

A word from Rev. Barry Andrews, Senior Pastor

This article is being written on October 31st, which happens to be the 500th anniversary of Martin Luther nailing his 95 Theses on the door of the castle church in Wittenberg, Germany. This date is celebrated as the birthday of the Protestant Reformation. You remember that Ryan and I spent a fair amount of time going down the Reformation Trail in England, Holland, Denmark, and Germany this past August. We visited churches, historic sites, castles, and kiosks in these countries, and learned how their histories, and ours, have been formed by this revolutionary protest. Luther's five points, Sola Scriptura, Sola Fide, Sola Gratia, Solus Christus, and Soli Deo Gloria, have provided a foundation and framework for the church for these 5 centuries.



It's important to know from whence we've come, and to give thanks for the blessing of bold, brave thinkers who use their gifts for God's Glory. In our age of, in my view, unparalleled greed, it's valuable to note that there are many things more valuable than personal gain, and church reformers like Luther and Wesley, while very different from one another, spent their lives in the service of God and humanity. They realized that one of the reasons for the relative ineffectiveness of the church in their age was that it had turned inward, seeking its own satisfaction as a primary goal, rather than looking for gain in service. Perhaps that is the failing of the church today, and a primary reason why we see such serious decline in religious interest in Europe and North America. Have we turned inward, seeking our own good above God? Are our old prejudices and selfish ways challenged by God's Word? How often have we complained about the evils of a godless culture when, in fact, the fault lies within? That's the challenge of reformation --- not to change others, but to be changed by Scripture, Faith, and Grace, from Christ alone, for his Glory.

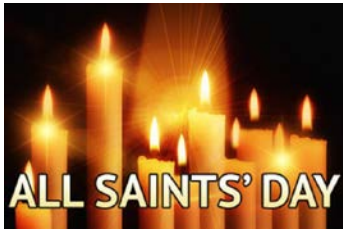
November is a chance for us to give thanks for all that God has done, and to give thanks that we Protestants can still be reformed, after all these years. May our hearts and lives be open to God's movement amongst us, and may God use Faith to be a part of his grace in today's world.



We are celebrating our appreciation for our pastors on Sunday, November 5th. Please come show them how much we love them!

And give any cards, money, or gifts cards for them to Susan Davis or Marisol Melendez.





Do United Methodists believe in saints?

Yes, but not in the same manner as the Catholic Church.

We recognize Matthew, Paul, John, Luke and other early followers of Jesus as saints, and countless numbers of United Methodist churches are named after these saints.

We also recognize and celebrate All Saints' Day (Nov. 1) and "all the saints who from their labors rest." All Saints' Day is a time to remember Christians of every time and place, honoring those who lived faithfully and shared their faith with us. On All Saints' Day, we along with many other churches read the names of their members who died in the past year.

However, our denomination does not have any system whereby people are elected to sainthood. We do not pray to saints, nor do we believe they serve as mediators to God. United Methodist believe "... there is one God; there is also one mediator between God and humankind, Christ Jesus, himself human who gave himself a ransom for all" (1 Timothy 2:5-6a).

John Wesley believed we have much to learn from the saints, but he did not encourage anyone to worship them. He expressed concern about the Church of England's focus on saints' days and said that "most of the holy days were at present answering no valuable end." Wesley's focus was entirely on the saving grace of Jesus Christ.

United Methodists call people "saints" because they exemplified the Christian life. In this sense, every Christian can be considered a saint.

We will celebrate All Saints' Day in church on November 5, 2017 to remember those who have gone before us. This year we especially remember:



Cristina Garrett
11/17/2016



Andy Sabol
12/3/2016



Joe Collins
1/12/2017



Jimmie Wells
2/2/2017



Robbie Burroughs
4/10/2017



Marilyn DiViesti
5/14/2017



Hoke St. John
08/11/2017

Adapted from <http://www.umc.org/what-we-believe/ask-the-umc-do-united-methodists-believe-in-saints>.



November 2017

- November 4, 2017 - **DLC Nurse & Learn Passport to Riverside and Avondale Event.** Buy your ticket to Passport 2017 now at <https://904tix.com/events/passport-to-riverside-avondale/>
- November 11, 2017 - **Super-Charged Conference**, 9 a.m.-12 p.m. @ CrossRoad UMC. We are excited to announce that we will be doing something different with charge conference in 2017. We will have ONE charge conference for all of our faith communities in the district. It will allow all of us to come together, to worship, learn, lead, and do some business.
- November 15, 2017 - **Finance/Trustees Training**, 6:30-9 p.m. @ Riverdale UMC. This will be a brown bag meal training. Bring a brown bag meal with you. The District Office will provide drinks and snacks. This training is free but you must register to attend.
- November 16, 2017 - **Finance/Trustees Training**, 6:30-9 p.m. @ Lake Shore UMC. This will be a brown-bag meal training. Bring a brown bag meal with you. The District Office will provide drinks and snacks. This training is free but you must register to attend.
- November 18, 2017 - **Fresh Expressions Event**, 9 a.m.-4 p.m. in Deland, at Collective Church. This is a one-day intensive with acclaimed writer, pastor and emergent spiritual leader, Brian McLaren. Brian will discuss themes from his recent book, The Great Spiritual Migration. Following conversation with Brian, we will workshop next steps in our own projects. The cost for the day will be \$29 per person. Sign up at www.freshexpressionsfl.org/events/! Questions? Email us at freshexpressions@flumc.org.
- November 28, 2017 - **SPRC Training with the DS**, 7-9 p.m. @ River of Life UMC. This training is free but you must register to attend.

December 2017

- December 11, 2017 - **SPRC Training with the DS**, 7-9 p.m. @ Riverside Park UMC. This training is free but you must register to attend.
- December 13, 2017 - **DCOM Meeting (Re-certifications)**. You need to be invited to attend this meeting by the DCOM registrar.

2018

- January 18, 2018 - Luncheon with Duval County UMC Pastors & Schools. 11:30 a.m. - 1:30 p.m. @ Southside UMC.
- January 20, 2018 - District Leadership Event - Location 1 @ Keystone UMC, Keystone Heights
- January 27, 2018 - District Leadership Event - Location 2 @ Beach Church, Jax Beach
- January 28, 2018 - Faith & Family Weekend @ The Jacksonville Icemen Ice Hockey Game. The District Superintendent will drop the puck at the game. We will also be able to go onto the ice after the game for a group picture with everyone from the District in attendance. Tickets will be available in the coming weeks.
- February 10, 2018 - MissionInsite Training with Tom Bandy @ CrossRoad UMC, Jacksonville
- February 22, 2018 - Duval County Principal & Pastor's
- March 1, 2018 - District Ministry Team Meeting, 11:30 - 3 @ Fleming Island UMC - Brown Bag Lunch. All clergy serving a local church are required to attend.
- April 13-14, 2018 - District Lay Servant Ministry Training @ New Life Community UMC
- October 20, 2018 - Super-Charged Conference @ CrossRoad UMC, Jacksonville

This Northeast District calendar is from <http://www.flumc.org/october2017districtnewsletter>.



Founded in 1940, the United Methodist Committee on Relief (UMCOR) is the global humanitarian aid organization of the United Methodist Church. UMCOR is working in more than 80 countries worldwide, including the United States. Our mission, grounded in the teachings of Jesus, is to alleviate human suffering—whether caused by war, conflict or natural disaster—with open hearts and minds to all people. UMCOR responds to natural or civil disasters that are interruptions of such magnitude that they overwhelm a community's ability to recover on its own. UMCOR works through programs that address hunger, poverty, sustainable agriculture, international and domestic emergencies, refugee and immigrant concerns, global health issues, and transitional development. Learn more at www.UMCOR.org and follow on social media: facebook.com/UMCOR and twitter.com/UMC_UMCOR.

UMCOR has recently responded to:

- Mudslide in Sierra Leone
- Hurricane Harvey
- Hurricane Irma
- Hurricane Jose
- Hurricane Maria
- Mexican earthquakes

When you do make a financial donation, you can be assured that every dollar will go to the program you specify. UMCOR can guarantee this because all of the administrative costs are covered by the [UMCOR Sunday](#) offering and other undesignated gifts. [Volunteering](#) or [sending relief supplies](#) to one of their supply depots are two more ways you can be a sign of hope for others. Your prayer support is vital to all that UMCOR does.

Advance Number to request your donation to go to US Relief: 901670

Advance Number to request your donation to go to International Relief: 982450



Crop Walk Update

Faith UMC had 8 participants in the Crop Walk this year. The total for fundraising was officially \$3,831, of which UCOM will receive 25% for their Emergency Services. Faith UMC donated \$535 towards the total. The food donations collected on the walk day came to 72.3 pounds. Thank you to all who participated and to all who donated.

Participants: Evelyn Penney, Susan Davis, Sarah Reed, Cynthia Shank, Dustin Reed, Alayna Reed, Sue Speicher, and Rev. Barry Andrews.



Sunday, October 29th was UMW Sunday. Thank you to all who participated in the Worship Service and the luncheon following. We collected over \$300 for UMW programs and missions – Thank You!



Our UMW Unit Meeting will be on Saturday, November 4th at 10 AM in Asbury Hall. We will conduct an All-Saints Program, determine disbursement of 2017 monies, and plan events for 2018. All women are encouraged to attend and participate.

The UMW Christmas brunch/luncheon is scheduled for Saturday, December 2nd. Details to come.



Getting ready for Hurricane Irma, the Children's Home spent significant time and preparation for the storm. The staff received annual training on hurricane preparedness in August. The Enterprise campus also participated in an evacuation drill. Hurricane preparedness covers many facets, from stocking water and non-perishable food to generator maintenance and removal of dead limbs from trees.

The Leadership Team had several meetings in order to form the strategy of action. The end result was to evacuate the Enterprise Campus to the Methodist Home for Children in Macon, Georgia. The Madison Youth Ranch would shelter in place. The Enterprise children and residential staff made the six hour drive without incident. They spent 5 days at the Macon facility and had a great time where The Methodist Home folks were incredibly generous to the children.

During the storm, the campuses sustained minor effects. At the Enterprise Campus several trees fell, some cottages had some roof damage, and power was off for a while.

The evacuation went well and the children were returned to the campus safe and sound. Since the Home in Macon blessed the Enterprise group with such great hospitality, the Children's Home plans to do something in the future to show their appreciation.

The next 5th Sunday will occur December 31st for the special Children's Home offering, but donations can be made at any time. A big thanks to all from the children.

Cynthia Shank, Local Church Representative

How many times does the word “Thanksgiving” appear in the Bible?

No cheating or internet searches allowed! This does not include the many times the base word “thank” is used. Take a guess and reply to this email, text or call Linda at 904-703-2930, or tell me at church. The person closest to the correct number will receive a surprise.



In the Bible “thanksgiving” is not about a meal with all the trimmings in which we indulge. How interesting that the Greek word for “thanksgiving” is “eucharistia”, from which we get the word “Eucharist”, which is used of communion wherein the bread and wine remind us of that indescribable gift.

Below is a recap of some of the Biblical uses of “Thanksgiving” with Scripture references provided.

- There was a “fellowship offering of thanksgiving” (Lev. 7:13,15) in the Old Testament and a “cup of thanksgiving” in the New Testament of Jesus’ blood shed on our behalf. (1 Cor. 10:16).
- “Thanksgiving,” in the Bible, is not a holiday celebration, although joyful singing, shouting, and praising God accompanies it. (Ezra 3:11; Neh. 11:17; 12:8; 12:24, 27, 46; Ps. 42:4; 69:30; 95:2; 147:7; Isa. 51:3; Jer. 30:19; Jonah 2:9).
- The biblical use of “thanksgiving” is not a once a year occurrence but rather a regular expression of praise to God, a way of life. (Eph. 5:4; Phil. 4:6).
- In the Bible “thanksgiving” is not merely sitting around saying what you are thankful for but also being used by God to cause others to overflow in thanksgiving. (1 Cor. 14:16; 2 Cor. 4:15; 9:11).
- Nor does the Bible describe “thanksgiving” as mere expressions of thanks for what or who you are glad for but rather is to be made for everyone and everything. (1 Tim. 2:1; 4:3-4).
- The Bible does not describe “thanksgiving” as a time to get together with family and friends but even better an opportunity to go into the presence of the Almighty God. (Ps. 95:2; 100:4).

The holiday rendition of “Thanksgiving” has merit but falls short of the biblical use of the word. Let’s remember to give thanks at all times (Eph. 5:20) and in all circumstances (1 Thess. 5:18). And let’s remember to top the list of that for which we are grateful with Jesus. — “Thanks be to God for his indescribable gift!” (2 Cor. 9:15).

From <https://mintools.com/blog/thanksgiving.htm>.





Thanksgiving Jokes



A 4-year-old boy who was asked to return thanks before Christmas dinner. The family members bowed their heads in expectation. He began his prayer, thanking God for all his friends, naming them one by one. Then he thanked God for Mommy, Daddy, brother, sister, Grandma, Grandpa, and all his aunts and uncles. Then he began to thank God for the food. He gave thanks for the turkey, the dressing, the fruit salad, the cranberry sauce, the pies, the cakes, even the Cool Whip.

Then he paused, and everyone waited--and waited. After a long silence, the young fellow looked up at his mother and asked, "If I thank God for the broccoli, won't he know that I'm lying?"

http://jokes.christiansunite.com/Prayer/In_All_Things_Give_Thanks.shtml



When did the Pilgrims first say "God bless America"?
The first time they heard America sneeze!



Why can't you take a turkey to church?
Because they use such fowl language.

What kind of music did the Pilgrims like?
Plymouth Rock.

What do the turkeys sing on Thanksgiving Day?
God save the kin.



If April showers bring May flowers, what do May flowers bring?
Pilgrims!

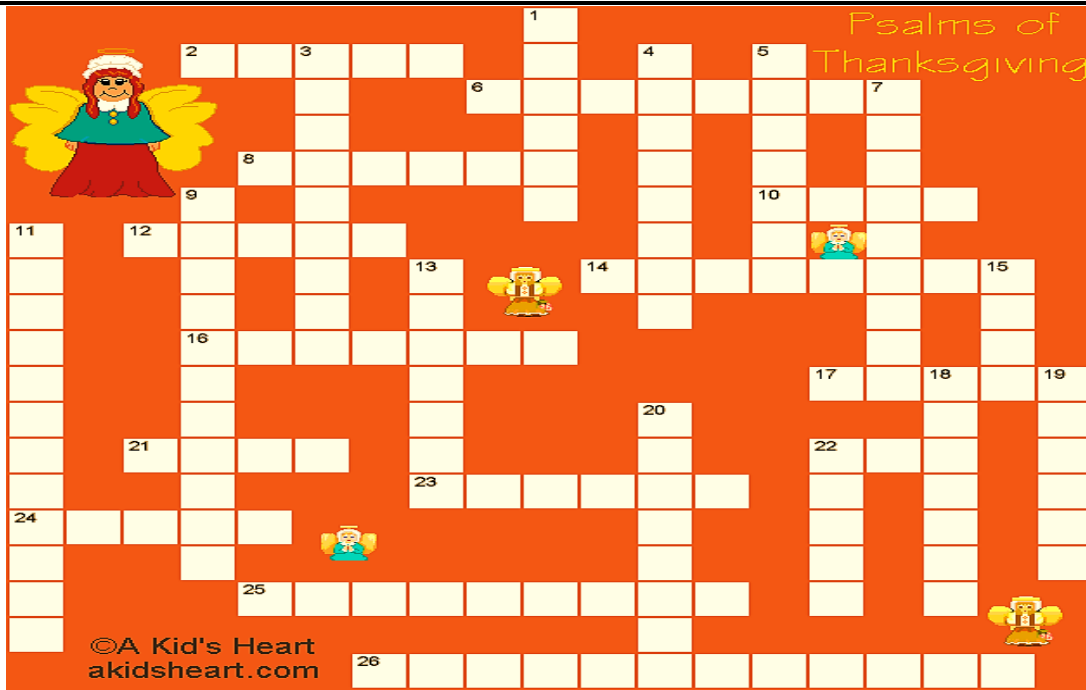
What will a dramatic turkey say to another turkey on Thanksgiving morning?
To be or not to be roasted, that is the question.

What do you get when you cross a turkey with an octopus?
Enough drumsticks for Thanksgiving

Why did the police arrest the turkey?
They suspected it of fowl play

<http://thanksgiving.fundootimes.com/jokes/christian-jokes.html>





Across

2. Unto you, O God, do we give thanks, unto you do we give thanks: for that your name is near your wondrous _____ declare. Ps 75:1
6. Sing unto the Lord, O ye saints of His, and give thanks at the remembrance of His _____. Ps 30:4
8. Let us come before His presence with thanksgiving, and make a _____ noise unto Him with psalms.
10. Sing unto the Lord with thanksgiving; sing praise upon the _____ unto our God. Ps 147:7
12. Praise ye the Lord. O give thanks unto the Lord; for He is good: for His _____ endures forever. Ps 106:1
14. Enter into His gates with thanksgiving, and into His courts with praise: be _____ unto Him, and bless His name. Ps 100:4
16. I will praise the name of God with a song, and will _____ Him with thanksgiving. Ps 69:30
17. O give thanks unto the Lord; call upon His name: make known His _____ among the people. Ps 105:1
21. It is a good thing to give thanks unto the Lord, and to sing praises unto your _____, O most High. Ps 92:1
22. O give thanks unto the _____ of gods: for His mercy endures forever. Ps 136:2
23. O give thanks unto the God of _____: for His mercy endures forever. Ps 136:26
24. That I may publish with the _____ of thanksgiving, and tell of all your wondrous works. Ps 26:7
25. Whither the tribes go up, the tribes of the Lord, unto the _____ of Israel, to give thanks unto the name of the Lord. Ps 122:4
26. I will give thanks in the great _____: I will praise you among much people. Ps 35:18

Down

1. So we your _____ and sheep of your pasture will give you thanks for ever: we will show forth your praise to all generations. Ps 79:13
3. And let them sacrifice the sacrifices of thanksgiving, and declare His works with _____. Ps 107:22
4. At _____ I will rise to give thanks unto you because of your righteous judgments. Ps 119:62
5. Therefore will I give thanks unto thee, O Lord, among the _____, and sing praises unto your name. Ps 18:49
7. I will offer to you the _____ of thanksgiving, & will call upon the name of the Lord. Ps 116:17
9. Rejoice in the Lord, you righteous; and give thanks at the _____ of His holiness. Ps 97:12
11. Offer unto God _____; and pay your vows unto the most High. Ps 50:14
13. Save us, O Lord our God, and gather us from among the heathen, to give thanks unto your holy name, & to _____ in your praise. Ps 106:47
15. O give thanks to the _____ of lords: for His mercy endures forever. Ps 136:3
18. O give thanks unto the Lord, for He is good: for His mercy _____ forever. Ps 107:1
19. To the end that my glory may sing praises to you, and not be _____. O Lord my God, I will give thanks unto you forever. Ps 30:12
20. Surely the righteous shall give thanks unto your name: the upright shall dwell in your _____. Ps 140:13
22. For in death there is no remembrance of thee: in the _____ who shall give thee thanks? Ps 6:5