



# COALVILLE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

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## NOVEMBER 2024 NEWSLETTER



from the Pen of Bro. Len

### GIVING THANKS

In **1 Thessalonians 5:18**, the Apostle Paul writes, “In everything give thanks; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you.” Paul simply says very directly: No exceptions, no excuses, nothing is outside this parameter—in *everything* give thanks. No matter the situation, we are to find a reason to thank God.

How does this thankfulness happen? **Second Corinthians 4:15** says, “All things are for your sakes, that grace, having spread through the many, may cause thanksgiving to abound to the glory of God.” Paul is explaining that as people receive the grace of God in salvation, it leads to abounding thanksgiving. The pattern of every Christian’s life should be that we endlessly give God thanks.

But we not only have salvation, we have everything. In **2 Corinthians 9:11**, Paul says, “You are enriched in everything for all liberality, which causes thanksgiving through us to God.” Unending thanksgiving is the result of all that God is doing in our lives.

**Ephesians 5:4** says, “Neither filthiness, nor foolish talking, nor coarse jesting, which are not fitting, but rather [the] giving of thanks” should come from our mouths. Paul is saying that when we open our mouths, what ought to come out is thanksgiving. When a person becomes a Christian, there is something different about the inner man. Built into that newness is a heart of thanksgiving that cries out in gratitude to God. It’s hard to find someone more thankful than a

brand-new Christian. Thanksgiving becomes the fruit of the work of the Spirit within us. But how quickly Christians can become unthankful!

A thankless attitude is abnormal for a Christian. It cuts across the grain of the new life, the new nature, the new person. Because we can so easily fall to the sin of ingratitude, the New Testament repeatedly calls us to thankfulness.

The overarching umbrella that covers every issue of life is **Romans 8:28**: “We know that all things work together for good to those who love God, to those who are the called according to His purpose.” The circumstance in itself may not be good, but God will take a bad thing and turn it to a good purpose. **If we believe that God is at work, controlling all of the contingencies of life, blending each component together to lead to a sovereignly-designed goal, then we can be thankful.** We can be thankful for the pain of surgery if we know that healing will come because of it. As long as we look at the end result, we can be thankful even for a process that is less than joyful.

When the early church gathered, their purpose was to give thanks. It was a part and parcel of their worship. Someone had a psalm, someone had a prayer, someone had a word from the Lord, and a lot of people had an opportunity to say thanks. When we have fellowship with believers in smaller groups, it is good to have a time of giving thanks.

In **Ephesians 5:18**, Paul cautions us to be filled with the Spirit. And what will happen? “Speaking to one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody in

your heart to the Lord.” Joy, rejoicing, prayer and praise will happen. In **verse 20**, he says, “Giving thanks always for all things to God the Father in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ.”

According to Paul, a Spirit-filled believer is a thankful believer, a joyful believer, a praying believer. If you are filled with the Spirit, thanks will gush out of you for everything.

Even in times of trouble, Paul says, “Be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God.” In times of great anxiety, fear, worry and stress, be thankful. “Let the peace of God rule in your hearts, to which also you were called in one body; and be thankful. ... Whatever you do in word or deed, do all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through Him” (**Colossians 3:15, 17**).

In **1 Thessalonians 5:16-18**, the responsibility of the believer to the Lord is described in terms of his heart attitude. He is to have inward incessant joy, continual unceasing prayer, constant daily thanks. And these three commands—rejoice always, pray without ceasing, in everything give thanks—penetrate the innermost recesses of the redeemed heart. They are the best gauge of a person’s spiritual condition.

A lot of people can carry out religious functions, but if you want to know whether you are truly filled with the Holy Spirit, ask yourself, “Do I rejoice always? Do I constantly pray? Am I increasingly thankful?” Because that is the spring from within. It will lead to a right attitude in all your duties, responsibilities and ministries. If you’re not a joyful, prayerful, thankful person, you’re struggling with the flesh. When the Spirit controls you, those things fall into place.

Then Paul says in verse 18, “For this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you.” This is attached to all three of those commands, not just the last one. God’s will in Christ Jesus is that you would have constant joy, constant prayer and constant thanks.

You may be thinking, *Do I have to drum these up myself?* No. It is not only God’s will to will it; it is God’s will to work it. **Philippians 2:13 explains**, “It is God who works in you both to will

and to do for His good pleasure.” God wills it and He works it by His Holy Spirit. That’s why I say, if you’re filled with the Spirit, you’ll speak to yourself in psalms, hymns and spiritual songs. That’s rejoicing. And you’ll offer that to the Lord, because that’s prayer. You’ll give thanks because it’s the essence of the outflow from the inward spiritual control. It is routine because we should be filled with the Spirit as a matter of the course of life.

Now we look at ourselves and say, “I wish that were true. I wish I went around all the time singing songs of praise and offering prayers to the Lord, thanking Him for everything, but I don’t.” What is it that corrupts those inner springs so that we’re not always joyful, prayerful and thankful? **Here are seven attitudes that form in the innermost parts of our hearts and hinder thanksgiving.**

**First is doubt.** We doubt God’s character. We’re not sure that His Word can be trusted. If we doubt God’s truthfulness and character, we’ll have trouble being thankful because we’re not sure that He will keep His promise to make all things work for our good. Or we trust that He has good intentions, but we doubt He has the power to deal with our issues. Some of us even question God’s love. We say: “God would never let this happen if He really loved me.” These doubts poison the springs of a redeemed heart that should be overflowing with gratitude.

**Second is selfishness.** This is the attitude that says, “I am not content with the way God is working out my life. It’s not what I desire.” If God doesn’t come in and fit the picture perfectly, then a person’s self-will begins to run roughshod over the plan of God, and a thankless spirit results.

**Third is the love of the world.** This is someone whose vision is filled with pleasure, prominence and possessions. When our vision is the material world, we will have no cause for thanksgiving. When everything we’ve attached our affection to doesn’t fulfill us, it causes us to be thankless and ungrateful.

**Fourth, a critical spirit** will steal our thankfulness. A critical spirit criticizes everything that isn’t exactly the way it ought to be. It rises from an enlarged ego that says, “I deserve better than this.” It says “I’ve been hurt,” or “I’ve been wounded by someone, and I’m going to

take the pain and let it run through the rest of my life.”

**Fifth is impatience.** Some of us don't give thanks simply because God doesn't move on our schedule. We don't say, "Thank you, Lord. I can see Your hand at work. The process is slow, but I see it." We are like the child who throws a tantrum and says, "I want it! I want it now!" We should learn to thank God for the process. We should not try to rush what is happening perfectly on time in God's economy.

**Sixth is apathy or lethargy.** I use the word coldness, and I think about the lukewarm heart of the Laodiceans or the Ephesians in Revelation. There is a lack of love for Christ. We lack passion in worship. We neglect the Bible and prayer. We waste time on the trivia of life, and it leaves us empty and spiritually indifferent. Consequently, our hearts have no gratitude.

**Finally, there is rebellion.** We feel that our lot in life isn't what we wanted so we purposely withhold thanks because we're just flat out unthankful. We say, "I'm mad and I'm unthankful and I know it. And I'm going to stay unthankful!"

When any of these seven attitudes invades our hearts, we have sinned against the Goodness of God. We are defying the command of God to give thanks in everything. We're defying the instruction of the New Testament that we ought to be always thankful for our salvation, for the unending blessings of God.

We can't manufacture an attitude of thankfulness on our own. That is why God works to will and to do of His own good pleasure in us. He's working to make us thankful through the power of the Spirit of God. If we're filled with the Spirit, He produces a grateful heart. And what happens when we're grateful? God is glorified, we are blessed, the church is built up and the lost are reached. We can have a tremendous impact on the world if we will only practice thanksgiving.

**Happy and Blessed Thanksgiving**

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**SHOEBOXES** are due back by **November 17<sup>th</sup>**. Please pray over your box. As you participate in this ministry, God will lead you and direct you what to put in your box. Remember to look on your brochure to see no nos and ideas to pack. There is an envelope to mail the shipping or you can go online, use credit card and follow your box. Please call me if you have questions. Carolyn





## CORNERSTONE

Hello from Cornerstone! It's been pretty busy these past several weeks with all the happenings going on about the church. There have been several weddings and events: We'd like to congratulate Timothy and Tiffany, and Cory and Courtney on their weddings and wish them much love and happiness. We'd like to thank all those who help make the Christmas Shoe Box ministry a great success every year; especially Ms. Carolyn McGrew for her motivation and leadership pulling it all together. Be sure and pick up your box and return it by November 17th. We celebrated Pastor Appreciation with a combined service and potluck affording us the opportunity to fellowship with our church family and thank Brother Len for his love and dedication to our church. Cornerstone has been busy itself with the recent Sidewalk Service and benefit for Seashore Mission at First UMC Gulfport, and the holiday season is just now coming upon us! Preparations are underway for our annual Birthday Party for Jesus benefit to be held on **December 1<sup>st</sup>**, and we are hoping for a blessed event. Thanksgiving service is just around the corner. It's a busy time of year, for sure, but we're thankful for a wonderful church family to share it all with!

SO! Mark your calendars....

No second Sunday luncheon in November due to other events.

Combined community Thanksgiving service at our church this year, Tuesday, November 26.

Birthday Party for Jesus! **Sunday, December 1<sup>st</sup> 5:30 – 8:30 PM.**

Some items needed for Seashore Mission:

McDonald's gift cards \$5.00. Clean new or used sleeping bags (cold weather rated),

blankets, backpacks, flashlights (LED), hats, gloves (adult size), socks, men's briefs size med to large, individually packaged snacks (non-perishable), Hygiene Kits include: (bath soap, comb, toothbrushes, toothpaste, wash cloth, deodorant, dental floss, razor, shampoo). Also needed are monetary donations.

Donations are due by **December 1<sup>st</sup>**. Thank you all so much.

*Now may the God of peace equip you with everything good that you may do His will. Hebrews 13:20 – 21*



Friends and Family of Coalville, we are so blessed to have this beautiful weather. It is an opportunity to take a walk and enjoy God's creation. Let's also take the opportunity to unite in prayer for the ministries of our church and those that we help outside our church.

**We need to pray for the Kairos Outside Event taking place November 8<sup>th</sup> – 10<sup>th</sup>.** KO is a Spiritual retreat for women who have or had someone incarcerated or they themselves have been incarcerated. It helps the participants deepen their faith, relationships and connection to God. Preparing the snacks for the retreat is a way for us to show God's love. Lord, we praise and thank You for Cindy Slade and her serving your kingdom by organizing and providing food for many events.

**As you pray for the Shoebox ministry pray for safety, deliverance and no complications.** The process to ship these from all over the US is comprehensive.

**We also thank our Lord for Patricia Taylor and the Outreach Ministry.** They have accomplished a lot during the year to help our church. Be checking the Sunday Bulletin for the next Painting Class. **Pray for this ministry.** Everyone benefits from their efforts. **Praise God.** 🙏

One of the blessings that come to us in November is the Thanksgiving season. **Please pray for our Thanksgiving Service that we will be hosting. Pray for the community to join us in celebrating the blessings our Lord has given us. Pray for friends and family who will be traveling during this time. Enjoy!** 🙏🙏👍

# Friendsgiving

A day of fun, friendship & food for our Down Syndrome Families and Special Need Friends.

Date: November 22, 2024

Times: In-Care Lunch 12pm (11-2)

Family Dinner 6pm (5-8)

Place: 12298 Shorecrest Rd, Biloxi, MS  
39532

RSVP & Count  
REQUIRED by  
November 15th

Arts & Crafts  
Sensory Play  
Cupcake Walk  
Dance floor  
Karaoke

Menu:  
Chicken Tenders  
Sweet Potato Casserole  
Mac-N-Cheese  
Cornbread Dressing  
Green Bean Casserole  
Rolls  
Desserts  
Tea, Lemonade & Water

[SouthMissDownSyndromeGroup@gmail.com](mailto:SouthMissDownSyndromeGroup@gmail.com)

Questions please text Mandy (228)697-5109



**Birthdays**  
**Anniversaries**  
**Monthly Events**  
**Scheduled Meetings**  
**Weekly Events**  
**CLC – Christian Life Center**  
**FH – Fellowship Hall**  
**S – Sanctuary**

**CW – Contemporary Worship**  
**TW – Traditional Worship**  
**2<sup>nd</sup> SL – 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday Luncheon**  
**AB – Administrative Board**  
**BG – BUNCO Group**  
**CB – Cornerstone Band**  
**CC – Cemetery Committee**  
**DT – Daisy Troop**

**FISH – Young Adults**  
**JAM – Children’s Ministry**  
**MT – Mission Team**  
**PA – Pastor Appreciation**  
**SL – Senior Luncheon**  
**UMYF - Youth**

November 2024						
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	<b>Backpack</b> 3 <sup>rd</sup> – Small cereal 10 <sup>th</sup> – Chicken noodle soup 17 <sup>th</sup> – Oatmeal/grits 24 <sup>th</sup> – Beanie Weanies	<b>Blessings</b>			<b>1</b>  7 PM, AA, FH	<b>2</b>
<b>3</b> 9 AM, TW, S 10 AM, SS, FH 11 AM, CW, S  <b>Edna Arnold</b> <b>Greg Slade</b>  4:30 PM, JAM, CLC 6 PM, UMYF, CLC 6 PM, FISH, CLC	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b> <b>Jonathan Bahm</b> <b>Greyson Chambless</b> <b>Stephanie Nalley</b> <b>Michael &amp; Beth Roberts</b>  <b>ELECTION</b> <b>CLC</b>	<b>6</b> <b>Steve Campbell</b>	<b>7</b>  6 PM, Choir, S 7 PM, CB, S	<b>8</b>  4 – 8 PM, CLC Reserved  7 PM, AA, FH	<b>9</b> 9 AM – Noon <b>Paint Class, CLC</b>
<b>10</b> 9 AM, TW, S 10 AM, SS, FH 11 AM, CW, S  4:30 PM, JAM, CLC 6 PM, UMYF, CLC 6 PM, FISH, CLC	<b>11</b>  6 PM, AB, FH	<b>12</b>  6 PM, DT, FH	<b>13</b>	<b>14</b> <b>Phyllis Trochesset</b> 12 – 3 PM, BG, FH  6 PM, Choir, S 7 PM, CB, S	<b>15</b>  7 PM, AA, FH	<b>16</b>
<b>17</b> 9 AM, TW, S 10 AM, SS, FH 11 AM, CW, S  <b>Bayleigh Chambless</b>  4:30 PM, JAM, CLC 6 PM, UMYF, CLC 6 PM, FISH, CLC	<b>18</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>21</b>  6 PM, Choir, S 7 PM, CB, S	<b>22</b>  <b>All Day</b> <b>CLC Reserved</b>  7 PM, AA, FH	<b>23</b>
<b>24</b> 9 AM, TW, S 10 AM, SS, FH 11 AM, CW, S  <b>Marie Moran</b>  4:30 PM, JAM, CLC 6 PM, UMYF, CLC 6 PM, FISH, CLC	<b>25</b>	<b>26</b>  6 PM, <b>Community</b> <b>Service, S/CLC</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>28</b>  <b>HAPPY</b> <b>THANKSGIVING</b>	<b>29</b>  7 PM, AA, FH	<b>30</b>