CENTRAL BAPTIST CHURCH // ISSUE 11// VOLUME 70 NOVEMBER 2023

THE HERALD

THANKSGIVING

Ten Ways to Show Gratitude

Expressing gratitude is an important aspect of our daily lives. It not only strengthens our relationships with others but also improves our own mental and emotional wellbeing. Here are 10 simple ways to show gratitude:

- 1. **Say thank you** Whether it's in person, over the phone, or in a text message, saying thank you is a simple yet effective way to show appreciation.
- 2. Write a thank you note Taking the time to write a handwritten note shows that you really care and appreciate the person.
- 3. Give a small gift A small token of appreciation can go a long way in showing gratitude.
- 4. **Do something kind** Small acts of kindness, such as holding the door open or helping with a task, can show that you are grateful to that person.
- 5. **Spend quality time** Spending time with someone and giving them your undivided attention is a great way to show gratitude.
- 6. Offer words of encouragement Letting someone know that you believe in them and their abilities can make a big difference.
- 7. **Share a meal** Sharing a meal together is a great way to bond and show appreciation for each other.
- 8. **Give a compliment** A genuine compliment can make someone's day and show that you are grateful for them.
- 9. **Volunteer together** Giving back to the community together can show that you are grateful for what you have and want to help others.
- 10. **Listen actively** Listening actively and attentively to someone shows that you value and appreciate their thoughts and feelings.

Editorial note: More and more we hear about the benefits that AI can bring to the home and work place as an assistant. This article was written with AI Magic Write through Canva. All things considered, I think it did a pretty good job at giving us some ways to show gratitude to others. - BJM *IN THIS ISSUE* Gifts to Central (P.2)

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Central unconditionally welcomes and affirms all people to the journey of faith in Jesus Christ.



A look at our finances

Year to Date

Receipts Received:\$416,114.95Receipts Spent:\$339,056.32

You can donate to Central by visiting, www.centralbc.org and clicking on the <u>give now</u> link or by scanning this QR code with your smartphone camera.



Gifts to Central

In Memory of:

Trevor & Jennifer Leonardi for MOPS, Food Bank and Ministries

From: Kevin & Kimberly Leonardi

In Honor of:

Burniece Miranda for Music Ministry

From: Randy Miranda

O give thanks to the Lord, for he is good; for his steadfast love endures for ever. Psalm 107:1

Announcements and Special Events



Food Pantry

Our next Food give-away will be Thursday, November 9 at 10am. If you are interested in volunteering, please call the church office.

Spaghetti Fundraiser



Cub Scout Pack 490 will be having a Spaghetti dinner on Friday, November 17 from 5pm-8pm in Adams Hall. The cost is \$10 and includes salad, bread and homemade desserts. Proceeds will help the pack purchase books, uniforms and equipment. Tickets will be available in the church office.



Thanksgiving Lunch

You're invited to our yearly Thanksgiving luncheon on Sunday, November 19th. After the worship service, join us for a delicious meal with turkey and ham provided by the church. We kindly request that everyone bring a side dish or dessert to share with the group.

Office Closures



The church office will be closed November 23 and 24 for the Thanksgiving Holiday. We will reopen on Monday, November 26.

Calling All Carolers



It is already that time to begin planning for Christmas. We are in the process of organizing a community choir to sing Christmas carols at both nursing homes and for a special concert here at Central.

Do you enjoy singing Christmas Carols? Then come on down and join us! We will begin rehearsing on Sunday, November 5 at 1 pm in Adams Hall. A special concert has been scheduled for Saturday, December 16 at 3 pm in Adams Hall.

For more information, please call the church office.

Community Christmas Concert



Save the Date for a Community Christmas Concert and Sing-Along! Come and join us on December 16 for a special holiday event in Adams Hall! The festivities begin at 3 pm with a Christmas concert and sing-along. Afterward, we will share a meal together. Please bring a dish to share.







Join us on November 27 at 9am to lend a hand in decorating Adams Hall and the Sanctuary. Your assistance would be greatly appreciated!

Sonny's Sayings

November is a month for giving thanks. It is a month bookended by two days, All Saints Day and Thanksgiving, that help to bookend the month. All Saints Day is November 1. and many churches who follow а liturgical calendar have special services on the day itself. At Central, we carve out the first Sunday of the month for our All Saints remembrance. We remember those who are in the church family who have died in the last year. We have compassion for their families and their grief. We celebrate the ways that we were connected to them, whether it was through Sunday School, or a common ministry, or sitting near them in the church service. And we remember the ways in which they served at Central. This is good for us to do, for we give thanks to God for the individuals whose service helped build the church. And by giving thanks for their lives, we too are inspired to think about our involvement own in the church, and how we contribute to the building of the church.

Then at the end of the month, we celebrate Thanksgiving in



our country. According to Plantation Plymouth vice president of research Tom Baker (through Wikipedia), the original Thanksgiving at Plymouth took place in 1621, when 4 cooks from the Mayflower prepared a meal after the first harvest for the 50 surviving members of Plymouth. They celebrated by firing off their guns. When the Wampanoag (native tribe near Plymouth), who were also decimated (by a plague that affected several tribes) heard the gunshots of celebration that came from Plymouth, came near to see what the noise was all about, they were welcomed by the settlers, and added their own native food to the feast, which lasted for 3 davs. That account is from the descendants of the Wampanoag tribe. So if the accounts are to be believed. Thanksgiving came about different when two very broken their groups, by the circumstances, used resources that they had to

share a feast. That's pretty cool.

So I am encouraged that the entire month can be dedicated to giving thanks. We give thanks for the blessings we have. We give thanks for the lives of others who inspire us. We give thanks for the brokenness that allows us to see other people with compassion. And we give thanks for the ability to share of ourselves with others, whether it is a recipe, a food dish, a well wish, or time spent with friends. family and Ι encourage you to begin each day with a list of those things that you are grateful for, and say your thanks to God. For as the scriptures tell us, "every good and perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of lights."

Blessings, Sonny

For the beauty of the earth, for the glory of the skies, for the love which from our birth over and around us lies. Lord of all to Thee we raise, this our hymn of grateful praise.

For the fruit of all creation, thanks be to God; for the gifts of every nation, thanks be to God. -- Fred Pratt Green

What's Happening at Central...

Our **MOPS** moms are showing off their latest project, "ME Dolls" for the patients of the Children's Hospital in Jacksonville. While they were working, the little ones were busy playing.





Shine celebrated Ben's 8th birthday earlier this month.



Our newly formed **Maintenance Team** has been busy working to beautify our church's appearance. Below are some photos from the back parking lot. Be sure to thank Steve and Nicole for all of their hard work.



PrimeTimers enjoyed a delicious pancake breakfast at the Sugar Mill Pancake House.







The **Craft Class** has been busy making cards, air fresheners and decorative rocks.









Meyer's Musings

Recently, I had the opportunity to attend the wedding of two former students of mine. Weddings are always a joyous occasion and this one was no exception! It was a small ceremony for family and close friends, which made me feel honored to be included in such a group. Initially, when I arrived, I only saw the bride and groom's parents, both of whom I knew and got to be friends with over the years, but since they were obviously going to be pretty involved, I wasn't sure if there would be anyone else there that I knew. As surprising as it might sound to some of you, I am actually rather shy when it comes to people I don't know.

After the ceremony, we were invited inside for a cocktail hour while the bridal party took some pictures. This was an opportunity to enjoy some Hors d'Oeuvres and have some informal conversation with folks, much to my relief, I discovered some familiar faces during this time.

After the cocktail hour, we were invited to the banquet hall for dinner. I sat at a table with two of the groomsmen, one of whom turned out to be another former student. As we sat there catching up on life, he asked me if I remembered him playing the French Horn in my band. He then apologized to me for being, in his words, "so terrible." He said, "You were so patient and kind with me as I struggled to play..." then he started to laugh and said, "but I was just so awful!" I chuckled a bit and said, "Well, I was glad to have you and figured you were doing your best." It was 4th grade band and the entire class was forced to take the course.

Eventually, I got to talk to the Bride and Groom and congratulate them. They both said they were so happy I came to their wedding. Not long after that, someone wanted to talk to the Bride and so I was left alone with the Groom. He thanked me again and told me that it really meant a lot that I was there. I told him that I was honored to be invited and to have made that kind of impression on him.

I have a tendency to look back at the past and only see my short comings, but what these students helped me to see is that I made a lasting impact on them. It's nice to hear that something you did a long time ago left a positive mark.

In this season of gratitude, I want to encourage you to freely share and express the good that you see in others. Don't wait or assume they know how you feel; tell them now! You might assume that they already know, but in fact, they may have a reaction much like I did, not realizing that what they did left a lasting impression on you.

I ran across a Facebook quote that said, "What if all of the nice things we say at someone's funeral, we instead share with them while they're still living." I challenge you to share gratitude and love with others, not just during Thanksgiving but all year long.

On the Journey, BJ

Stewardship Reminder

As the year is coming to an end, we are behind on our year-to-date giving compared to last year.

We know that everyones finances are a little tighter but if you have the ability to help us catch up or increase your giving, it would greatly help our church.

Your contributions help us to continue to do the work God has called us to in this community.

"Gratitude unlocks the fullness of life. It turns what we have into enough, and more. It turns denial into acceptance, chaos to order, confusion to clarity. It can turn a meal into a feast, a house into a home, a stranger into a friend. Gratitude makes sense of our past, brings peace for today and creates a vision for tomorrow."

-- Melody Beattie.

What's Happening at Central? November 2023

November 2 @ 10am	Craft Class
November 5 @ 1pm	Caroling Practice
November 9 @ 10am	Food Pantry
November 12 @ 1pm	Caroling Practice
November 17 @ 9:30ar	m MOPS
November 19 @ 12:15p	om Luncheon
November 23 Happy Thanksgiving Church Office Closed	
November 24 Ch	urch Office Closed
November 26 @ 1pm	Caroling Practice

Weekly Events

<u>Sundays</u>

Sunday School at 9:30am Sunday Worship at 11:00am Shine at 5:00pm

Youth at 5:00pm

<u>Tuesdays</u>

Bible Study via Zoom at 10:30am Meeting ID: 3262313643 Password: 882551

Women's Book Club at 12:30pm

Wednesday

Lunch with the Pastor at 12:15pm

Connections at 5:15pm

<u>Thursdays</u>

The Chosen at 5:30pm

Servant Leadership		
Ministers	All Membe	
Senior Pastor	Dr. Sonny Gallma	
Music Leader	Laurie Mora	
Minister of Senior Adults	Rev. BJ Mey	
Office Manager & Organist	Rev. BJ Mey	
Pianist	Meg Pokorı	
Custodian	Steve Lauxma	

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Thank You Central Servants

On Sunday, October 8, Keith Schmitt was honored for his years of service to our church.

Over the years, Keith has served as a Deacon, Chair of the Buildings and Grounds Committee, Stewardship Committee, Camp Committee, and currently as the chair of the Trustees board.

We are very fortunate and grateful to have Keith and his wife Mary Ellen as part of our church family.

Keith, thank you for all of your hard work over the years. We are grateful for your continuing service to Central.

We love you!



