

the Connection

MEADOWLANDS BAPTIST CHURCH

08 OCTOBER 2021 NEWSLETTER



THE HEART OF

Thanksgiving

by Kevin Williams

Thanksgiving is the outward expression of a grateful heart. If a person is not thankful, then there is something defective in the heart. Paul explains in chapter 1 of Romans, "Although they knew God, they did not glorify Him as God, nor were thankful, but became futile in their thoughts, and their foolish hearts were darkened" (v. 21). These unthankful people are described as having thoughts that are futile and hearts that are foolish and dark. Although they have evidence of God's existence and enjoy the good gifts of His creation, they do not thank Him.

Why? It is because they are blinded to the truth. They may profess to be wise (v. 22), but their hearts are foolish. They don't know God, and, therefore, they don't acknowledge Him as the Giver. Instead of glorifying the Creator (v. 21), they ignore Him and praise His creation (vv. 23, 25). This false worship is

rooted in a lie (v. 25). It is a lie that we can live independently of God. It is a lie that I have a right to determine my own purpose for life. It is a lie that I deserve good things.

A worldview that sees God incorrectly will see everything else in a distorted way. Without a biblical understanding of our Creator, how can we rightly celebrate Thanksgiving? The object of our praise will be wrong. Expressions of gratitude are superficial if the ultimate Giver is overlooked.

God's people, however, are the only ones who can truly express thanksgiving. By His grace our minds are no longer blinded to the truth. Because of His mercy the light of the Gospel has shined in our hearts. Through His written revelation, we understand our life's purpose to bring Him glory. And with a regenerate heart, we realize that every good gift is from above (James 1:17). As God's child you can "proclaim the praises of Him who called you out of darkness into His marvelous light" (1 Pet 2:9). We do that as individuals each day and then join together on Sundays to proclaim our thanks together.





THANKSGIVING SERVICE

Worship & Praise

**SUNDAY, OCTOBER 10
9:30 OR 11 AM**

- In-person services take place in the auditorium
- Services are simultaneously livestreamed in the gym or available to you at home
- The Lord's Supper will be observed
- No other classes or activities are scheduled for the day
- Nursery will be provided for 0-3

Special Offering

It has been our tradition to collect an offering on Thanksgiving Sunday—a sacrificial gift above regular giving. On your offering envelope or electronic transfer, you can designate a special donation to “Missionary Needs” and/or “Land Purchase.” Two of our missionaries, Pam Noland and Amy Roy, have extra expenses with medical needs. You can read an update on them below. Also, the final payment for the purchase of two acres of land to our south is due at the end of the year (\$700,000). The remaining balance will become our mortgage in 2022 (approved by the congregation in 2019).

The deadline to nominate deacons is this Sunday



HYMNS

"I LOVE THE CHURCH"
"THE CHURCH'S ONE FOUNDATION"

OPENING PRAYER

SCRIPTURE READING

EPHESIANS 1:1-14

HYMNS

"MY WORTH IS NOT IN WHAT I OWN"
"IN CHRIST ALONE"

SCRIPTURE READING

EPHESIANS 1:15-23

HYMN

"THERE IS A FOUNTAIN"

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

SCRIPTURE READING

EPHESIANS 2:1-10

HYMNS

"GOD OF GRACE"
"O GREAT GOD"

SCRIPTURE READING

EPHESIANS 2:11-22
EPHESIANS 3:1-13

HYMNS

"AND CAN IT BE"
"THE COMMUNION HYMN"

THE LORD'S SUPPER

SCRIPTURE READING

EPHESIANS 3:14-21

HYMN

"HIS MERCY IS MORE"

BENEDICTION

UPDATE ON PAM NOLAND, MBC MISSIONARY TO AKLAVIK, NT

"In one more week, Pam will complete both the chemotherapy and radiation treatments for her cancer. We continually praise the Lord for answering prayer and giving her grace as she goes through this. Other than the reaction she had to the first chemo treatment, the side effects have been minimal. As we expected she is experiencing a bit more fatigue and some inflammation in her esophagus as the treatments continue, but most days is able to help some in the printing ministry at the church we are at here.

After the treatments are finished she will have a few weeks to let everything recover before the surgery. During that time she will have a few other tests run in preparation for the surgery as well.

Thank you for all the prayers, cards, and notes of encouragement. The Lord has been and is so good to us!"



UPDATE ON AMY ROY, MBC MISSIONARY TO DOMINICAN REPUBLIC

"The neurologist in Michigan generally corroborates the neurologist's opinion in the DR. They still don't have enough to give an official diagnosis, but think that everything points to Amy being in the beginning stages of MS. We found out more about potential medication and about Amy's condition here in Michigan than what we were told in the DR. In particular, we were surprised to find out that Amy has a herniated disc in her neck, which we did not hear from the neurologist in the DR. That herniated disc might explain some of the symptoms Amy has. The neurosurgeon recommended that Amy undergo 6 weeks of physical therapy. Up until then, we were planning on going back home this week or the following, but we understand that for several reasons we need to stay and do the physical therapy in Michigan. Therapy in the DR would mean three days of travel weekly to the capital city, which would be an all-day commitment, and we'd need to find childcare. Also, we'd rather see how a physical therapist here works with Amy so as to have a point of comparison when we return to the DR. Our plan is to go back to the DR mid-November. I will continue working for the seminary online. Though working online surely isn't ideal, it is a blessing to be able to do it at this time!"

WEDNESDAY PRAYER & BIBLE STUDY 7 PM

- Nursery available (0-3)
- Kids 4 Truth Classes (Age 4 to grade 6)
- Youth Group (Teens)
- Adult Prayer and Bible Study in Auditorium

CHURCH MEMBERSHIP CLASS SUNDAY, OCT 17, 4-8 PM

A basic introduction to the mission and ministries of MBC and how you can get involved. Supper included. Please sign up on the bulletin board by this Sunday.

Church Office

780-440-1195

Pastor Kevin Williams

587-635-2758

Pastor Jerry Ascher

587-635-2751

Pastor Mark Richmond

587-635-2752

David Treau

587-635-2753

GIVING

E-transfer is available. From your bank's website, select the e-transfer feature. The email address to transfer to is donations@meadowlandsbaptist.com. Your donation will be automatically accepted, and you will receive a confirmation of the transfer.