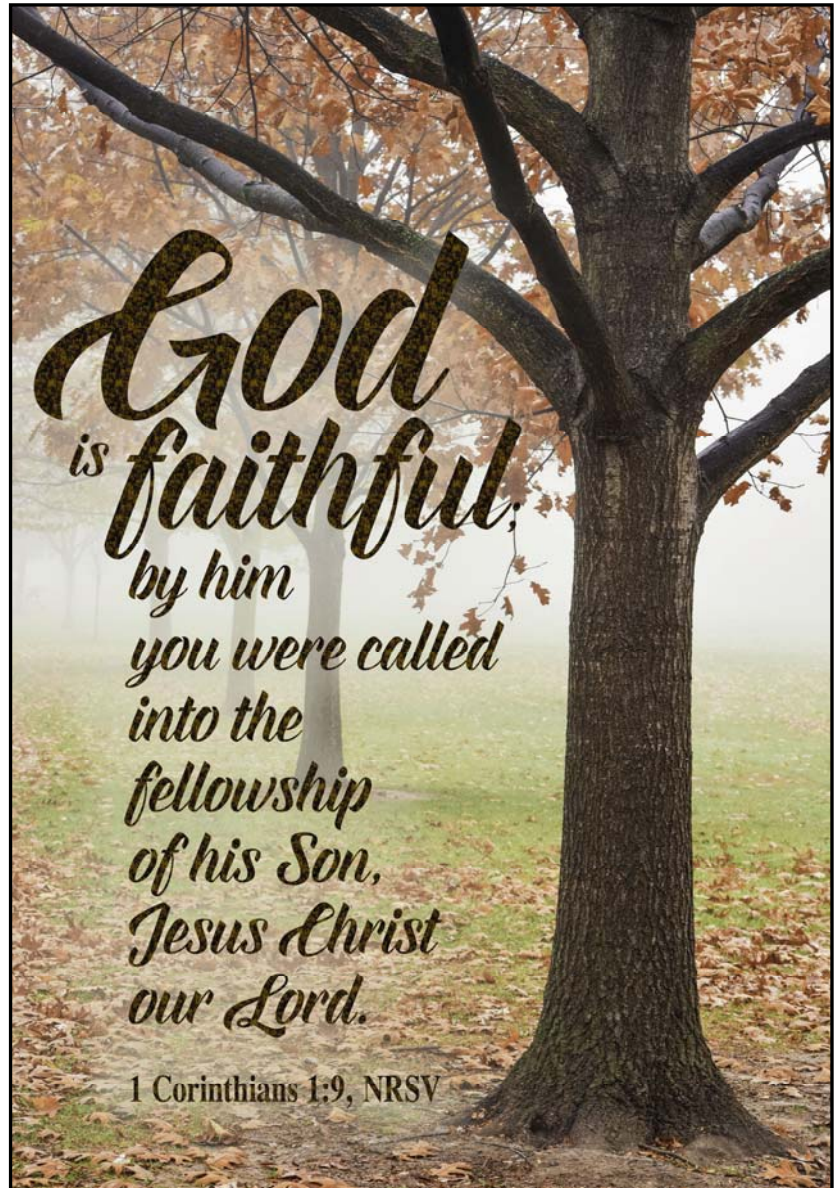




FIRST CHURCH WINDOWS



***To see all people WORSHIP God,
CONNECT with His people,
and join His MISSION in this world.***

Worship the Lord with Us!

Sunday Worship

Live-Streamed Service at 10:00 AM

Due to the COVID-19 outbreak, all in-person worship activities are cancelled until further notice.

Please visit www.fumccollingswood.org for our online worship experience.

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**Office closed due to COVID-19
pandemic.**

FIRST CHURCH WINDOWS

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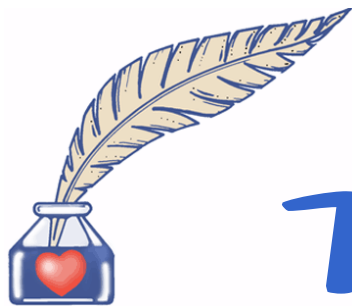


The submission deadline for the *Holiday* issue of Windows is November 27th.

**THANK YOU FOR
SUPPORTING WINDOWS!**



First Church Windows is only available online and in full-color due to the COVID pandemic.



From The Pastor's Heart



As we enter this time of the year there is so much for which we can be grateful. We all know this year has been one like no other. The challenges we have faced this year as the world, nation, our church and individually have been quite unexpected. They have lasted much longer and from more fronts than any of us had ever dreamed. We see the pandemic numbers rising around us and around the world. We know even in the midst of much prayer the results of the elections will not bring a resolution to some of the challenges we face. However, there is One who knows, cares and understands and has established a kingdom far greater than the one we have voted for. To add to our stress, we are not even sure how our Thanksgiving plans, let alone Christmas plans will take place with pandemic restrictions. We need to continue praying and asking God to

help us be an example of his love and grace and to guide us through because He is sovereign.

To guide me in this journey my mind has been going to God's Word. Paul's words to the church caught my attention, I know we often hear these words around this time of the year but they're so needed this year *"Be joyful always, pray continually and give thanks in all circumstances for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus."* 1 Thessalonians 5:16-18.

As we watch the leaves fall from the trees and we feel the temperature begin to drop we know it is another season. But most of all, my prayer is that it can be more than just another season of gratitude and thanksgiving. When we think of how God has guided us through, even with the challenges of this year we see God's hand day by day knowing that He is in charge and how blessed we really are.

As we celebrate this time of the year, everyone has a reason to be thankful. I love the reasons some children gave their teacher when asked why they like Thanksgiving...

Matt, age 5, *"...because sometimes it even snows"*

Jennifer age, 7, said, *"It's a good month."*

Maggie age, 6, *"because it's a happy day and my mom cooks a lot."*

Nicole, age 6, *"I love pumpkin pie."*

Chip, age 5 *"I love thanksgiving because there so much to be thankful for."*

Last Sunday we saw the church family coming through the church doors and even though we took your temperatures asked a few questions seeing your eyes and a few conversations gave me a glimmer of hope. It was a joy to share communion with the church family both in the church and online together. We all look forward to when everyone can feel safer to join together. Everyone needs to stay safe and yet please know you are loved. Even in the midst of all these challenges we all can still be thankful.

The words "there is so much to be thankful for" is so true. The Bible gives us many reasons to be thankful, let me share a few...

We thank God for who He is and all of His greatness. (Psalm 95:1-7)

We thank God for His creation and all that He has done. (Psalm 107:21-22)
We thank God for his providential care. (Matthew 6:25-34)
Thanks be to God for His indescribable gift. (2 Corinthians 9:15; John 3:16)

A Methodist bishop in South Africa shared the story about a pastor in his district whose home had been firebombed one night. Early in the morning, the bishop went out to the town and found the pastor and his family standing at the front of their destroyed home. Nothing was left but the chimney. All personal belongings, furniture, books, and sermon notes were gone. Only the clothes they were wearing were left. As the bishop looked at the ruins of the home, he suddenly noticed that the pastor had done one thing that might reveal the determination of his heart. There on the chimney wall, the only part left standing, the pastor had taken a lump of charcoal and written the words that are part of the Wesley Covenant Prayer and spoken as a vow by many of the Methodist pastors each year at their District Conference: "Put me to what you will...Put me to doing, Put me to suffering, Let me be laid aside for you, Let me have all things, Let me have nothing. I freely and heartily yield all things to your pleasure and disposal." Now that is a God blessed life.

May we choose to live our lives in love and obedience with joy like that pastor, and continue to seek and find new ways in the days ahead to live and experience the God blessed life together!

In His Love and Grace,
Pastor Sam

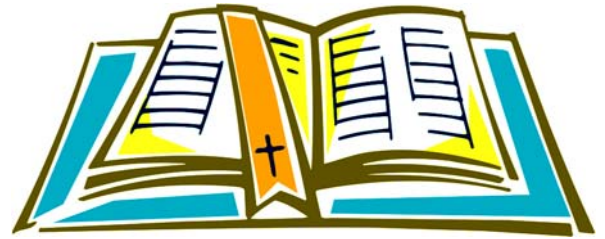
And whatever you do,
in word or deed,
do everything in the name
of the Lord Jesus,
giving thanks
to God the Father
through him.

Colossians 3:17



Thanksgiving is fast approaching. Neighborhood Center and Soul Cafe are both collecting turkeys to be given to families in need. Due to Covid, Neighborhood Center, regretfully, will not be able to do our family grocery store, where people select food items according to family size. We have decided that the safest way is to give qualified families a turkey and a \$25 gift card to ShopRite or Acme. Gift cards may be given to Sharyn Bailey at worship on Sundays or Bible study. They may also be deposited in the office with an indication on the envelope of who they are for. Turkeys may also be brought on Sunday or Sharyn will meet you at the church or pick up turkeys if needed. Thanks much!

UPCOMING SERMONS AND SCRIPTURES



Blessings in Challenging Times

The year 2020 has been a different kind of year. We have been challenged in many spaces and places in our lives. In this sermon series we will be looking at the life of Jesus and how He dealt with suffering and many issues and discover God's blessings in the midst of life's difficulties.

November 1	<i>You are Blessed When...part 2</i>	Matthew 5:1-10
November 8	<i>A Impact that Lasts</i>	Matthew 5:13-16
November 15	<i>It Makes All the Difference</i>	Matthew 6:25-33
November 22	<i>They Didn't See it Coming</i>	Matthew 14:13-21
November 29	<i>Christmas Blessings</i>	1 st Sunday of Advent



MISSIONARY MESSAGES



Woody and Sue Lewis (Crossworld, USA-France)

Covid-19 continues. Changes are many. Life goes on. We remain joyful because we know the Lord.

My class in early October on the Wisdom Books (Job, Prov, Ecc, SS) with 16 students from the Geneva Bible Institute seemed to go well. (Who am I to say?) Zoom presented some challenges, but the disadvantages of this method were outweighed by the big advantage of being able to do the class. The Lord enabled me, not only in the teaching, but handling the technology. Thank you, Lord.

After being corrected by several friends (what a help that was!), I sent the manuscript for my book in French on the Song of Songs to the editor two days ago. Ouf! Thank you, Lord. Now he will have several people correct it. So, the actual printing is still a way off.

For eight weeks in Jan-March, I will lead on online class on how to study and interpret the Bible. It is not for the fulltime students of the Geneva Bible Institute, but for men and women in France and Switzerland and there are occasional students from Quebec, Haiti or French speaking Africa. I wrote the class several years ago, and will be helping the other three leaders with their groups (I'll have a group of about 15 students myself). I have communicated to the school. that this is my last class.

Sue continues to encourage several women, here or in France, in person or through the internet or phone, in their walk with the Lord or in doing Bible study together.

Please pray:

- Sue's encouragement to various women.
- Profitable editing of my book on Song of Songs.
- God's using my book on Ecclesiastes. It was made available to some in Africa at no charge. In France some good friends who do not know the Lord are reading it.
- Our witness to neighbors and others we meet.

Neale and Barbara Goetch

The other morning, I was struck by a verse from Thomas Olliver's hymn (Originally, there were 12 very rich stanzas in his hymn The God of Abraham Praise, which do not appear in most of our hymn books.) His celebration of our relationship with God—*He calls Himself my God*—brought a deep "THANK YOU" from my heart. No wonder he described his days as HAPPY!

That morning I also read Psalm 43 where that same God is declared to be the health of our countenance. Some translations simply say my salvation, but the Hebrew and Greek Septuagint literally declare God to be the salvation/help of our face/countenance! Our settled relationship with the Father puts happy on our faces, even when circumstances may try to cast us down or when disquieting thoughts trouble our hearts. Spurgeon wrote, "The secret mark of inward grace develops into the public sign-manual of confessed relationship"—JOY should be written all over our faces as we sing, "Happiness is to know the Saviour...Happiness is the Lord." (Ira F. Stanphill)

This year the Chinese Christian Fellowship's welcome party (about 500 new students from China) was all held on-line. While missing all the special refreshments and face-to-face interaction, a good number of new contacts were made. Pray for follow-up interaction which is more difficult due to increasing restrictions as Covid cases increase. Pray, too, for the encouragement of the believers who have worked so hard in this outreach.

After Moses' brief glimpse of God, his face shone. Stephen's accusers were arrested by what they saw on his face [Acts 6.15]. One day we will behold HIM—Jesus—face to face and be transformed. But today, thanksgiving and salvation should be written all over our happy faces. And, you, dear faithful fellowship family, add to our thanksgiving and bring joy to our hearts.



A STANZA FOR VETERANS DAY

As we remember America's veterans on November 11, we would do well to read again the third stanza of Katherine Lee Bates' America the Beautiful:

O beautiful for heroes proved
In liberating strife,
Who more than self
Their country loved,
And mercy more than life!
America! America!
May God thy gold refine,
Till all success be nobleness,
And every gain divine!



On Veterans Day this year, let us remember and honor those men and women who gave of themselves, and let us continue to pray for our men and women currently serving in the military.



Nov 3	Kathy Warwick
Nov 16	Patricia Sheaffer
Nov 17	Mark McGaurn
Nov 19	Logan Hoover
Nov 20	Donna Jungclaus
Nov 21	Bill Wertz
Nov 23	Michael Molloy
Nov 28	Steve Hemphill Alison Tribulas



If you have not already done so, please give your dates (birth dates and anniversary dates) to the church office in writing or by e-mail: maria@fumccollingswood.org.



November 8	Ken and Joan Steward
November 13	Jason and Jen Knudson

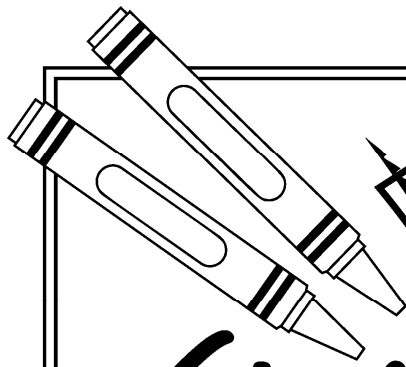
?? ? Bible Quiz ? ??

After Jesus healed 10 men at one time, how many returned to thank him? What had been their ailment?

- A. five; blindness
- B. all 10; deafness
- C. one; possession by demons
- D. one; leprosy



Answer: D (See Luke 17:11-19.)



PUZZLE

Glad gatherings

The first Christians met together over a meal. Today church families still gather to break bread and thank God.

Follow the instructions below. Then write the remaining words in order from left to right and top to bottom to complete the verses.

	A	B	C	D	E	F
1	They	found	broke	bread	acts	in
2	houses	their	homes	beautiful	and	round
3	ate	world	beginning	together	follow	thought
4	with	numbers	glad	happiness	lesson	and
5	thanks	sincere	disciples	gathering	hearts	tradition
6	celebrate	good	praising	Christian	God	river

Cross out all words in column E with double letters.

Cross out all words that are books of the Bible.

Cross out all words in column B that end in d.

Cross out all words in column A that have more than 4 letters.

Cross out all words in row 5 with 3 syllables.

Cross out all words in the table with 9 letters.

Cross out all words in column F with 2 or more vowels.

_____ ,

_____ . ACTS 2:46-47, NIV

Answer: They broke bread in their homes and ate together with glad and sincere hearts, praising God. Acts 2:46-47, NIV

Puzzle!

Write the words below in alphabetical order inside the squares. Then read down the second column to discover the sentence that begins and ends Psalms 146, 147, 148, 149 and 150.

FEAST
KHAKI
MOUTH
ESSAY
LLAMA
ORBIT
CARRY
UDDER
BRUSH
ITEMS
APPLE
LEARN
CIDER

A				

Answer:

-----!

Answer: Praise the LORD!

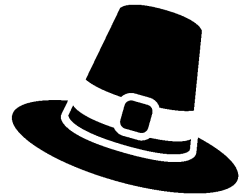
A taste of history

Add a yummy, authentic touch to your Thanksgiving meal with this recipe.



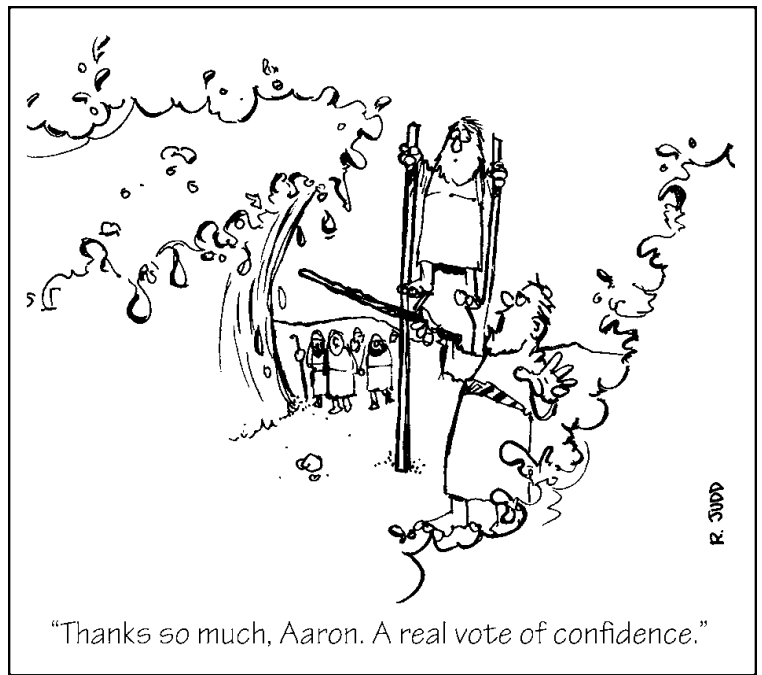
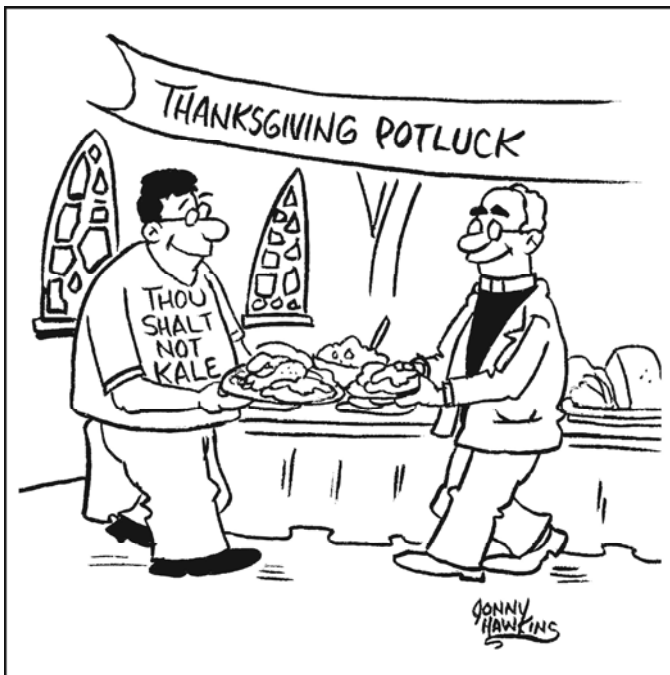
What you need:

- 2/3 cup heavy cream
- pint jar with lid
- strainer
- bowl
- container
- salt



What you do:

1. Pour cream into the jar and close the lid tightly.
2. Shake vigorously about 8 minutes, until a solid lump of butter forms. (Take turns with a friend!)
3. Strain the contents, catching the buttermilk in a bowl to save for another recipe.
4. Put the butter in a container. Add salt to taste.
5. After chilling the butter, enjoy on fresh bread.

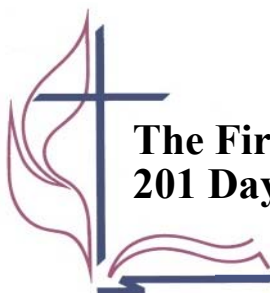
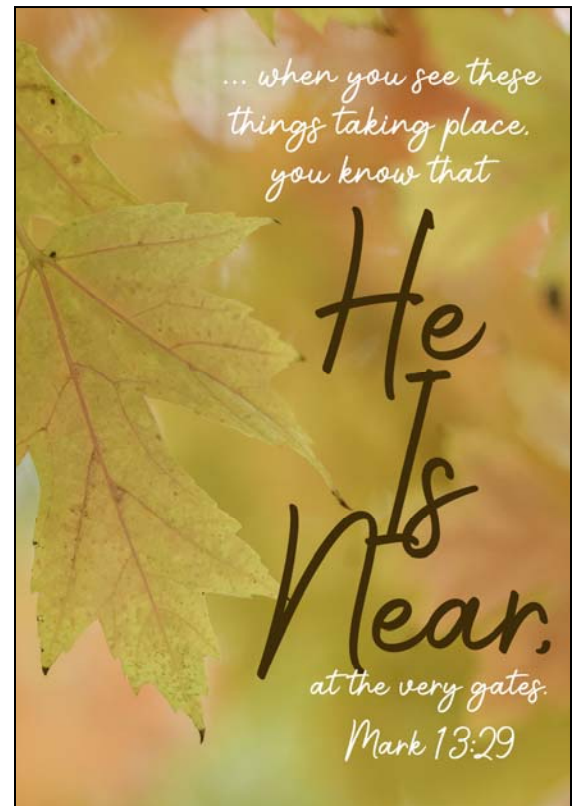


“GREET GOD!”

A Facebook acquaintance who’s in the ministry shared an interesting bit of culture from his time in Germany. By way of greeting, instead of “Guten Morgen” or “Hallo,” locals often said “Grüße Gott” — literally, “Greet God.” My friend took it to be a vestige of old, much as the English “goodbye” emerged from “God be with ye.”

Though most people probably say “Grüße Gott” without much thought, my friend pondered: How might our encounters change if we heard in our greetings an invitation to “greet God” in the other person and in our shared interactions? What if we truly believed God was present in others and in the space between us? Jesus said when we welcome another, we welcome him. If Jesus came physically to our door, how would we welcome him? Can we treat the person before us that very way?

—Heidi Mann



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