



Notes From The Journey . . .



I overheard a conversation in a restaurant the other day. A young boy (maybe 5 or 6 years old) was asking his mother why we call the holiday "Thanksgiving."

She replied that it is the day when we give thanks. That answer was apparently not enough for the boy, because he immediately came back with, "But why?" It is a good question, and we would do well to follow

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his example of not simply settling for the quick and easy answer. The practice of paying attention to our blessings and giving expression to our gratitude is deeply rooted in human experience because it connects us with the core of who we are. It

enriches our lives by putting us in touch with what is already true – we live abundant lives in an abundant world. We can get so focused on the day-to-day routines of our

living that we forget to notice the richness of our lives. Or we get so weighed down by the painful realities of our lives and our world that we lose sight of the bigger picture. Taking time to be intentional

about "counting our blessings" is good for the soul. This week, as we celebrate the "Thanksgiving" holiday, I hope you will allow it to serve as an opportunity to experience the full, rich abundance of life. Thanks be to God. - Roger

Interfaith Community Thanksgiving Vigil Tuesday, November 20th @ 5:30 p.m.



The Moscow Interfaith Association is sponsoring a *Thanksgiving Vigil* in Friendship Square (downtown Moscow) beginning at 5:30 p.m. on the Tuesday prior to Thanksgiving. The event is expected to be about a half hour in length. It will bring together people from across our diverse community and provide an opportunity for expressing gratitude. You are invited to participate. Dress appropriately for the weather. You may bring a candle or other light source. Donations of food and/or money will be accepted for the local food banks.

Christmas for Kids

Again this year our congregation will be participating in the local Christmas for Kids program. We will be providing gifts for 2 families, with a total of 7 children (3 gifts for each child). Tags for specific gifts are available to pick up in the Fellowship Hall. You are invited to pick up a tag, purchase the gift, wrap it, put the tag on the outside, and return it to the church no later than Sunday, December 9th. For additional information, or to volunteer to help, contact *Alberta Hill*.

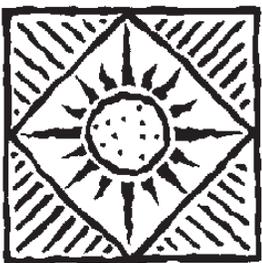
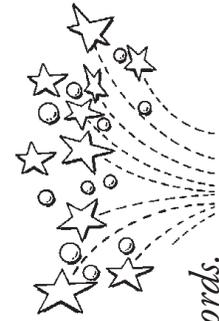


Food For Finals – December 10th-14th

Every semester the Campus Christian Center makes food available during finals so students have a place to study and eat. Last fall they served approximately 275 plates of food. We can participate in this important ministry by donating bread and chips. A sign-up sheet will be available beginning Sunday, December 2nd.

Adventures in Spiritual Play – Sunday Evenings in November @ 7 p.m.

We are exploring new & creative ways of praying
and experiencing our spiritual connection
with ourselves, each other & the sacred presence.
This is an experiential practice involves “doodling” with color, lines, shapes & words.
No artistic talent required & everyone is welcome.



– Holiday Activities –



The Advent/Christmas season is upon us, and with it comes lots of activities at the church. It is a great time to get involved. It also provides a wonderful opportunity to invite someone to join you.

Decorating the Sanctuary - Sunday, December 2nd @ 8:30 a.m.



Come help us prepare the sanctuary for the season. In two hours, with help from you, we will transform the sanctuary with greenery, wall hangings and various other decorations. There is something for everyone to do. Bring work gloves and/or pruning tools if you have them. We are in need of greenery for the swags and boards. We also need a Christmas tree. If you can help with these donations, please contact *Roger Lynn* ASAP.

Caroling & Chili - Sunday, December 9th @ 4:30 p.m.

We always have a good time traveling around town singing carols to folks from the church who have a hard time getting out. Then we return to the church to eat chili. Remember to dress warm. If you would like to provide some of the chili, please contact Roger Lynn.



Christmas Music in Worship - Sunday, December 16th @ 11 a.m.



The choir is working hard to prepare for Christmas. On the 16th the morning worship service will feature them singing several seasonal selections.

Christmas Dinner - Sunday, December 16th @ 6 p.m.

The turkey, dressing, potatoes, gravy and rolls are provided. (You can volunteer to help with this portion of the meal by contacting *Roger Lynn*) The rest of the meal is potluck. This is our “church family” holiday feast. It is a great time to bring family and friends. The evening will also include a time for singing favorite carols, and perhaps even a visit from a bearded gentleman dressed in red.



Christmas Eve Candlelight Worship - Monday, December 24th @ 7 p.m.



This traditional service features a simple, quiet evening filled with candles, carols, scripture readings, stories and communion. It provides an opportunity to reflect on the wonders of God’s love as we share the evening with family and friends.

Tree Burning - Sunday, December 30th @ 5 p.m.

Following worship on December 30th we will take down the greens from the sanctuary. Then that evening we will gather at the Leonard Farm on Robinson Park Road for a bonfire, followed by chili and other goodies to eat and drink. You are invited to bring the tree from your home to add to the fire if you like. If you would like to provide some of the chili, please contact *Roger Lynn*.



Personal Glimpses

Paul Santoro had emergency surgery and spent some time in the hospital in November. He is now home and recovering.

Lou Stevens & Dorothy Roberts both took falls recently. They are recovering from the bangs and bruises.

Viva Grove is finally out of the wrist cast which she has been wearing since her surgery a couple of months ago.

Karen Davis is scheduled for surgery this week.

Bonnie Nelson had a heart catheterization procedure earlier this month.

Russ Chrysler celebrated his 99th birthday on October 21st. Get your party hats ready because next year we'll have 100 reasons to celebrate!

Celebrating Birthdays . . .

. . . *In November*

4th - Tammy Lanting

5th - Deborah Lanting-Leonard

11th - Jeanette Talbott

12th - Kalena Suquet

. . . *In December*

5th - Charlotte McCallum

11th - Ed Goforth

17th - Lois Bradberry

21st - Pat Gentry

*If we've missed your birthday, please let us know so we can update our records.
We want to include you.*

Finance & Investment Advisory Committee

This fall a special committee (*Brent Bradberry, Alberta Hill, Iris Manning and our treasurer Linda Fleener*) made a series of recommendations to the board regarding how we handle the church's finances (particularly our savings and endowments). These recommendations were gratefully received and embraced by the board, and they are now being implemented. They include moving our bank accounts to Sterling Bank, consolidating accounts, making better use of CDs and other investment tools, and establishing better monitoring of those accounts to obtain the best rate of return for our money. Many thanks to the members of this committee for their dedication to the long-term financial health of this congregation.



The Board of Elders & Deacons

The members of this group are elected to three-year terms. They serve the church in a variety of ways. Their most visible role is praying at the communion table each Sunday. But perhaps their most important role is related to the "shepherding lists." Everyone in the congregation is included in a list which is overseen by a pair of elder/deacons. They try to be aware of significant events (both celebrations and crises) in the lives of the people on their list, and offer support and assistance when appropriate and helpful. The list is posted on the bulletin board across from the office. Feel free to contact them any time.



Facilities Improvement Update

The Property Committee, under the leadership of *Barbara Hisel*, has been busy on several projects, including: new paint, flooring and fixtures in both upstairs bathrooms; patching the flat roof; new shelving in the janitor closet; and general organization and cleaning up in various places around the building. Thanks to everyone who helped.



Volunteer Opportunities

Help with Sunday Snow Removal this winter

Bake communion bread

Serve as an usher/greeter on Sunday morning

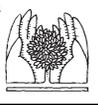
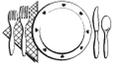
Serve as a liturgist for worship

There are sign-up sheets on the bulletin board for all of these important jobs.

There are a variety of ways for you to get involved in the life of the church and make a difference, including

Nov / Dec

2007

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
18 Thanksgiving Sunday 7:00 PM, Adventures in Spiritual Play 	19 7:00 PM, Spiritual Mysteries 	20 5:30 PM, AA Meeting 5:30 PM, Interfaith Thanksgiving Vigil	21	22 Thanksgiving Day 5:30 PM, AA Meeting 	23	24
25 7:00 PM, Adventures in Spiritual Play 	26 7:00 PM, Spiritual Mysteries 	27 5:30 PM, AA Meeting	28 7:00 PM, Elders/Deacons 	29 5:30 PM, AA Meeting	30	1 • December •
2 Fellowship Fund 1st Sunday in Advent 8:30 AM, Hanging the Greens 	3 7:00 PM, 4-H 7:00 PM, Spiritual Mysteries 	4 5:30 PM, AA Meeting	5 7:00 PM, Choir Rehearsal 	6 5:30 PM, AA Meeting	7	8
9 2nd Sunday in Advent 4:30 PM, Caroling & Chili 	10 Food for Finals 7:00 PM, Spiritual Mysteries 	11 Food for Finals 5:30 PM, AA Meeting	12 Food for Finals 12:00 PM, Cancer Support 2:00 PM, Sunshine Club 7:00 PM, Board 7:00 PM, Choir 	13 Food for Finals 5:30 PM, AA Meeting	14 Food for Finals	15
16 3rd Sunday in Advent 6:00 PM, Christmas Dinner 	17 7:00 PM, Spiritual Mysteries 	18 5:30 PM, AA Meeting	19	20 5:30 PM, AA Meeting	21	22
23 4th Sunday in Advent 	24 7:00 PM, Christmas Eve Candlelight Worship 	25 Christmas! 5:30 PM, AA Meeting 	26	27 5:30 PM, AA Meeting	28	29



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• Return Service Requested •

– We Need Your Help –

Year-to-date giving is considerably behind what is needed to meet our planned ministry & mission goals. Please check to make sure you are current with your commitment. And consider making an additional “end-of-year” donation. Thank you!

