship happens when we recognize God as owner. God owns the world and all that is in it. God owns our lives and all that we have and are. God would like to own our time and abilities as well. Since God is the owner of these things then it matters what we do with the world, with our bodies, our money, as well as our time and our abilities.

Many of us forget this important perspective and begin to act as if we own these things. We find ourselves hoarding our money and time. We treat the world wastefully. Our gifts and abilities can become hidden. I am grateful that United Presbyterian has a good share of truly giving, unselfish persons. We are blessed financially. Most serve your church in a variety of ways giving unselfishly of your time and talents. But it is often helpful to take notice of our needs and say, “Help.”

September was a tough month for us financially. Our numbers were down considerably and we are now \$7800 behind where we were last year. If you have been away or gotten behind, please help us catch up.

Our Nominating Committee is hard at work filling positions of leadership for our church. While most of you have several ways you serve our church in terms of time and talent, there is still room for others. It becomes harder and harder to fill three- year positions because some just aren’t able to serve in those ways any longer. What happens then is a crunch for persons to assume new leadership. Not all that needs to be done for your church involves serving a three-year term on a Board. There are multitudes of ways in which your stewardship can be invaluable to your church.

That’s where the other word that I mentioned in the beginning is critical. Evangelism. Evangelism is not beating someone up with a Bible. Evangelism is telling another the ways that God is at work in our lives. Evangelism is inviting your next door neighbor, your hairdresser, the person you see while walking the dog, or a friend at work, etc. to attend a concert or a dinner with you at church. Evangelism is being as excited about Sunday service as you might be about the opera and offering others the opportunity to join you here. Evangelism and stewardship are critical in the life of any church. We must practice both of them so they become second nature to us. They cause us to remember who we belong to and ask us to give and go in Jesus’ Name.

Blessings to each and to all.
Pastor Mitch

Giving Thanks!

- Indiana Friends of Nyaka Banquet to Benefit Nyaka AIDS Orphans Project
- 6:30 p.m. – Friday, November 20, 2015
- Grand Ballroom: Hilton Garden Inn, 245 N. College Avenue, Bloomington, Indiana
- See Allen Pease or Judie Iverson for tickets or to volunteer.

Financial Report

September was a very lean month, financially. We took in a total of \$5,168.50 for the month and our expenses were \$14,665.20, giving us a negative cash flow of \$9,496.70 for September and a negative cash flow of \$14,082.47 for the year to date.

IN-					EXPENSES	GAIN/LOSS
	OFFER-	MISSION	FUND R.	TOTAL		
SEPT.	4,817.50	0.00	351.00	5,168.50	14,665.20	-9,496.70
TO	95,930.28	6,010.85	5,023.81	106,964.94	121,047.41	-14,082.47

I'm not sure what happened in September, but our income was substantially below average. This is our worst month this year. We need to do much better in the last quarter if we are to break even for the year.

- Don Root, Stewardship Chairman

Youth News

October 9th, Elaine & Jeremiah Hubbard hosted 4 UPC teen youth to a lunch at the church and chaperoned them to see *The Martian*. A few getting to know you games were played along with a discussion on the age of the disciplines. The Teen Youth Group will continue to have outings. Next month they will be going trap shooting in Edinburgh after church on November 15.

Sunday, October 11, 5 young people and 12 slightly older people enjoyed a perfect day in Brown County at the Mathis Farm. Melanie and Darian went all out this year with an obstacle course made out of tires, hay bales and other farm supplies, fishing, a photo booth, the legendary tube for rolling down the hill, and a scavenger hunt. After all the fresh air and activity we all slept well that night! A huge thank you to Melanie and Darian for all their hard work and for having us out.

November Birthdays and Anniversaries



- 2 Raja and Rula Hanania Anniversary
- 14 Gerrit Heitink
- 29 Brent and Sarah Moon
Stamey Anniversary

If you would like to make additions to the birthday and anniversary calendar please email: upcbloomington@gmail.com.



Birthday Trivia:

What three presidents were born in the month of November?

In Memoriam
David A. Bremer
November 22, 1947 -- October 21, 2013

Pastor of United Presbyterian Church
Bloomington, Indiana
1992 - 2013

*Glory to you, O God, for you have woven radiant garments for the resurrection.
Blessings to you, O Christ, for you were clothed with them at your rising.
Praise to you, O Holy Spirit, for you keep them in love for all the saints.*



Dear Friends,

We surround the family and friends of the **Rev. David Bremer** (Honorably Retired) in our prayers. David died on October 21, one month shy of his 67th birthday.

David spent most of his life in Central Indiana. His home was in Shelbyville and he was ordained by the Whitewater Valley Presbytery in 1973 following his seminary education at Princeton. For several years he served the church in Edinburgh, and then moved to the San Fernando Presbytery to serve congregations there. He returned to our neck of the woods in 1991 as the pastor of United Presbyterian Church, Bloomington, and remained there until his retirement in 2013.

Larry Jackman shares these thoughts about David:

"David was often generous with opinions and not overly shy to share them. He did not spend a lot of energy or time taking the edge off of his thoughts and ideas. He said it like he saw it and he often felt it with real emotion.

"He had a passion for the real practice of inclusion and was pleased to serve in a truly multi-cultural setting at Bloomington. He was also pleased to have helped birth the Brown County Presbyterian Fellowship. He managed to attend a celebration there on the Sunday before his death. David was also driven by the call to serve the marginalized people of our world. He loved the mission of Nyaka in Africa for orphans of the AIDS epidemic and of serving HIV/AIDS persons here in the states."

The congregation of Bloomington United gathered last evening for an informal service of prayer and remembrance. I was touched to hear the heartfelt expressions of love and appreciation for the real difference that David made in the lives of so many. We shared both laughter and tears as we gave thanks for this remarkable man. And we offered prayers for David's wife, Brenda Wood, and for all who mourn his passing.

In life and in death, and in all the circumstances of life, we belong to God. And we belong to each other. Thanks be to God for these blessed connections.

Peace and all good,
The Rev'd. Susan C. McGhee
Executive Presbyter
The Presbytery of Ohio Valley

Dear United Presbyterian Church,

On behalf of First Presbyterian Church, I'd like to express our heartfelt condolences following the death of Reverend Bremer. I know his ministry at UPC was able to bear much good fruit and his love for you was deep and wide. As brothers and sisters in Christ, we join you in your grief, but also give thanks for the hope of the Resurrection. May the peace of Christ be with you.

Reverend Andy Kort, First Presbyterian Church, Bloomington

To UPC staff & congregation,

Thanks for letting me know. I was not a member of your church but have been pastored and befriended by David and your fellow church members. I find consolation in knowing that his "life is hid with Christ in God" (Col 3:3) "- with Truth in divine Love, where human sense hath not seen man." (Science and Health with Key to the Scriptures by Mary Baker Eddy, p.325)

I am out of town now, but would love to share my thoughts with my dear friends at United Presbyterian. I loved attending one of your book studies and sharing Christian Science with those attending at the end of the book study. You are a precious, loving group and, David's love for his church family and their love for him was always so clearly evident.—> Much, much love to you all, Kathie Millican

Letters to the Church

United Presbyterian,

Please accept this donation in remembrance of Emma Pearl Leonard.

The service was lovely.

Kerry & Lyle Feigenbaum

My Dear Church Family,

I want to express my deepest gratitude and love for all the support and care that you have shown me throughout these past few months. Faith, Hope and Love (and the greatest being Love—I Corinthians 13) is what I have had from my Church Family. These past few months have not been easy and my legs are not healed yet. Each day offers new challenges to me.

The cards, telephone calls, the flowers, the food, the gifts, the visits and the prayers have given me the strength to continue my healing.

It is with both sadness and joy that I will be leaving for a winter visit in Arizona. I will return the first of March to pack up the house and permanently move back to Tucson, Arizona. I will miss you all dearly but will enjoy the love and company of my family especially Jackson, my great grandson.

My children Wayne and Gayle, are so appreciative of all the support you have given me.

I have my ticket to Phoenix and will be leaving November 2, 2015. Wayne is coming to Bloomington on October 30th to help me with closing up for the winter.

My prayers go to each one of you and know that Christ's love will continue to weave our lives together. God bless you all.

Thank you. Love in Christ,

Evelyn Foster

My winter address will be:

Gayle Moore

2658 N. Plumer

Tucson, AZ 85719-3250

Gayle's telephone number is 1-520-323-2833. My cell number is listed in our directory: 812-327-8560. Emails are welcome at foster@indiana.edu



To the United Presbyterian Church,

I am sending this check to your church in memory of Emma Leonard. Her son and daughter-in-law, Clyde and Susan, are our wonderful friends. This is to honor them too.

Emma was a wonderful woman.

Rob & Judy Coleman

Monthly Newsletter of United Presbyterian Church, 1701 E. Second Street—Bloomington, IN 47401. Editors: Membership Committee: Lou Malcomb, Jeremiah and Elaine Hubbard. Andy Hill is Webmaster. Submissions are accepted.

Attentiveness to Hope

During a sermon in June of this year, Sarah Cochran suggested setting up a board for pictures that members and friends have taken or found that point to the reality of the Kingdom of God among us. Individuals with pictures should get them to Sarah or to Lou Malcomb. Preferably in photograph format no larger than 4" x 6," if they need to be larger to convey the message, please consult with Sarah or Lou. Let's make this bulletin board about "Attentiveness to Hope" something we can give to ourselves and those who visit our building. Any questions, please email Sarah at theologywoman@yahoo.com.



Here come the holidays! A wonderful way to make celebrating easier!

Let the UPC Scrip Program help you! Use Scrip for all your holiday needs! Yep, it's all right around the corner—Halloween, Thanksgiving, Christmas, New Year's Eve! Make the season even merrier by planning now! Use UPC Scrip for all your holiday needs! Gifts! Party supplies! Decorating! Dining out! Thanksgiving Dinner! Christmas Dinner! Plus, the Scrip cards make great gifts themselves!



What a wonderful way to help your church. You receive 100% face value for each Scrip card you purchase! The merchants return a percentage to the church. **It's that easy!** You help your church and it doesn't cost you a cent! First Sunday of the month is Scrip Order Day. Second Sunday is Scrip Pick-Up Day.

On Sunday, November 8, Scrip Order Forms will be available—simply take your completed form and payment to the Scrip Table in Fellowship Hall after morning worship and your order will be here the following Sunday.

Those of you who have linked your Kroger Plus Cards to UPC—thanks! Every time you shop and swipe your Plus Card, UPC gets a percentage! If you haven't already linked, see Stephanie Worden during Fellowship Hour and she'll show you how to do it.

In Memoriam

Emma Pearl Leonard

August 12, 1922 – October 6, 2015

Emma Pearl Leonard, 93, of Bloomington, died at home on Tuesday, October 6. The visitation and funeral were in the sanctuary at her beloved United Presbyterian Church in Bloomington. The Reverend Robert Lorimer officiated as over 90 people attended the funeral. The Reverend Mitchell J. Coggin presented the Welcome and Call to Worship and Dr. Sarah Moon Stamey performed the Sacred Preludes on the piano and accompanied the congregation throughout. Touching eulogies were presented by her son Clyde Leonard and daughter Kim Simpson. The scripture and Funeral Message were presented by Reverend Lorimer. The Hymn of Thanksgiving was *How Great Thou Art*, the Hymn of Celebration was *Blessed Assurance, Jesus Is Mine* and *Amazing Grace* was the Hymn of Closure. Emma and her late husband Raymond became members of United Presbyterian Church on February 2, 1979. She served the church in many ways including a term as a Deacon. Burial took place at Riverview Cemetery, in Aurora, Indiana, later in the day.

Born August 12, 1922, in Aurora, Indiana, she was the daughter of Clyde and Pearl Randall. After graduation from Aurora High School in 1940, she worked as a secretary for Seagram's Distilleries in Lawrenceburg, Indiana, during World War II, as their factories were converted to making ammunitions for the war effort. On March 31, 1945, she married her sweetheart, Staff Sergeant Raymond B. Leonard, who was home on leave following the successful war effort in Europe. Emma and Ray had a family of five wonderful children, starting with Stephen in 1946. Like many intelligent women from her generation, she served as a wife, mother, and housekeeper for her family for many years. Clyde was born in 1948, Mark in 1950, Kimberly in 1956, and Raymond II in 1959.

After rearing five successful children and serving as a proud and faithful wife to husband, Ray, Emma worked as a secretary once again in various places where the family lived. She retired from the Indiana University Purchasing Department in 1988.

Survivors include one sister, Olive Bonham of Hamilton, Ohio; four sons, Stephen Leonard (Kristine) of Iron Mountain, Michigan, Clyde Leonard (Susan) of Jasper, Indiana, Mark Leonard of Daytona Beach, Florida, and Raymond Leonard II (Joyce) of Bloomington, Indiana. Her precious daughter, Kimberly Simpson (John), lives in Bloomington as well. There are also nine grandchildren and seventeen great grandchildren. She has been truly blessed by our Lord.

She was preceded in death by her husband, Raymond.

Memorial Contributions may be given to IU Health Home Hospice or to the United Presbyterian Church.

Memories of Emma and condolences to her family may be given at www.thefuneralchapel.net

The family offers special thanks to Reverend Robert & Mrs. Sue Lorimer, Reverend Mitchell J. Coggin, the United Presbyterian Deacons, Allen Pease—UPC Secretary & Event Coordinator, The United Presbyterian Church congregation, The Funeral Chapel of Bloomington and all family and friends who attended the visitation and funeral.

LADIES LUNCH GROUP

No lunch in November but let's meet November 20th at 2p.m. at the church to work on and/or finish our *Chrismons. Dessert served about 3p.m. All ladies of UPC invited to attend.

*Ornaments made from Christian symbols (or Chrismons, a contraction for 'Christ monograms') were first developed by Frances Spencer and the women of the Ascension Lutheran Church in Danville, VA. Many churches display a Chrismon tree during the Advent and Christmas season decorated with handmade ornaments.

What's Happening in November?

~ November 2015 ~						
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 Communion/ Deacons Sunday 9am Adult Study 10am Worship 11:15am Fellowship	2	3	4 PNC 6:30pm	5	6 11:45am – Men's Lunch	7
8 9am Adult Study 10am Worship 11:15am Fellowship	9	10 12:30pm Bible Study 6pm Book Study	11 PNC 6:30pm	12	13 11:45am – Men's Lunch	14
15 9am Adult Study 10am Worship 11am Fellowship **Youth Trap Shooting Event **	16	17 12:30pm Bible Study 6pm Book Study 7pm Session	18 PNC 6:30pm	19	20 11:45am – Men's Lunch 2pm—Ladies Group	21
22 9am Adult Study 10am Worship <i>Hanging of the Greens</i> 11am Fellowship	23	24 12:30pm Bible Study 6pm Book Study	25 PNC 6:30pm	26 Thanksgiving	27	28
29 9am Adult Study 10am Worship 11am Fellowship	30					

Weekly Community Uses of UPC Rooms

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
6pm Overeaters Anonymous	5:15pm Kiwanis (2nd Monday)			6pm Self Realization	5:30pm – Women's Campus Group	11am Overeaters Anonymous
				8pm Campus Group		

Birthday Trivia:

Garfield, Taylor and Pierce