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## *From the Pastor's Keyboard*



November is a month that is full of activities and celebrations and one that I have things to share with you.

As we have announced in worship in October, our ministry team is expanding as of November 1st. In addition to Brenda Kerchner, our organist; Nelson Leader, our music ministry director; Wanda Strickler, our administrative assistant; and Ed and Judy Bishop, our custodians; the Coordinating Ministries Team (in consultation with the Pastoral Relations Team and the Trustees) has called Cindy Innerst-Axe to become part of our ministry team as lay minister.

This is partly in response to the current pastoral shortage facing many denominations across our county. People are simply not going to seminary to become ordained pastors in the numbers that they used to. Our UCC Penn Central Conference has encouraged small, part-time churches such as ours to begin looking for and identifying capable and gifted laypersons to share in the ministries of our churches. Many of us have identified Cindy as that kind of gifted person and as one who has taken courses in the past to prepare herself for such a ministry and who has already taken on speaking and leadership roles in our church. Cindy will be taking further steps to become authorized by our UCC York Association Committee on Ministry as a Lay Minister. The church has agreed to pay for courses and screening that Cindy needs.

Cindy will be joining me as part of our ministry team. We will try this arrangement out for 4-5 months to see how it works. I have agreed to stay on as interim pastor for that length of time to help launch this ministry team approach here at Blymire's Church. Both of us will be part-time. I will remain 20 hours/week on average and Cindy will work 10 hours/week on average. Her duties will include follow-up ministerial visits to members and visitors (I will continue to do "frontline" visitations), leading small groups (Cindy is already leading a guided meditation and drum circle group), helping others to publicize church events on social media, preaching on Sundays when I am off, and helping out with teaching and other aspects of church leadership as needed. This will be an evolving team effort. I ask for your understanding and help. As before, when you have pastoral needs, you can call me at 260-519-5449. Now you can call Cindy at 717-855-6330, and of course, you can still call the church office at 717-244-0655 and leave a message with Wanda.

Cindy's salary will be \$9,000/yearly as well as up to \$1,000 for mileage and other professional expenses. Her compensation will come partly from budgeted items which are not needed for my ministry and from some savings from not having to pay for as many guest preachers as we have had to pay for the last year. Our combined compensations



are less than what Blymire's Church has paid for pastoral leadership in the past since Cindy will be ¼ time and I remain at ½ time. Cindy and I will work on developing this team approach for the next few months.

Depending on how it takes shape and looks after that period, we will resume filling out our church profile and will indicate on that whether we will be looking for a part-time "team pastor" (who will team up with Cindy) as our next settled pastor. I am excited, and certainly ask for God's guidance, as we launch this new ministry endeavor here at Blymire's Church.

I am also excited about what is coming up for our church family in November. Much-needed and long-awaited fixing of cracks and painting of the sanctuary will take place in November (dates are flexible). We will not miss a beat, though. During the midst of the painting, we will have worship in the Gathering Room.



On November 5, we will celebrate All Saints' Day with our annual remembrance of church members who have been called to their eternal home during the past year. Family members of deceased members will be given a rose and an opportunity to place that rose on the altar as we remember the spiritual significance of that member's life. We will also recognize that day those of us who have lost family members and friends this past year who were not part of our church family. Annual stewardship materials will be handed out on this day as well.

On November 12, we will celebrate our annual Heritage Day when we recognize those of our congregation who have been members for 50 or more years, and when we celebrate our 265th anniversary as a congregation! We hope to not forget to take a picture of our 50+-year members this year! The UCC York Association will also be having its annual meeting that day at Starview UCC with lunch at 12:30 PM and the meeting starting at 2:00 PM. Two delegates and I will be attending this meeting. But more from the congregation are welcome and encouraged to attend. Among other things to be discussed at that meeting is the possibility of joining all four of the UCC Pennsylvania conferences into one. The Association has asked us to either bring cleaning buckets or hygiene kits or donations to purchase supplies for them for Church World Service. Our church will be taking a special offering that morning to give to this project.



On November 19, Thanksgiving and Stewardship Sunday, we will be celebrating the Sacrament of Communion. We will also be bringing our 2024 pledges to the church up to the altar. Several members will share that day why they give to the church and the impact the church has had on their lives.

Our annual Christmas Marketplace will take place on Saturday, November 25, from 9:00 AM–3:00 PM. We will have our usual crafters' tables, as well as a book sale, soup sale and bake sale. Volunteers and donations of baked goods are needed.

To close out the month on November 26, we will celebrate Christ the King, or the Reign of Christ, Sunday. Cindy Innerst-Axe will be preaching that day.



Looking forward to December, Advent is the first four Sundays. The First Capital Brass will conduct our worship on December 3. On December 24, the choir will sing a cantata for our morning worship. Our Christmas Eve service will be at 11:00 PM and will include Communion, Candlelight, and Lessons and Carols. Families are invited to come after their own Christmas Eve festivities. Children (and adults!) are welcome to come in their PJ's. On December 31st, Cindy Innerst-Axe will be preaching.

I continue to be honored and privileged and delighted to serve as you part-time pastor. The above shows exciting things that we are looking forward to in the next few months. I am so thankful that you as individuals and as a church continue to live out your lives by "taking every thought captive to obey Christ" (2 Corinthians 10:5) and by knowing that we can face whatever comes our way because we are followers of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ!

Remember our interim period questions: *What is God calling us here at St. John's Blymire's United Church of Christ of Dallastown, Pennsylvania, uniquely, to be and to do? What is our God-given niche in our community? What is it that only we can do (and no one else can do) for God's glory and purposes?*

See you around this month of November.

God bless, Pastor Rick

## ***MONTH OF SUNDAYS WORSHIP SERVICES FOR NOVEMBER 2023***

### **NOVEMBER 5, 2023 – TWENTY-THIRD SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST / ALL SAINTS' DAY / STANDARD TIME BEGINS (turn your clocks back)**

Text Scripture: Deuteronomy 34:1-12 Message: "What will we see at our end?"

Theme: Moses – God was with him always. Do we see our lives as hardships or as blessings? God's work will continue because God's promises will be fulfilled.

We will celebrate the lives of church members (family members will bring roses to the altar in memory of each of them), and honor other loved ones, who have passed away this last year. Annual stewardship materials will be handed out.

Sunday School – Pastor Curt – Jesus' Disciples – Twelve Ordinary Men

### **NOVEMBER 12, 2023 – TWENTY-FOURTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST / HERITAGE SUNDAY AND 265TH ANNIVERSARY**

Text Message: Pastor Curt preaching (Pastor Rick recuperating from surgery)

Worship will be in the Gathering Place (because of the sanctuary painting) where we will recognize and celebrate our 50+-year members and our 265th anniversary

Sunday School – Pastor Curt – Jesus' Disciples – Twelve Ordinary Men

12:30 PM – UCC York Association luncheon at Starview UCC; 2:00 PM – Annual Meeting of the UCC York Association (registration starts at 1:30 PM).

### **NOVEMBER 19, 2023 – TWENTY-FIFTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST / SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION / THANKSGIVING AND STEWARDSHIP SUNDAY**

Text Scripture: Matt 25:14-30 Message: "Can spectacular failure be a sign of success?" Theme: Our efforts to extend God's mission, using our God-given gifts, may end in poor results. But Jesus commends us when we take a risk and are not afraid of failure and negative judgment.

Jeri Jones: Moments for the Young at Heart

Church members will share why they give and the impact our church has on them.

Bringing of our 2024 pledge card and filled-out Time/Talent/Treasure survey up to the altar to dedicate them and celebrate our commitment to God and to each other.

### **NOVEMBER 26, 2023 – CHRIST THE KING/REIGN OF CHRIST SUNDAY**

Message: Cindy Innerst-Axe, preaching

We will set up for Advent and Christmas after worship



You are asked to use the St. John's Blymire's United Church of Christ Facebook account now to keep up with church activities, like, share, and post.

To watch our livestreaming during our worship or after, please spread the word that people can click onto <https://www.youtube.com/@StJohnsBlymires/streams>, scroll over to "live" and click it, and look for the appropriate date. Or you can go to [www.youtube.com](https://www.youtube.com), and then you search for St. John's Blymire's UCC, Dallastown, PA. We will only be livestreaming on YouTube.

*Message from our new  
Lay Minister*

I was born, baptized and confirmed into this congregation. Many of you know me well, as I am pretty much an open book. My family has been living in this area for generations and many have been members of this congregation. I have four amazing children and six even more amazing grandchildren.

I have done many things in my life. Mostly, I have worked with children and young people. I was Youth Fellowship Advisor here for somewhere around 25 years. Also, I led 4H projects and was active with my children in local 4H for about the same amount of time. I taught Sunday School here for a longer period of time. And, I worked in the Red Lion Area School District for many years.

People are my passion. I truly enjoy building relationships, helping others, visiting people and general engagement with others.

I have had training in many areas with my volunteer youth work and my school work. I have experienced lots of seminar work related to these areas, as well as in the area of spiritual growth. I am trained in the healing modality of Reiki and am ordained in the Universal Life Church. I did not have to attend seminary to be ordained. I struggled with the idea of ordination without the traditional study. However, I determined that all of the study I did throughout my other involvements and much life experience, that ordination was a good choice for me. My motivation was and is pure and straight up. God has accepted me the way I am. I am grateful.

I believe people come to God in many ways and that we are here as examples for people to learn from and grow with. I do not believe it is our task to judge others or push them to believe as we believe. My belief system can be considered a Universalist. Having spent many years with lots of questions, I have come to learn that my view is broad and accepting, loving and inclusive and suited to my ministry. God is called many names throughout the universe. At the core, we all believe in one God and can worship together, if we choose.

My goal as a Lay Minister is to share the message of God in the way I conduct my life. I plan to be a part of the worship life of Blymire's, the fellowship, the work, the goals and the future. We are living in a time of great change and that directly impacts us as a congregation. Let's continue to work together to be relevant in the world and in our community.

Thank you for this new opportunity to share the gifts God has given to me with you.

*Cindy Innerst-Axe*

**REMEMBER OUR SHUT-INS and those in need of PRAYER**

**Terry & Fran Doll**

Room 346

Residence @ Fitz Farm

2200 Springwood Rd.

York, PA 17403

Terry's cell (717) 968-2454

Fran's cell (717) 968-8754



**Linda Trone**

Room 604

Colonial Manor Nursing Home

970 Colonial Avenue

York, PA 17403

Keeping in our prayers

**Cindie McKinsey**

**Friends battling cancer**

**Covid 19 patients**

**Peggy Luckenbaugh**  
Room 704B  
Colonial Manor Nursing Home  
970 Colonial Avenue  
York, PA 17403

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**Remember  
and pray for  
Our Members  
in the  
Military**

**A1C Ness, Brandon**

6907 S. Camino de la Humanidad

Tucson, AZ 85756

\*\*\*\*\*

**NOVEMBER**  
**BIRTHDAYS**



*May God  
Bless You on  
Your  
Birthday!*

2. Susan Sheffer  
Lisa Miller  
Abigail Michaels
3. Jean McDowell
8. Michael K. Knaub  
Lynz Leader
10. Rod Eichelberger
12. Kenneth Miller  
Jessica Keller  
Barbara McNeal
13. Jean Nelson
14. Stephanie Frey
19. Josh Humbert  
Mark Ness
23. Ginny Weber
24. Justin McKinsey
26. Chase Matthews  
James Barley
27. Peggie Free

**CELEBRATING NOVEMBER ANNIVERSARIES**

Nov. 4 - Joel and Stephanie Frey - 45 years

Nov. 14 - John and Beth Herbst - 25 years

Nov. 28 - Chet & Gwen Wise - 60 years



## **MEN'S GROUP**

You are invited to join the Men's Group on Tuesday, November 14,



at 7:00 p.m. Jeri Jones will be presenting a program called "Geology and the Gettysburg Campaign."



On Saturday, November 25, from 9:00 AM-3:00 PM we invite you to our Christmas Marketplace. There will be lots of craft vendors, a bake sale, soup sale, and a used book sale. Please come out and bring your friends.

There is still room for a few more vendors. If interested, call Marti Leader for information at 717-868-6502. Each crafter's table will be \$25.00.

We are asking for donations of baked goods to sell during this event. Volunteers are also needed to help out at the Bake Sale table. You don't need to be there the entire time, just one or two hours. All profits will be given to our church's general fund. Any questions or to volunteer, call Diana Myers at (717)855-4752.

Our annual Cookie Walk will be held on Saturday, December 9, from 9:00 AM until noon (or sold out). A large selection of all types of homemade cookies will be available. Buy as many as you like, mix and match flavors, all for just \$12.00 per pound.



In order for this to be a success we need lots of cookies, so get out your cookbooks, mixing bowls and cookie sheets. Cookies may be dropped off at the church that week from 8:00AM—11:00AM on Wednesday, 8:00AM-1:30PM on Thursday and Friday, also Friday evening 6:00-8:00PM. In addition to bakers, volunteers are also needed to help set up Friday evening and with the sales on Saturday morning. Questions, call Marti Leader or Diana Myers.

## **KNITTERS and CROCHETERS:**

Memorial White Rose Hospice is asking for donations of handmade scarves and blankets. They are especially in need of items for men. Veterans in particular love to receive anything in red, white and blue. If you would like to participate in this ongoing project, there is a box in the Gathering Room for you to put your donations.

You are invited to join us on Friday, November 17, at 6:00 PM for our next Messy Church. This month's theme will be Thanks and Giving. As always, there will be stories, crafts, and a meal, this time with a Thanksgiving theme. **PLEASE INVITE YOUR FAMILY AND FRIENDS.**



## **CARD and GAME CLUB**



We have started a group to play card and board games here at the church. Everyone is welcome, and if you don't know how to play certain games, there will be someone who can teach you. You can bring lunch or order in.

We meet the second Wednesday of each month starting at 11:00 AM and playing until people are ready to stop. November's meeting will be on the 8th.

## **GUIDED MEDITATION AND DRUM CIRCLE**



Meditation and Music are very good ways to deepen your personal spiritual practice. Relax, let go of worldly thoughts, and sink into your soul. You are invited to join us at 10:00 AM Saturday mornings on the following dates: November 18, December 16. for Guided Meditation, followed by Drum Circle, with a variety of instruments available.

A Love Offering will be received. Love Offering is a way to show your gratitude to the facilitator of the gathering. Love Offering can take many forms. I have received stones, feathers, bread, cash, etc. It is a personal expression of gratitude between you and me. Any cash received will go back into the Fun Team for future activities. Come, experience! Cindy Innerst-Axe.



## **Tree of Lights**

As we did last year, we will be including a "Tree of Lights" as part of our Christmas Eve service. You may sponsor a light in memory of or in honor of someone or just as a year end gift to help support our church. This year's donations will be used to help pay for the painting of our sanctuary.

There is a Sponsorship form on the next page of this newsletter or you can pick one up from the Welcome Table in the Gathering Room.



Tree Lighting Service  
Sunday, December 24<sup>th</sup>  
Christmas Eve Service  
St. John's Blymire's United Church of Christ  
1009 Blymire Road  
Dallastown, PA 17313

## Tree of Lights 2023

*Proceeds will be used to help pay for  
the recent painting of our sanctuary.*

**You may sponsor a light on the Christmas Tree:**

In memory of a loved one

To honor a family member, mentor or friend

As a year end gift to our church

**Please Note!** – In order to be listed on the Scroll of Honor in the Christmas Eve bulletin,  
light sponsorships must be received by December 17<sup>h</sup>

**\$500 = Red Light**

**\$100 = Blue Light**

**\$ 50 = Green Light**

**\$ 25 = Gold Light**

**\$ 10 = White Light**

(Sponsorship form on back)

Person giving the Light \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_

TYPE OF GIFT:

IN HONOR OF: \_\_\_\_\_

(list name as you would like it displayed on the Scroll of Honor)

IN MEMORY OF: \_\_\_\_\_

(list name as you would like it displayed on the Scroll of Honor)

YEAR-END GIFT to St. John's Blymire's UCC \_\_\_\_\_

TYPE OF LIGHT: \_\_\_\_\_ \$500 Red Light

\_\_\_\_\_ \$100 Blue Light

\_\_\_\_\_ \$ 50 Green Light

\_\_\_\_\_ \$ 25 Gold Light

\_\_\_\_\_ \$ 10 White Light

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Please drop your form and check in the offering plate or mail them to:

St. John's Blymire's UCC

1009 Blymire Rd.

Dallastown, PA 17313

In order to be listed in the Christmas Eve bulletin, forms must be received no later than December 17<sup>th</sup>

**Questions? Please call the church office @ 717-244-0655**

# FINANCIAL REPORT

## Undesignated General Fund

## Red Brick Chapel

## Cemetery

Month-2023	Income	Expense	Income	Expense	Income	Expense
January	\$10,823.00	\$9,149.59	\$0.30	\$612.18	\$738.24	\$200.00
February	\$7,242.25	\$9,309.43	\$0.22	\$338.98	\$0.12	\$375.34
March	\$8,179.00	\$13,350.64	\$0.29	\$702.79	\$900.10	\$328.10
April	\$9,009.22	\$7,960.45	\$625.31	\$351.05	\$101.05	\$1,293.75
May	\$10,849.03	\$9,661.89	\$0.34	\$199.00	\$1,501.74	\$2,848.62
June	\$8,587.00	\$12,552.97	\$0.29	\$471.88	\$1.50	\$2,643.54
July	\$11,008.44	\$7,653.83	\$100.22	\$231.66	\$11.00	\$2,607.15
August	\$8,409.25	\$8,988.85	\$0.21	\$207.87	\$200.70	\$2,703.63
September						
October						
November						
December						
<b>Total</b>	\$74,109.19	\$78,627.65	\$727.18	\$3,115.41	\$3,454.45	\$13,000.13

Balance of Undesignated General Fund @ September 1, 2023

\$10,440.55

Balance of Red Brick Chapel Fund @ September 1, 2023  
(Includes \$60,026.39 Endowment)

\$61,103.98

Balance of Cemetery Fund @ September 1, 2023  
(Includes \$841,738.80 CD's, Trusts, UCC Foundation)

\$843,224.94

## Financial Assistance Given through Hand of Hope Fund - 2023

	#	Total	Monthly	Available
	Families	\$\$\$	Donations	Balance
Beginning				\$ 806.82
January	3	\$576.00	\$ 151.00	\$ 381.82
February	1	\$150.00	\$ 80.00	\$ 311.82
March	1	\$25.00	\$ 30.00	\$ 316.82
April	2	\$50.00	\$ 28.00	\$ 294.82
May	3	\$100.00	\$ 27.25	\$ 222.07
June	3	\$125.00	\$ 22.00	\$ 119.07
July	1	\$50.00	\$ 61.25	\$ 130.32
August			\$ 18.00	\$ 148.32
September				
October				
November				
December				
<b>Total</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>\$1,076.00</b>	<b>\$ 417.50</b>	



### How I love to catch the falling leaves in autumn

I sit  
and wait  
beneath  
the trees  
until  
I've catumn!  
Brian Bilston



### WHERE DO BAD RAINBOWS GO?

They go to prism  
but it's a light  
sentence.

It gives them  
time to reflect!

## REFRIGERATOR ART

What's on your refrigerator? Do pictures of friends and loved ones grin at you? How about a picture of your pet? Maybe you've posted a child's drawing that makes you smile, or a favorite Bible verse to keep you inspired. Our creative expression on the refrigerator is a precious collection of life.

God displays his handiwork on this planet like a great big, giant fridge, and every creature that walks this planet is a panel of that fridge. Have you ever been walking along the trail and caught a deer grazing quietly, close enough to touch? Did you stop to reflect? As I've cleaned the kitchen and looked out the window over the sink, I have been amazed at a mockingbird stealing a piece of dog kibble from the bowl and swiftly flying away to feed her young. While you were stuck in traffic did you see and admire the flower that grew from a crack in the highway pavement? Stop to be amazed!

Displays of God's creativity will be all around you today. You might be the only person to see it, the only one to capture the moment with your eyes, your ears, or your taste buds, and the moment may be subtle and easy to miss if you're not careful. Don't miss the split second glimpses of the grandeur of God! We could consider that these glimpses of God exist to be special, secret messages just for us. We can walk thru each day hopeful, hungry and yearning for more glimpses. At the end of the today, think about what refrigerator art from God you collected today. Then go look in the mirror and see what His favorite creative project is.

Devon O'Day

November 2023



Thanksgiving was  
never meant to be shut  
up in a single day."

Robert Caspar Lintner

A smile is a curve  
that can straighten  
out a lot of things.

Unknown



"Don't let yesterday  
take up too much of  
today."

Will Rogers

"Live for moments  
that you can't put  
into words."

Unknown

## LIFE BEGINS EACH MORNING!

My life did begin anew this morning, after I finished my sleep. Today is a completely new day, and it's mine to do with as I please. What happens to me today will be completely new and different, and I have the choice all day long to react to similar things in different ways if the way that I've been reacting doesn't serve me. Yesterday is gone, and while some things that happened yesterday may affect today, that doesn't mean that those things have to control today's actions or reactions. If yesterday I got angry at a certain something, I have the choice today to react differently to something similar, or even to make up for the anger if it was hurtful to someone.

Years ago, there was a very popular saying: "Today is the first day of the rest of your life." How true that is, yet how little we seem to take it to heart. We can start all over today, and we can start to make changes today, if we wish to. Too often we hold on to the baggage that we packed yesterday, and we allow it to keep us firmly planted in the same old way of doing things, of seeing the world.

Today's a new day! It's calling for a new you, as every day does. It's offering you a wide variety of things to do, people to see, experiences to learn from, and wonders to appreciate and be thankful for. The only question is simple: Is this how you will choose to use this new today that you've been given?

Tom Walsh



### DO WHAT JESUS DID

When I first started following Jesus, people started trying to teach me things about faith. They said phrases like “Jesus died for your sins, so you could be saved.” I didn’t really know why He had to die or what it means to be “saved”, but I figured it was an extraordinary act of love nonetheless. I’ve certainly learned a lot over the decades about Jesus and Christianity, but I’m not trying to become a theologian. I’m trying to be more like Jesus and follow the example of His life.

I find most of the big Christian words thrown around in some faith communities distracting, so I don’t use them. I try to speak as plainly as I can, so I can understand what I mean and so everyone else around me can too. I think God understands that we need more than mere book knowledge and insider phrases to understand Him. He gave us the Bible, and then He became a living example of it. He chose to be born and experience toothaches and fatigue, exclusion and oppression, homelessness and poverty. He also experienced joy and laughter and rich friendships.

Through all His human years, Jesus showed us how to live. He modeled love for us in a way we couldn’t grasp just by reading or studying. He didn’t come just to talk to people about heaven. He came to heal people in the here and now too. Love found His way to us so we could find our way to one another. He said to follow His example of laying His life down for His friends so other people could come to understand what it’s like to be held and protected by love. His life tells us everything we need to know about love. Our lives can teach us a bunch about our faith. Learn as much as you want about faith, but don’t overlook the joy that comes from living it.



Bob Goff

### ONE PLUS ONE

I remember being told by a friend, “I can’t walk into a shelter because I would just want to take them all home.” So she did nothing. “It’s just so negative to think about, and no one can figure out how to solve it,” said another man to the organization working to help victims of human trafficking. So he did nothing.

God said to go into all the world, which means that we have a responsibility to do impossible things every day. In the face of the impossible, we serve a God who makes all things possible! When we take one step, God takes two, or 10 or 100, to multiply His plan through us. Every great accomplishment for good began as an impossible task. One person, with God’s help, can create a wave of change so positive and so powerful that evil quakes in the undercurrent.

“Take heart”, appears five times in the New International Version of the Bible.

“Take courage”, appears four times. The repetition shows that we need encouragement, and we need to be reminded that our good works are pleasing to God. No good deed escapes the heart of Christ. He sees all of the efforts we make because he’s making them right along with us!

The outcome of our work is not our goal. Our goal is Christ, and he will complete the good work begun in you. Humorist Erma Bombeck said, “When I stand before God at the end of my life, I would hope that I would not have a single bit of talent left and could say, “I used everything you gave me.” I want to be able to say that too. How about you? So take heart, take courage, and be of the knowledge that you are pleasing in God’s sight in the dreaming of and doing the impossible every day!

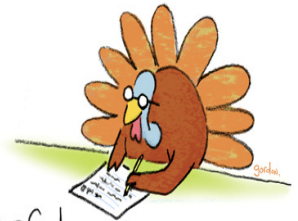
Devon O’Day



### SECONDS COUNT

Imagine this, if you had \$86,400 in your account and someone stole \$10 from you, would you be upset and throw all the remaining \$86,390 away in hopes of getting back at that person? Or would you move on, and live? We all have 86,400 seconds each day. Don’t let someone’s negative 10 seconds ruin the remaining 86,390. Don’t sweat the small stuff. Life is so much bigger than that!

Source Unknown



Dear God,  
I’m writing about some concerns I have as a turkey. It seems that in Your infinite wisdom, You decided to make us fat, flightless, and evidently delicious. Did we say something to make You mad?

Sincerely Yours,  
Mr. Turkey

ShoeboxBlog.com





## Revelations for November from “Bly Mire” Mouse

To our dear church family:

Hello from our mouse holes. Do you ever see us darting in and out of those holes? We see you all, but we sometimes wonder if you see us. We would love to introduce you to the family if and when you spot us!

Boy, keep the food crumbs coming from all your events in the Gathering Place. We love to gobble them up before our faithful and diligent custodians, Judy and Ed, clean them up!

And keep the wonderful and uplifting talking, laughing, and singing we hear from you with all your regular activities and your special activities like the Fla-Mingle Luncheon and well-attended Messy Church/Fall Festival in October. We love to overhear your animated conversations and praise-filled singing! We understand in November there will be even more going on around here, such as voting on Election Day and painting of the sanctuary. We love the hubbub from you – and, of course, the crumbs you leave for us!

This month, because Thanksgiving is coming up, we want to share the story of “The Five Kernels of Corn” that we overheard some of you talking about. It’s about a person who said that he recently visited a school. In the hall he saw many posters. They were all pictures about Thanksgiving. One said: We have Thanksgiving Because We Are Thankful For: 1. Our Schools 2. Our Homes 3. Our Families 4. Our Churches 5. Our Food 6. Our Country

But the poster did not mention *who* we are to thank. To be thankful, you have to thank somebody. You can’t be thankful *for* things unless you are thankful *to* someone.

The first Thanksgiving was a time when the Pilgrims thanked someone. Now they did not have much to be thankful for. The Pilgrims faced hard times after coming to the New World. There were periods of starvation in the colony where they settled both before and after the first Thanksgiving service. For a time food was so scarce that the daily ration was only five kernels of corn per person.

Can you imagine that? What if you sat down to eat your dinner and your mother brought you only five kernels of corn? That wouldn’t be much to eat!

The Pilgrims did not have much to eat the first Thanksgiving. Later, when crops were good, the Pilgrims established the custom of placing beside their plates five kernels of corn as a memorial of those difficult days. It was a way to thank God for God’s blessings.

That simple custom is nice. On Thanksgiving as we sit down to our bountiful tables for our Thanksgiving meal, let’s place beside our plate five kernels of corn. What better way can we remember God’s blessings and our abundance?

Before we can be thankful *for something*, we need to be thankful *to someone*. Let’s all thank God for God’s goodness. Will you join us in our mouse prayer: Dear Lord, at this Thanksgiving season we remember Your goodness and thank You, God, for everything. Amen. (1)

One more thing: We look forward to seeing you around during November.

Love, Bly and Mire and our precious little ones



(1) Much of the above came from 40 Object Sermons For Children, Joe E. Trull, Baker Book House, 1975.

**November Humor** (about Jonah, who some of you said is your favorite Biblical character, after Pastor Rick asked you to think about who your favorite Biblical character is during a couple of his sermons):

Q. How did the fish that swallowed Jonah obey the divine law?

A. Jonah was a stranger, and the fish took him in.

Q. Who was Jonah’s tutor?

A. The fish that brought him up.

Q. How did Jonah feel when the great fish swallowed him?

A. Down in the mouth.

A lady turned to her young son and said, “Didn’t you enjoy Mr. Wood’s sermon about Jonah and the whale?” “I guess so,” the boy said, “But I feel just like that whale. All that preaching’s given me a bellyache.” (2)

All of the humor above is from The World’s Greatest Collection of Heavenly Humor, compiled by Bob Phillips, Harvest House Publishers, 1982.



Handicrafts can spark appreciation for simple items. Weave this basket as a gift.




#### What you need:

- Paper plate
- Pencil
- Scissors
- Yarn (different colors)

#### What you do:

1. In the center of the plate, trace something round. Draw 9 lines (evenly spaced) from the circle to the plate's edge.
2. Cut along each line, stopping at the center circle. Trim more of the plate off so the cuts make a gradual V shape.
3. Fold the plate's sides upward to form basket sides. Keep these upright as you weave a bowl-shaped basket.
4. Begin weaving a length of yarn at the circle's base. Hold the end of the yarn in place as you spread the length over and under each side of the plate.
5. Switch colors to make a pattern. Keep the yarn tight as you weave up the sides.
6. To finish, bend down any remaining paper. Leave a tail of yarn and tuck it under a woven portion. Share your craft with a friend!






# PUZZLE



## THANKS-FILLED GIVING

The virtues of gratefulness and generosity are connected. When we're truly thankful for all God provides, we want to sow generous seeds in other people's lives. What will be the harvest?

*Directions: Solve the clues associated with each picture. Then write the words in the correct spaces to complete 2 Corinthians 9:10-11, NIV.*

- This becomes a plant \_\_\_\_\_ 
-  Willing to give \_\_\_\_\_
- The result of planting seeds \_\_\_\_\_ 
-  The act of gratitude \_\_\_\_\_
- Food made from wheat \_\_\_\_\_ 

Now he who supplies \_\_\_\_\_ to the sower and \_\_\_\_\_ for food will also  
 supply and increase your store of \_\_\_\_\_ and will enlarge the \_\_\_\_\_  
 of your righteousness. You will be enriched in every way so that you can be  
 \_\_\_\_\_ on every occasion, and through us your generosity will result  
 in \_\_\_\_\_ to God. 2 Corinthians 9:10-11, NIV

Answers: seed, harvest, generous, thankful, giving