

The Heritage and Heart of Thanksgiving

By Pastor Jame John

The autumn season ushers in multicolored foliage, a crisp breeze, and an abundance of comforting food, signifying the arrival of Thanksgiving. It is a celebration of our gratitude toward God, especially for the blessings of His bountiful provisions each year.

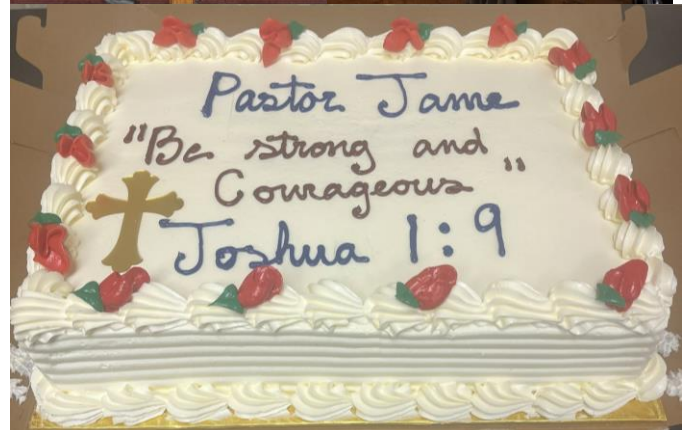
The tradition of Thanksgiving is observed in numerous cultures globally. One of the earliest such observances is documented in the Old Testament, where the children of Israel celebrated God's faithfulness and provision with thanksgiving. The three primary pilgrim festivals of the Israelites — Passover and Pentecost in the spring, and Sukkot (or Booths/Tabernacles) in the fall — each coincided with the harvests of Barley, Wheat, and Fruits, respectively.

Christian churches have commemorated Thanksgiving since the earliest days. The practice of gathering together for special services, prayers, and feasts after a fruitful harvest became common, particularly following the Protestant Reformation. In the New World, such celebrations were conducted as early as the 1500s by the French and the Spaniards. Early English settlers placed significant importance on expressing gratitude to the Lord in all circumstances.

A notable recorded Thanksgiving celebration occurred in 1619, when thirty-eight Englishmen aboard the ship Margaret arrived in Virginia with a charter from the London Company declaring: "that the day of our ships arrival at the place assigned for plantation in the land of Virginia shall be yearly and perpetually kept holy as a day of thanksgiving to Almighty God."

Continued on page 2...

Installation Sunday



More Installation Sunday pictures on page 4...

"The Heritage and Heart...", continued

The origin of American Thanksgiving is most frequently traced to the harvest celebrations of New England, especially in Plymouth, the first permanent English colony in Eastern Massachusetts. The Puritans and Pilgrims, seeking refuge from religious persecution in Europe, endured a perilous transatlantic voyage and a harsh first winter in the New World. In gratitude, the Mayflower Pilgrim Fathers held a three-day harvest feast with the Wampanoag people, with whom they shared a mutual defense treaty.

The Founding Fathers also valued national days of thanksgiving, and both the Continental Congress and President George Washington issued proclamations to that effect. However, it was the New Jersey Congressman and Founding Father Elias Boudinot who, in 1789, proposed that Congress request President George Washington to designate a Day of Thanksgiving, thereby establishing the first National Thanksgiving Day proclaimed by the United States government. Later, in 1863, President Abraham Lincoln declared Thanksgiving a national holiday, instituting the annual observance that we cherish today.

For the New Testament believer, Thanksgiving is not confined to a single day, a weekend, or even a season. Instead, it is intended to be a daily lifestyle. Every breath, every moment, and each new day provides reasons for us to be thankful. Above all, our salvation through the finished work of our Lord Jesus Christ offers more than sufficient reason to be eternally grateful.

Many individuals, however, are led by vain and foolish pride into a dark state of self-deception, primarily causing them to remain ungrateful. Romans 1:21 states, *"because, 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."*

One of the clear signs of the last days, as indicated by the Bible, is people becoming unthankful (2 Timothy 3:1-2). This stands in direct contrast to the very essence of the basic tenets of Christian discipleship. Yet, embracing gratitude is the surest path to access the presence of God. The Psalmist reveals this truth in Psalm 100:4:

*"Enter into His gates with thanksgiving,
And into His courts with praise.
Be thankful to Him, and bless His name."*

As Christians, we are commanded to be thankful. Colossians 3:15 states, *"And let the peace of God rule in your hearts, to which also you were called in one body; and be thankful."* Therefore, as the nation celebrates another Thanksgiving this month with turkey dinners, annual parades, and sports activities, let us also be thankful, ensuring that it is not confined to just one day each year, but rather intentionally practicing it so it becomes our everyday way of life.

Oftentimes, we are grateful to God when new opportunities arise. However, I have learned from experience that we should also thank God for all the closed doors as well. A closed door is God's protection, and an open door is His favor for divine purpose. Even if you perceive little to be thankful for at this moment, by faith you can still give thanks to the Lord, for His promises always remain "Yes" and "Amen" (2 Corinthians 1:20). Let us also remind ourselves to be grateful for everything He has prepared for us who love Him (1 Corinthians 2:9). My family and I are grateful for the blessed opportunity to serve God and minister to His people here at Windsor Chapel. Happy Thanksgiving!



Happy Birthday!

Blessings to all who celebrate a birthday this month. May you feel the love, joy and presence of the Lord as we all celebrate your special day with prayers and warmest wishes.

Joella John	November 1
Olivia Bernheisel	November 15
Susan Seiboth	November 30



Elders' Corner

By Ken Bills

In July 2024, as Windsor Chapel had been without a senior pastor for six months and was embarking on a challenging search for a new pastor, we gathered as a congregation. Among other topics, we shared the blessings for which we as a church were thankful even in that difficult time. Those reflections, together with our collective discernment of our opportunities and dreams for Windsor Chapel, were assembled in a paper titled "The Heart of Windsor Chapel" which played an important role in introducing pastor candidates to Windsor Chapel.

November is a traditional month to give thanks for God's blessings, so I decided to look back on what we were thankful for at the start of our pastor search.

We were thankful for our facility: that it was debt free, and for the ministry opportunities it afforded. We were also thankful for our location in the midst of largely Asian population that needed to hear the Good News of Jesus.

We were thankful for our shared commitment to ministry. We gave thanks for our commitment to Biblical teaching and our gifted teachers, for our heart for worship and the worship team, and for our God-given desire to reach out to our community, as well as for the opportunities we had to share the Gospel through the 5-Day Club, the Easter Egg Hunt and our counseling ministry.

We were thankful most of all for our people!

For a truly loving church that cares for each other and loves God

For a church body that is committed to following the Lord and to growing together in love and faith

For a body that loves and genuinely welcomes visitors from all cultures and ethnicities

For a church filled with grace, that avoids legalism and judging

For a commitment to unity in the essentials of the faith, that allows for liberty in non-essentials

For a body that prays and serves faithfully, with many willing volunteers

For a body that is blessed with diverse and strong spiritual gifts, and for our leaders and elders

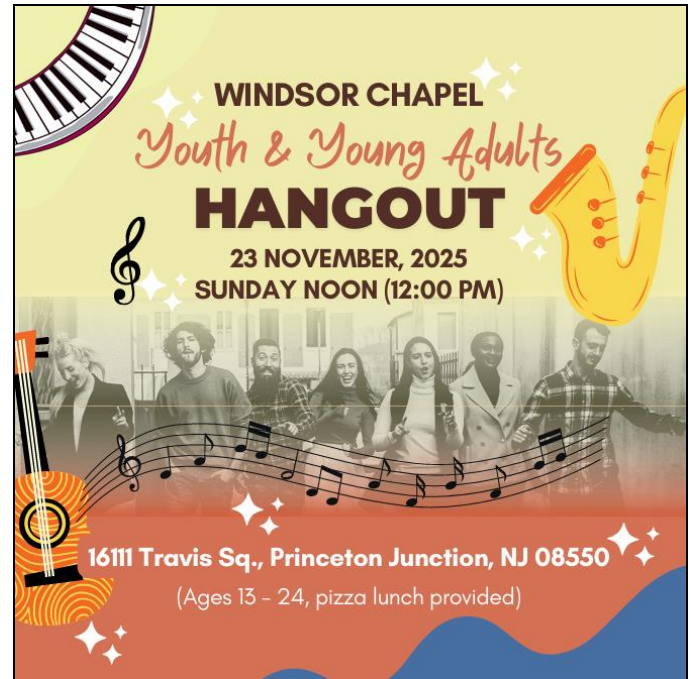
For a body that is compassionate and committed to reaching others with the Gospel of Christ

Looking back, despite the challenges facing us last year, we had a lot to be grateful for. For we had already experienced God's grace and presence with us, and His work among and through us! This Thanksgiving we have even more to be thankful for! God has answered our prayers for a new pastor, and has brought Pastor Jame, Ansu, Joanna and Joella to minister with us! As we begin a new stage of our life together, let's do so with our hearts filled with gratitude and thanksgiving. To God be all thanks and praise!

Do not be deceived, God is not mocked; for whatever a man sows, this he will also reap. For the one who sows to his own flesh will from the flesh reap corruption, but the one who sows to the Spirit will from the Spirit reap eternal life.

Galatians 6:7-8

More Installation Sunday...



Food, faith, and fun! Don't miss this chance to connect with other young people from our chapel family in a relaxed, friendly atmosphere on Sunday, November 23, at 12:00 noon, at Pastor Jame and Ansu's home.



Fall back, not behind!
CHANGE YOUR CLOCKS and
join us on time for worship.

Daylight Saving Time ends on Sunday, November 2, at 2:00 am. Turn your clocks back by one hour on Saturday night before going to bed, which means you gain one hour of sleep. While adjusting your clocks, this is a good time to remember to insert new batteries in all smoke and carbon-monoxide alarms.

Share the Bounty of God's Blessings!

Help Windsor Chapel partner with the Harris Ministry in Trenton to provide Thanksgiving meals for families in need this year. If you wish to share in this blessing through giving this Thanksgiving, donations to help cover the cost of the turkeys and potatoes may be added to your checks by indicating Benevolence Fund or online tithes for Windsor Chapel.



"For I was hungry and you gave me food: I was thirsty and you gave me drink; I was a stranger and you welcomed me."
Matthew 25:35:



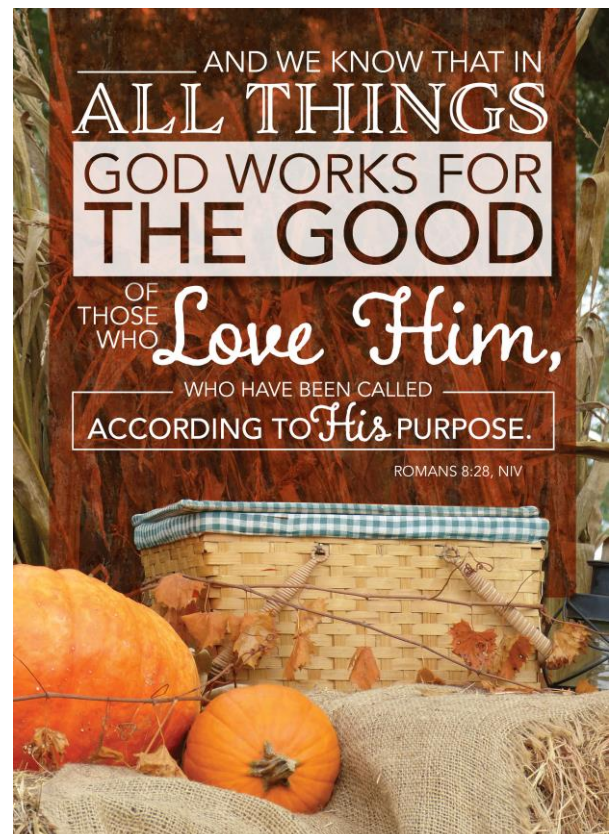
"Light is not so much what you directly see as that by which you see everything else."

Richard Rohr



Mark Your Calendar!

Please join us on Saturday, December 6, from 9:00 am to noon, for some healthy exercise as we spruce up our grounds in preparation for the upcoming holidays. We'll be raking the leaves and transporting them to the curb. Bring rakes, tarps, gloves, etc., if you can. Coffee and donuts will be provided! The Boy Scouts will be assisting us. Thank you for your participation.



Further Up and Further In

*Inviting dialogue to encourage growth in
and among us*



By Cindy Bills

The Giving of Thanks

It is November, and we are looking forward to Thanksgiving. But thanksgiving—the giving of thanks—is appropriate and indeed vital every day of every year. The topic of expressing gratitude and/or appreciation has countless facets. Feeling and expressing appreciation releases “happiness” hormones, particularly dopamine and serotonin, and we feel good. It serves our physical, mental, and emotional health. The giving of thanks is good for our spiritual health as well, turning our focus where it belongs, on our Creator, Savior, and Lord. When we give thanks and praise Him, we are far better able to see the Lord’s hand in our lives. And finally, God’s Word calls us to give thanks in all times, in all places, for all things, to the Giver of all good gifts. (James 1:17)

The giving of thanks is also crucial in the development of a relationship. When we give anything, we take something of substance from ourselves and turn outward with it toward someone. It becomes a means of connection. So when we express gratitude to God, we reinforce our faith relationship and strengthen our connection with our Creator, Savior, and Lord. But as we give thanks to God for others, it also turns our hearts toward them. We promote relationships as we affirm their value. The Apostle Paul provides numerous examples in his epistles of thanking the Lord for those to whom he was ministering long-distance. I have often wondered at the breadth and depth of Paul’s relationships with countless members of countless churches sprawled across a good portion of the known world. I suspect that Paul’s attitude of gratitude toward others and the quantity and quality of his relationships were closely related.

What might this mean for us as we walk in faith as the body of Christ? In our rushed, competitive, and performance-focused culture, it is tempting to become self-focused and operate from a platform of expedience rather than to be led and fueled by the indwelling Holy Spirit. It can be easy to choose independence over faith, missing precious opportunities to become more deeply connected to one another. And connection is crucial if we are to become a unified, fully functional body unit that is able to participate in the Lord’s kingdom work among us and through us and to manifest Christ to an unbelieving world by our love and unity.

May we be continually mindful that the Lord has blessed us with one another!

We ought always to give thanks to God for you, brethren, as is only fitting, because your faith is greatly enlarged, and the love of each one of you toward one another grows ever greater.
2 Thessalonians 1:3

Please feel free to contact Cindy (609-275-8557) or cynthialbills@gmail.com to continue the dialogue....

Financial Update

(Through September 30, 2025)

“The Lord is my Shepherd, I shall not want...”

	Actual	Budget
Income	\$87,363	\$108,000
Expense	\$97,382	\$108,000

If you have any items or information you would like to share in the newsletter, please e-mail:

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