# Bly Lines

News, Notes and Revelations from St. John's Blymire's United Church of Christ

November 2021

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From the Pastor's Desk



Greetings to you and peace from God our Father, and our Lord Jesus Christ.

Once again Sarah Young hits home with the "Jesus Calling" daily devotional. Today the message is:

"I am your living God, far more abundantly alive than the most vivacious person you know. The human body is wonderfully crafted, but gravity and the inevitable effects of aging weigh it down. Even the most superb athlete cannot maintain his fitness over many decades. Lasting abundant life can be found in Me alone. Do not be anxious about the weakness of your body. Instead, view it as the prelude to My infusing energy into your being."

In many conversations, the discussion turns to whatever aches, pains, weaknesses, etc. I and the one I am talking with are coping with in our daily lives. I, unfortunately, have often said that one wish I have is to have just one day without any pain in my body. For as long as I can remember I have had to cope with pain from frequent headaches to ankle and foot pain and many things in between. I often begin my days with saying "Thank You" to God for another day. I then do a quick check of the body to see if there is pain flaring. I, along with many people, now have the routine that when I stand up, I make sure I remain still for a few seconds just to make sure the knees and the ankles are willing to support me as I begin to walk.

I have also had poor balance issues over the years. I often say that my walking could be interpreted as my being intoxicated. I am walking along and suddenly a couple of steps go off to the side.... mainly to the right. Thank God that so far I have always been able to touch a wall or use furniture to stop myself, but more and more I am concerned about falling. With both neck surgeries the doctors repeatedly asked me about my balance so maybe that is why I have this syndrome. I don't know for certain.

This has also been one of the reasons I have reached a major decision in my life. After a bit of soul searching and a conversation with my faith mentor, Pastor Dick Benner, I have decided to retire from ministry. Dick and I were talking and he shared about the time that he realized he was burnt out and tenured his retirement. After he said this, I simply replied: "You know Dick, I think I am there." I had never thought about it before this but his words really hit home. So, I have tenured my resignation and announced that my last day of ministry with Blymire's church will be May 31, 2022.

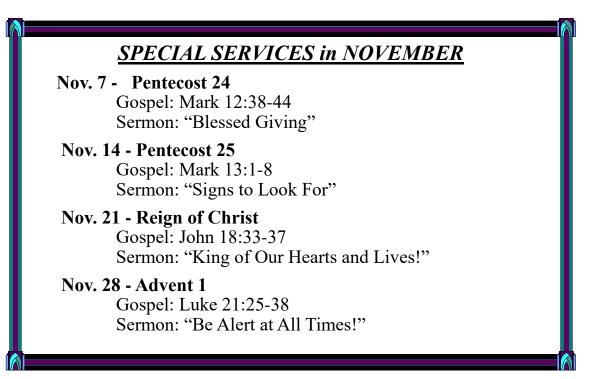
With November being the month of Thanksgiving, I absolutely will be giving thanks for the time that I have shared with the awesome faith family at Blymire's! On October 3rd, I was so touched by the recognition my faith family gave in honor of my 39th Anniversary of Ordination. I received a beautiful charm bracelet with a praying hands charm! THANK YOU again for this precious gift! I said that morning that words cannot truly describe how thankful I am that God led me to share in ministry with the Blymire's family! I will forever give praise to God for this indescribable blessing! The love and support that I have received from this loving faith family has touched me to my core and I will forever praise God for this!

I take the above devotion to heart and will try my best to no longer focus on the body and whatever may be happening any particular day. But, I will try to "view it as the prelude to God infusing energy into my being." Just imagine what may be the result and what retirement may bring!

GOD BLESS in every way that you need!!!

With love, Pastor Lou Ann







#### **Red Brick Church Will Have New Windows Installed**

The decision to replace the windows in the Red Brick Church comes because of evaluation of the windows by the Trustees and the Red Brick church committee. The evaluation found that we need to replace the windows.

The window design is a Low E double-hung window with a grid and insect screens. The cost for the windows and installation is \$16,600. Installation will begin soon.

Anyone wishing to contribute for the new windows may do so by directing the funds to the church office labeled "RBC Window Fund".



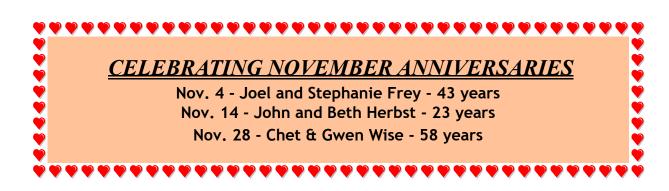
Daylight Saving time ends Sunday, November 7, at 2:00 AM. Don't forget to turn your clocks back one hour.

## <u>NOVEMBER</u> **BIRTHDAYS**



May God Bless You on Your Birthday!

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



#### **FINANCIAL REPORT**

Undesignated General Fund

Red Brick Chapel

Cemetery

Month-2021	Income	Expense	Income	Expense	Income	Expense
January	\$8,700.59	\$8,680.74	\$0.47	\$269.88	\$1,645.35	\$1,826.80
February	\$7,297.86	\$10,776.85	\$0.48	\$311.54	\$0.35	\$10,906.97
March	\$12,966.59	\$15,290.39	\$0.41	\$514.91	\$500.20	\$3,166.46
April	\$10,456.00	\$11,584.36	\$0.43	\$225.92	\$0.18	\$2,351.48
Мау	\$9,569.61	\$9,490.24	\$0.43	\$141.68	\$100.11	\$2,187.50
June	\$10,829.82	\$12,779.61	\$1,400.98	\$350.47	\$1,400.60	\$3,278.75
July	\$7,781.00	\$9,790.40	\$0.45	\$115.23	\$907.02	\$2,255.92
August	\$11,713.61	\$9,064.23	\$0.49	\$125.12	\$0.23	\$2,535.19
September	\$7,682.00	\$13,262.10	\$0.43	\$506.44	\$900.15	\$2,905.15
October						
November						
December						
Total	\$86,997.08	\$100,718.92	\$1,404.57	\$2,561.19	\$5,454.19	\$31,414.22

Balance of Undesignated General Fund @ October 1, 2021

Balance of Red Brick Chapel Fund @ October 1, 2021

(Includes \$63,899.94 Endowment)

Balance of Cemetery Fund @ October 1, 2021 (Includes \$905,847.36 CD's, Trusts, UCC Foundation. Transferred \$15,000 in January and \$10,000 in June from Foundation to People's Bank ) \$81,351.13

(1,631.27)

\$910,279.36

Financial Assistance Given through Hand of Hope Fund - 2021

	# Families		Total		Monthly		Available	
			\$\$\$	Donations		Balance		
Beginning						\$	651.73	
January	1	\$	50.00	\$	21.47	\$	623.29	
February								
March	2	\$	136.75	\$	79.00	\$	565.45	
April	1	\$	79.00	\$	45.00	\$	531.45	
Мау	1	\$	25.00	\$	52.89	\$	559.34	
June	1	\$	50.00	\$	27.00	\$	536.34	
July	1	\$	233.00	\$	83.00	\$	386.34	
August	2	\$	502.00	\$	371.40	\$	255.74	
September	2	\$	50.00	\$	63.00	\$	268.74	
October								
November								
December								

**Total 11 \$1,125.75 \$ 742.76** 

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

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

Linda Trone Room 604 Colonial Manor Nursing Home 970 Colonial Avenue York, PA 17403



Carolyn Innerst Room 123 Senior Commons@Powder Mill 1775 Powder Mill Road York, PA 17403 Keeping in our prayers Dolores Barley Jeanette Black Ron & Maddie Heindel Marti Leader Cindie McKinsey John Montgomery Todd & Melody Myers Ginny Weber Friends battling cancer Covid 19 patients



A1C Ness, Brandon 6907 S. Camino de la Humanidad Tucson, AZ 85756

#### WEEKLY BIBLE STUDY

Our weekly Bible study continues each Thursday morning beginning at 9:00 AM. We are currently using the series "Why? Making Sense of God's Will" by Adam Hamilton. Anyone is welcome to join us and bring a friend. You don't need to be a member of the church to participate.

#### HUGS TEAM

On Sunday, November 7, we will be offering a third session for anyone interested in attending a church and hopefully Blymire's will be their choice. We continue to ask that if you have any contact with someone interested in a church, invite them to check us out. We do have Children's and Teen's Faith Formation sessions planned and ready to go. We just need young people to attend.

#### ADULT FAITH FORMATION

Beginning Sunday, November 21, our Adult class will begin the study: "THE JOURNEY" by



Adam Hamilton. In The Journey, Adam travels from Nazareth to Bethlehem in a fascinating look at the birth of Jesus Christ. Using historical information, archaeological data, and a personal look at some of the stories surrounding the birth, the most amazing moment in history will become more real and heart-felt as you walk along this road.



#### **MEN'S GROUP**

We invite you to join the of Blymire men on Tuesday, November 9, at



7:00 PM at the church. Bring a friend to the meeting. As always we have an open discussion on joys and concerns. Come join us for a time of REMEMBER ALL MEN sharing. ARE WELCOME.



#### **CRAFTERNOONERS**

Our next "Crafternooners" meeting will be held on Sunday, November 14, from 1:00-4:00 PM. Bring any craft project that you

would like to work on, or if you are not crafty, bring games to share with others for an afternoon of fellowship and fun. Please join us and bring a friend if you like.

Our Women's Book Club gives women a chance share the book they're reading and to receive needed support from friends. Come join us. We meet every second and fourth



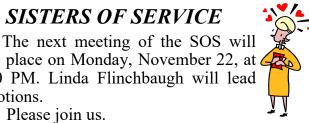
Tuesday at 11:00. We have changed the venue to Lions Pride Restaurant. If you need a lift or have questions, let Ginny Weber know.



Would you like to help your church without spending any extra money? You can do this by buying gift cards to use for everyday purchases. For every card sold we earn a profit

from  $1\frac{1}{2}$ % all the way to 16%, depending on the merchant. To get your cards, just fill out an order form (available on the table in the Gathering Room) and attach a check or cash. Checks should be made payable to St. John's Blymire's UCC. You may drop the orders in the offering plate, place them on Wanda's desk in the office or mail them to the church. Payment must be included with your order. Orders will be sent to the Great Lakes Scrip Center each Monday morning. You may pick up your gift cards from Sandy Innerst at church the following Sunday. For more information about the program, you may call Wanda at the church office or check out the website wwwshopwithscrip.com. This is a great way to do your Christmas shopping this year.

#### SISTERS OF SERVICE



take place on Monday, November 22, at 4 6:30 PM. Linda Flinchbaugh will lead devotions.

Please join us.

#### HOMEWOOD AUXILIARY

As autumn approaches, we begin to look forward to the holiday season and another successful Homewood Auxiliary Membership Drive. Thanks to you and your commitment to the residents of Homewood's retirement campuses, the Homewood Auxiliary continues to provide that extra special support that makes a difference in the lives of so many.

This year's theme is "We're back and better than ever." Each day we are finding new ways to serve the Homewood community and that makes a difference in the future of all our residents. The donation of your time, talent and enthusiasm are all keys in our success and are worth more than you could ever imagine. Your continued commitment to the Auxiliary enriches the lives of each and every Homewood resident and means more than words can express.

When Blymire's representative, Stephanie Frey, asks you to join, please say YES!

Homewood is once again accepting soaker pads and laundry bags. The dimensions are on the bulletin board. If you have any questions, please see Steph Frey. Thanks.



#### MINI FUNDRAISER

Because of the rise in the Delta variant of COVID 19. the SOS has decided to cancel this year's bazaar. They will instead be sponsoring a mini fundraiser through December 19.

If you have any plants or crafts that you would like to donate, you may drop them off at the church any time. Tables will be set up to display them. Please price each item and put them on the designated tables. Shopping can begin November 7, with new items each week. Thank you for your help.



Tree Lighting Service Friday, 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 2021

Proceeds benefit the Current Expense Budget of St. John's Blymire's UCC

- 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 gift to help support church programs

Please join us on Friday, December 24<sup>th</sup> in the Church Sanctuary

<u>Please Note!</u> – In order to be listed on the Scroll of Honor in the Christmas Eve bulletin, light sponsorships must be received by December 19<sup>th</sup>

> \$500 = Red Light \$100 = Blue Light \$ 50 = Green Light \$ 25 = Gold Light \$ 10 = White Light

(Sponsorship form on back)

#### Sponsorship Form

Person giving the Light								
Address City	State	Zin	P	hone				
City		210						
TYPE OF GIFT:								
IN HONOR OF:								
	Id like it displayed on th							
IN MEMORY OF:					-			
	Id like it displayed on th							
YEAR-END GIFT to S	t. John's Blymire's L	JCC						
TYPE OF LIGHT:	\$5	00 Red Light		, ,				
	\$100 Blue Light							
		50 Green Ligl						
		25 Gold Light						
		10 White Lig						
If you would also like to ha	ve an Acknowledge	ement Letter	sent to the	family of the person yo	ou are honoring,			
please tell us who you wou	ld like the Acknowle	edgement Let	ter sent to:	(please supply comple	te mailing			
information as you know it	so we can direct it t	to this person	or family o	correctly. Thank you).				
Name								
Address								
City		State	Zip					
			-					
Please drop your form and								
		Blymire's UC						
	1009 Blyn	n, PA 17313						
	Dallastow	/II, FA 17313						
In order to be listed in	the Christmas Eve b	ulletin, forms	must be re	eceived no later than De	ecember 19 <sup>th</sup>			
Questions? Please call the church office @ 717-244-0655								



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

Will Rogers

Prayer is asking for rain. Faith is carrying the umbrella.

Barbara Johnson

In this noisy, restless, bewildering age, there is a great need for quietness of spirit. Even in our communion with God we are so busy presenting our problems, asking for help, seeking relief that we leave no moments of silence to listen for God's answers. By practice we can learn to submerge our spirits beneath the turbulent surface waves of life and reach that depth of our being where all is still, where no storms can reach us. Here only can we forget the material world and its demands on us.

Alice Hegan Rice

#### **GRACE COMES AFTER US!**

The wasted years of life. The poor choices of life. God answers the mess of life with one word: Grace! Grace. We know the word. The bank gives us a grace period. The seedy politician falls from grace. Grace shares the church parsonage with its cousins: forgiveness, faith, and fellowship. But do we really understand it? We've settled for wimpy grace. It politely occupies a phrase in a hymn and fits nicely on a church sign. Have you been changed by grace? Shaped by grace? Strengthened by grace? Softened by grace? God's grace has a drenching about it. A wildness about it. Grace comes after you. From insecure to God secure. From afraid-to-die to ready-to-fly. Grace is the word that calls us to change and then gives us the power to pull it off!

Max Lucado

Our theories of the eternal are as valuable as are those which a chick, that has not broken its way through its shell, might form of the outside world.

tell stories around the fire PUT ON LONGSLEEVES Fread a book under a tree JUMP IN LEAVES WRAP YOUR HANDS AROUND A HOT MUG eat a caranel apple BE OUTDOORS FEEL CRISP AUTUMN BREEZES roast marshmallows CARVE A PUMPKIN So on a hayride THOLD HANDS AND GET COZY WEAR A SCARF bake cookies and pies TAKE A DRIVE JUST TO LOOK AT LEAVES May your stuffing be tasty. May your turkey be plump. May your potatoes and gravy Have nary a lump. May your yams be delicious And your pies take the prize. And may your Thanksgiving dinner, Stay off your thighs!

#### November 2021



#### **SAYING GRACE**

Saying grace is simply saying thanks, no matter to what or to whom we direct those thanks. Saying thanks is one of the ways that we keep ourselves aware of all that we have to be thankful for, all that is given to us in our lives, all that we can enjoy and use and create and love. I can write these words, and I can read them--there are two things that I have to be thankful for immediately, for these two gifts bring a great richness to my life. And there are many, many other gifts that make my life even richer.

Can you go for a walk today? Have you eaten anything? Have you heard a favorite song, or talked with a good friend? Did you receive a paycheck or have enough money to make a contribution to a charity? Can you feel interesting textures and see beautiful pictures? We all have so many opportunities to say our own small graces many times each day, and doing so would help to keep us focused on all we have to be thankful for, all of the many, many things that make our lives so rich and glorious.

Our meals are gifts, in a very important way, and that's why we say thanks for them. But there are so many other elements of our lives that feed our hearts and our spirits that we don't say thanks for, and that's somewhat sad, I think. We feed ourselves not through food alone, but through all of the things that make us richer, fuller, more loving human beings.

When do you say grace? How many opportunities do you have each day to say thanks for what you've been given without being asked anything in return? All that we have and all that we do are important parts of who we are, and saying thanks for those things keeps us focused on the richness of this glorious experience called life.

#### **GRATITIUDE, A GREAT TONIC FOR WORRY**

If worrying were a paying job, I would be a rich woman. Somehow during my childhood, I got the idea that worrying could actually stave off future disaster, and as I entered adulthood, I became convinced that if I were to stop worrying, took my eye off the ball, as it were, that something dreadful would happen. If I worried enough about being poor, I wouldn't be. If I worried enough about my stepson's health, he wouldn't get sick. There was no room in my heart for happiness because worry took up all the space. (Indeed I was convinced that if I were too happy, it would somehow hex the situation. If I got too happy about love, for example, I wouldn't worry sufficiently and therefore it would be taken away from me.)

In my forties, I have been working on letting go of my compulsive worrying, and I have been amazed at how swiftly a sense of gratefulness banishes the worry warts. Worried about money? I focus on the fact that so far, I have always had what I needed and right now, I have enough. Worried about health? I focus on the amount of good health I'm thankful to be experiencing right now. Worried about--my favorite--a loved one being taken suddenly in an accident? I focus on how grateful I am that they are in my life right now.

I think tapping into the wellspring of gratitude works for two reasons. First, worry is always about the future, if only the next hour or minute, whereas gratitude is in the here and now. Aren't your worries always about what might or might not happen? You are worried about the reaction of your boss tomorrow to your presentation. You're worried about how you are going to afford to send your son or daughter to college. You're worried about the test results. In every case, you project yourself into the future and imagine something bad happening. As André Dubus points out, "It is not hard to live through a day if you can live through a moment. What creates despair is the imagination, which looks to the future and insists on predicting millions of moments, thousands of days, and so drains you that you cannot live the moment at hand." Gratitude brings you back to the present moment, to all that is working well right now. Tomorrow may bring difficulties, but for right now, things are pretty good.

Gratefulness also eliminates worry because it reminds us of the abundance of our universe. Yes, something bad might happen, but given all that you have received so far, chances are that you will continue to be supported on your journey through life, even in ways you would never have guessed or chosen for yourself.

M.J. Ryan

#### WHAT'S IN YOUR CUP?

You are holding a cup of coffee when someone comes along and bumps into you, making you spill your coffee everywhere.

Why did you spill the coffee? You spilled the coffee because there was coffee in your cup. Had there been tea in the cup, you would have spilled tea. The point is, whatever is inside the cup, is what will spill out.

Therefore, when life comes along and shakes you (which WILL happen), whatever is inside you will come out. It's easy to fake it until you get rattled. So, we have to ask ourselves... "What's in my cup?" When life gets tough, what spills out? Joy, gratefulness, peace, and humility?

> Or does anger, bitterness, harsh words, and reactions come out?

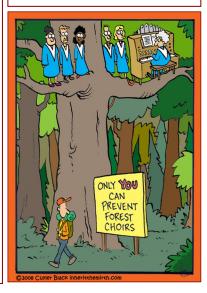
You choose! Today work towards filling your cup with gratitude, forgiveness, joy, words of affirmation, kindness, gentleness, and love.

spend so much time sweating the small stuff; worrying, complaining, gossiping, comparing, wishing, wanting and waiting for something bigger and better instead of focusing on all the simple blessings that surround us every day. Life is so fragile and all it takes is a single moment to change everything you take for granted. Focus on what's important and be grateful! You are blessed. Believe it! Live your life and leave no regrets! Melanie M. Koulouris

Life is so short. We

Think what a better world it would be if we all, the whole world, had cookies and milk about three o'clock every afternoon and then lay down on our blankets for a nap.

Barbara Jordan



## EMMANUEL'S CLOSET

November 2021

#### **Christmas Project**

Because it worked out well last year, we have decided to continue the practice of giving \$50 in gift cards to each eligible child or teen rather than buying them specific



gifts. In order to do this we are asking for cash donations in any amount to help purchase the cards. We would also like to give each child a fleece throw blanket as an extra Christmas gift. We welcome any donations of these blankets, as well as rolls of wrapping paper. If you plan to donate blankets or wrapping paper, please bring them in to the church no later than Sunday, November 21, so we have time to buy more if we don't receive enough in donations. All of the above items will be given out to the parents on December 11 and December 18.



#### **Holiday Meals**

For both their Thanksgiving and Christmas meals, we will be giving each family gift cards to grocery stores to purchase meat

and other perishable food items. The amount of the card will be dependent on the size of the family. For Christmas each family will also receive a special treat of cookies or popcorn.

The Thanksgiving gift cards will be given out on November 13 and November 20. The Christmas gift cards and treats will be given out on December 11 and December 18. Monetary donations to purchase these items would be greatly appreciated. Thank you for your generosity in helping to make the holidays a bit brighter for these families.



#### **E.C. Continuing Needs**

Juice Cereal/Oatmeal Peanut Butter/Jelly Pancake Mix Spaghetti Sauce Boxed Dry Pastas Helper Meals **Dessert** Items **Condiment** Items Canned Tuna/Meats Canned Fruit/Vegetables Soap Shampoo **Toilet Paper** Paper Towels **Dish Washing Liquid** Laundry Detergent All-Purpose Cleaners

Please, NO Expired Food Items

## Below is a list of items that we are especially in need of right now:

Drink mixes (any kind) Rice Tuna, chicken or hamburger helper Sloppy Joe mix Mashed/scalloped potatoes Gravy (packets or canned) Stuffing mix Soup Pancake syrup Jelly

## THANKS FOR CARING!



### **Revelations for NOVEMBER from "Bly Mire" Mouse**

I have an ear worm going on in my head that I just can't stop! The other day I was strolling down the hallway and I heard Pastor Lou Ann singing this song. Now, I cannot "un-hear" it. Oh, I wonder how many of you know this song and if I pass it on to you, will I be able to get it out of my head! For Thanksgiving:

"The turkey sat on the backyard fence and he sang this sad, sad tune: Thanksgiving Day is coming, gobble, gobble, gobble, gobble, gobble, and I know I'll be eaten soon! Gobble, gobble, gobble, gobble, gobble, gobble, gobble I would like to run away! Gobble, gobble, gobble, gobble, gobble, gobble, gobble I don't like Thanksgiving Day!

If you don't know the tune, ask Pastor Lou Ann. I am sure she will sing it for you!

We are in the month of Thanksgiving and Mire and I have the tradition of asking our little ones each day of November what they are thankful for. We try to lead them to name something new each day, but when they say they are thankful for their mom and dad, we just melt and say "That is a good one!" I know there have been You Tube challenges and Tik Tok challenges that entice people to do some pretty dangerous things. I offer a challenge to you all: Join our family in listing each day of November something that you are thankful for! Then, come Thanksgiving Day, everyone has a nice long list of things they are thankful for!

I also list in my thanks-giving the beginning of the Advent season. Even though there is a beehive of activity putting the decorations up and baking the delicious cookies, I always take time in my daily devotions to read the prophecies of God sending his Son, our Savior. I truly love all the scriptures that we hear leading up to the celebration of Christmas.

So, Thanksgiving this month is absolutely one of my favorite days and fall is one of my favorite times of the year. And then the beauty of the Christmas decorations and the many traditions of the celebration of the birth of Christ. "These are a few of my favorite things!!!!" (Another earworm!)

#### November humor:

Knock. Knock Who's there? Arthur. Arthur who? Arthur any leftovers?

If pilgrims travel on the Mayflower, what do college students travel on? Scholar-ships

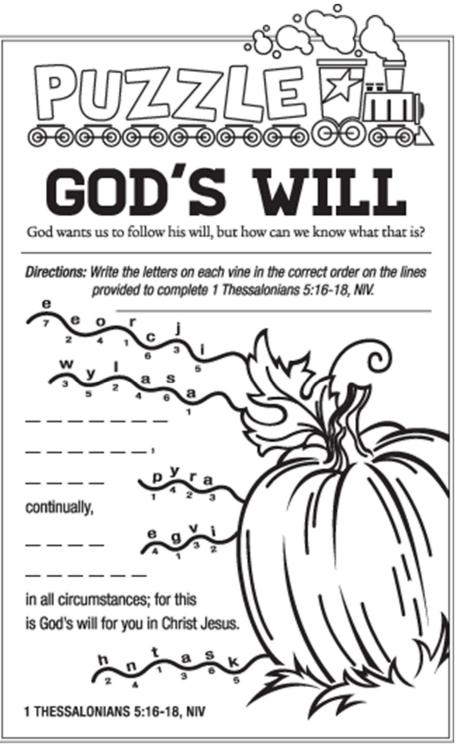
What do you get when you drop a pumpkin? Squash.

God Bless!



Love, Bly and Mire





Answer: rejoice, always, pray, give, thanks