



“The Messenger”

St. Paul’s UCC (513-422-4519); Rev. Rich Luh, Pastor (937-993-5464)

NOVEMBER 2022

“Happy Thanksgiving!”

Yes, this is the month that we observe three national events – Election Day, Veterans’ Day, and Thanksgiving. What do these three have in common?

Well, they all center around responsibility. First, we have Election Day. As citizens of this country, we are given the privilege to vote for those people we want to lead us. Thus, it is our responsibility to get out and vote for the candidate you feel will best represent us in local and national decisions. But in so doing, be an educated voter. In other words, know who the candidates are and what they stand for (of course we know this tends to change once they are in office!). But don’t just go to the voting polls and choose whomever suits your fancy for that particular moment or the one who is better dressed or looks better. Be informed before you vote. That too is a responsibility each of us has.

Secondly, we have Veterans' Day. It is here we celebrate and remember the sacrifices our men and women made and continue to make in defense of freedom. They took hold of an awesome responsibility to serve. A number of them gave the ultimate sacrifice in following through on that responsibility. It is right and responsible for us to honor them in any way we can – through special recognition at a church service, praying for them around our mealtime; or perhaps visiting a wounded veteran in the hospital or rehab – or just placing flowers on the grave of the family members who so nobly served their country.

Now we come the day of Thanksgiving on November 24th. In our church we will celebrate this day on the 20th in conjunction with Toten Fest – as we celebrate our thanks for the life of those who have gone before us.

But getting back to Thanksgiving – we need to remember to be thankful for each other, for the beauty of the earth – I mean, just look around at the beautiful colors this autumn has brought – and of course our thanks to God Almighty for making all nature and family and friends possible!

So, it indeed is our responsibility to observe these three events this month with gladdened hearts and joyful praise for what God has given to each of us – the opportunities to have a say in our leadership – the chance to honor those who have given so much in their love of country and family– and for all the blessings we have received and continue to receive from our Heavenly Father. May you all have a blessed Thanksgiving!

Shalom,

Pastor Rich

LAY READERS

6 – Corrine Lowman

13 – Dan Flory

20 – Carl Batliner

27 – Cindy Burnett

OUR SPECIAL OFFERING IN NOVEMBER

This month we lift up SHALOM as the object of our special offerings. SHALOM has been around for years assisting people who are less fortunate in the community. They provide emergency housing for the homeless and meals from December through the winter months. We are proud supporters of this ministry. We ask for your continued support with special offerings this month.

PLEASE JOIN US FOR WORSHIP

6 – “Hold on to Faith”

13 – “Infinite Possibilities”

20 – “How Thankful Are We?”

27 – “He Comes!”

Join us for fellowship after worship for our Coffee Hour.

It is time to start thinking about Christmas Flowers!

1 Plant \$16.00 2 Plants \$45.00

Everyday Thanksgiving

Lord, I am grateful for the family and friends I have. There are many who are without any living members or friends to share and enjoy their company. They are lonely.

Lord, I am grateful for the place I work at – it may be toilsome at times, but there are those who are unemployed – or those who cannot work.

Lord, I appreciate the opportunities you give me to put food on my table, and clothes to wear, for there are many who pretty much go from day to day looking for something to eat and when winter arrives, warm clothing to wear.

Lord, I thank you for the roof over my head. I know sometimes it's a pain to keep up with cleaning and repairing, but when I think of those who are homeless, I become ashamed for the complaints I express.

Lord, as we approach the Day of Thanksgiving, help to remind me that I should be grateful everyday for all that you provide me with and do everything I can to show my appreciation by helping others who have far less than myself.

BELIEVE IT OR NOT!

Yes, the Season of Advent commences on Sunday, November 27th.

Let us keep Pastor Connor in our prayers as he begins his new pastorate and Pastor Jeff as he begins his ministry as Pastor of First Christian Church. We wish them God speed on their new journey!