

Our Nation
GUMC/LPUMC Families
Greenwood Learning Ctr.
Joel Attanasio
Roger Eckwright
Rev. Joseph Franklin
Lisa Gregory
Patty Prout
Lacye Ryan
David and Carroll Shafer
Willis Sheffield
Adam Womack

In This Issue

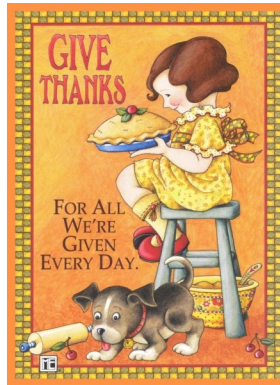
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Thanksgiving [Every] Day

By Steve Stalnaker

This month we celebrate Thanksgiving Day, so almost every November publication has some content about giving thanks – “what are you thankful for?” articles.

There’s also an old, weary cliché about how we shouldn’t limit our thanksgiving to just one day. But being “old and weary” doesn’t make the sentiment behind that cliché any less valid.



While the title of the celebration on the last Thursday in November is “Thanksgiving” this day has taken on many facets of meaning for each of us. Family gathering. Feasting on roast turkey with all the trimmings. Football. Preparations for the frenzy of “Black Friday.” It often seems as if the idea behind this holiday

is lost in all the peripherals.

However, let’s not lose sight of the original intent. We all learned in grade school that the Pilgrims had a feast at harvest time to thank God for giving them enough food for their struggling colony to survive. Whether or not there really was a feast of thanks, with Americans pigging out on turkey, is a subject of much debate. I won’t argue either side of that. The Internet is there for anyone interested in getting to the bottom of such speculation – and good luck. Here’s a couple of interesting reads: <https://>

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From the Pastor

What is Tithing?

Over the past month we have been in a sermon series on Stewardship. I took a non-traditional approach in Scripture selection until the third installment in which I chose to preach on “Managing What Belongs to God” using Malachi 3:10-12. In my prepara-



tion, I checked the UMC Book of Discipline to see what it says about tithing. And here is what I found: “It is strongly recommended that the committee on finance, in collaboration with the church council, find creative ways to turn their

congregations into tithing congregations with an attitude of generosity.” (258.4) I will admit, I was quite surprised there wasn’t more direction or interpretation on tithing.

A church charge might have difficulty agreeing on the topic of tithing since there are so many varying theological views. Scripture goes into great detail about God’s covenant with Israel and tithing, but there is a lot of debate and disagreement about whether or not tithing is required of modern-day disciples of Christ.

In my experience as an ordained Baptist preacher, the pastor required the clergy staff and lay leadership to tithe the minimum of 10% of their income and he periodically checked the giving record to see if folks were abiding by this requirement. So, I had to ask a lot of questions on this matter in licensing school and of my UMC associates on

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Greenwood’s November Communion Offering:

**CHILDREN'S HOSPITAL
OF RICHMOND AT VCU**

Greenwood Learning Center After School Fun

By Trish Hayes, GLC Director



October has been a super busy month for us here at the Greenwood Learning Center.

We had so much fun making special homemade dog treats and then giving them to the doggies at the Henrico animal shelter on Woodman Road. The dogs loved them, and we earned another one of our kindness hearts. If you are keeping



The GLC kiddos working hard on some of the ornaments we have to sell at the Stew Sale.



The kiddos (Dorian, Faith, Melia and Myles) making the 'Pumpkin and Peanut Butter' dog treats to take to the animal shelter.

track, we are doing a good job this month filling in those hearts with kindness. We have 20 of our hearts already filled in.

We have also been busy getting ready for Greenwood's annual Brunswick Stew Sale and Fall Fair. We are making different ornaments to sell at our booth to make money so this Christmas we can do an-

(Continued on page 11)



Prayer Request Email



For prayer requests only: greenwoodprays@gmail.com
Monitored daily by Pastor Josette; all emails in strict confidence.

Brunswick Stew Sale and Fall Fair



Greenwood's traditional Brunswick Stew Sale and Fall Fair last month was a success as always — thanks entirely to the church family's donation of their time, talents and treasure.

As we go to press, profits from this annual festival came to more than \$4,000, with the prospect of more coming in. The Stew Crew made 401 quarts of our tasty homemade and Brunswick Stew and they sold it all.

GUMC Stewardship

For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also — Matthew 6:21

Greenwood is grateful for the continued generous giving by disciples and friends. Stewardship is a personal, spiritual discipline that goes beyond necessary financial support. When everyone prays for the Holy Spirit's guidance in practicing this discipline, the needs of the church are met.



Each of us should prayerfully consider what to give, not only financially, but our time and talent as well — fully using our gifts from the Holy Spirit in support of the body of Christ. Pray also in thankfulness to God that He meets our personal needs, while enabling us to support His Church.

Greenwood Stewardship September 2022

Date	Present	Giving
10/2	30	\$2,939
10/9	30	\$1,163
10/16	25	\$1,503
10/23	28	\$1,667
10/30		

Regardless of what's going on around us, Greenwood's financial needs must be met. Each week we need \$2,489 to support Greenwood's missions and operating expenses. Last month, we averaged \$1,181 each week, or 47 percent of our budget. The table at left shows each Sunday's giving.

Thanksgiving Fellowship Dinner

Greenwood's monthly Fellowship Dinner is usually on the second Tuesday of the month. However, due to election day on Nov. 8, this month's dinner will be served on Wednesday, Nov. 16 at 6:30 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall.



Come enjoy Thanksgiving dinner with all the trimmings. Reserve your spot by Nov. 9 by calling the church office at 804-266-5341 or emailing admin@gumcva.org. Or, you can fill out the form on the bulletin insert on Sunday and drop it in the offering plate.

SAVE THE DATE: CAROLING!

Join Pastor Josette for caroling and fellowship on Friday, Dec. 23, from 4 p.m. to 7 p.m. We'll meet at Laurel Park UMC and load up the GUMC van and anyone who would like to drive/carpool at 4 p.m. and end up at the Greenwood Fellowship Hall for finger food and treats with hot drinks (hot chocolate/hot cider) to end the night. We won't be caroling house to house; instead, we'll visit four or five locations where our senior shut-in folks reside.



Sunday Worship

Every Sunday at 11 a.m. at Greenwood
And on Zoom (click [here](#)) or dial 301-715-8592
Meeting ID: 829 5710 1589; password: 929829

Also on Facebook Live

Tuesday Prayer Call

Every Tuesday, 8 to 8:15 a.m. on Zoom (click [here](#)) or dial 301-715-8592
Meeting ID: 851 1374 4202; password: 452446



Take Care with P2P Payments

Downloaded from Charles Schwab Website

You can make electronic donations, if you're out of town or otherwise can't get to the church on Sunday. **Cash App** is just one of many systems that allow you transfer money to someone from your bank account, debit card, or credit card.

These are called **peer-to-peer payments (P2P)** and can include mobile apps or websites such as Zelle, PayPal, Venmo or Cash App. While P2P payments are popular and convenient, understanding the risks can help you avoid becoming a victim of scams and fraud.

Fraud involves someone accessing your account without your permission and making unauthorized transactions. A scam involves being tricked into authorizing a transaction, sending a payment or stealing your secure data like passwords. Ways to protect yourself include:

- Since most P2P apps don't allow you to cancel a transaction, treat payments like cash, and only send funds to those you know and trust.



- Use unique passwords: Use different passwords for P2P apps and other sites, avoid sharing your passwords with others, and consider a password manager tool if you have trouble remembering passwords.
- If someone is pushing you to act quickly with a P2P payment, it could be a red flag.
- Enable settings within the P2P applications, such as multifactor or two-factor authentication.
- Let your financial institution help; fraud alerts can automatically notify you of activity, and always contact your financial institution immediately if you suspect something is wrong.

Fraudsters might try to access your account by posing as your financial institution or a P2P company — a scam called “phishing.” If someone calls you unexpectedly and claims to be from your financial institution, hang up and call your financial institution at the number printed on your statement, rather than the number that called you.

UMFS Holiday Stockings

Would you like to help make this holiday extra special for one of the residential students in treatment at the United Methodist Family Services (UMFS) Child and Family Healing Center? Here's your chance!



The UMFS Auxiliary would like to provide 30 residential students with a filled stocking to open on Christmas Eve or Christmas morning. The staff at UMFS will order items tailored to the youths and then, closer to December 25, volunteers will help fill the stockings.

We've allowed \$30 per stocking. Please feel free to donate \$30 to fill a whole stocking or to contribute any amount towards filling a stocking. We really appreciate your help!

The deadline for receiving donations is Thursday, Nov. 17. Please make your check out to: "UMFS Auxiliary" and on the memo line write: "Christmas Stockings." Donations may be given to your UMFS Auxiliary representative (Susan Johnston at LPUMC) to turn in or mailed directly to the treasurer:

Barbara Hurt, UMFS Aux. Treasurer
1406 Cedar Crossing Trail
Midlothian, Virginia 23114

Thank you from the UMFS Auxiliary Special Projects Committee!



COMMUNITY THANKSGIVING Service

Tuesday, Nov. 22 at 7 p.m. at Glen Allen Baptist Church
3028 Mountain Road
Glen Allen, VA 23060,

Food Donation Connection

November Pick Up Rotation

Wednesday, Nov. 2: Jean Mowatt and William Gibbs; Thursday, Nov. 3: Susan Johnston; Friday, Nov. 4: Josette Franklin.

Wednesday, Nov. 9: Charley Banks; Thursday, Nov. 10: Gay and Bob Stapleton; Friday, Nov. 11: Glenda and Steve Stalnaker.

Wednesday, Nov. 16: Jean Mowatt and William Gibbs; Thursday, Nov. 17: Susan Johnston; Friday, Nov. 18: Josette Franklin.

Wednesday, Nov. 23: Charley Banks; Thursday, Nov. 24: Gay and Bob Stapleton; Friday, Nov. 25: Glenda and Steve Stalnaker.

Wednesday, Nov. 30: Jean Mowatt and William Gibbs; Thursday, Dec. 1: Susan Johnston; Friday, Dec. 2: Josette Franklin.



NOVEMBER SCRIPTURES

Nov. 1 All Saints Day	Ruth 1:1-18; Psalm 146; Hebrews 9:11-14; Mark 12:28-34.
Nov. 6	Haggai 1:15b-2:9; Psalm 145:1-5, 17-21; 2 Thessalonians 2:1-5, 13-17;
Nov. 13	Isaiah 12; Isaiah 65:17-25; 2 Thessalonians 3:6-13; Luke 21:5-19.
Nov. 20	Jeremiah 23:1-6; Colossians 1:11-20; Luke 1:68-79; Luke 23:33-43.
Nov. 27	Isaiah 2:1-5; Psalm 122; Romans 13:11-14; Matthew 24:36-44.

Tithing

(Continued from page 2)

what I could and should not do as a local pastor with the UMC. There are no hard and fast directives in the United Methodist Church around tithing. It has allowed me to dig deeper in my study of Scripture regarding tithing, and really discern daily what Christ requires of me personally and what Christ requires of me as a pastor.



No one should be told they are required to tithe 10% of their income to be considered a disciple of Christ's church. But God does require us to honor God with everything and in everything, because everything belongs to God. In a perfect church, every disciple's desire and discipline would be to gain as much as we can, save as much as we can, so we can give as much as we can (see John Wesley's sermon "The Use of Money"). Gaining as much as we can, saving as much as we can, and giving as much as we can is not just about our treasure (money, property,

assets), it includes, but is not limited to, our time, our talents, our heart, our mind, our strength—the list can go on and on, which is why the 10% cannot be the only standard for our giving.

The real question is, after studying Scripture, praying, and getting understanding, what is God requiring of you? You must do whatever it is God is calling you to do—not what your parents did, not what your friend is doing or what others say you should do. We will be held accountable, and even have to deal with the consequences, regarding how we manage what belongs to God.

Peace and blessings to all,

— Pastor Josette Franklin



Give Thanks Every Day

(Continued from page 1)

historyofmassachusetts.org/the-first-thanksgiving/ or <https://www.history.com/news/first-thanksgiving-colonists-native-americans-men>. And, there are some who contend the “real” First Thanksgiving was in Virginia in 1619.

Back to the issue at hand: giving thanks. Actively thanking God should not be limited to one day a year. We all should, indeed, give thanks every day. We should contemplate all of God’s blessings – small, medium and large. A good exercise on the fourth Thursday this month, instead of arguing over who gets the drumsticks or who pulls the wish bone, might be to enumerate all the blessings God has bestowed on us. But, be advised you might be there all day while the pumpkin pie goes uneaten (a sacrilege at our house).



So, while you should celebrate this great American holiday tradition – never forget what it means. The original celebrants – English colonials and their guests the First Immigrants – were giving thanks for getting through the first year of the colony and for a bountiful harvest. That good harvest meant they’d probably have enough food to get them through the looming New England winter.

Every day take a minute or two to count some of the ways God blesses you and thank Him for those blessings. Remember: “I will give thanks to the Lord because of his righteousness; I will sing the praises of the name of the Lord Most High.” *Psalm 7:17, New International Version.*

See you in church, where we’ll continue to thank God for His grace, mercy and the blessings He bestows upon us.



GLC FALL FUN

(Continued from page 3)

other boy and girl Christmas shoebox donation. Last year we made enough to go shopping together and purchase some cool stuff to donate for two shoeboxes, one for a girl and one for a boy. It brought us a lot of pride and pleasure to be able to make something with our hands and then turn it into donated gifts for children our age who may not have as much as we do at Christmas time.

Our “Kindness Mission” for November is carrying on our tradition of collecting socks for the homeless. This year we will be delivering the socks we collect to the Salvation Army.

Please, we are asking for help with this



Inside the animal shelter after we took our tour and gave out our treats. The kids and dogs had a great time!



Outside the shelter, the kids did so well that the staff invited us back anytime. I'm so very proud of them!

special mission from our church, community, family and friends. Being cold is miserable, it can affect one's health. A warm pair of socks can make a big difference!

In December we will collect hats and scarves that we will use to decorate our Christmas tree in the daycare in the Fellowship Hall. The donations can be adult or children's sizes, boys or girls, fancy or plain. Whatever you want to give, the recipients will be so grateful to have them, and we are so very grateful to you for taking time to help us with our “Kindness Mission.”

Have a wonderful month and we will see you at the Stew Sale. Smiles!

RICHMOND CROP HUNGER WALK

YOU CAN HELP TRANSFORM COMMUNITIES



nutritious FOOD



clean WATER



healthy KIDS

On Sunday, November 13th, we will continue to fight against the challenges of disease, disaster, displacement and other concerns that leave people hungry. Join with us as we raise funds to help neighbors near and far get the meals they need today and sustainable food security for tomorrow.

HOW DO I PARTICIPATE?

You can participate as part of a team, or as an individual. It is as easy as 1, 2, 3!

1. Register today at www.crophungerwalk.org/richmondva or scan the QR code.
2. Talk to friends, family and neighbors and invite them to join your team or sponsor you.
3. Join us in-person on Sunday, November 13th at Ginter Park United Methodist Church, 1010 W. Laburnum Avenue, Richmond, VA 23227 as we walk together to end poverty and hunger around the world. Registration at 1:30pm; Step off at 2:00pm.



**CROP
HUNGER WALK**
ENDING HUNGER ONE STEP AT A TIME



Greenwood Church Family Birthdays



Nancy Lloyd.....11/3
Betty Henley11/4

Betty Ritchie11/5
Seth Stanley11/6

*Don't see your birthday or wedding anniversary in The Twig Bender and would like to have us publish it? Send your dates to admin@gumcva.org or call the church office at 804-266-5341; likewise, let us know if you'd like your birthday or anniversary **removed**.*

Greenwood's Women's Circles



The **RUTH CIRCLE** will meet Tuesday, Nov. 1 at 1 p.m. in the home of Adamarye. We will be making plans for Thanksgiving and Christmas. Also, we will continue with our Bible study.

The **WILLING WORKERS CIRCLE** meets Thursday, Nov. 3 at 5:30 at the church. We'll be planning our Thanksgiving family assist.



Twig Bender

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Office Phone: 804-266-5341

Office email: admin@gumcva.org

10040 Greenwood Road, Glen Allen, VA 23060

In-Person and Virtual Worship: 11 a.m. Sunday

Pastor: Pastor Josette L. Franklin
Phone: 804-238-9318
Email: josettefranklin@vaumc.org
Office hours: 9 a.m. — 1 p.m. Tuesday — Friday
Fax: 804-266-2019
Education Building Phone: 804-266-6668

Lay Leader: Lewis Daniel
Acting Music Director: Jackie Schultz
Twig Bender editor: Steve Stalnaker
Web site: www.gumcva.org

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Greenwood United Methodist Church

November 2022



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
CHILD SAFETY PROTECTION MONTH		1 All Saints Day 8 a.m. Prayer Call 1 p.m. Ruth Circle Meets	2 Deviled Eggs Day 	3 5:30 p.m. Willing Workers Circle meets	4 6 p.m. Food Distribution 	5 Guy Fawkes Day 8 a.m. Men's Breakfast 
6 Communion Sunday 9:30 a.m. Sunday School 11 a.m. Worship 	7 Internat'l Merlot Day 	8 Election Day 8 a.m. Prayer Call 	9 Fellowship Dinner Reservations due 	10 USMC Birthday 7 p.m. Richmond Beekeepers 	11 Veterans Day 6 p.m. Food Distribution 	12 Chicken Soup for the Soul Day 
13 9:30 a.m. Sunday School 11 a.m. Worship 	14 World Diabetes Day 	15 8 a.m. Prayer Call 	16 6:30 p.m. Fellowship Dinner 	17 Great American Smokeout 	18 6 p.m. Food Distribution 	19 Nat'l Adoption Day
20 Reign of Christ 9:30 a.m. Sunday School 11 a.m. Worship 	21 World Hello Day 	22 8 a.m. Prayer Call 7 p.m. Community Thanksgiving Service	23 Nat'l Espresso Day 	24 Thanksgiving Day 	25 Twig Bender Deadline 6 p.m. Food Distribution 	26 Small Business Day
27 1 st Sunday of Advent 9:30 a.m. Sunday School 11 a.m. Worship 	28 Cyber Monday 	29 8 a.m. Prayer Call 	30 Nat'l Mason Jar Day 	NOVEMBER IS NATIONAL ADOPTION AWARENESS MONTH		

Mark Your Calendars

Dec. 7 Pearl Harbor Remembrance Day
Dec. 19 Hanukkah
Dec. 21 Winter Solstice
Dec. 24 Christmas Eve
Dec. 25 Christmas Day
Dec. 31 Watch Night/New Year’s Eve
Jan. 1 New Year’s Day 2023
Jan. 16 Martin Luther King, Jr. Day



Greenwood UMC Mission

The mission of The United Methodist Church is to make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world. — Matt. 28:19

Greenwood Vision

Loving Learning to love and connect with God and People	»	Growing Acquiring tools for being transformed into the image of Christ	»	Serving Participating in church ministry and community outreach
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