

Dear Church Family,

About two months ago I (Aaron) was driving to the church for what seemed to be another day at the office. I had already finished my morning devotions and prayers and felt ready for the day. Then, as I was making my 25 minute drive into New Castle, I felt a sense of melancholy come over me. I was not sure why so I began to give it over to God and as I did I had a little nudge from the Holy Spirit who put on my mind to start thinking of things to give thanks for.

I began to look around in my truck, while not taking my eyes off of the road, and started to name things that I saw and I gave thanks to God for them. Sounds simple and elementary, but this little exercise in thanksgiving went from what I thought was going to be a few minutes to a few hours.

I named one thing which in turn brought to mind another thing. For example, as I gave thanks for my backpack that I use to carry my laptop computer in, which sits on my truck seat next to me, I started to think more about my kids because they carry backpacks everyday to school, and I gave thanks for their education, and their teachers, and their books, and their friends, and their... You see what I mean? One thing that was named to be thankful for lead to another, and to another, and it did not stop for quit some time.

As I did this, I also noticed that my bad mood changed and by the time I was done it did a 180. I had completely changed from feeling a little down and sad, to feeling an abundance of joy. The joy I knew just from this exercise was with me for several days, much longer than I had anticipated. Also, it encouraged me to continue the practice of giving thanks more regularly.

I was reminded from this experience of 1st Thessalonians 5:16-18 when Paul writes, "Rejoice always, pray without ceasing, give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you."

I've lived long enough now, not only to know, but also to experience the ups and down of life. No matter what happens though, and no matter what our emotions are, Jesus Christ walks with us through everything that we face day in and day out. He has proven His faithfulness to us over and over.

Because of His faithfulness to us, we have hope and joy beyond understanding. So, we pray and we do so with a mental and spiritual awareness of Jesus' closeness to us, His life and salvation in us. Therefore, we always have something to give thanks for, to rejoice about, and to share with others.

As your co-pastors, we hope that we all remember this November, during this season of giving thanks and the beginning of advent, that Jesus is The Way, The Truth, and The Life for the whole world and that He has come in the flesh to show us the way to be God's kingdom people.

Something new happening at the church that we are so thankful for, not only because it is an answer to prayer, but we know it is meeting a real need at our church is the "Not So Youth Group" for younger adults that Sam and Courtney Plyler are heading up starting this November. (There is more about this ministry in its own announcement below).

Try to make it a daily habit to look around you and start naming whatever and whoever is around you and give thanks for them and may you truly know hope, peace, love and joy from God as we move into this advent season with thanksgiving in our hearts.

Grace & Peace

Pastors Michael and Aaron

Health Note:

Date to Remember: November 14, 2021- Health Ministry Team meeting in the library following the Worship Service .

Health Tip:

Did you know that having thankful hearts and sharing words of gratitude can improve your own health? Here are two ways Guidepost magazine suggests to try a "Gratitude Makeover"-

1. As soon as you open your eyes in the morning, say "thank you." Breathe in and out, thinking about the wonder of a new day.
2. Start a gratitude journal. What are three things you are grateful for each day? Write them down. At the end of the month, you will marvel at your list!

(Celeste McCauley, Editor. Taken from Guideposts, November, 2022, p.18,19.)

Scripture: "Finally, brethren, whatever things are true, whatever things are noble, whatever things are lovely, whatever things are of good report , if there is any virtue and if anything praiseworthy — meditate on these things."
(Philippians 4:8)



Health Ministry



Youth Page



Sunday, November 7th - We will gather at the church and drive over to the Alpha Omega Center of New Castle to rake leaves and tour their facility, learning more about what services they provide. Lunch will be provided.

Sunday, November 21st - Family Turkey Bowling is back. We will have pizza and wings, share in a devotion, roll frozen turkeys at 2 Liter pop bottles, then go outside for The Parking Lot Pop Bottle Explosion Extravaganza.

C.2G.S. - Our Sunday School class will continue our important study on how we can discern ways the culture influences us for good or bad and how we respond in turn as people who claim to follow Jesus Christ. In this study, we are learning what it means to have a Christian worldview, what culture actually is, what the grand narrative of the Bible is, and how all of this fits together in our own personal lives.

Our Children and Youth Christmas Musical will be on Sunday, **December 5th** during worship. This is always a wonderful worship experience as we get to see our young people use their gifts to share the real story about Christmas and remind us all that Jesus truly is the reason for the season.



Everyone is invited to help decorate for Christmas immediately following worship! Many hands make light work so please stay after worship on **Sunday, November 21st** to help decorate the Sanctuary and other main areas of the church. A light lunch and refreshments will be provided. Just stick around and wait for instructions. Thanks!



MESSENGER DEADLINE FOR DECEMBER IS NOVEMBER 19th.

DAILY BIBLE READINGS

November, 2021

- 1 II Thess'ns 1.1-12
- 2 II Thess'ns 2.1-16
- 3 II Thess'ns 3.1-18
- 4 Revelation 20.1-15
- 5 Revelation 21.1-27
- 6 Revelation 22.1-21
- 7 Judges 1.1-36
- 8 Judges 2.1-23
- 9 Judges 3.1-31
- 10 Judges 4.1-24
- 11 Judges 5.1-31
- 12 Judges 6.1-40
- 13 Judges 7.1-25
- 14 Judges 8.1-35
- 15 Judges 9.1-29
- 16 Judges 9.30-57
- 17 Judges 10.1-18
- 18 Judges 11.1-31
- 19 Judges 11.32 - 12.15
- 20 Judges 13.1-25
- 21 Judges 14.1-20
- 22 Judges 15.1-20
- 23 Judges 16.1-32
- 24 Philemon Thanksgiving (USA)
- 25 Psalm 40
- 26 Deut'my 14.1-29
- 27 Deut'my 15.1-23 Advent
- 28 Psalm 86
- 29 Zechariah 1.1-21
- 30 Zechariah 2.1-13



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How fast a year goes by! It's time for Operation Christmas Child once again. Every shoe box we pack enables us to reach one more child with the Good News of Jesus Christ. Please pick up your box (or boxes...) today, fill them and return to the church no later than **Sunday, November 14th**. Our goal this year is to collect 100 boxes. Thank you for helping to make a child's Christmas extra special this year!



"NOT SO YOUTH GROUP" is a new ministry beginning this month for young adults (mid 20's - mid 40's) to get together and have fun and fellowship. We hope to build relationships among parents, make new friends, encourage one another as Christians, and laugh together. Sam and Courtney Plyler are leading this new thing that Jesus is up to at Clen-Moore Church. So, we will have our first gathering on **Saturday, November 13th from 6:00-8:00 PM** in Fellowship Hall. Games, Bible study, and some snacks (just like we did in youth group) will all be provided. Child care (like we never did in youth group) will be provided at the church if needed. We hope to see you there!

The church choir will be singing **November 21st** and Christmas Eve. Come join us as we give thanks to the Lord and celebrate his birth through song. The choir will be practicing **November 14th, November 21st, December 12th & 19th at 9:00am** and **December 24th** before the service.

All are welcome to come and participate in bringing in the Thanksgiving and Christmas Seasons. Call or text Michalee Christy with any questions. **(724 699 4782)**



Mission Spotlight!

November—CCAP
(Church Community Assistance Program)

The Church Community Assistance Program (CCAP) is led in a volunteer capacity by Father Denny Blauser, former vicar of Trinity Episcopal Church. In connection with funding from the Carolyn Knox Foundation, Father Denny helps connect folks in our community to resources for food, utility and rent assistance, among other needs of those in dire situations. The Knox Board has certain restrictions on how the money can be used. Our support helps with needs that "fall between the cracks" of funding requirements. This also allows Pastors Aaron and Michael to refer out calls from those seeking help to the program, which is better equipped at connecting the need with the resource.

In 2020, this program helped over 400 individuals, including families and their children. As the weather turns colder and darker, we pray for those in need, and give thanks for churches and organizations in Lawrence County that come together through CCAP to meet these needs.

Communion

Communion will be served on the following dates:
November 7th
December 12th



Shenango Presbyterian Church will be having a Pumpkin Roll sale on **Saturday, November 13th and Saturday, November 20th from 10:00am to 12:00pm**. The prices are \$6.00 for a half pumpkin roll and \$11.00 for a whole pumpkin roll. You may call the Shenango Church office at **724-654-2322** to place your order.



Deacons for the month of November:
Amy Ball & Bobbie Gibson

