

FIRST FAMILY NEWS



November 2016

OUR SECOND CENTURY TOGETHER



Great is the Lord and most worthy of praise; God's greatness no one can fathom. (Psalm 145:3)

November 24th is Thanksgiving Day. So was October 23rd. And November 25th will also be a time of giving thanks. Thanksgiving is a daily attitude and action of all those who believe in the goodness of God and share a need to praise the creator.

For Christians, thanksgiving is a way of life. We live with thanksgiving. We give thanks to our God who has given us life, who sustains us and gives us a personal relationship through the spirit. Thanksgiving is born from the grace of God.

What are we thankful for this month? There is so much when we consider how much we have been given. We often thank God for the necessities of life- food, clothing, home, family work, health and friends. We thank God for freedom, the ability to make our own choices. And then there are the little things of life what we should actually call the big things of life. They include the love of others, the beauty of nature, laughter, kindness, honesty, truth and all those qualities that add value to our days. We owe God a debt of gratitude for ALL gifts and blessings.

Yet, how often we are ungrateful to God. Life is full of situations that irritate and annoy us like the reckless driver on Sugarloaf Parkway or the customer that is rude and demanding at Publix. There are no thanks for many of the aggravations in life. It is in these moments we need to remember what's really important.

Thanksgiving stems from our personal relationship with Jesus Christ, God's unconditional love, the promise of God's continued presences and countless blessings. God loves us whether we are grateful or not. It is this loving God who sees inside our ungracious hearts and gradually removes our blinders so we can see

more clearly. Our complaints and discontent are always temporary. What causes unhappiness today is quickly forgotten, thanks to the blessings of tomorrow.

Even with all its difficulties, it is still a wonderful life. It is often just our attitudes that needs adjusting when it comes to appreciating all we have, all we are and all we can be in God's sight.

During this holiday season before you go to sleep, include in your prayer of thanks the people who intermittently surround you and those who gather around you on daily basis. The love, commitment and fellowship of others are a blessing we experience day after day. God cares for people through people. It is one of the many reasons to give God the praise, thanks and glory only God deserves.

Set Your Clocks Back!

Daylight Savings Time ends at 2:00 a.m. on Sunday, November 6th. Set your clocks back one hour before you go to bed on Saturday night, November 5th.



10 More Rules For Reaching A Good Old Age (continued from last month)

12. Some people embrace their golden years, while others become bitter and surly. Life is too short to waste your days in the latter mode. Spend your time with positive, cheerful people, it'll rub off on you and your days will seem that much better. Spending your time with bitter people will make you older and harder to be around.
13. Do not surrender to the temptation of living with your children or grandchildren (if you have a financial choice, that is). Sure, being surrounded by family sounds great, but we all need our privacy. They need theirs and you need yours. If you've lost your partner (our deepest condolences), then find a person to move in with you and help out only if you feel you really need the help or do not want to live alone.
14. Don't abandon your hobbies. If you don't have any, make new ones. You can travel, hike, cook, read, dance. You can adopt a cat or a dog, grow a garden, play cards, checkers, chess dominoes, golf. You can paint, volunteer at an NGO or collect certain items. Find something you like and spend some real time having fun with it.
15. Even if you don't feel like it, try to accept invitations. Baptisms, graduations, birthdays, weddings, conferences. Try to go. Get out of the house, meet people you haven't seen in a while, experience something new (or something old). But don't get upset when you're not invited. Some events are limited by resources, and not everyone can be hosted. The important thing is to leave the house from time to time. Go to museums, go walk through a field. Get out there.
16. Be a conversationalist. Talk less and listen more. Some people go on and on about the past, not caring if their listeners are really interested. That's a great way of reducing the desire to speak with you. Listen first and answer questions, but don't go off into long stories unless asked to. Speak in courteous tones and try not to complain or criticize too much unless you really need to. Try to accept situations as they are. Everyone is going through the same things, and people have a low tolerance for hearing complaints. Always find some good things to say as well.
17. Pain and discomfort go hand in hand with getting older. Try not to dwell on them but accept them as a part of the cycle of life we're all going through. Try to minimize them in your mind. They are not who you are, they are something that life added to you. If they become your entire focus, you lose sight of the person you used to be.
18. If you've been offended by others, forgive them. If you've offended someone - apologize. Don't drag resentment around with you. It will make you sad and bitter. It doesn't matter who was right. Someone once said, "Holding a grudge is like taking poison and expecting the other person to die." Don't take that poison. Forgive and move on with your life.
19. If you have a strong belief, savor it. But don't waste your time trying to convince others. They will make their own choices no matter what you tell them, and it will only bring you frustration. Live your faith and set an example. Live true to your beliefs and let that memory sway them.
20. Laugh. Laugh A LOT. Laugh at everything. Remember, you are one of the lucky ones. You managed to have a life, a long one. Many never get to this age, never get to experience a full life. But you did. So what's not to laugh about? Find the humor in your situation.
21. Take no notice of what others say about you and even less of what they might be thinking. They'll do it anyway, and you should have pride in yourself and what you've achieved. Let them talk and don't worry. They have no idea about your history, your memories and the life you've lived so far. There's still much to be written, so get busy writing and don't waste time thinking about what others might think. Now is the time to be free, at peace and as happy as you can be!

Christian Church
(Disciples of Christ)
In Georgia

167th Regional Assembly

November 11 - 12, 2016

Hosted by:

First Christian Church of Valdosta
(Disciples of Christ)
1905 North Patterson Street
Valdosta, GA 31602

CHRISTIAN CHURCH IN
(DISCIPLES OF CHRIST)
GEORGIA
God's Beloved Community

**Deadline for the
December/January
Newsletter is Thursday,
November 17**

November Birthdays

- 2 Tom McAfee
- 7 Meredith Westbrook
- 18 Dorrie Toth
- 19 Lenora Langford
- 21 Brian Ballew
- 22 Kameron Carter
- 27 M.L. Robertson
- 30 Ralph McElhanon



**November
Anniversaries**

- 25 Sanford & Julie Thompson



November FRF

Join us on Tuesday, November 15th at 7:00 p.m. for our next FRF at 5 Spot Café at 555 Progress Center Avenue, Lawrenceville. This is the former location of Sophia's.



Worship Helpers

- November 6: 10:50 Reader - Julie Thompson
Communion Meditation - Bruce Johnson
- November 13: 10:50 Reader - Jimmy Peeples
Communion Meditation - Dorrie Toth
- November 20: 10:50 Reader - Bruce Johnson
Communion Meditation - Anna Harrison
- November 27: 10:50 Reader - Marilyn Parks
Communion Meditation -

CFW/ Disciples Women

Looking ahead to November, Sunday the 6th at 12:00 p.m. (after the 10:50 a.m. service) is the annual Harvest Meal. This year it will be a pot luck and we will have a basket for donations. All are invited to attend for good food and good fellowship. Bring your favorite dish to share. The CFW/Disciple Women will provide the drinks and bread. We do need volunteers to help in the kitchen before and after. Contact Linda G for more information.



POTLUCK DINNER



Joys and Concerns

We never cease in praying for the needs of: ... We never cease in praying for the needs of: ... Craig R; Chris K's family; Sandy W's family; Linda R's cousin, Jacob; Kaeden C; Rev. Sheila H's family; Dorrie T's cousins; Wayne T (Lorraine's son); Libby B's co-workers' families; Alma F's sister-in-law, Lou B; Anna H's friend and coworker; Gabriel E-M's dorm mate; Bob H's friend, Steve S; Larry H; Grace A's family; Karla J's family; Connie W's family.

Homebound Members: Louise C; Alma F; Betty H; Bessie K; Lenora L; Nettie P; Barbara & Bill P; Mildred P; Reba T.

We give thanks and praise to God for... Molly B; Mary Jo A; Rev. Abby C.

November Elders/Deacons

Serving at the Table

- Elders:** Lee and Connie Thompson
- Deacons:** Marilyn Parks, Dorrie Toth, Karla Johnson

Servant-Leaders

- Greeter:** Lee Thompson
- Communion Preparation:** Mary Jo Alvord & Gen Ashby