

Greetings! This month's Gathering will be a special CHRISTmas Reunion. , We will have a ham dinner with cheesy potatoes, baked beans and hot rolls. We will have the Praises, Prayers, and Communion. We will have CHRISTmas carols. AND The members of the Board of Directors will be preparing and serving the meal. Members are invited to bring your favorite dessert. The reunion part of this Gathering is for YOU to ask your Walk Table members, or your Prayer Group, or the people you have sponsored, or the person who sponsored you or as many members as you can, to join us at this Gathering. The groups will be recognized. Be sure to ask a visitor to join you (You never know if they might want to ask for an application.) All of this will be held on Thursday, December 20th, at the Trinity UMC in Chillicothe at 7:00PM. Babysitting will be provided. Please, let Buffy Isenberger (937-479-7816) or Sandy Ray ( [sandyapple@live.com](mailto:sandyapple@live.com)) know that you are coming and how many you will be bringing. They need to know by December 17th to plan the purchasing for your dinners. The election results are in. The five new Board members are, David Strickland, Kourtne Hildreth, Leslie Kunz, Joshua Ruggles, and Sylvia Coates. Congratulations! To the current and retiring members, THANK YOU! Our Spiritual Director, Pastor Jonathan King, has provided us with this devotional thought for the season.

**\*10 Minutes\***

Thanksgiving is OVER, at least according to Wal-Mart. If you were to go to the local Wal-Mart you won't even find Thanksgiving decorations in the clearance aisle, let alone hear someone encouraging you to be thankful. Our society has already moved on to Christmas. Those who tried to be thankful each day of November have abandoned the practice and are now rushing to find the best deals on gifts, trying to juggle already crazy schedules, and shopping for that special gift for the one family member that they already know will not be satisfied. If we are not careful, we as followers of Christ will fall into the same chaotic practice. While we say we are celebrating our Savior's birth. We often allow little to no time for Him during the Christmas season. While I love Thanksgiving and the change of attitude it brings to most, I have come to realize that December should be the time believers are MOST thankful. So I encourage you to take 10 minutes of your time right now and really think about the ultimate gift ever given. My guess is you didn't take the 10 minutes. While most didn't even try, the minds of those who did was flooded with a million other thoughts of what they could be doing, needed to be doing, or don't have a chance of completing instead of taking just a few minutes to really think about the reason for the season. If we are not careful, we won't even take the time to experience the ultimate gift of our Savior. We worry about all kinds of things, even though He tell us to be anxious for nothing, we feel all alone, even though He promises to never leave us for forsake us. we fear tomorrow even though the end of His book says we win, and we work to get ahead even though He says don't store up treasures here on earth. How would you feel if you found the gift you made the greatest sacrifice for still laying under the tree untouched in January, February for some of us March, when you started taking the tree down? Not because it was misplaced, but simply because it was forgotten, ignored, and unappreciated. How heartbreaking it must be for the Creator of the universe to see His children go day after day ignoring the ultimate gift ever given. So I ask you again. Take 10 minutes to really think about the gift that was delivered in a manger and hung on a tree so that you and I could not only have life, but have abundant life here and eternal life with Him in heaven.