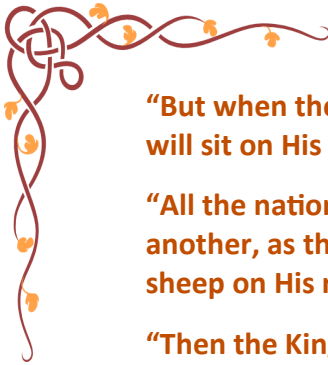


WMU News & Views

By Gail Josey, WMU Director



“But when the Son of Man comes in His glory, and all the angels with Him, then He will sit on His glorious throne.

“All the nations will be gathered before Him; and He will separate them from one another, as the shepherd separates the sheep from the goats; and He will put the sheep on His right, and the goats on the left.

“Then the King will say to those on His right, ‘Come, you who are blessed of My Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world.

‘For I was hungry, and you gave Me something to eat; I was thirsty, and you gave Me something to drink; I was a stranger, and you invited Me in; naked, and you clothed Me; I was sick, and you visited Me; I was in prison, and you came to Me.’

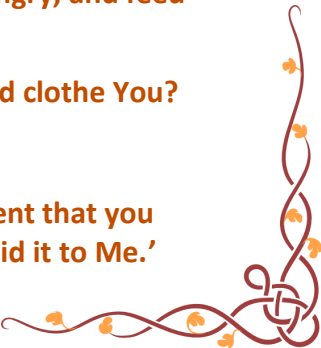
“Then the righteous will answer Him, ‘Lord, when did we see You hungry, and feed You, or thirsty, and give You something to drink?

‘And when did we see You a stranger, and invite You in, or naked, and clothe You?

‘When did we see You sick, or in prison, and come to You?’

“The King will answer and say to them, ‘Truly I say to you, to the extent that you did it to one of these brothers of Mine, even the least of them, you did it to Me.’

**Matthew 25:31-40**



Our WMU members gathered non-perishable food, toiletries, and clothing for Gentry’s Care Closet during the month of October. The items will be organized during the November meeting and then delivered. Students at Gentry receive two hot meals per day, but those needing assistance are given food and toiletries for evenings, weekends, and holidays. Clothing is given as needed during the school day.

Grace and Peace,  
Gail



Sunday School News

By Dean Combs, Sunday School Director

Hello Highland Park Family,

Our Sunday School attendance for October is shown in the chart on the right. For the month of October, we had a 7.9% increase. Please continue to invite people to Sunday School to hear God’s Word.

Your Brother in Christ,  
Dean

Date	This Year	Last Year
10/1	279	280
10/8	297	239
10/15	266	250
10/22	280	274
10/29	285	261
Total	1407	1304



Volume 13

Issue 11

November 2023

Consumed With Gratitude  
Psalm 26

by Dr. Darrell Tate, Senior Pastor

The checkout clerk at the supermarket was unusually cheerful, even though it was near closing time. “You must have picked up a ton of groceries today,” a customer said to the checker. “How can you stay so pleasant?” “We can all count our blessings,” the clerk replied. “The hardest part of this job is lifting all those heavy Thanksgiving turkeys. I just thank God that Thanksgiving doesn’t come everyday!” Actually, thanksgiving should come everyday.

The spirit of thanksgiving is defined throughout both the Old and the New Testament. Oftentimes, the etymology of the word is a combination of two words “grace” and “acknowledgement.” Thanksgiving is a verbal expression of our appreciation to God for His grace, His blessings, and His wondrous work in our lives. To be a truly thankful person is to be one who acknowledges the grace of God.

Psalm 26 is a brief but beautiful Psalm. Although there are no specific indications as to when this Psalm may have been written it is not difficult to determine David’s state of mind. David asks God to search him and evaluate his heart for a spirit of gratitude. The first and last verses form bookends that support the idea of thanksgiving being a lifestyle and not simply a once a year holiday. We call it Thanks-living! He begins by saying that he will not slide nor wavier in his walk with God and concludes by saying, “in the congregation I will bless the Lord.”

The entirety of Psalm 26 has to do with walking with God in a spirit of thankfulness. David is consumed with an awareness of God’s provision. He talks about his mind and his heart in verse 2. He talks about his eyes in verse 3. He talks about his hands in verse 6. He talks about his voice in verse 7. He talks about his soul in verse 9. He talks about his feet in verse 12. He is consumed with gratitude. He thinks about God’s goodness with his mind. He sees God’s blessings with his eyes. He speaks of God’s grace with his voice. He travels in God’s provision with his feet. He works in God’s bounty with his hands. He lives in God’s blessings in his soul. He is consumed with gratitude!

(continued on p. 2)

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Many people breathe God’s oxygen and never acknowledge where it comes from. They live in God’s beautiful world and never stop to thank Him for what they have been given. They navigate through life and, like the nine cleansed lepers of the Gospels, never stop and say, “Thank you Lord for all You’ve done.” Did you wake up in a comfortable bed this morning? Did you go to bed with a full stomach? Do you have an automobile to drive, a place to work or a home in which to live? Do you have family and friends who care about you? Do you have a Bible to read? Do you have a church family? Are you saved? Do you live in a free country? The list can go on and on. Look around, count your blessings and, in the words of the old hymn, “it will surprise you what the Lord has done.” Even if all of our physical blessings were stripped away we are able to say, “blessed be the name of the Lord” because we would still have the unsearchable riches of His grace. We would still have a relationship with God, the love of God, the guidance of God, and the protection of God. Those blessings can never be taken away. Ralph Waldo Emerson wrote, “For each new morning with its light, for rest and shelter of the night, for health and food for love and friends, for everything Thy goodness sends.”

Being consumed with gratitude encourages a positive attitude. It forces us to think about what is right with our lives rather than what is wrong. This is important in an age when many people feel depressed and discouraged. Thanking God is a proven way of bringing light to the darkest clouds.

Unlike the clerk at the supermarket, we are glad that Thanksgiving does come everyday. It is not a duty to be performed or a service to be rendered. It is lifting our heart toward heaven and acknowledging that all that we are, all that we have and all that we hope to be is because of God’s amazing grace and steadfast love!



Consumed With Gratitude,  
Pastor Darrell

- 1

Zoe Bost

Jodi Hamlin

Donnie Parsons
- 2

Amelia Chilton

Anderson Mathis

Deidre Rogers

Madilyn Sexton (Busby)

Kate Wilkins

Allison Wise
- 3

Lisa Dodd

Patricia Parsons
- 4

Hunter Lowry

Charles Mason
- 6

Debbie Parsons
- 7

Casey Surratt
- 8

Doug Arrington

Jason Doss

Rhonda Hiatt
- 9

Terry Childress

Kali Hawks

Donna Hiatt

Jeff Nixon

Chad Phipps
- 10

Blakely Chilton

Janet McPeak
- 11

Robbie Roberts



- 12

Robin Crump

Mark Soots
- 13

Ginger Collins

Don Henderson

Meika Jensen
- 14

Tina Tate

Carolyn Weddle
- 15

Cassie Roberts

Donna Smrdel

Karen Wise
- 16

Ethan Edwards (Snow)

Randy Gentry

Becky Surratt
- 17

Tim Fulk

Jackie Hamilton

Monty Vernon
- 18

Blaze Atkins

John Claxton

Jim Richland

- 19

Joyce Caudle

Sarah Chilton

Trey Handy
- 20

Jimmie Creed

Mark Fleshman

Kim Holder

Logan Hutchens

Frank Reynolds
- 21

Debi Kristensen

Teresa Montgomery

Lily O’Neal
- 22

Madalyn Joyce
- 23

Donna Brannock
- 24

Judy Hardy

Pat Rosendahl
- 25

Madia Atkins

Jim Collins

Yvonne Nichols
- 26

Isaac Phipps

Martin Weed
- 27

Mitzi Berrier

David O’Neal
- 29

Silas Oakes

Chandler Pharr
- 30

Janet Sutphin

Adam Tilley

# Taking Time to Give Thanks

By Rev. Jim Richland, Associate Pastor

Thanksgiving is a gift given to us by the good and loving nature of our heavenly Father. In and out of every season of life, we have a reason to give thanks, because we serve a wholly faithful, good, and loving God. We serve the only King who would lay down his life for his unworthy, rebellious servants. We serve a God perfectly worthy of all the thanksgiving and praise we could possibly give.

In using the incredible gift of thanksgiving, we remind ourselves of how truly good our Father is. In thanksgiving, we experience the joy of a proper perspective and have our hearts stirred by the renewing of our minds. Psalm 100:4 says, “Enter his gates with thanksgiving, and his courts with praise! Give thanks to him; bless his name!” When we come before God with thanksgiving, we seek the face of our Father while grounding ourselves firmly in the truth of His perfect nature. When we begin our days, prayers, worship, reading, and fellowship with a heart of thanksgiving, we live out of a place of faith and reality found in the kingdom of God come to earth.

Our God is bigger and better than our circumstances, fears, wounds, misconceptions, and past failures. There is security and joy in declaring the goodness, kindness, loving, and eternal nature of our Father. We dictate the emotions we feel by what we choose to dwell on and believe. Our minds are the battleground for our emotions, actions, and desire to dwell in communion with our good God. Ephesians 5:20 says we are to be “giving thanks always and for everything to God the Father in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ.” And Psalm 92:1-5 says:

It is good to give thanks to the Lord, to sing praises to your name, O Most High; to declare your steadfast love in the morning, and your faithfulness by night, to the music of the lute and the harp, to the melody of the lyre. For you, O Lord, have made me glad by your work; at the works of your hands I sing for joy. How great are your works, O Lord! Your thoughts are very deep!

Our hearts become glad when we offer continual thanksgiving. Five minutes of thanksgiving and praise has the power to change the direction of each day. It has the power to stir our hearts and make us open to and aware of God’s will for us in every situation. It fills us with an atmosphere of joy and of the Spirit. And it can greatly assist us in choosing the life of communion with the Father over the pursuits of the world as temptations and situations arise. May you be empowered and filled with transcendent joy as you engage in continual thanksgiving.

Take time in guided prayer to practice thanksgiving and enjoy the fruits of a renewed mind and a heart filled with joy and truth.

In Christ,  
Pastor Jim

## From Our Chairman of Deacons

David O’Neal

**Psalm 100:4: "Enter into His gates with thanksgiving, and into His courts with praise: be thankful unto Him, and bless His name."**

Thanksgiving is a perfect time to reflect upon the goodness of God. Rejoice with gratitude, praise and thanksgiving for all He has done for us! If I start my day by counting my blessings, what a difference it makes in the outcome of my day.

We can first give thanks to God for the gift of salvation. The list of blessings continues with our family, including our church family and friends. When we see and hear all of the sinful worldly things going on, it is comforting to reflect upon the goodness of God and where our hope lies. May you and your family have a wonderful Thanksgiving season as we focus on Him!

Your brother in Christ,

