



November 2023

Fox River Life



This following article was written by Rev. Joshua A. Squires who is the associate minister of counseling at the First

Presbyterian Church in Columbia, S.C. He also is an occasional contributor to Ligonier. This article is from November 21, 2002.

Gratitude is the heart's response to grace, or at least it should be. Take Psalm 117, the shortest psalm in the Psalter and thereby the shortest chapter in Christian Scripture. It reads: "Praise the Lord, all nations! Extol him, all peoples! For great is his steadfast love toward us, and the faithfulness of the Lord endures forever. Praise the Lord!"

The psalmist cannot help but be overcome by gratitude and praise. And this is for a single reason only: God's never-ending, covenant love which endures toward His people forever. Two elements of this petite psalm should jump right off the page at us. First is the scope of those who should be grateful. Does the psalmist believe that Israel alone should shout in acclamation? Is it limited to those who have Hebrew blood coursing through their veins? No. It is all the nations! All peoples! The psalmist in a moment of jubilant thanks seems to peer from the old covenant into the eschaton, presaging the words of John in Revelation 7:9–12, which read:

"After this I looked, and behold, a great multitude that no one could number, from every nation, from all tribes and peoples and languages, standing before the throne and before the Lamb, clothed in white robes, with palm branches in their hands, 10 and crying out

Inside this issue

From the Pastor's Desk (cont.)1,2,3,
St. Joseph Food bank..	3
Children's Church Update3
Deaconess Ministry	
Update...	5
Intentional Discipleship Update5
Women's Ministry.....	6
Schedules.....	7
Mission Update.....	8
Young at Heart Update	8
Single Women's Ministry8
Birthdays and Anniversaries...	9

with a loud voice, “Salvation belongs to our God who sits on the throne, and to the Lamb!” 11 And all the angels were standing around the throne and around the elders and the four living creatures, and they fell on their faces before the throne and worshiped God, 12 saying, “Amen! Blessing and glory and wisdom and thanksgiving and honor and power and might be to our God forever and ever! Amen.”

As the plan of salvation comes to fruition, all, including the heavenly host, cannot help but fall down in praise and thanks to almighty God. It is the instinct of redeemed creatures when they receive blessing without merit. And that is the second element which is apparent in Psalm 117: That for which the psalmist is so grateful is not something which he earns or deserves. It’s not something he believes he is owed. In fact, it has nothing to do with him, other than the reality that he is a recipient of this matchless gift. It is God and what He has done, without reference to our worthiness, which elicits such incredible and intense proclamations of thanks.

More than that, expressions of genuine heartfelt thanks seem to point others in a palpable way to grace. For instance, take the following description of gratitude published not by evangelicals, but by the American Psychological Association in a book titled, *Character Strengths and Virtues: A Handbook and Classification*: “What marks gratitude is the psychological response to the gift, whatever its nature, and the experience, however briefly, of the transcendent emotion of grace—the sense that we have benefited from the actions of another.” It appears that even those writing in the purely secular sphere recognize that grace is the central feature of the experience of gratitude, though they fail to apprehend the One whose gracious nature stands behind such experience (Eph. 2:8

Furthermore, gratitude is not merely passive and reflexive. It is also active and willful. For example, Paul, when he writes famously to the Philippians (4:4–7), states:

“Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, rejoice. Let your reasonableness be known to everyone. The Lord is at hand; do not be anxious about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.”

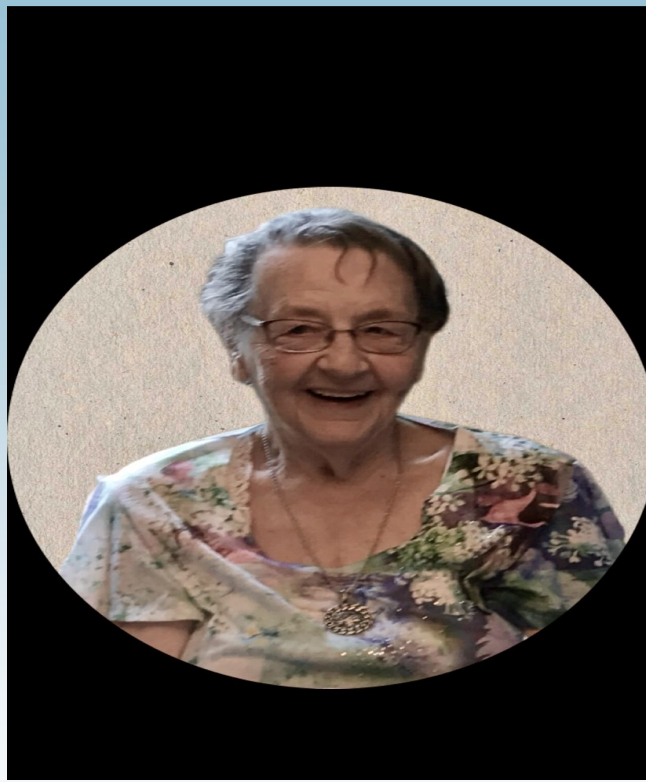
According to Paul, when we willingly choose to focus on those things for which we are thankful in the Lord, it has a heart-shaping effect. Even when our hearts and minds would rather be focused on the negative. And what is that effect? When we steward our minds to meditate on the gracious gifts of God, then peace from God, which surpasses all ability to cognitively work out, seems to rule in our hearts.

I often tell my counselees that “Help!” is a perfectly acceptable one-word prayer. So too is the twice as long “Thank you!” The former is for the languishing soul, the latter for the exultant. One begs for grace, the other acknowledges grace already received.

One last point on the virtue of gratitude for this Thanksgiving: thanks is one of the major tributaries which finds itself terminating in that beautifully deep and wide river we know as awe. As we become those who intentionally transform our lives to recognize the nearly innumerable gifts given to us by God, our hearts are taken by the currents of gratitude and become those which so easily and often find themselves in awe and wonder simply worshipping at the throne of the King of kings and Lord of lords.

This Thanksgiving as we sit around with our families celebrating and rehearsing the gifts for which we should be thankful, may our praise not be platitudinous, dim, and drowsy, but rather earnest, vivid, and energetic. Coming, as for the believer they do, from grace-inundated lives, pointing toward a generous and gracious Giver, with the hope of the glorious grace we will have in its fullness one day when Christ returns and our feast of thanks finds its richest fulfillment (Isa. 25). Happy Thanksgiving!

Happy Thanksgiving! Pastor Tim



We celebrate life of a remarkable women, a loving church member, mother, grandmother, veteran and friend, most of all a child of God. Mrs. Betty is with Christ and will rise again on the last day. Rejoice in her life on this earth. A life that blessed so many people.

Food of the Month Forecast

Food is what drives us, and it's no surprise that much of our food supply comes from donations. We welcome nonperishable food items all year long, but sometimes our generous supporters do not know exactly what we need. In order to remove the guesswork around food donations, we are focusing on a specific need each month.



Our goal is to get 2,000 cans of Soup for November



Deaconess updates

This past Sunday was our celebration of Pastor Appreciation Weekend. We are so thankful to the Lord for giving us Pastor Tim. He is singularly focused on the Word and helping us “sheep” to grow in our understanding of God and who He is. We celebrated Tim with balloon sheep in the yard and a chili lunch in the Fellowship Hall. Thank you, Pastor, for all you do. We love you



DISCIPLESHIP



Intentional Discipleship:

Men & Women's Saturday Morning Bible Study:

Both of these studies are currently working through books of the Bible. The Men are Jeremiah Chapter 2, I would encourage the men to attend as we are just getting started. For more Information contact either Scott or Ryan Smith. The two ladies Bible Studies (Thursday afternoon & Saturday morning) are in the midst of a study of the book of the Bible. Even though they have already started with them, you are welcome to join anytime.

Sunday School:

We will be continuing our Sunday School Curriculum this fall as we are in the book of Acts and the beginning of church, Ryan Smith will be teaching in the month of November. The workbooks are available in the Fellowship Hall and if you are able put \$5 in the offering plate per book. We are about half way through but do not let that be a deterrent, you will get something out of each class.

For more information contact Scott Smith at 920-903-7444.

November 5th:

Because of the passing of our dear sister Betty on October 29th, we will be doing the Reformer Biography on November 5th at 5:00.

I wish to extend my sincerest gratitude for your kind expression of appreciation for you Pastor that took place on October 29th. It was a surprise and very humbling. A special thanks goes out to the Deaconesses for pulling it all together, and for filling my office with sheep. From your fellow sheep/under-shepherd I wanted to let you know I love "ewe".

PT

Women's Ministry

Women's Ministry has been very busy this fall. October was the month for our semiannual collection to bless Vida. This time, besides filling the Pack'N Play with items for the Little Dear Boutique, we included the opportunity to contribute money so that needed items could be purchased for the soon-to-open Trinity House. That giving idea became more urgent in mid-October when we were told that the home had an opening date—October 30. We sincerely thank all of you who responded so generously. The items that were brought to the Pack 'N Play in the church lobby will be delivered next week. Also, the gifts of money totaled \$1,095.88 We will soon be ready to give a Sunday morning report of the items we were able to purchase.

“Craft Day with a Purpose” was a huge success as the women lovingly created over 200 Christmas ornaments. Every resident of Brewster Village will receive an ornament and a Gospel tract to wish them a Merry Christmas. Be watching for details of the Christmas Gathering we have scheduled for the residents on December 9. Ornaments will also be offered as a blessing to the residents who worship with our Care Partners Ministry Team.

And last but not least, a Cookie Exchange is being planned again this year. The date and other details will come out soon. Music, cookie samples with milk for dipping, and prizes for the best cookies will be part of the fun. So, be thinking about what cookie you would like to share when we help each other out with our Christmas baking. Hope to see you on that fun day.





Sunday Evening Services Schedule

November 05—Ask Pastor Tim @ 5:00pm

November 12—Prayer @ 5:00pm

November 19—Solus Christus @5:00pm

November 26—Prayer @ 5:00 pm



Financial Update 2023
Budget needed weekly: \$ 2836.35
Contact Mark Wildenberg with questions.



Women's Prayer
Wednesdays at 9:30am

Women's Bible Study
Thursdays at 1:00pm

Men's & Women's
Bible Study
Saturdays at 8am



November 05

Pat Groff

November 12

Christopher Smith

November 19

Ray Rudzinski

November 26

Jeffery Smith



Please contact Carol Smith at
(920) 788-9795
to volunteer for Nursery

Connect
WITH OUR
CHURCH FAMILY

Mission Board

Our last meeting was held October 16. One important agenda item was to plan the Shepherd's Care training, which took place the afternoon of October 25. Rich Engle from Shepherd's Care Outreach taught us how to be a blessing to lonely people in nursing homes. The "what to do" and "what not to do" rules that we learned will be very helpful when we meet new people, and also when we visit friends and relatives who are in that difficult stage of life.

Budget was another item on the agenda. We have given the elders our requests for 2024, which include increasing the giving to some of our supported missionaries. Thank you for your generous tithes and offerings, which allow Fox River Baptist Church to be a blessing to our missionary families.

This time of year also includes sending out the "Annual Missionary Update" forms to each of our missionaries. Though we do not require a lot of lengthy answers for "how are things going" questions, we do hope to get insight into their needs, problems, and plans for the future.

Our next meeting is scheduled for January 15 at 1:00 p.m.

Young at Heart will be providing our monthly service at Care Partners on Thursday November 2 at 1030 am. If you would be interested in joining us, please see Lynn Abitz at 920-788-9482



Single Women's Ministry



The **Single Women's Ministry** will be meeting on November 12th after Church Service, meet at Game Day at 12:30 pm

FRBC Vision Statement

We desire that everyone who enters Fox River Baptist Church grow in the grace and knowledge of Jesus Christ and grow in authentic, loving, familial relationships to make the name of Christ known in our community and world, all for the glory of God and joy of all.



03—Rob and Lynn Mlodzik

r

Fox River Baptist Church

2700 East Henry Street
Appleton, WI 54915

Phone: 920-734-6162

E-mail: office@foxriverbaptist.com

Website: foxriverbaptist.com

Office Hours: Tuesday, Wednesday
& Thursday - 12:30 pm to 4:30 pm



Here at FRBC, we have a prayer chain meant for the sharing of prayer request needs and for sharing praise for the awesome & mighty work God does in our lives. Please feel free to share any praise or request at our new Prayer request email address:

Prayer@FoxRiverBaptist.com

Care to be part of the prayer chain?

Email or call Becky Godfrey at
becl.godfrey@gmail.com —
(920) 277-1526