



Worshiping God With Joy.

Serving Others.

Embracing All.

*Serve the Lord with gladness, come before Him with joyful singing...Enter His gates with thanksgiving and His courts with praise. Give thanks to Him, bless His name. For the Lord is good; His loving kindness is everlasting and His faithfulness to all generations.”
(Psalm 100:2, 4-5)*

November 2017

PASTOR'S PONDERINGS ...

"Let gratitude be the pillow upon which you kneel to say your nightly prayer. And let faith be the bridge you build to overcome evil and welcome good."
-- Maya Angelou

November ushers in the start of the holidays, and an accompanying, irresistible temptation to get caught up in busyness and superficial hustle. I have lived through many holiday seasons at this point; and maybe you're like me – making resolutions each year, and hoping against hope, to learn lessons about how to “chillax” (chill out/relax) as the young people say (or maybe they're not saying that now) in order to stay in the moment, not sweat the small stuff, accept that things don't have to be perfect, and most of all to try to enjoy the holiday season with all that it has to offer in terms of beauty, celebration, hospitality, and time with friends and family.

I haven't gotten very good at that yet – maybe you have some secret you can share. For many years my attempt at a solution has been after the season to determine not to celebrate either Thanksgiving or Christmas ever again – at least in the traditional ways. Inevitably though, despite resistance on my part, I do get caught up by the Christmas spirit! But I'm already starting to feel stressed. So I'm not going to think too far ahead for now.

Let's stay focused on November – not the turkey dinner part of it – but the bigger picture. It's an important time to remember what makes the season so special and so necessary. And I don't use the word 'necessary' lightly. Thanksgiving is a time for reflection that inspires gratitude. I believe learning the value of true gratitude in our lives is one of the most important things that make it possible to live a joyful, fulfilled life.

Through the joys and trials of life, and we all have them in varying degrees, we find hope in God that makes us thankful. But the path to thankfulness is sometimes complicated. Nothing worthwhile ever comes easy. Perhaps the only way to find and stay on this path to thankfulness is to practice, practice, practice gratitude until it becomes our mindset and ingrained in our very soul – until gratitude itself transforms our whole outlook on life.

Gratitude becomes transformative for us as we focus on the positive things in our lives. We can be grateful for even the challenges we encounter, as challenges provide opportunities for growth and strength. The simple act of saying 'thank you' is even transformative for others as we show our appreciation for who others are and what they do, not to mention what they mean to us. Ultimately, having gratitude reminds us of what's really important – and what isn't. And while we're at it, we shouldn't forget to have gratitude for ourselves – our lives – who we are, what we do, and what we mean to others. You know what they say: 'you can't give away what you don't have.' We cannot learn to love, respect, cherish and appreciate others unless we can do those things for ourselves.

Finally, the Bible is filled with exhortations to rejoice, to give thanks, and to be grateful. Be thankful. God has commanded it—for our good and for His glory. We have a debt of gratitude that can never be paid as we consider God's great and everlasting gift of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. So let us:

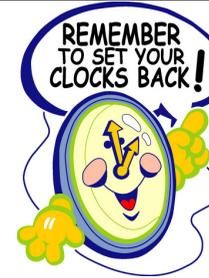
Rejoice always, pray without ceasing, give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you. (1 Thessalonians 5:16-18)

Blessings on your season of Thanksgiving ... Pastor Kathi

"Be thankful for what you have; you'll end up having more. If you concentrate on what you don't have, you will never, ever have enough." --
Oprah Winfrey

A Simple Prayer of Gratitude

*I dwell upon the goodness in my life. Thank you.
I cherish in my heart your gift to me. Thank you.
I notice the blessings of life, breath, loving and sharing.
I am so very grateful.
Thank you, Lord.*



Daylight Savings Time Ends

**Don't forget to set your clocks BACK
one hour before you go to bed on
Saturday, November 4**



NEED A RIDE? We know that some of you may have a difficult time getting here on Sundays. If you want to be here, we want you to be here. So please contact the office (973-635-5567) some time Monday thru Thursday, between 9:00 a.m. and 1:00 p.m. prior to that Sunday, and let us know. We will do our very best to arrange a ride here and back.



**COFFEE HOURS: WE NEED YOUR HELP! PLEASE
TAKE A MOMENT TO SIGN UP TO HOST ONE OF OUR
COFFEE HOURS. THE SIGN-UP SHEET IS TACKED TO
THE BULLETIN BOARD IN THE NARTHEX.**

Sundays at Ogden – November

Sunday, November 5 - Communion

9:00 a.m.	Chancel Choir
9:20 a.m.	Chimes Ensemble
10:00 a.m.	Worship
10:15 a.m.	Sunday School
11:00 a.m.	Refreshment and Fellowship
11:15 a.m.	Worship & Music Committee
11:15 a.m.	Youth Music

Sunday, November 12

9:30 a.m.	Chancel Choir & Youth Music
10:00 a.m.	Worship No Sunday School
11:00 a.m.	Refreshment and Fellowship
4:00 p.m.	Concert on Main – Allissa Stahler
5:00 p.m.	Community BBQ Dinner

Sunday, November 19

	Guest Organist/No Ensembles
10:00 a.m.	Worship
10:15 a.m.	Sunday School
11:15 a.m.	Refreshment and Fellowship

Sunday, November 26

9:00 a.m.	Chancel Choir
10:00 a.m.	Worship No Sunday School
11:00 a.m.	Refreshment and Fellowship
11:15 a.m.	Youth Music
11:30 a.m.	Decorate the Sanctuary
12:30 p.m.	Youth Group Hike

IN TOUCH, INVOLVED, INVESTED ...

Our formal financial Stewardship Season is almost at an end. A letter and pledge card will be mailed to members and friends of Ogden in the near future. We ask that you carefully and prayerfully consider your financial commitment to the church. It takes the faithful contributions of the entire Ogden community to enable the continued ministry and mission of our church. **We will be celebrating Stewardship Sunday and dedicating our pledges/gifts on Sunday, November 12.**

And just a reminder that true Christian stewardship isn't just about money. God calls us to be good stewards in every aspect of our lives. We as Christians can use all of our resources—time, talents, gifts, and finances—for the glory of God.

Special thanks to Lizza Apostola who has put so much time and effort into planning and executing this Stewardship Campaign.

AND PLEASE DON'T FORGET TO ADD YOUR MESSAGE TO THE GENEROSITY SIGHTINGS BOARD IN THE NARTHEX! This is an opportunity to express your gratitude for the people who help make Ogden tick.

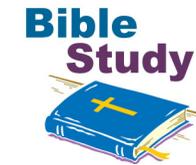
UPCOMING EVENTS

Sunday, November 12: 4 pm Concert on Main in the Sanctuary; and 5 pm BBQ/Community Dinner in the gym. Please be aware that you are invited to either of the events or both. You are asked to RSVP (if possible – but not necessary) to June – 973-635-5567 – before November 7 in order that we might better plan for quantities of food needed. Don't forget to bring a non-perishable food item for the Interfaith Food Pantry!

Sunday, November 26: We're decorating the church and getting ready for the Christmas season. So please plan to stay, help beautify the sanctuary, narthex and parlor and enjoy a light lunch. It's a great way to begin to get in the Christmas spirit! (And we really need your help and decorating advice!!)

Sunday, December 17: You definitely don't want to miss this special Sunday – our annual Children/Youth Christmas Pageant during the regular church service. Afterwards you are invited to stay and enjoy a special Christmas brunch, followed by Christmas caroling.

Sunday, December 24: Please note that Christmas Eve falls on a Sunday this year. We will hold our regular Sunday morning service at 10 am. The Christmas Eve service will be held at 5:30 pm that evening. We hope you can make both of these special services.



NEXT BIBLE STUDY:

We'll gather in the Library on *Tuesday, November 28, at 10:30 a.m.* for another thought-provoking and insightful group discussion.



Thanks So Much ... to all of you who brought in winter coats, hats, gloves, scarves for those in need. The 'drive-thru/drop off' event held the afternoon of 10/22 was very successful. Thanks to the Roos' who put their time and effort into this mission project.

FURNACE UPDATE: We are pleased to announce that the installation of new gas furnaces is complete. In addition, we had to install a new hot water tank. Add these costs to the cost of asbestos removal and the need to remove the existing oil tank, suffice it to say that this has been a major expense for Ogden. However, this cost is tempered by the anticipation of great savings in fuel costs over what we have been spending on oil. You will be hearing more about this project in the near future as we reach out to our members and friends as we initiate a fundraising campaign to cover at least some of the cost of the installation.



MISSION-OF-THE-MONTH

This month we will be collecting donations of non-perishable food items for Interfaith Food Pantry (IFP) of Morris County. Items listed as “especially needed” by IFP include:

*pasta, soup, 100% juice (32 oz), tea bags,
coffee, nuts, mini-marshmallows, pickles,
muffin mix, brownie or cake mix, icing,
canned fruit, powdered milk, evaporated milk,
jello, pudding, canned pumpkin,
canned vegetables (especially corn),
salad dressing, cranberry sauce and canned yams.*

**We will be collecting donations through midday Sunday, November 26.
Thank you for your generosity and for caring for the less fortunate.**



♪ Music Notes ♪

With fall in full swing there's a lot happening for our Music Ministry. I am working with music participants (and their schedules) to make sure each ensemble is sharing their talents as often as possible:

Chancel Choir continues to add to worship many Sundays and both our Youth Musicians and Chimers are often active at least one service per month. As usual, this is outlined in our monthly calendar. Please take note of that and also the announcements below about Concerts on Main, especially our November 12 performance.

Also, of note are two important December dates to get in your calendar now:

- **SUNDAY, DECEMBER 17:**
Christmas Pageant, 10:00 a.m.
Holiday Brunch & Caroling, 11:00 a.m.
- **SUNDAY, DECEMBER 24:**
Worship for Fourth Sunday of Advent, 10:00 a.m.
Christmas Eve Worship, 5:30 p.m.

★ **Concerts on Main** ★

www.ConcertsOnMain.org

Our beautiful sanctuary will again be filled with special music for Concerts on Main. Based on helpful feedback from many Ogdenites we'll again present different musical genres of music in the late fall and winter.

The series resumes on **Sunday, November 12, at 4:00 p.m.** in conjunction with that evening's Community BBQ Dinner. Noted pop and jazz singer Alissa Stahler will share a program of "Standards & More" in the sanctuary that will lead right into the 5:00 p.m. Community Dinner in our Gym/Fellowship Hall. All Ogdenites are strongly encouraged to attend the free evening and bring friends.

Concerts on Main continue in January and March 2018, with additional details to be shared in the coming weeks.



Middle & High School Youth Group

Youth Group leaders are working with participants' families to finalize details for what has become an annual tradition for our middle, high school and even college kids: gathering after worship on Sunday, November 26 (the Sunday after Thanksgiving) to again help decorate the sanctuary then deliver our contributions to the Interfaith Food Pantry and go on a hike. Additional details will be shared soon.

DON'T FORGET TO FILL A SHOE BOX

OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD SHOEBOXES WILL BE DUE NEXT SUNDAY NOVEMBER 12

Operation Christmas Child, a project of the Samaritan's Purse, is the world's largest Christmas outreach of its kind. Since 1993, Operation Christmas Child has delivered gift-filled shoeboxes to millions of children affected by war, poverty, natural disasters, and other crises in more than 100 countries. Our church once again has an opportunity to touch the lives of boys and girls all over the world. All you need to do is take an empty shoe box and fill it with things like fun toys, school supplies, and hygiene items. The shoe boxes are not only meant to bring joy, but also demonstrate God's love.

Operation Christmas Child is an easy mission project that every member and family can participate in by bringing a gift-filled shoe box to church **by next Sunday, November 12.** Operation Christmas Child brochures and ready-made boxes (both cardboard and new plastic ones) are available now. Don't pass up the opportunity to show a child love and caring this holiday season. Encourage your family, friends, co-workers and neighbors to take part and bring their boxes to Ogden.

For additional information and to learn more you can visit:

<https://www.samaritanspurse.org/what-we-do/operation-christmas-child>

The website has been newly updated with wonderful stories to view and share, updated idea lists for items you can put in your boxes, ways to volunteer etc. You can also follow Operation Christmas Child on Facebook or look for shoebox ideas on Pinterest.

If you have questions, please see Gail Paradise or Ginnie Trowbridge. Additionally, if you would like to support this mission project but are not able to fill a shoebox, you can provide a cash donation to Gail or Ginnie and they will shop for and fill shoeboxes with your donated funds!



Please take time out from your busy schedules to remember the November birthdays listed below. Send a card or make a phone call. Your greetings will be appreciated by all! If you have not seen your name on the lists, please call the church office so that we can update our files with your birth date. We promise not to print the year in the "Birthday Corner."

Cole Crescas	1
Andrew Roos	5
Balcom Parcels	9
Henry Stusnick	15
Pat Hammeke	28
Cameron Ferrie	29
Marcia Casais	30



Let Us Pray... Let us pray for our members... Marcia Casais, Martha Kiff, Corey Laurenzi, Alice Loeser, Mariclaire Miller, Barbara Molitor, Ev Stanert

Let us pray for...

Kevin Boettger

Tom Boland

Betty Anne Champion

Carol Dill

Kathy Dixon

Ed Dunn

Kathy Dunn Flechler

Josh Fernandez

Auriel Gonzales

Paul Horgan

Christian Isola and family

Sharon Kern

David Knoll

Patricia Maher

Denny Mayer

Ron McBride

The Mears family

Kian Musgrove

Clark and Jean Paradise

nephew of Pat Hammeke

friend of Sandy Roos

Mark Knoll's mother

friend of Janice Parcels

sister-in-law of Marcia Casais

great-uncle of Casey Molino Dunn

cousin of Casey Molino Dunn

12 year old neighbor of the Roos family

mother of Sandy Roos

friend of the Crescas family

friends of Cindy Parlavecchio

friend of Miss Trudy

father of Mark Knoll

friend of Marcia Casais

friend of Marcia Casais

uncle of Cheryl Conklin

our missionaries in Haiti

friend of David Molino Dunn

parents of Allan Paradise

Dennis Paradise

Gloria Rodgers

Herman Rosenberg

Piper Samuels

Frank Squindo

Mark Squindo

Ray Suttles

Emily Takada

Solomon and Sunita Tivade

Tristan Witham

brother of Allan Paradise
cousin of Ginnie Trowbridge
100 year old friend of Gail Paradise
child of Casais family friend
son of Janice Parcels
son of Janice Parcels
husband of Loretta Suttles
friend of the Knolls
Joe Tivade's mother and father
friend of the Parlavecchios

Let us pray for those serving our Country... Scott Armstrong, Kenneth Casais, James Glendening, Morgan Glendening, Robert Traver, Doug Verblaauw

Please Note:

From the Board of Deacons

For the purpose of improving the maintenance of the Prayer List, we ask that you let us know if/when a name can be removed from the list. Your prayers are important. Thank you.