

Thoughts from Tom:

Absorbed by Worry or Overflowing with Thanks?

Anyone connected to any news sources know how this year's midterm election is monopolizing the headlines. Most Americans are weary. A friend from my hometown posted the following on his Facebook page:

"I feel we should all just look even beyond the election by a couple of weeks. Two weeks and two days after the election to be exact. It will be time for turkey, dressing, cranberries, pumpkin pie, family, the parade, the beginning of the holiday season. Also, of course, a time to give thanks that the election is finally over. Let's do the very positive sixteen-day jump, friends."

It's true. We can either be overwhelmed by making a choice we would rather not make, or we can realize that in spite of what appears to be "another fine mess" we've gotten ourselves into, the sun will still rise the morning after the election. Thanksgiving will still come.

Here at First Church of Christ, we recently completed a six-week study on prayer. May I remind you that no matter the political outcome of the election, Christians need to pursue the right eternal outcome. We must not allow despair to overwhelm our hope in Christ. We must not ignore the specific command to pray for our leaders—even those with whom we disagree. And we must be careful about whether we are trying to put God on "our" side of an agenda or political platform rather than placing ourselves within His clearly spelled out will.

While elections can change the direction of a country, God is eternal and does not change. To have a solid foundation, we must build our lives on Him. There is no security in human institutions. Only God and his truth are eternal and sure. "So we fix our eyes not on what is seen, but on what is unseen. For what is seen is temporary, but what is unseen is eternal" (2 Corinthians 4:18).

God is always there. He is "our refuge and strength, an ever-present help in trouble. Therefore, we will not fear, though the earth gives way and the mountains fall into the heart of the sea, though its waters roar and foam and the mountains quake with their surging" (Psalm 46:1-3). Jesus told his disciples, "Surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age" (Matthew 28:20). God has said, "Never will I leave you, never will I forsake you" (Hebrews 13:5).

With these promises in mind, let us not be absorbed by what is negative, but always abound in joy and gratitude for God's love and faithfulness.

"Give thanks with a grateful heart; give thanks to the Holy One; give thanks because He's given us Jesus Christ, His Son! And now let the weak say 'I am strong,' let the poor say 'I am rich,' because of what the Lord has done for us! Give thanks." Happy Thanksgiving!



First Church of Christ

300 W. Spruce Street, Sault Ste. Marie, Michigan

Know Jesus · Follow Jesus · Share His Love

November 2018



Thanksgiving Fellowship Potluck Dinner!

Sunday, November 18th after church.

**Please bring two or more dishes to pass
(turkey provided), as we would like everyone
to have a hearty meal!**

**Sign up at the News Table in the lobby!
Celebrate with your church family!**



**The holidays are coming quickly!
We are collecting food items for our**



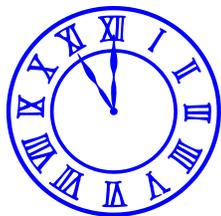
**Thanksgiving Baskets
to help those in need**

**Please sign up in the lobby to
donate food for these meals.**



**Items due by November 18th.
Please place in the tub in the office. Thanks!**

Announcements



Time Change!

Don't forget to change your clocks on **November 3th**. Remember we "fall back" one hour and get an extra hour of sleep!



for **12 years—High School Students**
November 2-4, Lansing, MI

The church is covering costs for the event!
Just bring money for a meal on the way home.
Students, invite your friends!

See Zack for permission slips and more info.

OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD



Operation Christmas Child gives donated items to children across the world who would have no knowledge of Christ's love for them without this special ministry. **Boxes are provided! Pick up a gift tag and box at the display with ideas for gifts.** Choose from a boy or girl and different age groups. Please add a \$9 check made out to Samaritan's

Purse for shipping. **Please no toothpaste and food items.**

Boxes available at the display in the lobby and are due the week of November 12th!

Please plan on helping pack the crates with boxes on November 16th at 10:00 am. It takes 1 hour!

Giving Information

October	Giving
7	\$2,263.00
14	\$6,807.02
21	\$2,553.50
28	\$4,251.00
Average	\$3,968.63

Prayer Concerns (Please call the church office with updates)



Our country and those serving in the military, those adjusting after service
Kevin Farrar—Breathing issues due to RA, RA flare-ups
His House Ministries
Kenn Filkins—Serious health issues
Hannah Grace Monroe—Continued prayers for her feedings and health
Jeannine Kelly (Therese Boucha's mother) - Parkinson's Disease
Ron Atkins (Pam Postma's brother) - Cancer treatment is working, no growth! Continuing treatments
Evelyn Henry—Health issues
Linda Gades (Nancy Earl-Wojo's sister) - Metastasized cancer, confusion
Brenda Brown—Health issues, that doctors would figure out how to help her
Therese Boucha—New treatment begun. Continued prayers for healing.
Gary Ferns (Mary Armstrong's bro) - Last scan stable! Prayers for continued healing
Gary Korman (Friend of Dave Weir) - Health issues, would appreciate prayers
James Burton—At Army Boot Camp. Prayers for courage and strength in the Lord
Ed Boso—Back pain
Gail Mullins (Ed Boso) - Diagnosed with diabetes
Peg Pifer (Dan Smart's mother-in-law) - Recovering from a stroke
Evelyn Henry, Terry Lawson, Lee Lawson, and Patty Jones—Family issues
Nancy LeGreve—Recovering from spinal surgery
Jennifer Veum—Having cancer treatment
Rachael Jones (the Henry's granddaughter) - Strength to stay drug and alcohol free and turn to God, trying to get her children back
Joanne Arbic (Anne Abbott's sister) - Stent placement successful, prayers for improvement in health
Tanya Moore (Phyllis Miller)—Cancerous brain tumor removed, to Detroit for chemo
Leslie Belleau (Judy Vert) - Pancreatic cancer, starting radiation
McKenzie Monroe—Matt and Leslie Monroe's new daughter, in Marquette NICU
Barb Farrar—High muscle enzymes, biopsy on 10-30, testing for muscle diseases
Gary Matheny (Dave's brother) - Diagnosed with stage 4 kidney cancer which is preventing a needed lung transplant
David Strange (Mark's brother) - Cervical neck surgery to replace a vertebra with one that has titanium and screws. Prayers for post-surgery pain.
Rob Ward (Pam Lahti) - Going through a difficult time