



The Courier

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

November 2020

Court Street United Methodist

Are You Thankful No Matter What?

Perhaps you have lost your job recently, as the pandemic has continued. Or you may have lost your health, or a loved one. Such circumstances can be tremendously difficult. But even so, we all have much to be thankful for. Why should we be thankful? Because God has blessed us, and we should be thankful for each blessing. We seem never to be satisfied with what we have—rich or poor, healthy or sick. Are you constantly preoccupied with what you do not have? Or have you learned to thank God for what you do have? It is so easy to take people for granted, or even to complain and become angry because they do not meet our every wish. But we need to give thanks for those around us—our spouses, our children, our relatives, our friends and others who help us in some way. Do you let others know that you appreciate them and are thankful for them? The Christians in Corinth were far from perfect, but Paul began his first letter to them by saying, “*I always thank God for you*” (1 Corinthians 1:4). When a group of believers, whom Paul had never met, came out to greet him as he approached Rome, we read that “*at the sight of these men Paul thanked God and was encouraged*” (Acts 28:15). Thank God for those who touch your life. I do not know what trials you may be facing right now, but God does, and He loves you and is with you by His Holy Spirit. Cultivate a spirit of thankfulness even during trials and heartache. “*God has given us the greatest Gift of all—His Son, who died on the cross and rose again so that we can know Him personally and spend eternity with Him in heaven.*” The Bible tells us that we are separated from God because we have sinned. But God loves us. He loves you. He loves me and He wants us to be part of His family forever. He loves us so much that He sent His only Son into the world to die as a perfect sacrifice for our sins. All we need to do is reach out in faith and accept Christ as our Savior and Lord: “*For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life*” (John 3:16). In ourselves we do not have the strength that we need to live the way God wants us to live. But when we turn to Him, we discover that “*it is God who works in [us] to will and to act according to his good purpose*” (Philippians 2:13). Jesus promised His disciples, “*All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age*” (Matthew 28:18, 20). In many countries a special day is set aside each year for thanksgiving. But for the Christian every day can be a day of thanksgiving, as we are “*always giving thanks to God the Father for everything, in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ*” (Ephesians 5:20).
fact that God causes, allows and directs all things according to his sovereign plan, the more one will experience the strength, hope, peace, comfort and confidence that only God can provide.

~ Pastor Bill Burleigh

A THANKFUL HEART IS A HAPPY HEART



Musical Musings

QUARANTINE EDITION

Where's our Thanksgiving music?

Enjoy this edited article written by **Don Whitney**. A professor of biblical spirituality and associate dean of the School of Theology at Southern Seminary. A longtime pastor and author of numerous books on the Christian life, he is also founder of The Center for Biblical Spirituality. The full article can be read at:

<https://equip.sbts.edu/article/wheres-our-thanksgiving-music/>

I miss the traditional Thanksgiving hymns. I'm talking about songs such as "We Gather Together," "Come, Ye Thankful People, Come," and "Now Thank We All Our God."

What happened? Likely, it was one or more of several things.

Reset of musical styles - In some churches, of course, there's been a wholesale abandonment of traditional worship music. And indeed, it was time for a lot of it to go. But some churches have decided there's no place at all for any of the music written and sung by previous generations of believers.

I once spoke in a church where a conscious decision had been made never to sing anything more than five years old. Do we really want to raise a generation of Christians (who will then influence succeeding generations) who do not know "A Mighty Fortress Is Our God" and "Holy, Holy, Holy"? Of course not.

Distance from harvest - Perhaps another, less evident reason for the disappearance of Thanksgiving music is the growing distance for most people from the awareness of the harvest season and its importance. We never see crops planted, grown, and harvested, not even from the car window on our commute to the office. Our great-grandparents were raised on farms. Today most of us live in urban areas. But for people who live close to the land, harvest is the satisfying culmination of long months of labor and a reason for gratitude and celebration. Christians whose livelihood and local economy are directly tied to harvest probably sense the fitness of singing the traditional Thanksgiving hymns better than those whose pantry and paycheck are always the same regardless of the amount of rain or the price of corn.

Ready for Christmas music - And maybe some worship leaders overlook the music of Thanksgiving simply because they're ready to sing the music of Christmas. After all, ad campaigns fill our culture with thoughts of Christmas long before Thanksgiving anyway. Besides, almost everyone likes Christmas music.

Don't get me wrong: I love Christmas music. I'm ready to sing it from the first Sunday after Thanksgiving through the whole month of December. Indeed, it's appropriate to celebrate the birth of Jesus (as well as His resurrection) in our worship music every month of the year.

Christmas music > Thanksgiving music - Christmas music should take priority over the traditional Thanksgiving hymns. For one thing, most of the church's Christmas music is more explicitly Christ-centered than the Thanksgiving songs currently in our repertoire. Second, there's much more good music about the birth of Jesus to sing (and that should be sung). Our hymnals contain ten great Christmas songs for every Thanksgiving hymn. Of course, more Sundays are devoted to the anticipation of Christmas than to Thanksgiving, so fewer Thanksgiving songs are really needed.

A call for new Thanksgiving music - Although this article is clearly an appeal for us to retain the best of the traditional Thanksgiving music, it's also a call for the church to produce new, well-composed, theologically-rich music to anticipate singing each November. There are a few good Thanksgiving songs out there, but not very many (at least that I know).

Maybe it's time for our brothers and sisters who are gifted in these ways to give the church some fresh, Thanksgiving-seasonal, Gospel-focused, Christ-exalting music for us to sing congregationally. Until then... Wouldn't it be sad if our children or grandchildren grew up without knowing "Silent Night" or "Joy to the World"? I think we should feel the same sadness if they never learn "Come, Ye Thankful People, Come" and other worship music that several generations of Christians have sung during harvest season or times of thanksgiving.

Unless you believe that all Christian music more than a few years old should be removed from the church's worship repertoire—and if you believe this, then logically that applies even to the songs the church sings at Christmas—then join me in encouraging the recovery of the best of the traditional Thanksgiving hymns and the development of new ones. We've not only much to lose if we don't, but much to gain if we do.

NOVEMBER'S ADULT BIBLE STUDY CLASS
CONTINUE TO READ LESSONS WEEKLY

November 1: "Sacred Spaces"

November 8: "Worship in the Synagogue"

November 15: "Worship as the Church"

November 22: "Worship at the Throne"

November 29: "Created, Loved, Known"

"VIRTUAL SUNDAY SCHOOL" is now available on our [WEBSITE](#)

THANK YOU FOR YOUR PRAYERS

Alicia Speer is doing better now than in many years. She has had her seizure medication changed and has a new neurologist that seems to have a better knowledge of how to handle seizure patients. Luckily, the medication she is on also helps with her bipolar mood swings and anxiety, so that is a good thing. The pandemic had not made that big of a difference in her routines, as she doesn't go out in public very often because of her seizures, except for being able to see her therapist and psychiatrist. She hopes this whole thing will get under control so she can resume her medical appointments without interruption. Thank you for all the support you give her, it is much appreciated.

THANK YOU for the continued phone calls, cards, and prayers during my recovery. I continue to grow stronger everyday with therapy. I am so grateful for my church family and I cannot wait to see all of your beautiful faces. Be safe and thanks again for everything! ~ *Harriette Cash*

THE ADULT CARE CENTER IS CELEBRATING 35 YEARS OF SERVICE TO OUR COMMUNITY!

You can help celebrate with a birthday gift of \$35, which is enough for them to throw a birthday party for one of their participants, buy lunch for ten participants, or provide supplies for a creative "arty party" project!

Please go to www.adultcarecenter.org/donate to choose your favorite way to give.



Adult Care Center
OF CENTRAL VIRGINIA

Three ways your \$35 donation can help celebrate our 35 years of service in 2020:

1. ***Birthday party*** (cake & gifts included!)
2. ***Lunch for 10***
3. ***Supplies for an art activity***

Send your donation directly to

Adult Care Center

PO Box 568

Lynchburg, VA 24505

or go online to

www.adultcarecenter.org/donate/

Birthdays and Anniversaries

November Birthdays	December Anniversaries	December Birthdays
Gina Wright November 01	Shelley & Bill Burleigh Dec. 16	Hunter Alan Tyree December 02
Chiswell Logan November 06	Bobbi & Randy Hurst Dec. 23	Milton West December 03
Landen Larkin November 10		Brennalynn Diuguid December 05
Phyllis Coleman November 11		Phil Ripley December 05
Megan Straw November 12		Nancy Russell December 06
Nada Sweeney November 12		Elizabeth Larkin December 07
Cornell Thompson November 18		Adam Bryant December 09
Jodi Center November 19		Jeff Thaxton December 11
Julia McConnell November 21		Suzanne Baker December 12
		Susan Cobbs December 12
		Lisa Thaxton December 14
		Randy Hurst December 20
	Ray Pulliam December 30	
	Anne Langley December 31	

PRAYER CONCERNS

All Men and Women serving in the Military

- Travis Dean Burleigh – 7425 Snowy Owl St., N. Las Vegas, NV 89084
son of Shelley and Rev. Bill Burleigh

SICK (Church members*)

- *Harriette Cash – 252 Lynwood Drive, Madison Heights, VA 24572
- *Noel Draper - 501 VES Road Drinkard 619, Lynchburg, VA 24503
- Susan Dwyer – sister of Rev. Bill Burleigh
- *Christopher Lilly – 1705 Rivermont Ave. Apt 8, Lynchburg, VA 24503
- *Chis Logan - 5325 Hickory Hill Drive, Lynchburg, VA 24503
- *Phil Ripley – 60 Jill Alison Circle, Ormond Beach, FL 32176
- *Alicia Speer – 1815 Rivermont Ave #68, Lynchburg, VA 24503
- *Robert Tyree – 1404 Brookville Lane, Lynchburg, VA 24502
son of *Mary Tyree, brother of *Debbie Chaffin
- * Church members

Healing Prayer

Lord Jesus, heal me.
Heal in me whatever You see needs healing.
Heal me of whatever might
separate me from you.
Heal my memory,
heal my heart, heal my emotions,
heal my spirit, heal my body
heal my soul.
Lay Your hands gently upon me and
Heal me through Your love for me.

Amen.

~ We send our love and sympathy to Randall Speer and family
in the passing of his father, Verl on Friday October 9th.

ADDRESS CHANGES:
Flo Traywick
Discovery Village at the West End
2422 University Park Blvd.
Richmond, VA 23233

Update on Capital Campaign:	
Campaign Goal	\$300,000
Promised as of 10/25/20	\$248,981
Balance needed to reach goal	\$51,019
Received to Date	\$210,566
Received since last update	\$50.00
Elevator fund	\$10,328

Court Street UMC
621 Court Street
Lynchburg Va. 24504



In worship, praise and ministry, we respond to God's call by reaching out to all people with light, hope, and a vision of God's love.

COURT STREET UMC WEBSITE: www.courtstreetmethodist.com

EMAIL: 621courtstumc@gmail.com

PHONE: 434-845-3427

Please contact the church office at:

621courtstumc@gmail.com or (434) 845-3427 on or before Wednesdays to have events and notices posted on the church website.

