# The Journey....

# DRAWING OTHERS TO GOD THROUGH FAITH, HOPE, LOVE AND SERVICE

# **NOVEMBER 2024**



Bushnell Methodist Church Bushnell, Florida Joyce Dunne, Pastor



#### **Cultivating a Heart of Gratitude**

The spiritual discipline of gratitude is more than a feeling or a polite thank you. It is a spiritual practice that can transform and lead us into a deeper connection with God and the world around us. Gratitude invites us to cultivate an attitude of thankfulness, even when times are hard. Gratitude isn't just about being thankful when things go well, but recognizing the good we experience every moment of every day.

Gratitude is often seen as a response to the blessings we receive, both big and small. However, spiritual gratitude goes deeper than merely acknowledging the good. It recognizes how the good and the bad help us to grow in our faith and our Christian witness. When we realize that life itself is a gift from God to appreciate, we begin to recognize that even trials are a reflection of God's love for us. Its in those difficult times that our perspective can shift from entitlement to recognizing God's blessings in the trials.

James 1:2-4 says, "Consider it pure joy, my brothers and sisters, whenever you face trials of many kinds, because you know that the testing of your faith produces perseverance. Let perseverance finish its work so that you may be mature and complete, not lacking anything." Gratitude can be a path toward inner peace, contentment, and spiritual growth.

As Christians we are encouraged to give thanks in all circumstances that gratitude is not contingent on life being easy, or that the hardships we face aren't real, but recognizing that we're always in God's constant care even through the storms of life. I Thessalonians 5:16-18 reminds us to "Rejoice always, pray continually, give thanks in all circumstances; for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus."

Gratitude is a discipline that shapes our character and helps us to live out the Fruit of the Spirit in our daily lives. So how do we cultivate gratitude? We do so through prayer, meditation, reflection, and by serving others.

So I encourage you to set aside a few minutes each day to reflect on what you're thankful for. Maybe begin a gratitude journal to ponder the events, people, and experiences that bring you joy. Even on difficult days, we can always find something to be grateful for. Maybe a lesson learned, time spent in the beauty of creation, or with friends and family, or simply the fact that we're blessed to live another day.

When we're grateful, we're more likely to share our blessings of time and resources with others, and to engage in acts of kindness as a response to our hearts being filled with gratitude.

Gratitude has an impact on our spiritual and emotional well-being as well, because it can lead us to experience greater happiness, healthy relationships, a spirit of generosity and reduced stress. When we're grateful, we begin to see life through the lens of abundance rather than want and can open our hearts to a deeper connection with God and others.

So let us cultivate an attitude of gratitude, as a spiritual discipline this year that brings us closer to God and to each other.

#### Pastor Joyce

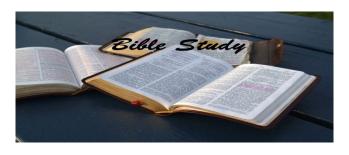




# **TOYS FOR KIDS MINISTRY November 3rd, thru December 1st**

Helping the children of Bushnell Elementary School have a wonderful holiday season. All donations are greatly appreciated.

Packing party TBA.



# BIBLE STUDY Wednesday, November 6th and November 13th The Great Apostasy - End Times Study <u>"Revelation"</u> by Author Stephen Armstrong



# MEN'S BREAKFAST Tuesday, November 5th, 9:00 a.m. Darrell's Diner, CR-48, Bushnell



## **FREE BREAKFAST**

Saturday, November 2nd Come join us the first Saturday of each month for a free breakfast and fellowship. Hours are 8:00 a.m. to 10:00 a.m. Hope to see you there!!



# **LADIES LUNCHEON**

November 19th, Tuesday at 1:00 p.m. Hope to see you at Beef O'Brady's, CR-48, in Bushnell.

To confirm your reservation please contact Celeste Hayes @ 352-346-1304.

Come and join the fun!



## COMMITTEE MEETINGS NOVEMBER 20th, WEDNESDAY

Trustees - 5:00 p.m., Finance - 5:30 p.m. Leadership - 6:00 p.m.



# **CHIME CHOIR PRACTICE**

Every Wednesday at 9:30 a.m. If you would like to become involved with the new musical program please see Jo Jefferson.

# choir practice



Choir practice every Sunday morning at 9:30 a.m.



HAPPY THANKSGIVING NOVEMBER 28TH, THURSDAY



# VETERANS DAY

November 11th, Monday

Veterans Day worship service, November 10th, Sunday Special Guest speaker, David Higgins, LTC Army (ret.) Luncheon to follow the morning service.



# **Happy Birthday to:**

11/17 Joe Longworth



# **Happy Anniversary to:**

None

Angie Bartel 116 Shawnee Trail Ringgold, GA 30736

Marie Massey 3610 NE 16th Place Ocala, FL 34470 352- 223-3766 (Cell) 352-620-9991 (Home)

Bert Park 110 Creekside Dr. Apt 204 Painted Post, NY 14870 607-689-6019



Please call or send a card



# www.Facebook.com/bushnellmethodist

11:00 a.m. Sunday, November 3 All Saints Day

Scripture: Luke 16:19-31 (NIV) (Rich Man & Lazarus)

Sermon: "A Lesson From Beyond the Grave"

11:00 a.m. Sunday, November 10 Veterans Day service

Scripture: Luke 11:21-22 (NIV)
Sermon: "Freedom Isn't Free"

11:00 a.m. Sunday, November 17

Scripture: Luke 12:13-21 (NIV) (The Rich Fool)

Sermon: "Rich in Stuff, Poor in Spirit"

11:00 a.m. Sunday, November 24

Scripture: Matthew 13:24-43 (NIV) (Weeds)

Sermon: "Small Seeds, Big Impact"

Praying with you and for you, Pastor Joyce



# **NEWS!!**

Facebook.com/bushnellmethodist Website: www.bushnellmethodistchurch.org



SCAN OR CODE

#### **NEW NAME TAGS AVAILABLE**

Order your new name tag! The cost is \$ 6.00 each.

The number of tags, name and amount should be written on the envelope provided.

Place money in the envelope and drop in the box provided. Thank you!



# **EVENTS COMING YOUR WAY DECEMBER 2024**

12/01 - Hanging of the Greens

12/04,11th & 18th, 5-6:30 p.m. - Advent Bible study (pick up your Advent study book in the office for \$6.00)

12/05- Bushnell Christmas

12/07- Free breakfast

12/10 - Men's breakfast

12/15 - Cantata

12/17 - Ladies luncheon

12/24 - 5:00 p.m., Christmas Eve service



# It's Time To Decorate the Church for the Holiday Season!

November 24th, Sunday

Please come join in and help decorate the church immediately following the morning service. A light lunch will be provided.

			Free Breakfast F-10 a.m.				
		Sat	2 Free Bre 8-10 a.m.	တ	16	23	30
700	<b>470</b>	Fri	-	ω	15	22	59
	7 70	Thu		<b>~</b>	4	24	28
NOVEMBED 2024		Wed		6 Chime prac. 9:30 Food pantry 11a B/S 5:30-6:30p	13 Chime prac. 9:30 Food pantry 11a B/S 5:30-6:30p	20 Chime Choir 9:30a Food pantry 11a Comm. Meeting	27 Chime Choir 9:30a Food pantry 11a B/S 5:30-6:30p
		Tue		5 Men's breakfast 9 a.m.	12	19 Ladies luncheon 1 p.m.	26
		Mon		4	<del>-</del>	<b>18</b>	25
		Sun		3 All Saints Sunday	10 Veterans service w/David Higgins & lunch	17 Choir Practice 9:30 am	24 Decorate church for Christmas after service

# **Bushnell Methodist Church**

221 West Noble Avenue Bushnell, FL 33513 Phone: (352) 793-3221 bushnellumc@yahoo.com

You're INVITED!

Sun. Worship at 11:00 AM

See you then!