

BIBLE READING SCHEDULE

5 Day Chronological Bible Reading Program WWW.FIVEDAYBIBLEREADING.COM

Week Forty Five: November 3-9

- Day 1: Ezekiel 31-33; John 11
- Day 2: Ezekiel 34-36; Psalm 86; John 12
- Day 3: Ezekiel 37-39; Psalm 87; John 13
- Day 4: Ezekiel 40-42; John 14
- Day 5: Ezekiel 43-45; Psalm 135; John 15

Week Forty Seven: November 17-23

- Day 1: Ezra 1-2; John 21
- Day 2: Ezra 3-4; Psalm 92; 1 John 1
- Day 3: Haggai; Zechariah 1; Psalm 138; 1 John 2
- Day 4: Zechariah 2-5; Psalm 93; 1 John 3
- Day 5: Zechariah 6-8; 1 John 4

Week Forty Six: November 10-16

- Day 1: Ezekiel 46-48; John 16
- Day 2: Daniel 1-3; Psalm 88; John 17
- Day 3: Daniel 4-6; John 18
- Day 4: Daniel 7-9; Psalm 91; John 19
- Day 5: Daniel 10-12; John 20

Week Forty Eight: November 24-30

- Day 1: Zechariah 9-11; 1 John 5
- Day 2: Zechariah 12-14; Psalm 94; 2 John
- Day 3: Ezra 5-6; Psalm 95; 3 John
- Day 4: Esther 1-3; Psalm 139; Revelation 1
- Day 5: Esther 4-6; Revelation 2

NOVEMBER 2024

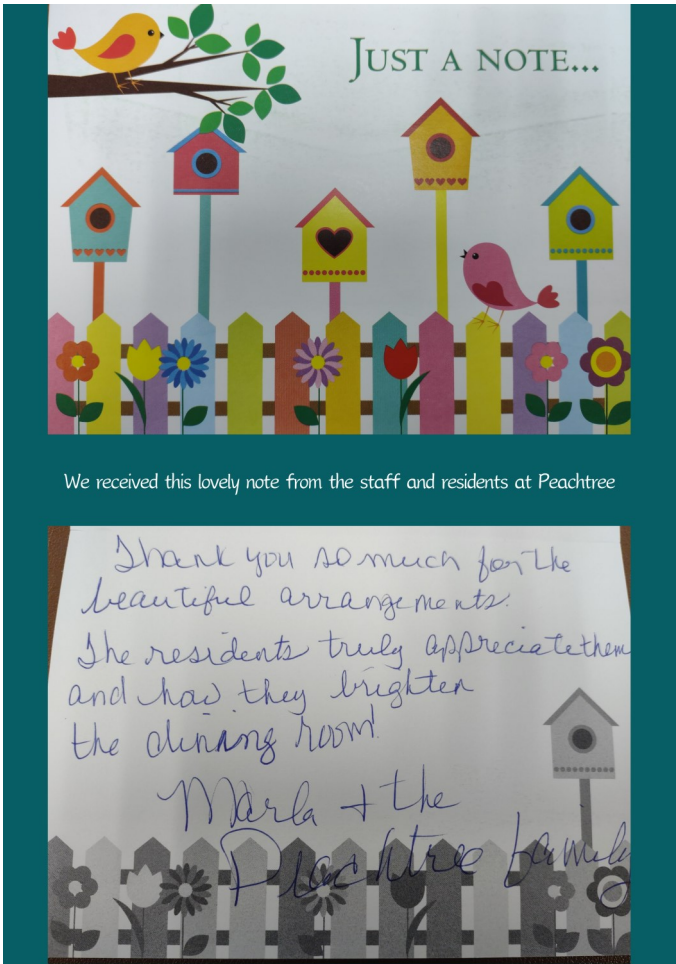
VOLUME 298

NOVEMBER

THE BROADCASTER

A MONTHLY PUBLICATION OF FIRST BAPTIST MENA

Dear Beloved Congregation,
We want to take a moment to express our heartfelt gratitude for the overwhelming love and generosity you showed on Pastor Appreciation Sunday. Your thoughtful gifts and heartfelt cards were truly touching, and each one serves as a beautiful reminder of the wonderful community we have built together. It fills our hearts with joy to know that our shared journey in faith is cherished by so many. Your kindness and support uplift our spirits and inspire us to continue serving with dedication and joy. Thank you for being the remarkable congregation that you are and for making that day truly special. We pray that our bond in faith continues to flourish as we walk together in God's love.
With deepest appreciation,
Bro. Jim & Melissa



According to the dictionary, to be thankful is to be aware of and appreciative of a benefit. Thankfulness is something we all begin to think of this time of year. With the government establishing the fourth Thursday in November as a holiday for being thankful, our minds turn to things like family gatherings with lots of food and other activities. It is generally a joyous time of year filled with the warmth of friends and relatives. I personally am thankful for more things than I have paper to write on. I have an amazing family that God has given me and blessings untold that He has provided to us. He has been so good to us and continues to do so. I absolutely have far beyond anything I could ever deserve in what God has given me and my family. I am so thankful for each member of my family and the joy our Heavenly Father has given us. Along with these, I am so grateful for my church family. Faithful brothers and sisters in Christ who serve Him along side me. This church body is served by wonderful deacons, teachers, leaders and so many more.

Without each who serves here, we could not accomplish the ministry God has given us. I am incredibly grateful for each of you and how you serve here. We must also consider the blessing the country we live in is to each of us. God established an incredible nation filled with wonderfully diverse people and has blessed us since its inception. We have been given so much while God is protecting us and giving us a freedom to openly worship Him without care of persecution or harassment. Very few people around the world can say this. We have so much to be thankful for. If we look back at the beginnings of Thanksgiving Day, we find that in 1863, at the urging of Sarah Josepha Hale, President Abraham Lincoln proclaimed a day for national thanksgiving. He called Americans to pray to God for His care for so many who had suffered so much during the Civil War. He also asked for the healing of the nation and for God's hand to reunite a divided people. I honestly can't think of anything our nation needs more today. We are a people divided by so many different things. We are divided by politics, social structures, economic status and

so much more. Our country is in desperate need of healing and a need to reunite. Now, probably more than ever, our nation is at a crossroads of division and is in need of a restorative act of God. Beyond a cooperative nature where people can learn to be civil regarding divisive topics, the only way to truly bring hope and healing to this nation is the gospel of Jesus Christ. Our country needs a genuine awakening to the good news that Jesus came into the world, lived a sinless life, died on the cross and was resurrected. All this to pay for our sins and end the division between us and God Almighty. There is nothing more important than God's people praying and sharing the truth that Jesus saves. Please join with me in praying for this nation and its healing. Not a prayer that people will learn to get along. A prayer that people everywhere will leave sinful lives behind and run to Jesus. That is our mission in God's kingdom. For that message, we can be truly thankful.

Many blessings,
Bro. Jim Tenney

The Christian Virtue of Thanksgiving

Gratitude is the heart’s response to grace, or at least it should be. Take Psalm 117, the shortest psalm in the Psalter and thereby the shortest chapter in Christian Scripture. It reads:
“Praise the Lord, all nations! Extol Him, all peoples! For great is his steadfast love toward us, and the faithfulness of the Lord endures forever. Praise the Lord!”
The psalmist cannot help but be overcome by gratitude and praise. And this is for a single reason only: God’s never-ending, covenant love which endures toward His people forever. Two elements of this petite psalm should jump right off the page at us. First is the scope of those who should be grateful. Does the psalmist believe that Israel alone should shout in acclamation? Is it limited to those who have Hebrew blood coursing through their veins? No. It is all the nations! All peoples! The psalmist, in a moment of jubilant thanks, seems to peer from the old covenant into the eschaton, presaging the words of John in Revelation 7:9-12, which read:
After this I looked, and behold, a great multitude that no one could number, from every nation, from all tribes and peoples and languages, standing before the throne and before the Lamb, clothed in white robes, with palm branches in their hands, and crying out with a loud voice, “Salvation belongs to our God who sits on the throne, and to the Lamb!” And all the angels were standing around the throne and around the elders and the four living creatures, and they fell on their faces before the throne and worshiped God, saying, “Amen! Blessing and glory and wisdom and thanksgiving and honor and power and might be to our God forever and ever! Amen. (Emphasis added).
As the plan of salvation comes to fruition, all, including the heavenly host, cannot help but fall down in praise and thanks to almighty God. It is the instinct of redeemed creatures when they receive blessing without merit.

And that is the second element which is apparent in Psalm 117: that for which the psalmist is so grateful is not something which he earns or deserves. It’s not something he believes he is owed. In fact, it has nothing to do with him, other than the reality that he is a recipient of this matchless gift. It is God and what He has done, without reference to our worthiness, which elicits such incredible and intense proclamations of thanks. Gratitude is not merely passive and reflexive. It is also active and willful. More than that, expressions of genuine heartfelt thanks seem to point others in, a palpable way, to grace. For instance, take the following description of gratitude published not by evangelicals, but by the American Psychological Association in a book titled, Character Strengths and Virtues: A Handbook and Classification:
“What marks gratitude is the psychological response to the gift, whatever its nature, and the experience, however briefly, of the transcendent emotion of grace– the sense that we have benefited from the actions of another.”
It appears that even those writing in the purely secular sphere recognize that grace is the central feature of the experience of gratitude, though they fail to apprehend the One whose gracious nature stands behind such experiences (Eph. 2:8). Furthermore, gratitude is not merely passive and reflexive. It is also passive and willful. For example, Paul, when he writes famously to the Philippians (4:4-7), states:
Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, rejoice. Let your reasonableness be known to everyone. The Lord is at hand; do not be anxious about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

According to Paul, when we willingly choose to focus on those things for which we are thankful in the Lord, it has a heart-shaping effect. Even when our hearts and minds would rather be focused on the negative. And what is that effect? When we steward our minds to meditate on the gracious gifts of God, then peace from God, which surpasses all ability to cognitively work out, seems to rule in our hearts. I often tell my counselees that “Help!” is a perfectly acceptable one-word prayer. So, too, is the twice as long “Thank You!” The former is for the languishing soul, the latter for the exultant. One begs for grace, the other acknowledges grace already received. One last point on the virtue of gratitude for this Thanksgiving: thanks is one of the major tributaries which finds itself terminating in that beautifully deep and wide river we know as awe. As we become those who intentionally transform our lives to recognize the nearly innumerable gifts given to us by God, our hearts are taken by the currents of gratitude and become those which so easily and often find themselves in awe and wonder simply worshiping at the throne of the King of kings and Lord of lords. This Thanksgiving as we sit around with our families celebrating and rehearsing the gifts for which we should be thankful, may our praise not be platitudinous, dim, and drowsy, but rather earnest, vivid and energetic. Coming, as for the believer they do, from grace-inundated lives, pointing toward a generous and gracious Giver, with the hope of the glorious grace we will have in its fullness one day when Christ returns and our feast of thanks finds its richest fulfillment. (Isaiah 25)

This article was written by Joshua A. Squires and originally published November 21st, 2022 on Ligonier.com

Operation Christmas Child



Meet Kavari

Kavari received a gift-filled shoebox through his school in Namibia. Before being enrolled at this school for the Deaf, he had never taken classes before or even met another Deaf person. Kavari was thrilled to see all the

gifts packed inside of his Operation Christmas Child shoebox, especially the soccer ball. Yet, it wasn't a toy that excited him the most—it was The Greatest Gift storybook. In addition to hearing the Gospel before he received his shoebox, Kavari and his classmates also received this booklet that shares 11 Scripture stories and invites children to follow Jesus. “I learned about creation, how we should love one another, and how the kids in the Bible were excited to see God,” he said. Kavari soon received Jesus Christ as his Lord and Savior, and now loves sharing Him with others.

Meet Fernanda

Hurricane Otis, a Category 5-storm, left Acapulco, Mexico, and surrounding towns in ruins in October 2023. Samaritan's Purse responded shortly after,



working in Jesus' Name alongside local churches to provide water filtration systems, shelter, food, mosquito netting, and solar lanterns. Then we worked with hundreds of Christian congregations to host Operation Christmas Child outreach events, sharing the hope of the Gospel of Jesus Christ and providing shoebox gifts for children in need—children who'd lost everything, including Fernanda. In her shoebox, Fernanda was glad to receive crayons, notebooks, and a fluffy white bear, along with other fun things. The outreach event was an uplifting experience for her and other children in the midst of a difficult time period. “I found some kids from school there. We played a fun game of Piojo Juancho. We prayed. They taught us how the heavens and the earth were made, how God made the water and the animals, and Adam and Eve,” Fernanda recounted. “They taught us about Jesus, too.”

Music Notes

Dear Church Family,

The generosity toward me and my family from the church and many of you as individuals for pastor appreciation was overwhelming. Thank you! Thank you!

You all are such a blessing to me in your kind words of encouragement and appreciation for the music in our services.

Thanks, too, to all of you who are involved in our music program. We desperately need additional voices in our Worship Choir. We are short in some of our vocal sections in preparing for the Christmas musical and to be able to do some of the numbers I would like to share with the congregation. If you have sung with the choir in the past, or would like to sing with the choir, please join us each Sunday following evening worship.

We also need additional instruments in our instrumental ensemble. If you play an instrument, let me know.

While we are at the beginning of November, it's not too early to plan for December. Our Children's Choir will present their Christmas musical on Wednesday, December 4, at 6:00 p.m. Our Adult Worship Choir will be presenting a short Christmas musical on Sunday evening, December 22.

Mark your December calendars for these two dates.

Thank you for the continued privilege to lead the music program at FBC Mena.

Blessed to serve,
Bro. Vernon

