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Pastor's Pen

Why Is Giving Thanks So Difficult?

*"...give thanks in all circumstances; for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus."
(1 Thessalonians 5:18 ESV)*



Which is easier to do: grumble or give thanks? Far more often, we default toward complaining. We complain about the car ahead of us that is driving too slowly. We criticize the restaurant service for their low-quality food. We impatiently rant about slow WIFI or spotty cell service. We begrudgingly cast aside a gift given us that is unneeded or unwanted. Endless are the scenarios where grumbling displaces giving thanks.



Why is giving thanks so difficult? Perhaps looking at the two words the Bible uses for "giving thanks" will help answer this question. The first word (yada) means to give by throwing. This means that giving thanks takes effort, requires intentionality, must extend beyond the empty formality of words or phrases. Think about how often you've been thanked with the shallow inauthenticity of the words, "Thank you." Giving thanks requires something of us, it costs us, it demands more of us than just hollow phrases. The second word (eucharisteo) means to give well. This speaks explicitly of the heart, the way in which we are moved and motivated to show appreciation. What do we feel when we are thankful? How does a heart of thankfulness move us to a particular way of talking and living?

Taking these two words together, consider this working definition of "giving thanks":

To giving thanks
is an attitude of the heart
that moves us to sacrificial action
for the benefit of another.



Perhaps this is why giving thanks is so hard for us. It means we must genuinely feel grateful and appreciative, rather than entitled or owed something. Similarly, it means we must sacrifice ourselves for the sake of another, rather than just going through the motions. These are extremely unnatural and unenjoyable to us, and yet, lived gratitude of this kind is the secret to experiencing God's true and lasting joy.

We are entering the seasons of Thanksgiving and Christmas. As we gather with family and friends over the next two months, may our hearts be moved with an attitude of gratitude overflowing in acts of appreciation that blesses those around us.

Gratefully in God's grace,
Pastor Steve



Trinity Presbyterian Church
would like to invite you to join us for our upcoming
Advent and Christmas Events



Christmas Craft and Bake Sale
Saturday, December 2nd,
8:00 a.m. - 11:00 a.m.

Hanging of the Green/Advent Service
Sunday, December 3rd,
9:00 a.m. and 11:00 a.m.

Advent Services
Sunday, December 10th, 17th, & 24th
9:00 a.m. and 11:00 a.m.

Christmas Dinner
Sunday, December 10th, 5:00 p.m.

Christmas Eve Service
Sunday, December 24th , 7:00 p.m.

WE WANT TO
BE YOUR
CHURCH
HOME!

PLEASE JOIN
OUR CHURCH
FAMILY FOR
WORSHIP!

2017 Thanksgiving Dinner

Help your Neighbor by
providing a Thanksgiving Basket through
Eastern Area Community Ministries!

Fill a **REUSABLE BAG** with the following items:

(Please do not include any fresh fruits or vegetables.)

- \$25 Kroger card for perishable food items
- Box of instant mashed potatoes
- 4 cans of vegetables
- packaged or canned gravy
- boxed stuffing mix
- 4 cans of fruit
- cranberry sauce
- pie filling/crust or cake mix/frosting
- evaporated milk
- tea/lemonade



**BRING YOUR ITEMS TO TRINITY
BY SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 12th**



Donation to Library

A new addition to our library is a Holy Bible inscribed in the Arabic language. It is a donation to TPC from Imad El-imam. He hopes you will take a look at it and enjoy this Bible.

Faith & art

~ Candy Wheat

The group who went to Montreat in October had a great time learning new things...stain glass, pottery and dyed fabric.



The studio is looking for somone to help the 2nd Wednesday of each month from 6:00 p.m.—7:30 p.m. with Cedar Lake Lodge.

Tpw

~ Virginia Kozak

Only a week after the long Thanksgiving weekend, our Fellowship Hall will be turned into a huge bakery and gift boutique, decorated in a way to kick off the ultimate season of giving. For over a generation now, our shoppers await the **Annual Christmas Sale** we host for the delightful home-baked goodies our congregation offers for sale.

Please start planning now how you can help with the **Christmas Sale on Saturday, December 2nd**. Doors will open to our neighbors and guests from 8 a.m.– 11 a.m.. We will appreciate your help (men, women and youth) an hour or two before, during, and/or after that time, as there are so many moving parts (boxes, tables, chairs, etc.)! Sign-up sheets denoting key areas of need are on the Women's bulletin board in the hallway.

This also is the time when we request each family make several batches of festive Christmas cookies. Candy, cakes, pie and breads are also welcome. Please help keep our tradition in place by donning an apron and heating up your oven. Look to bulletin announcements for further information. If you are new to this event and want to learn more, please contact the office, or any TPW regular.

TPW's involvement at the Middletown Family Fun Festival in early September was a success. Participating to illustrate one of the service opportunities available at Trinity, our Sew 'n Sew group displayed a number of the charity sewing items we make, such as our 'pray for healing' blankets, Best Buddy dolls (Wellstone Behavioral Hospital), plus receiving blankets, burp towels and bibs (Louisville's VA Hospital). Autumn holiday items and Pala Village Weavers' scarves were available for sale to fund TPW's support of ministries we call benevolences. Thanks to Evangelism Committee for securing our booth at the event, and special thanks to those that set -up, took down, and staffed the booth.

Upcoming Tuesday Morning Circle Programs:

- November 14th, 10:30 a.m., Parlor: Study 3 of *Zechariah, On That Day*.
- December 12th, 10:30 a.m., Parlor: Each lady is asked to share something she finds meaningful about Christmas - a favorite memory, story, tradition. Bring an ornament that represents your sharing to place on a small tree for the morning.

preschool

~ Elizabeth Bodine

My name is Elizabeth Bodine and I am the preschool director at Trinity. Each month in the Trinity Times we would like to introduce you to the staff members, their classes and the many exciting activities the children are involved in. By the end of the year we hope you have a better understanding of the wonderful preschool program offered at Trinity. The door is always open, so please stop by to visit and join in the fun!

Greetings from the Green Room 4's. In October our class learned about their families and their environment. We talked about their age, birthday, and their siblings. We also discussed the different kinds of homes they live in.

We took a field trip to the Dorsey Fire Station. We practiced how to stop, drop and roll. We learned different fire safety vocabulary words and made a fire truck out of construction paper shapes.

We had fun with our Halloween theme. We painted squish monsters, made monster boxes, mummies, and skeletons. We explored the inside of a pumpkin and named the parts of it. We learned that mixing red and yellow paint makes orange. We painted a jack-o-lantern with our mixed paint.

Miss Jana and Miss Kimberly

november birthdays



11/1	Ali Elder	11/22	Suzanne Lundstrom
11/3	Mardi Crosser		Sheryl Oyler
	Amy Elder		Zachary Watts
	Nicki Wheat		Andy Cannava
11/5	Diane Frye		Bob Gray
	Betty Muse	11/23	Carol Lewis
11/6	Jeri Blair		Carol Redd
	Aston Wheat		Kaycee Bushue
	Chris Hall	11/24	Scott Lundstrom
	Jonathan Sarmiento		George Geoth
11/8	Josh Latham	11/26	Walter French
11/14	Jessica Lankford		Stephen McCreary
11/15	David Douglas	11/27	Bob Williams-Neal
	Meredith Johnson		
	Jerry Pender		
	Inez Williams		
11/17	Jennifer Hacker		
11/18	Charles Niemann		



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RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

Trinity Presbyterian welcomes all visitors who are seeking to find Christ in their lives! Our regular Sunday morning services are at 9:00 a.m. and 11:00 a.m. Nursery and Children's church provided!