



BARTLETT CHAPEL NEWS

November 6, 2020

Tough Times Bring Thankful Hearts

Back during the dark days of 1929, a group of pastors in a New England city, all graduates of Boston School of Theology, gathered together to discuss how they should conduct their individual church Thanksgiving Sunday services that year, as well as a community Thanksgiving service. Things were about as bad as they could get, with no sign of letting up.

The bread lines were depressingly long, the stock market had plummeted, and the term “Great Depression” seemed a more apt description for the mood of the entire nation. Each of the churches they served were struggling with meeting the growing needs of the community amid diminishing financial resources. In fact, some of them were wondering if the church communities they served would even survive much longer.

Most of the pastors thought they should only lightly touch upon the subject of Thanksgiving, in respect and deference to the human misery that was sweeping across the country and devastating so many in their city. After all, what was there really to be thankful for in those tough times? But one of the pastors, Dr. William Stiger, who served one of the struggling congregations in that city, rallied the group.

This was NOT the time, he suggested, to give mere passing mention to Thanksgiving. In fact, he felt just the opposite. THIS was the time for ALL of them and the nation to get matters in perspective

and thank God for the blessings that are always present, but perhaps forgotten due to intense hardship. And, after much discussion and prayer, that’s what they chose to do.

I would suggest to you that they were right, and that they are still right. The most intense moments of thankfulness are not usually found when life is good and in times of plenty, but when life is not so good or easy, and even when difficulties abound.

When I take a good look at my own life, a good and honest look, the hardest times in my life have also been the times when I have experienced God’s healing the most. Those times have transformed me in one way or another, and I’m not the same. I’m not saying that I look back at those times and thank God that whatever it was that happened did happen, or that I think God caused whatever happened to happen, or sent that moment into my life to teach me something or to transform my life. But I AM saying that I look back at those moments and I think:

“Yes, that shouldn’t have happened, I wish that it had never happened—but it DID happen—and God was there and somehow and in some way God was with me—and somehow and in some way God brought me through that time.”

I honestly believe that the gratitude I found as a result of God’s presence with me through that time brought healing into my heart and life. And, in reality, I never really went back to the way things used to be.

How many of you are familiar with the phrase “count your blessings”? There’s a classic hymn from 1897, called “Count Your Blessings.” You might be familiar with at least the chorus:

*Count your blessings, name them one by one;
Count your blessings, see what God has done;
Count your blessings, name them one by one;
Count your many blessings, see what God has done.*

That’s a great reminder for Thanksgiving, isn’t it? What’s fascinating in that hymn, though, are the verses. The first verse talks about times when you feel tossed upon life’s billows by the tempest, when you are discouraged, thinking all is lost. The second verse asks if you’re ever burdened with a load of care or bearing a heavy cross. The last verse talks about not getting discouraged amid great or small conflicts. In all those times, the hymn encourages us to still count our blessings.

Because it’s true. Counting your blessings and giving thanks is important even when life is difficult or hard, and even when you’re feeling discouraged. Intentionally stopping to notice God’s blessings, even in the midst of hardship or pain or heartache, can be good for the soul. Because it reminds us of the blessings that we have each and every day, and of the blessings that we still have in the midst of difficulties and even loss.

It is a reflection of the words of Paul as recorded in 1 Thessalonians 5:16-18 where Paul challenges us to be filled with joy, to be in constant prayer, and to be thankful in all of life’s circumstances (not because God sent them or caused them, but because God is with us in all times and places).

For Christians, every single day should be a day of Thanksgiving. Every single day should be a day where we stop, count our blessings, turn to Jesus, fall down in awe and wonder, and say “Thank You.” We shouldn’t need a holiday to remind us to do just that.

So in the midst of changing and challenging times, whether in your own personal life or when you consider the turbulent times we find ourselves in as

a nation, how will you still “count your blessings” and have a thankful heart?

Peace be with you in the gift of Jesus Christ,
Pastor Jeff Reed



Wednesday, November 11th is Veterans Day. Thank you to all of those in our church family who are veterans. We appreciate your service!

**We wish everyone
a wonderful Thanksgiving!**



Adult Bible Study

All are welcome to attend our Adult Bible Study, held weekly on Wednesday evenings. We are discussing the book of Romans. If you are attending in-person, we meet in Fellowship Hall, beginning at 6:15pm for a light dessert, with study discussion beginning at 6:30pm. As we do with worship, we request that you wear a mask. If you are attending via Facebook Live, you may access the Bible study through the church’s Facebook page beginning at 6:30pm. Join the conversation by sharing your thoughts and questions through the comments section.

Adult Sunday School Class

All are welcome to attend our Adult Sunday School class, Christian Builders, held weekly on Sunday mornings in Fellowship Hall at 10:15am, immediately following Fellowship Time. We will begin a new study on Sunday, November 29th, the video series “Because of Bethlehem: Love Is Born, Hope Is Here” by Max Lucado. Due to copyright issues, this class is not available on Facebook Live. *On November 15th and 22nd, our class will participate in “Talk-Back” Time with the Pastor, which will be held in Fellowship Hall.*

“Talk-Back” Time with the Pastor

All are welcome to attend “Talk-Back Time with the Pastor”, held weekly on Sunday mornings at 10:15am, immediately following Fellowship Time. We will discuss that day’s sermon. If you are attending in-person, join Pastor Jeff in the church library. *On November 15th and 22nd, “Talk-Back” Time will be held in Fellowship Hall.* If you are attending via Facebook Live, you may access the “Talk-Back” session through the church’s Facebook page beginning at approximately 10:15am. Join the conversation by sharing your thoughts and questions through the comments section.

Pictorial Directory

Bartlett Chapel has chosen Universal Church Directories to produce our new pictorial directory. The photography sessions will be held at the church from Thursday, December 3rd through Saturday, December 5th. Photo appointment sign-ups have begun and will continue until Sunday, November 22nd. Universal Church Directories will be following specific health guidelines to make the experience as safe as possible. There are several options to schedule your photography appointment:

Option A. If you would like to schedule your appointment when you are at church to attend worship, you will have an opportunity to sign up

after the worship service. A volunteer will be at the sign-up table in the main hallway outside the sanctuary each Sunday until November 22nd.

Option B. If you would like to schedule your appointment online, follow these steps:

- Visit www.ucdir.com
- Select “Photography Appointment Scheduling Login”
- Church Code: **in1698**
- Church Password: **photos**

Once logged in, follow the prompts to schedule your family’s appointment time. If you have six or more members in your family, please use two consecutive time slots. *The online scheduling option is available Monday through Friday each week until November 22nd.*

Option C. If you would like to schedule your appointment through email, contact the church office with your name and phone number as well as a preferred date and time by sending a message to lori@bartlettchapel.com.

Option D. If you would like to schedule your appointment over the phone, you may call the church office at 317-745-2504 or Universal Church Directories at 888-742-5823.

Appointments fill up quickly, so schedule your appointment as soon as possible to secure your preferred date and time. Everyone who has an appointment will receive a complimentary 8”x10” of their photo along with a copy of the new pictorial directory. At your appointment, you will also have an opportunity to purchase a photo package, which will be delivered to you by Christmas.

Rooted Youth (Jr High/Sr High)

Youth group will be meeting on Zoom during the month of November. Pastor Julie has provided details about the dates/times of the meetings as well as service projects. If you have not received this information, please send her a message at pastorjulie@bartlettchapel.com.

Barnabas Ministry

If you are serving as a Barnabas to one of our college students, be sure to send your student a note early this month because they will most likely be home for the week of Thanksgiving. In your note, remind them of how blessed they are to be given the opportunity to receive a college education. It might be appropriate to remind them of the sacrifice others have made, or are making, for them to have that education. Also, continue to pray for your student as well as the time they will have with their families during Thanksgiving. Thank you for serving our students as an encourager. Call me if you have questions.

~Linda Reed

Food Pantry Donations

Looking for an opportunity to help others? Shared Blessing Food Pantry is in need of the following items:

- Peanut butter (small jars)
- Jelly
- PopTarts
- Granola bars
- Breakfast bars
- Canned soup (chicken noodle, tomato, vegetable, Campbell's Chunky soups)
- Canned pastas (ravioli, SpaghettiOs)
- Toilet paper
- Paper towels
- Kleenex tissues
- Laundry soap
- Clorox wipes

The donation cart is located inside the center door of the entrance under the canopy from 9am to 4pm each day. Please place your donations in the cart, and we will deliver them to the pantry. Thank you for your generosity!

Bartlett Women in Ministry

The Bartlett Chapel Women in Ministry will be meeting on Saturday, November 14th and Saturday, December 12th at 9:30am for fellowship, followed by a business meeting at 10am. All women of the church are welcome and encouraged to join us. We will follow the same practices as on Sunday morning.

This year's Christmas tree has been set up in the hall outside the sanctuary and is for the collection of items for the Indiana United Methodist Children's Home in Lebanon. The home provides housing, education, and spiritual development for troubled teenagers and is a long-standing ministry of Bartlett Chapel. Please consider donating new items that can be given as Christmas gifts to the residents, such as books, DVDs, art supplies, makeup, gloves/hats, games, recreational equipment, restaurant or apparel gift cards, etc. New items such as bedding (twin size), towels, and personal hygiene items are also always needed. When purchasing your items, please remember the children's home is for students in middle school through high school. When you bring your donations to the church, place gift cards in the gift box on the stand by the tree and place items under the tree. All donations will need to be turned in by Sunday, November 29th. If you are unfamiliar with the amazing ministry the Children's Home provides to Indiana teens, please check it out at www.iumch.org.

Free Face Masks

Face masks are available for adults and children (over two years old). These masks were made by members of our church community. The masks are located on a table inside the center door of the entrance under the canopy from 9am to 4pm each day. Please feel free to stop by and pick up what you or someone else could use. More can be made if we run out.

Donations for Buddy Bags

Buddy Bags is a Bartlett Chapel mission outreach to students at one Avon elementary school whose families are unable to provide nutritious meals during the weekend. We are collecting donations of the following items for this program:

- Shelf-stable packaged lunch and dinner items
- Pudding cups
- Fruit cups
- Individually packaged cereals
- PopTarts

The donation cart is located inside the center door of the entrance under the canopy from 9am to 4pm each day. Please place your donations in the cart, and we will include them in the Buddy Bags. Thank you for your generosity!

Christmas Dinner for the Homeless

This year, the Christmas for the Homeless Dinner event will be at Bartlett Chapel on Saturday, November 21st, from 3:00pm to 7:00pm. A roast pork dinner will be served, which includes potatoes, gravy, vegetables, rolls, and dessert. We encourage you to consider choosing carry-out for the meal because seating will be limited in Fellowship Hall, so that social distancing can be maintained. The event will also include a silent auction as well as a 50/50 drawing. Funds raised will go toward the Christmas for the Homeless event through Project Homeless, which will provide backpacks filled with necessities for the homeless people living in Indianapolis on Christmas Day. For more information, contact Ed Calton at 317-626-9876.

Small Groups

Are you interested in joining a small group? Small groups help people connect in relationship, so they can grow spiritually. Studying God's Word, striving to become more like Jesus, and making God's love real are the focus of Bartlett Chapel's small groups.

These groups typically meet every week or every other week, discussing a book and/or video Bible study. Currently, during COVID, some of our groups are meeting through Zoom while other groups are meeting in-person while maintaining safe COVID protocols. We are also creating new small groups, both Zoom-based and in-person. The invitation to join a small group is open to everyone! To those who do not live locally and join us regularly for worship through Facebook Live, please consider joining us in small group fellowship by joining one of our Zoom groups. We would love to have you! Many of our groups will soon begin an Advent study by Adam Hamilton, titled *Incarnation*, which explores the historical significance of Christ's birth. More information about small groups can be found on the church website, by selecting 'Small Groups' on our homepage. If you are interested in participating or have questions, please contact our Small Group Coordinator, Todd Griffith, at either 317-908-7121 or tgriffith@ecolab.com.

Ways to Give Financially

As you continue to support the church through your giving, you may do so in one of the following ways:

At worship. There will be a time during the worship service to place your contributions in the offering plates at the front of the sanctuary or the boxes at the rear of the sanctuary.

Give online. Visit the church website at www.bartlettchapel.com. Select "Online Giving" from the menu options and you will be directed to a page where you can make your contribution.

Mail your contribution. Send your check to the church through regular mail to 4396 E Main St, Avon, IN 46123.

Thank you for your faithfulness and generosity in your contributions to the ministry of the church!

Thank You

Thank you for your donation of \$318.14 to the WCA's Central Conference Ministry Fund. Your donation will support ministry initiatives in the central conferences of The United Methodist Church to provide for theological education and the training of pastors, church planting, church development, evangelism, discipleship, and community development.

~Wesleyan Covenant Association

Thank you for the outpouring of sympathy for Hal's father's (Harlan) passing. All the cards, prayers and thoughts helped to support us through this season of grief.

~Susie and Hal Truax

We are grateful to our church family for the thoughtful words and gift for Pastor Appreciation month. We appreciate how you support and encourage us. Thank you!

~Pastor Jeff and Linda Reed

Thank you to all those who helped with the Trunk-or-Treat. Thank you to those who helped by donating candy, packing candy, had a trunk, and prayed for the event. It was a huge success! We had around 225 to 250 children go through and many of the families that drove through were very appreciative. Again, thank you to everyone! Also, thank you for the gift card for Pastor Appreciation month. I feel very blessed to be a part of Bartlett Chapel and I love working alongside everyone helping to make God's love real in our church, and in our community. Thank you for all the love and support that you give to me on a daily basis. I am blessed!

~Pastor Julie Macy

Our Military

Please remember our military and their families in your prayers. Current Bartlett Chapel military service people are:

| | |
|--------------------|----------------|
| Maddy Alspaugh | Tom Palmer |
| Zachary Carmichael | Jeremy Sherman |
| Jessica Cumbie | Ryan Shotts |
| Jonathan Cumbie | Shawn Weir |
| Jeffrey Houser | |

The Bartlett Chapel church family appreciates you and thanks you for your service.

If you have a name of a service person you would like to share, please contact the church office.

Prayer List

Jeff Hershberger and family

Kelley Franklin

Mike Jenkins

Paul and Ginny Morton's daughter,
Stephanie Reinbold

Jerry Sparks

Margaret Brooks

Kim Vandagriff

Marty Himsel

Sue Martin

Jim and Ann Whitesell

Mary Luhman

Pat Bostic

Rhoda Elliott's sister, Lesa Talley

Larry Elliott's aunt, Mary

Don Mills's mother, Rose Mills

Fred and Marcia Harris and family

Our Homebound Members

| | |
|-------------------|------------------|
| Martha Clift | Dorothy Roberson |
| Jeff Hershberger | Lee Schaeffer |
| Marlene Jones | Rod Sieck |
| Rex & Kay McClain | Sharon Taylor |

Weekly Activities at the Church

Sundays

| | |
|------------|----------------------------------|
| 9:00 a.m. | Worship |
| 10:15 a.m. | Adult Sunday School |
| 10:15 a.m. | “Talk-Back” Time with the Pastor |
| 4:00 p.m. | Boy Scouts |

Mondays

| | |
|-----------|--|
| 8:30 a.m. | Men’s Service Group* <i>*1st & 3rd Mondays each month</i> |
| 9:00 a.m. | Ladies Exercise |

Tuesdays

No weekly events

Wednesdays

| | |
|------------|---------------------------|
| 9:00 a.m. | Ladies Exercise |
| 10:00 a.m. | Into the Word Bible Study |
| 6:15 p.m. | Adult Bible Study |

Thursdays

No weekly events

Fridays

| | |
|-----------|-----------------|
| 9:00 a.m. | Ladies Exercise |
|-----------|-----------------|

Saturdays

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|-----------|--|
| 9:30 a.m. | Bartlett Women in Ministry* <i>*2nd Saturday every month</i> |
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From the Office

The newsletter is emailed to anyone with an email address on file and sent through the regular mail to anyone without access to the internet. In addition, a link to the newsletter is posted on the church’s Facebook page and printed copies are available at the welcome center. If you would prefer to receive the newsletter through the regular mail rather than through email or by picking up a printed copy, please contact the church office.

Contact Information

Pastor Jeff Reed, *Senior Pastor*
pastorjeff@bartlettchapel.com

Julie Macy, *Associate Pastor & Youth Pastor*
Children, Youth & Family Ministry
pastorjulie@bartlettchapel.com

Lori Cordry, *Administrative Assistant*
lori@bartlettchapel.com

November Birthdays

| | |
|------------------|--|
| 1 st | Ellen Hibschman |
| 4 th | Julie Cumbie |
| 5 th | Audra Bendix Rex McClain |
| 7 th | Gil Thibodeaux |
| 8 th | Patti Stuffle |
| 11 th | Breanna Farmer Addyson Wilson |
| 12 th | Kendyl Griffith |
| 14 th | Bryan Siddens |
| 18 th | Bob Curry Molly Hensley Eunice Hershberger Matthew Palmer |
| 19 th | Calleigh Johnson Keira Johnson |
| 20 th | Dorothy Brooks |
| 21 st | Reese Griffith |
| 24 th | Karen Arnold Ashley Rembold |
| 28 th | Chuck Ash Larry Burns |
| 30 th | Lyle Clark |

November Anniversaries

| | |
|------------------|-------------------------|
| 1 st | Dave & Andrea Speas |
| 2 nd | Mike & Linda Stailey |
| 15 th | Scott & Laurie Christie |
| 20 th | Bob & Jan Curry |
| 29 th | Tim & Carol Mongan |

December Birthdays

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|------------------|---|
| 3 rd | Sarah Altman Jeff Leath Sharon Taylor |
| 5 th | Monica Kurbursky Linda Stailey |
| 6 th | Alex Murray |
| 9 th | Brent Brinkley |
| 10 th | Gary Hoover |
| 11 th | Casey Cordry |
| 12 th | Mike Creech Bob Gentry |
| 13 th | Emmalyn Simpson |
| 14 th | Jennise Palmer |
| 16 th | Ann Whitesell |
| 20 th | Judy Kikendall Kathy Prater |
| 21 st | Edith Rankin |
| 22 nd | Jon Murray |
| 23 rd | Sam Cordry Ron Hamersley Jackson Murray |
| 25 th | Joanna Sell |
| 27 th | Lydia Clark |
| 29 th | Kelsee Creech |
| 31 st | Freda Creech Brian Short |

December Anniversaries

| | |
|------------------|--|
| 1 st | Troy & Jen Griffith Duke & Sandra Merrion |
| 14 th | Kevin & Sharolyn Becker |

BARTLETT CHAPEL UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

4396 E Main St, Avon IN 46123

www.bartlettchapel.com

317-745-2504

facebook.com/bartlettchapel