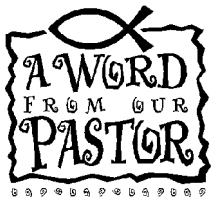


# THE MESSENGER

FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH  
200 NW 2<sup>ND</sup> Street  
Okeechobee, Florida 34972-4174  
Phone (863) 763-4021  
www.fumcokee.com

NOVEMBER, 2017



This month we will again celebrate Thanksgiving on the 4<sup>th</sup> Thursday and it is a wonderful day! I know that officially it is only a day, but for a long time I have tried to make Thanksgiving into a longer experience. I am not talking about the school break being a whole week, but rather extending the practice of Thanksgiving: family, football and of course turkey, but these are fleeting. Family goes home and football games end and leftovers give out, but giving thanks should be a daily practice. Do you remember the refrain of the old song, *Count your blessings, name them one by one, Count your blessings, see what God has done!* If you started right now to count your blessings, how long would it take to finish? You can't get to the end. We may think we can name them all, but I have found that there are so many more things than I can name. As long as I draw breath, there will be at least one more thing for which to be thankful. And when I draw my last, there will be a myriad of new blessings because I will stand in the presence of the one who gave everything for me and for you!

My hope is that you will join me in giving thanks to God for the blessings of life. There is no limit on how long it takes, just how long we can pay attention. Life has a way of overwhelming us and distracting us. We focus on problems rather than blessings so much of the time. But this month, I encourage you to take some time, once a day or once a week or maybe just on Thanksgiving, but spend time giving thanks to God for all of your blessings!

Blessed Thanksgiving,

Don



The United Methodist Women invite everyone to attend their Annual Fall Bazaar on Saturday, November 4 from 8:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall. You will find a variety of crafts, quilted items, nuts, knives, baked goods and white elephant items. There will also be a large selection of Christmas items and gifts. Plan on staying for lunch. Soup, sandwiches and desserts will be available from 11:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m. Proceeds will go to mission projects local, national and abroad. Come and bring a friend!

Donations of "quality" white elephant items are needed (no clothes). Especially popular are knick-knacks, glassware, small appliances, costume jewelry, children's toys, Christmas decorations, etc. They may be left in the Conference Room through Thursday, November 2 or brought to the Fellowship Hall by 10:00 a.m. Friday, November 3. Donations of baked goods are also requested. Good sellers are fudge, cookies, small breads (such as banana) and brownies. Bring them to the Fellowship Hall on Friday morning or early Saturday morning. Craft donations are also most welcome.

BEGINNING SUNDAY,  
NOVEMBER 5 OUR WORSHIP  
SERVICES WILL BE HELD AT  
8:30 A.M. (TRADITIONAL) AND  
11:00 A.M. (BLENDED).  
SUNDAY SCHOOL WILL BEGIN  
AT 9:45 A.M.





**SMOKED CHICKEN DINNER**  
Sponsored by United Methodist Men

Friday, November 17  
11:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m.  
(Take-out Only)  
4:00-6:30 p.m.  
(Dine-in or Take-out)

Donation: \$10.00

**MEMBERSHIP CLASS:** The next Membership Class will be held on Sundays, November 12<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> following the 11:00 a.m. worship service. This is for anyone wishing to know more about United Methodism and our church in particular. Lunch will be served. Please let us know if you are interested so that we have adequate materials by contacting Opal Wolff at 763-4393 or the Church Office at 763-4021.



- 1<sup>st</sup> - Robert Stefanov, Bryce Emley
- 2<sup>nd</sup> - Ed Bobbitt, M/M Richard Mattern, June Waite
- 5<sup>th</sup> - Cynthia Yoder
- 6<sup>th</sup> - Joe Juday
- 7<sup>th</sup> - Robert Steiner
- 8<sup>th</sup> - Savannah Simpson
- 9<sup>th</sup> - Ricky Barnes III, Roseann Stanford
- 10<sup>th</sup> - Caitlin Spangler, Tad Norman
- 14<sup>th</sup> - Connie Phillips
- 16<sup>th</sup> - Corinna Comfort, Marian Smith
- 17<sup>th</sup> - Murrah Elmore
- 19<sup>th</sup> - M/M Jim Dawson, Robbin Dawson
- 20<sup>th</sup> - Rosemary Hill, Wesley Hill
- 28<sup>th</sup> - Kristin Higgins
- 29<sup>th</sup> - Katherine Ragamat, Christy Spangler, Opal Wolff
- 30<sup>th</sup> - M/M Gary Sperry

If your birthday or anniversary is incorrect or has been omitted, please call the Church Office.

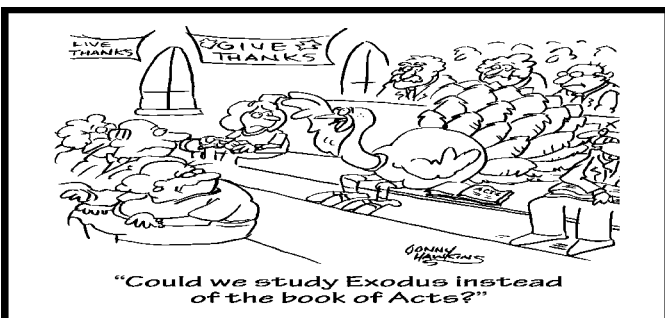


**ATTENTION WOMEN:**  
Please mark your calendars for the following dates:

November 4, 8:00 a.m.-  
1:00 p.m. - Bazaar

- November 7, 5:45 p.m. - Exec. Committee
- November 7, 7:00 p.m. - Esther Circle
- November 8, 1:30 p.m. - Ruth Circle
- November 16, 1:30 p.m. - Lydia Circle

**REMEMBER TO TURN YOUR CLOCKS BACK ONE HOUR ON SATURDAY NIGHT, NOVEMBER 4!**







**PUZZLE**

**GIVE THANKS TO GOD**

God gives us many blessings every day. How can we thank him?

*Directions: To complete the Bible verse below, follow the code and fill in the blanks.*

A=1, B=2, C=3, D=4, E=5, F=6, G=7, H=8, I=9, J=10,  
K=11, L=12, M=13, N=14, O=15, P=16, Q=17, R=18,  
S=19, T=20, U=21, V=22, W=23, X=24, Y=25, Z=26.

" \_\_\_\_\_ will \_\_\_\_\_ 16 \_\_\_\_\_ 18 \_\_\_\_\_ 1 \_\_\_\_\_ 9 \_\_\_\_\_ 19 \_\_\_\_\_ 5 \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_ ' \_\_\_\_\_ name in \_\_\_\_\_ 19 \_\_\_\_\_ 15 \_\_\_\_\_ 14 \_\_\_\_\_ 7 \_\_\_\_\_  
and \_\_\_\_\_ 7 \_\_\_\_\_ 12 \_\_\_\_\_ 15 \_\_\_\_\_ 18 \_\_\_\_\_ 9 \_\_\_\_\_ 6 \_\_\_\_\_ 25 \_\_\_\_\_ 8 \_\_\_\_\_ 9 \_\_\_\_\_ 13 \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_ 20 \_\_\_\_\_ 8 \_\_\_\_\_ 1 \_\_\_\_\_ 14 \_\_\_\_\_ 11 \_\_\_\_\_ 19 \_\_\_\_\_ 7 \_\_\_\_\_ 9 \_\_\_\_\_ 22 \_\_\_\_\_ 9 \_\_\_\_\_ 14 \_\_\_\_\_ 7 \_\_\_\_\_"

Answer: "I will praise God's name in song and glorify him with thanksgiving." Psalm 69:30, NIV