



The Lamplighter



November 2019

Page 1

Give thanks with a grateful heart. Give thanks to the Holy One. Give thanks because He's given Jesus Christ, His Son.

And now let the weak say, "I am strong" Let the poor say, "I am rich because of what the Lord has done for us." Give Thanks!

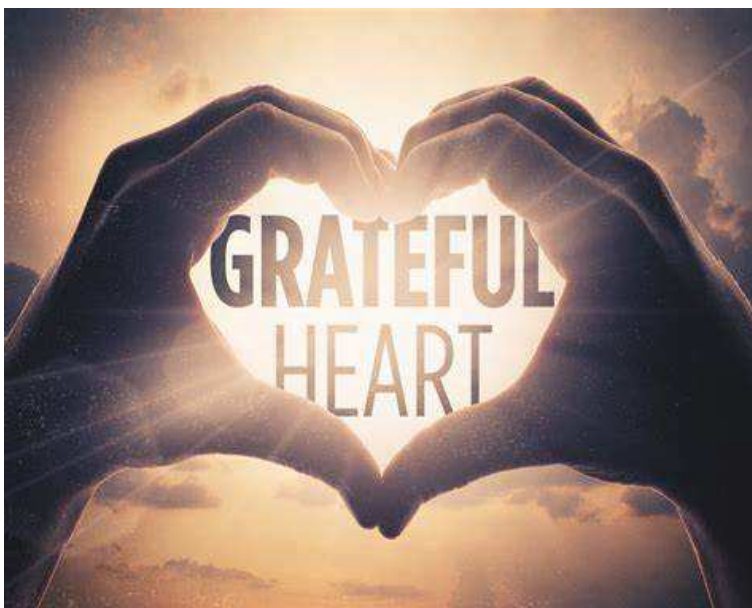
Lyrics to the Hymn "Give Thanks" by Don Moen

Where has the year gone? I can't believe that we are just about to enter the holiday season, a truth that became undeniable this morning when I arose to discover a blanket of snow on the ground!!! As I reflected on the completion of the past ten months of this year, it was Don Moen's hymn "Give Thanks" that immediately started playing in my head. And rightly so, for there is so very much to be thankful for - to be grateful for.

Recently I invited us, in worship, to bring gratitude front and center into our daily lives. It was a message that has resonated with many of you. My prayer has been that your focus on gratitude will continue because I believe that if we practice gratitude daily - the season that will soon be descending upon us and all that brings with it - will be easier. Gratitude in all things, lowers expectations, it slows down schedules, and it brings with it the ability to see and experience the blessing of simple things in life. It provides us the opportunity to enjoy and cherish all that is around us.

May you be filled with gratitude to the One from whom all blessings flow,

Pastor Cath



HIGHLIGHTS OF THE SESSION MEETING

Session Minutes-Regular Meeting Presbyterian Church of Fulton October 8, 2019

The October meeting was held at 6:00 pm in the bride's room.

The clerk declared a quorum.

Moderator Rev. Catherine Martin called the meeting to order at 6:05 pm. Joys and concerns were shared followed by the opening prayer by Mike Hand. The covenant of leadership was recited.

The following Elders were present: Jim Balk, Mike Hand, Megan Huizenga, Mike Kramer, Roy Nelson, Angie Smith, Dave Ray, Cindy Wierema

Excused: Dale Thayer

Moved and seconded to approve the October docket. **Motion passed.**

Moved and seconded to approve the regular session minutes of the September 19, 2019 meeting. **Motion passed.**

Clerk's Report Attendance statistics were presented: 69/15/19=68; 9/22/19=58;9/29/19=60; 10/6/19=63

Communion on 10/6/19=63 and communion served to 1 shut-in, No Deaths reported:

Pastor's Report

Visitations and Communion - 8 Visits Out

Visits In Including Steam Anchor - 9 Visits in
Cards mailed - 6

Ecumenical / Community Participation

Sterling Clergy Book Group Thursdays from 10-11

Steam Anchor Tuesdays 1-3

Gateway Circle Meeting (Faithwalking) 9-17-19

Met with Quilting group leaders - re-setup for the quilt show

Presbytery Participation

Blackhawk Council meeting 9/24 at Blackhawk

Various COM responsibilities for the Presbytery

Church Community Participation

Attended weekly Choir Rehearsal

Bible Study Mondays 9:30-11

Coffee and Conversation - First and Third Wednesday from 9-11

Directed Bell Choir in practice for three weeks and one worship service

Directed Choir rehearsal for three weeks

Led Ukulele Practice 4:30 -5:30 on Wednesdays

559 from 5:30 - 7:15 Wednesdays

Two Special Session Meetings

Committee Reports:

Calling & Membership: Angie Smith

No Report

Christian Education: Megan Huizenga

Our numbers have started to grow a bit, as we now

have regular participants inviting others and they have continued to come!!! The front doors will be locked during 559 to provide safety for all.

Fellowship Committee: Dave Ray and Mike Hand
The Fellowship Committee will be having their annual fall dinner on Sunday, November 10th. A baked potato bar with dessert will be the menu.

Finance Committee: No Report

Nominating Committee: Mike Kramer
Committee is working on filling slots. We still need 1 elder and 1 person to serve on nominating.

Outreach Committee: Cindy Wierema
No report

Properties: Roy Nelson and Jim Balk

Roy continues to mow and trim the lawn. Jim and Dale Houzenga are trimming bushes and pulling weeds when the weather permits. Sharp knives in the kitchen will be moved to an enclosed box and placed in the closet which has a lock on it. The vacuum cleaner is being repaired in Davenport.

Some of the security lights that come on during a power failure will need to be replaced because they are over the 16 year limit on the battery.

Staff Committee: Mike Hand

The Staff Committee met Monday, October 7th. We worked on our budget and passed it on to the Financial Chair.

We discussed how our committee would go about looking for a replacement in the case of Paul or Mary Jo's unavailability. We would like some direction from Session on this matter. One thing we discussed was to out source payroll and tax reporting. This would ease the burden on Paul and make it easier to find replacements.

The third and final thing we talked about was vacation requests. Connie will work on a form that will need to be given to Pastor two weeks in advance. In the case of the organist and the custodian, the request would then go to the appropriate committee to find a replacement. We also talked about recording the music on the organ if we could not find someone to play either the organ or piano.

There was a discussion concerning out sourcing payroll and tax reporting. The committee with research and report to session.

Worship Committee: Megan Huizenga
No report

Moved and seconded to receive the preceding reports. **Motion passed.**

Moved and seconded to adjourn the meeting. **Motion passed.**

The meeting was adjourned at 7:40 and closed with prayer by pastor Catherine.

MEN'S FELLOWSHIP**MEN'S FELLOWSHIP**

Our Men's Fellowship Group continues to meet on the second Saturday of each month at 8 a.m. This month it will be November 9th, all men are welcome and encouraged to attend.

**LUNCH BUNCH**

Lunch Bunch meet on the second Thursday of each month. We will be at Krumpets on November 14th at 11:30 am. There is a sign up sheet posted in the hallway. Come and bring a neighbor, friend, or anyone who needs a day out.

GREETERS

We need your help by signing up to be a greeter on Sunday mornings. Please sign up on the sheet which is found on the table in the Narthex. Thank You

OUTREACH COMMITTEE

The Outreach Committee is happy to report that **RADA SALES RAISED \$198.35**, which will be used to buy socks, underwear, sweatpants and leggings for Fulton Elementary School children in need. Thank you for all your purchases. The Outreach Committee is taking orders for **WREATHS & SWAGS** for the coming holiday season again this year. The deadline for ordering will be November 10th. You will be able to pick up your order on Sunday Dec. 1st, the orders should arrive before church.

The Outreach Committee will once again be supporting the **SPARKETTE SHARING TREE**. The Sharing Tree is used to help kids in need at Christmas. We will receive the tags with names and suggested gifts for them for the tree in the middle of November.

Watch and Listen for our Salvation Army Bell Ringers Opportunity to sign up and help ring the Bells. We need volunteers to ring the bells on Saturday Nov. 28th, Dec. 7th, 14th, 21st.

Just a note to let you know that on December 8th we will once again host a Bake Sale day. The first \$300.00 will go to the Fulton Food Pantry and the remainder to the General Fund.

We are so Blessed to have such a wonderful congregation to support all we do.

Thank You, Your Outreach Committee

Thank You!!!!!!

What a wonderful day we had on Harvest Home Sunday - a day that was made perfect by the faithful saints that gave their time and used their talents to make it so!

A HUGE thank you to all who made the sanctuary a vision of harvest and thanksgiving, who shared so that all could go home with a handcrafted cross, to those who made the outreach center so festive and welcoming with the table covers and centerpieces, to those who manned the kitchen both in preparation, service and clean-up. For the wonderful cake, and great cooks who brought more food that we could ever eat, for great fellowship, new members and sharing, Thank you. It truly was a day to give praise and thanks to God for the blessings that flow so freely within our faith community!

"For Mature Readers Only" Book Group

This month the group will be discussing the following book on Wednesday November 13, 2019, beginning at 9:30 a.m. We currently have nine people in the group and would LOVE to have you join us!

Being Mortal: Medicine and What Matters in the End by Atul Gawande

Named a Best Book of the Year by *The Washington Post*, *The New York Times Book Review*, NPR, and *Chicago Tribune*, now in paperback with a new reading group guide.

Medicine has triumphed in modern times, transforming the dangers of childbirth, injury, and disease from harrowing to manageable. But when it comes to the inescapable realities of aging and death, what medicine can do often runs counter to what it should.

Through eye-opening research and gripping stories of his own patients and family, Gawande reveals the suffering this dynamic has produced. Nursing homes, devoted above all to safety, battle with residents over the food they are allowed to eat and the choices they are allowed to make. Doctors, uncomfortable discussing patients' anxieties about death, fall back on false hopes and treatments that are actually shortening lives instead of improving them.

In his bestselling books, Atul Gawande, a practicing surgeon, has fearlessly revealed the struggles of his profession. Now he examines its ultimate limitations and failures-in his own practices as well as others'-as life draws to a close. Riveting, honest, and humane, *Being Mortal* shows how the ultimate goal is not a good death but a good life-all the way to the very end.

The book is available on Amazon in Kindle, Audiobook, Hardback or paperback form.

Bible Study

You are invited to join the Pastor on Monday mornings at 9:30 a.m., to explore together the scripture passage for the upcoming Sunday's sermon focus. Please bring your bible along - coffee and a treat will be provided.



FINANCIAL UPDATE



Your Finance Committee provides the following update on our finances.

As of October 25th, we had \$18,770.44 in our church's checking account, and \$1.78 in the Mission Starfish Haiti account. During the first 9 months of this year, receipts for the church account exceeded expenses in 7 of those months. Here is a breakdown of those 9 months:

MONTH	RECEIPTS	EXPENSES	DIFFERENCE
January	\$10,804.04	\$15,152.86	-\$4,348.82
February	\$16,170.78	\$14,868.52	+\$1,302.26
March	\$18,222.95	\$15,545.17	+\$2,677.78
April	\$23,359.69	\$15,652.68	+\$7,707.01
May	\$13,077.22	\$12,103.16	+\$ 974.06
June	\$13,597.04	\$12,267.30	+\$1,329.74
July	\$11,843.96	\$11,851.79	-\$ 7.83
August	\$14,469.17	\$12,247.88	+\$2,221.29
September	\$18,797.56	\$15,658.89	+\$3,138.67
TOTALS	\$140,342.41	\$125,348.25	+\$14,994.16

Your Finance Committee has been meeting every month and maintaining constant watch over our expenses. We are grateful for our Office Secretary and our Pastor, as both have been working very closely, throughout the entire year, with the Finance Committee in managing our finances. We still have 2 months left this year, but we feel confident that our expense budget will be met. Many difficult decisions had to be made during the first quarter of this year, but we are now seeing the positive results of those decisions.

Your Finance Committee is currently working on preparing the 2020 Expense Budget.

Dale Thayer
Chairman
Finance Committee

NOVEMBER VOLUNTEERS

Ushers: David and Mary Vogel

Greeters:

November 3..... Ruth Letcher
November 10..... Available
November 17..... Available
November 24..... Available



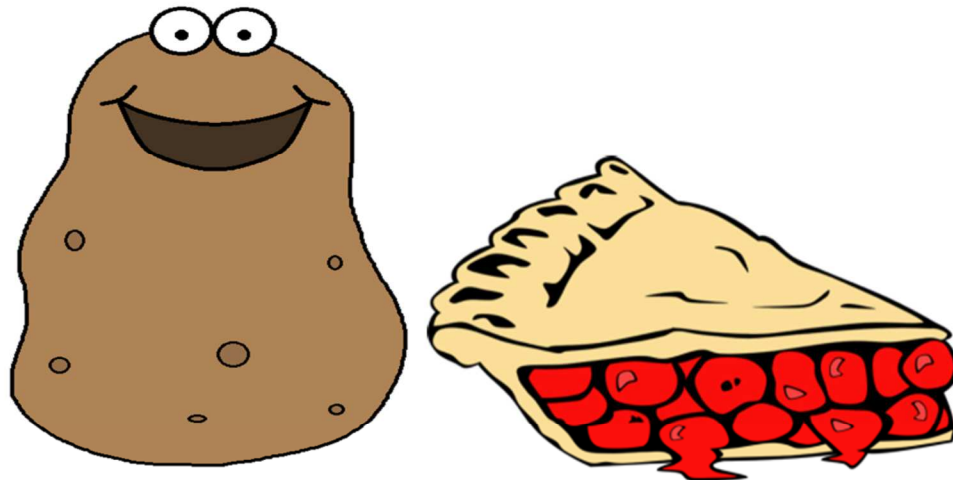
THE JAN STUART MEMORIAL FOOD PANTRY

November suggested donations:

Canned Vegetable Soup
Canned Tomato Soup
Canned Cream of Mushroom Soup



BAKED POTATO BAR INCLUDING DESSERT



SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 10TH

4:30 - 6:30 P.M.

FREEWILL DONATION

November 1, 2019	Pastor's day off	November 16, 2019	
November 2, 2019		November 17, 2019	9:30 a.m. Worship 10:45 a.m. Fellowship 2:00 p.m. Harbor Crest Chapel
November 3, 2019	8:30 a.m. Chancel Choir Practice 9:30 a.m. Worship With Communion 10:45 a.m. Fellowship 11:00 Bell Choir Practice Pastor to Synod Coaching Summit	November 18, 2019	9:30 to 11:00 a.m. Bible Study 6:30 p.m. Scouts to meet
November 4, 2019	Pastor at Synod Coaching Summit 10:00 a.m. Special Finance Committee Meeting 6:00 p.m. Scouts - Papers 6:30 p.m. Scouts to meet	November 19, 2019	1:30 to 3:00 p.m. Pastor at Steam Anchor 7:00 p.m. Quilters to meet
November 5, 2019	Pastor at Synod Coaching Summit General Election All Day in Outreach Center	November 20, 2019	4:30 - 5:30 Worship Music Practice in Music Room 559@ FPC doors open at 5:30 p.m. 5:30 p.m. Dinner is served 5:59 p.m. Christian Education 7:00-7:05 Closing and Sending
November 6, 2019	4:30 - 5:30 Worship Music Practice 559@FPC doors open at 5:30 p.m. 5:30 p.m. Dinner is served 5:59 p.m. Christian Education 7:00-7:05 Closing and Sending	November 21, 2019	8:30 a.m. Pastor to Clergy Book Group 6:00 p.m. Bell Choir Practice 7:00 p.m. Chancel Choir Practice
November 7, 2019	Pastor out of office for the day 6:00 p.m. Bell Choir Practice 7:00 p.m. Chancel Choir Practice	November 22, 2019	Pastor's Day Off
November 8, 2019	Pastor's Day Off	November 23, 2019	Pastor on vacation
November 9, 2019	8:00 a.m. Men's Fellowship to meet	November 24, 2019	Pastor on vacation 9:30 a.m. Beth Wicks to fill pulpit Worship 10:45 a.m. Fellowship
November 10, 2019	9:30 a.m. Worship 10:45 a.m. Fellowship 11:05 a.m. Chancel Choir Practice 4:30 to 6:30 p.m. Baked Potato Bar	November 25, 2019	Pastor on vacation No Bible Study
November 11, 2019	9:30 a.m. Bible Study 10:00 Finance Committee to meet 6:30 p.m. Scouts to meet	November 26, 2019	Pastor on vacation Pastor will not be at Steam Anchor
November 12, 2019	1:30 to 3:00 p.m. Pastor at Steam Anchor 6:00 p.m. Session to Meet	November 27, 2019	Pastor on vacation 4:30 - 5:30 Worship Music Practice in Music Room 559@ FPC doors open at 5:30 p.m. 5:30 p.m. Dinner is served 5:59 p.m. Christian Education 7:00-7:05 Closing and Sending
November 13, 2019	9:30 a.m. Book Club for Mature Readers to meet. 4:30 - 5:30 Worship Music Practice 559@FPC doors open at 5:30 p.m. 5:30 p.m. Dinner is served 5:59 p.m. Christian Education 7:00-7:05 Closing and Sending	November 28, 2019	Thanksgiving - Office Closed No Choirs practice
November 14, 2019	8:30 a.m. Pastor to Sterling clergy book group 11:30 a.m. Lunch Bunch at Krumpets 6:00 p.m. Bell Choir Practice 7:00 p.m. Chancel Choir Practice	November 29, 2019	Pastor's Day Off
November 15, 2019	Pastor's Day Off	November 30, 2019	Pastor on vacation 10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Bell Ringers needed

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