

**"BLESSING and
GLORY and
WISDOM and
THANKSGIVING and
HONOR and
POWER and
MIGHT
be to our GOD
FOREVER and
EVER! Amen."**

REVELATION 7:12

Curlew United Methodist Church

*where everyone is welcome and
where all can make a difference!*

Curlew UMC proudly celebrates 150 years of ministry.

Our Mission:

To Know, Love and Serve Jesus Christ by the grace of God through the Holy Spirit

Our Purpose:

Be the Body of Christ gathered in love. Worship God and Preach the gospel so that others may know the power of God's love through a personal relationship with His Son, Jesus Christ. Grow in faith, knowledge and strength in order to do God's work in the community and in the world.

For more information, please contact us.

**Office Open: Monday - Friday, 9:00 am - 1:00 pm
727.784.3424**

Website: www.CurlewUMC.org

E-Mail: curlewumc@verizon.net

Facebook: Curlew UMC



*Open hearts
Open minds
Open doors*



Contact Information

2210 Cathedral Drive
Palm Harbor, FL 34683

Phone: 727.784.3424
Fax: 727.771.1449

Email:
CurlewUMC@verizon.net

Website:
www.CurlewUMC.org

Facebook:
Curlew UMC



Sunday Morning

10:15 Organ Selections
10:30 Morning Worship



Rev. Rachel Hughes
Senior Pastor

E-mail:
CurlewUMC@verizon.net

727.488.3570



THE COURIER NEWSLETTER

A monthly publication of Curlew United Methodist Church

NOVEMBER 2020

From Pastor Rachel ...

Happy Thanksgiving Curlew,

"Thanksgiving is inseparable from true prayer; it is almost essentially connected with it. One who always prays is ever giving praise, whether in ease or pain, both for prosperity and for the greatest adversity. He blesses God for all things, looks on them as coming from Him, and receives them for His sake - not choosing nor refusing, liking or disliking, anything, but only as it is agreeable or disagreeable to His perfect will." John Wesley

People have been so deeply affected this year by disasters and violence in our world. Pray for healing and work that must be done to restore lives and property. Pray to help people who are hurting. Pray so that the prayers are not words only, but turned into action.

God provides us with true blessings in abundance. We have joy and laughter; we have courage in the face of fear, hope where there is doubt, comfort when we have tears and sadness. God is with us in all things. John Wesley believed in the love and blessings of God. Even on his death bed, he said, **"Best of all, God is with us."**

Thanksgiving is inseparable from true prayer. Give thanks to the Lord always with a grateful heart. I am thankful for you and our church. I am thankful for all that God is doing among us as we pray for the power of the Holy Spirit to lead us into the future.

*Grace and Peace,
Pastor Rachel*



Curlew United Methodist Church
2210 Cathedral Drive
Palm Harbor, FL 34683

Open Hearts. Open Minds. Open Doors.
The People of The United Methodist Church



Forwarding Service Requested



Currently, the Curlew United Methodist Men have no plans to meet for breakfast during the month of November. A few of us continue to meet via ZOOM every Saturday morning at 8:00 am. If anyone would like to join us on Zoom.com, the ID sign-in code is: **714 5751 1391**. The password when prompted is: **umm**.

Election of new officers is being discussed, so please consider serving in office next year.

Stay healthy and God bless! Winn

Thanksgiving Thoughts

"Almighty God, who hast given us this good land for our heritage; We humbly beseech Thee that we may always prove ourselves a people mindful of Thy favor and glad to do Thy will." **Franklin D. Roosevelt**

"What if, today, we were grateful for everything?" **Charlie Brown**

"As was written in the first Thanksgiving Proclamation 120 years ago, 'No human counsel hath devised nor hath any mortal hand worked out these great things. They are the gracious gifts of the Most High God.' God has blessed America and her people, and it is appropriate we recognize this bounty." **Ronald Reagan**



11/03	Diane Brand	11/17	Dixie Ducker
11/10	Linda Wells	11/17	Ernestine Hughes
11/12	Dianna Hanger	11/26	Betty Petersen



11/10	Bill & Carole Quinn
11/14	Glenn & Verda Woods
11/20	Anthony & Eugenia Akapo
11/29	Gary & Liz Barth

(If you want to send a birthday or anniversary card, please call the church office if you need an address for any of the folks listed here.)

Bible Trivia Answers

- | | |
|------------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| 1. Matthew | 7. Three |
| 2. Benjamin | 8. Micah |
| 3. Psalm 119 | 9. Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego |
| 4. Jerusalem | 10. Exodus |
| 5. Sychar | 11. Eight |
| 6. Nazareth | |
| 12. Head of John the Baptist | |



How many did you get right?

Book of Hosea

Bible Crossword Answer Key

P	W	T	A	C	J						
P	U	N	S	H	B	R	O	K	E	N	
R	N	E	I	V	W						
U	S	E	D	R	E	D	E	E	M	E	D
U	E	E	N	L							
M	E	M	P	H	I	S	R	A	I	S	E
R	N	B	N								
O	F	F	E	R	T	E	S	T	I	F	Y
A	P	B	R	A							
P	L	E	A	S	U	R	E	S	O	U	L
L	R	R	A	O	L						
S	O	L	E	M	N	V	A	N	I	T	Y
W	D	T	E	S	Y						



Be sure to go online to: members.InstantChurchDirectory.com and register to use our online directory. Only those in the directory can register, and then you'll have access to our most up-to-date information!

If you need information or assistance, call ...

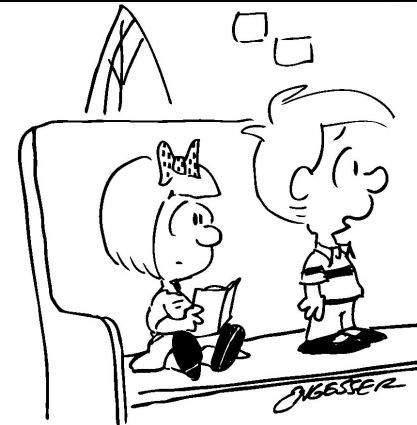
The Aging and Disability Resource Center (ADRC)

A program of the Area Agency on Aging of Pasco-Pinellas, Inc.

The ADRC provides access to information and resources for:

- Adult Day Care ♦ Caregiver Support ♦ Food Resources/Meals on Wheels ♦ Housing Options ♦ Incontinence Supplies ♦ Legal Services ♦ Medicaid/Medicare ♦ Nursing Home and Assisted Living Placement ♦ Prescription Assistance ♦ and more!

Helpline: 1-800-963-5337 or 727-217-8111, 8 am - 5 pm; Online: www.AgingCareFL.org



"Dad's not diggin' Pastor's Thanksgiving Day message on gluttony."



"I don't know where Cain and Abel went for Thanksgiving, Son. I just know they didn't go to Grandma's."



Options for Online Worship through Gulf Central District UMC Churches

Aldersgate, Seminole (Sun 10:30) <http://aldersgate.com/watch/>

Anona, Largo (Sun 9:30, 11) <http://live.anona.com/>

Community, Oldsmar (Sun 10) <https://www.facebook.com/pg/GrowWithCommunity/videos/>

East Lake, Palm Harbor (Sun 10:25, 11:35) <https://www.myeastlake.church/watch-live/>

First, Clearwater (Sun 9:45) <https://www.fumc-clw.com/>

First, Lakeland (Sun 8:15, 9:30, 11, 11:20) <https://www.firstumc.org/worship-now/>

First, St. Petersburg (Sun 8, 9:30, 11) <https://www.facebook.com/StPeteFirst/>

Heritage, Clearwater (Sun 9, 10:30) <https://heritageumc.com/watch-listen/>

Hyde Park, Tampa (Sun 8:30, 9:30 11) <http://hydeparkumc.org/watch-live>

New Hope, Brandon (Sun 9:30, 11) <https://www.findnewhope.com/watch-live-1>

Skycrest, Clearwater (Sun 9:45) www.facebook.com/skycrestumc

St. Paul, Largo (Sun 9, 10:30) <http://stpaulumc.sermon.net/Live/live/20007062>

Sun City Center (Sun 10, 11) <https://www.sccumc.com/services>

* Covenant UMC, Port Orange - Pastor B.J. Foster's church (Sun 10:30) www.jesusatcovenant.org

* Church of the Resurrection, Leawood, KS (largest American UMC church, Pastor Adam Hamilton)
(Sun 10:15 am; 12:00 & 6:00 pm) www.cor.org

People Needing Prayer

As the Body of Christ, we are called to pray for each other. What a privilege we have to go to God for the needs of our brothers and sisters!

As of the printing of this newsletter, we are in prayer for:

Ernie Bear, Janice Boorse, Sandy Fika, Richard & Linda Hicks, Betty Johnson, Helen Kamp, JR Melvin, Mark & Mary Smiech, your Church Family and Church Leaders, the United Methodist Church, our country, and those across the globe fighting the coronavirus pandemic.



We are aware of several church families in need of prayer for loved ones, so please lift them up in prayer as well.

Let us help! **Please** be sure to call the Church Office when you or someone you know is in need of prayer. We want to know when someone is in the hospital or is in need of prayer for any reason, so please be sure to call the church office. If it's after hours, just leave a message and we'll get back to you as soon as possible!

Pray for our Shut-ins

Esther Besch - 2851 Tampa Road, Palm Harbor, FL 34684 (Manor Care, 787-4777)

Mary DeDea - 2655 Nebraska Avenue, #1002, Palm Harbor, FL 34684 (St. Mark, 785-2576)

Eileen Huntington - 2655 Nebraska Avenue, #1022, Palm Harbor, FL 34684 (St. Mark, 785-2576)

Barbara Bardua - 1212 Lanyard Street, Palm Harbor, FL 34685 (789-4313)

Evelyn Ralston - 2340 Grecian Way, Unit 20, Clearwater FL 33763



Why Being Thankful Is a Powerful Way to Live Free

by Debbie McDaniel
www.crosswalk.com

The Lord is my strength and my shield; My heart trusts in Him, and I am helped; therefore my heart exults, And with my song I shall thank Him." Psalm 28:7

We have so much to be grateful for in this life, every single day. But reality is that sometimes constant life demands, battles, and worries give more room to defeat than to a heart of thanks. Or we forget, in the midst of busyness and pressures, just to pause and give thanks for all that God has done and continues to do in our lives.

Sometimes it really is a sacrifice to offer praise and thanks. We may not feel like it. We're struggling. We're weary. Or maybe, we feel like He let us down. We think God seems distant, like He's far away, or doesn't really care about what's troubling us. Painful life blows and losses might have recently sent us spiraling.

But here's what can make a lasting difference. We have a choice, every day, to give Him thanks. And with a heart of thanksgiving, we realize that no matter what we face, God doesn't just work to change our situations and help us through our problems. He does more. He changes our hearts. His power, through hearts of gratitude and focused minds on Him, releases the grip our struggles have over us. We're strengthened by His peace, refueled by His joy.

No matter what our current situation, or the struggles we may be facing, here's what choosing to be thankful does:

- *It gets our eyes off ourselves, and helps us to focus back on God.*
- *It reminds us we're not in control, but that we serve a Mighty God who is. It keeps us in a place of humility and dependency on Him, as we recognize how much we need Him.*
- *It helps us to recognize we have so much to be thankful for, even all the little things, which often we may forget to thank Him for. It takes our attention off our problems and helps us instead to reflect on the goodness of His many blessings.*
- *It reminds us that God is the Giver of all good gifts. We were never intended to be fully self-sufficient in this life. A grateful heart reminds us that ultimately God is our Provider, that all blessings and gifts are graciously given to us by His hand.*
- *A heart of gratitude leaves no room for complaining. For it is impossible to be truly thankful and filled with negativity and ungratefulness at the same time.*
- *It makes the enemy flee. The forces of darkness can't stand to be around hearts that give thanks and honor to God. Our praise and thanksgiving will make them flee.*
- *It opens the door for continued blessings. It invites His presence. God loves to give good gifts to His children. He delights in our thankfulness and pours out His Spirit and favor over those who give honor and gratitude to Him.*

continued on page 4

Why Being Thankful ...
continued from page 3

Dear God,

Thank You for your goodness and for Your blessings over our lives. Forgive us for when we don't thank You enough, for who You are, for all that You do, for all that You've given. We're so grateful to You for Your amazing love and care, for Your mercy and grace, for always working on our behalf, even behind the scenes when we're unaware. Thank You that you are always with us and will never leave us, even through loss and the most difficult of times. Thank You for Your incredible sacrifice so that we might have freedom and life. Help us to set our eyes and our hearts on You afresh. Renew our spirits, fill us with Your peace and joy, this Thanksgiving Day and every day.

We give You thanks and praise, for You alone are worthy!

In Jesus' Name,
Amen.



From your Thrifty Spirit ...

We have reopened and it's wonderful to see old friends and new faces! Our hours are as always ... Saturdays from 10:00 am - 2:00 pm. When you come visit, please remember to wear a mask and adhere to social distancing guidelines. Hand sanitizer is available at the counter.

We received lots of wonderful donations during our closure, so you have a great selection of Vera Bradley purses and lots of new jewelry to choose from ... as well as bargain prices on a variety of "like new" clothing. Please note that we will not be taking any more donations until after the first of the year.

Continue to keep us in prayer and know how much we value your ongoing support.

Love in Christ, Jerry and volunteers



There will be a meeting of the Finance Team on Thursday, November 19, at 11:00 a.m. in Sutton Hall.



We had such a wonderful response to our October Spaghetti Sauce sale, we're doing it again!
Order by Wednesday, 11/11, and pick up your sauce on:
Friday, 11/13, from 4:00-6:00 pm
or Saturday, 11/14, from 10:00 am-12:00 pm

This will be your last chance before 2021 to stock up on the United Methodist Men's popular Spaghetti Sauce.

Here's what to do:

- 1) Call the church office (784.3424) by Wednesday, November 11, and let us know how many quarts you would like to order. **Cost is \$6 per quart.**
- 2) Come pick up your sauce in front of Sutton Hall on Friday, November 13, from 4:00-6:00 pm, or on Saturday, November 14, from 10:00 am-12:00 pm.

There MAY be a few extra jars of sauce that will be available after worship on Sunday, November 15, but it's not guaranteed ... so if you want to be sure that

Special Days in November

Wednesday, November 11: **Veterans Day**

If anyone serves, they should do so with the strength God provides, so that in all things God may be praised through Jesus Christ. 1 Peter 4:11

Thursday, November 26: **Thanksgiving**

*You will be enriched in every way so that you can be generous on every occasion, and through us your generosity will result in **thanksgiving** to God. 2 Corinthians 9:11*



Thanks for Your Support!

Even though church is now open for worship, there are still many folks that are not comfortable venturing out. So we would like to thank you for continuing to support the church through your tithes and offerings. We are able to meet our financial obligations thanks to your faithful generosity!

Once again, thank you, thank you, thank you!



Happy Blessed Thanksgiving

Enter His gates with thanksgiving and His courts with praise. Give thanks to Him, bless His name. For the Lord is good; His steadfast love endures forever, and His faithfulness to all generations. Psalm 100:4-5

Although we should have an attitude of gratitude every day, we set aside a day - Thanksgiving Day - to focus on our thankfulness to God. However, for us, as Christians, it goes much deeper than that. Thanksgiving is recognition of a debt that cannot be paid-an indebtedness of each of us, but one that only Jesus could pay. It is a **gift** to us. Salvation and eternal life for all who believe. It is a debt and a gift that goes far beyond a simple thank you, it is a recognition of dependence, true and total dependence on God!

In Thessalonians 5:3, Paul wrote in everything give thanks for this is the will of God in Jesus Christ. (There were no exceptions-in everything give thanks).

In this season of struggles, what are YOU thankful for? What are the blessings you have seen, what are the blessings you have experienced? If you just take a look, they are in plain view.

As you celebrate Thanksgiving, I pray that you will set aside some quiet time for yourself and again with your family and thank God for the richness of His blessings.

On behalf of Pastor Rachel, Debbie and the entire leadership team, we wish you a happy and blessed Thanksgiving in spite of and perhaps because of our struggles and may your "attitude of gratitude" increase through the outpouring of the Holy Spirit.

Praying, praising and rejoicing!

Helen Hershman, Lay Leader

Cowboy Joe

Cowboy Joe was telling his fellow cowboys back on the ranch about his first visit to a big-city church.

"When I got there, they had me park my old truck in the corral," Joe began.

"You mean the parking lot," interrupted Charlie, a more worldly fellow.

"I walked up the trail to the door," Joe continued.

"The sidewalk to the door," Charlie corrected him.

"Inside the door, I was met by this dude," Joe went on.

"That would be the usher," Charlie explained.

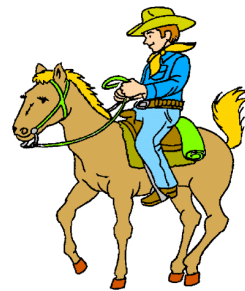
"Well, the usher led me down the chute," Joe said.

"You mean the aisle," Charlie said.

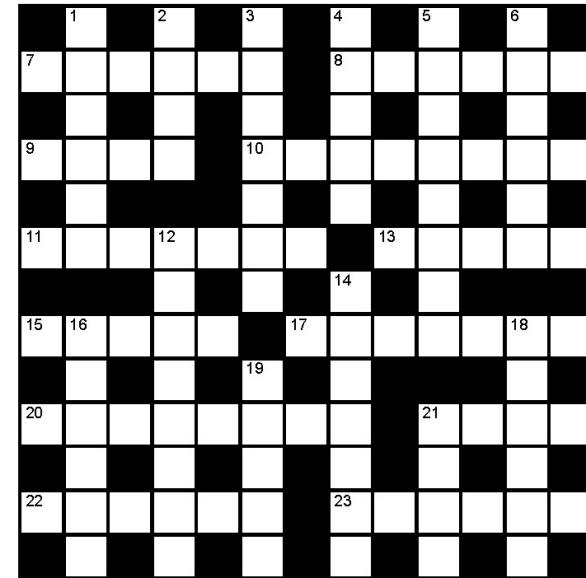
"Then, he led me to a stall and told me to sit there," Joe continued.

"Pew," Charlie retorted.

"Yeah," recalled Joe. "That's what that pretty lady said when I sat down beside her."



Book of Hosea Bible Crossword (King James Version)



Across

- 7 The Lord will do this to Jacob, according to his ways. Hos 12:2 (6)
- 8 The calf of Samaria shall be _____. Hos 8:6 (6)
- 9 God has spoken by the prophets, multiplied visions, and ____ similitudes. Hos 12:10 (4)
- 10 "Though I have _____ them, yet they have spoken lies against me." Hos 7:13 (8)
- 11 A city in Egypt. Hos 9:6 (7)
- 13 "In the third day he will _____ us up, and we shall live in his sight." Hos 6:2 (5)
- 15 "They shall not _____ wine offerings to the Lord, neither shall they be pleasing unto him." Hos 9:4 (5)
- 17 To witness or give evidence. Hos 5:5 (7)
- 20 "Israel is swallowed up: now shall they be among the Gentiles as a vessel wherein is no _____." Hos 8:8 (8)
- 21 "For their bread for their _____ shall not come into the house of the Lord." Hos 9:4 (4)
- 22 Describes feasts. Hos 2:11 (6)

Down

- 1 The enemy shall _____ Israel. Hos 8:3 (6)
- 2 When this is sown, the whirlwind is reaped. Hos 8:7 (4)
- 3 "For the ways of the Lord are right, and the just shall walk in them: but the transgressors shall fall _____." Hos 14:9 (7)
- 4 "And I said unto her, Thou shalt _____ for me many days; thou shalt not play the harlot, and thou shalt not be for another man: so will I also be for thee." Hos 3:3 (5)
- 5 Synonym for promise. Hos 2:18 (8)
- 6 Israel is compared to an unfaithful woman who "decked

herself with her earrings and her _____." Hos 2:13 (6)

12 "His going forth is _____ as the morning; and he shall come unto us as the rain." Hos 6:3 (8)

14 "Though they bring up their children, yet will I _____ them, that there shall not be a man left: yea, woe also to them when I depart from them!" Hos 9:12 (7)

16 "Sow to yourselves in righteousness, reap in mercy; break up your _____ ground: for it is time to seek the Lord, till he come and rain righteousness upon you." Hos 10:12 (8)

18 "Their heart is divided; now shall they be found _____." Hos 10:2 (6)

19 God desires mercy and the knowledge of Him rather than sacrifice and _____ offerings. Hos 6:6 (5)

21 "And it shall come to pass, that in the place where it was said unto them, Ye are not my people, there it shall be said unto them, Ye are the _____ of the living God." Hos 1:10 (4)

Dear Curlew Family,

We received a wonderful response to our request for useful items to help the children in the new school year. We sent a good variety of items to the Children's Home, the value of which exceeded \$150.00.

Thank you for your generous giving.



God's blessings to each of you,
Bob and Linda Floyd

We received the following information from the Children's Home about Christmas!

As Fall is upon us and we move closer to Christmas, we are happy to share with you that our annual Christmas gift card drive will again take place for the children at the Florida United Methodist Children's Home. This drive gives us, as a connectional ministry, an opportunity to show God's love through gifts. We ask that you again consider purchasing gift cards to be distributed across our ministry to give to the children we serve.

Because our house parents and therapists know our children well, they will actually go shopping for gifts using a portion of the gift cards. This gifts will be wrapped and placed under the Christmas tree to be opened on Christmas morning, along with a few gift cards that will allow the youth to go shopping.

We would be grateful for the purchase of gift cards in increments of \$10-\$100 to major chain stores and restaurants. Especially useful and flexible cards for our children include Amazon, Visa, Walmart, Kohl's, and Gamestop gift cards.

In order to prepare our campus for Christmas we ask that your gift cards arrive by November 30th.



*Please join us for our annual
Thanksgiving Eve worship service
on Wednesday, November 25, at
6:00 p.m. in the sanctuary.*



Everyone is invited to attend a memorial service for **Eugene Yocum** here at the church on Sunday, November 15, at 1:00 pm. This service was delayed due to the pandemic, so please come and support Susan and their daughter, Stephanie.

BIBLE WORD SEARCH!

Good Gifts (Matthew 7:7-12)

U	G	I	F	T	S	L	C	K	F
I	S	T	O	N	E	T	H	E	N
M	S	S	C	O	R	P	I	O	N
U	P	C	S	U	P	E	L	F	H
C	I	N	S	T	E	A	D	F	H
H	R	B	E	I	N	G	R	E	O
B	I	F	F	A	T	H	E	R	L
R	T	H	E	A	V	E	N	L	Y
E	G	I	V	E	K	N	O	W	G
A	A	F	I	S	H	M	O	R	E
D	T	E	L	G	O	O	D	T	O

Find these words from Matthew 7:

- BEING
- EVIL
- GIFTS
- HEAVENLY
- KNOW
- OFFER
- SPIRIT
- BREAD
- FATHER
- GIVE
- HOLY
- MORE
- SCORPION
- STONE
- CHILDREN
- FISH
- GOOD
- INSTEAD
- MUCH
- SERPENT
- THEN

THANKFUL, EVEN IN CHAINS



Many hearts turn toward the concept of thankfulness during this time of year, and rightly so! God has provided an abundance not only of the physical things we need (Acts 14:17; 17:25; Matt. 5:45; 6:25-33), but also all spiritual blessings (Eph. 1:3; 2 Peter 1:3), which we need more. He is indeed a giver of **good gifts** (James 1:17)!

Sometimes, though, when one or more of these blessings seem to be missing in us for a time, we become discouraged or depressed. When that feeling comes upon you, remember the encouraging letter of rejoicing Paul wrote to the Philippians. Though in chains (Phil. 1:7,13), Paul was yet thankful for his fellow Christians (1:3-11) and for the continued preaching of the gospel despite his incarceration (1:12-18). Even in chains, Paul could rejoice (Phil. 4:4)!



How to Observe Thanksgiving

- Count your blessings instead of your crosses.
- Count your gains instead of your losses.
- Count your joys instead of your woes.
- Count your friends instead of your foes.
- Count your smiles instead of your tears.
- Count your courage instead of your fears.
- Count your full years instead of your lean.
- Count your kind deeds instead of your mean.
- Count your health instead of your wealth.
- Count on God instead of yourself.



Bible Trivia

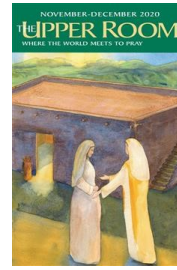
1. Who worked as a tax collector prior to preaching the Word of God? _____
2. What tribe is Paul from? _____
3. What is the longest chapter in the Bible? _____
4. What place is called "Zion" and the "city of David"? _____
5. In which town did Jesus meet the woman at Jacob's well? _____
6. What was the first town where Jesus began His ministry and was rejected?

7. How many times did Noah send out a dove from the ark? _____
8. In the Old Testament, which prophet foretold the birth of Jesus? _____
9. Who were the three men that were thrown into the fiery furnace?

10. What book of the Bible contains the 10 Commandments? _____
11. How many Beatitudes are there? _____
12. What did King Herod promise Herodias' daughter because she had please him with her dancing on his birthday? _____



Look for the answers to these trivia questions in the back of the Courier.



The Upper Room, November/December Edition

We have received both the regular and large-print editions of The Upper Room, November-December Edition. They are available in the narthex. If you are unable to attend church (but can still get out) and would like one, please stop by any weekday between 10:00-3:00. If that is not possible, just call the church office (784.3424) and we'd be happy to mail you one!



Worship Team Meeting

Tuesday, November 17

11:00 am in Sutton Hall



TWO EASY WAYS TO SUPPORT OUR CHURCH!

Rada Cutlery has all kinds of kitchen gadgets, food mixes and cookbooks available for purchase. In order to see what's available, go to:
www.Radafundraising.com

Once you're on the page, it will ask you to select a fundraising group by putting in the city, state and zip code. Once you enter the info, our church should "pop up". Just click on that and you're all set!



WE'RE SELLING RADA CUTLERY

If you don't have a computer, we have catalogs available in the church office. Pick one up, or we can mail it to you ... then keep it and whenever you want to order something, just call the church office and we'll order it so that it can be credited to the church!



iGive.com is an online site that donates a percentage of your purchase to a designated charity. They have over 2,400 participating stores and are approved by the United Methodist Church. Just go to their site and sign up. Then when you visit a store online, if they participate you will see an "iGive" logo in the bottom right corner of your screen. Click on it and they will automatically make your donation. Some examples: Cokesbury, 7.2%; L.L. Bean: 3.2%; FTD: 8%; Lane Bryant: 3.2%; Personalization Mall: 8%. Questions? Call the church office.

After the Election

One of the most divisive and chaotic election campaigns is coming to an end. During this time Christians in America have faced many opportunities to exercise patience and let our faith shine. Chances are each of us have experienced some failures and some successes. Politicians and pundits will now judge and discuss the consequences of the election. But whatever those consequences may be, for Christians there are three truths to which we must now turn our attention.

Your brother is still your brother. Surely there have been some disagreements on who we preferred for president, congress, and local officials, but as Christians we must remember our heavenly citizenship comes first (Phil. 3:20). Post-election is a great time to remember and reaffirm that we are taught by God to love one another (1 Thess. 4:9), and by this love the world will see evidence that we are disciples of Jesus (John 13:35). Christian, your brother is still your brother.

Your neighbor is still your neighbor. A contentious election has not changed the fact that Jesus affirmed in scripture that we are to love our neighbor as ourselves (Mark 12:31). Our responsibility to imitate Jesus, who went about doing (Acts 10:38), has not changed. Even if we consider someone a "political opponent," we still must love them, even if we were the target of cursing, hate, and spite (Matthew 5:44). And if the election did not "go your way," as a Christian you are still duty bound to love. Your neighbor is still your neighbor.

God is still God. Most importantly, no matter how the election turned out, we must understand that God is still in control. As Daniel wrote, "He removes kings and raises up kings" (Daniel 2:21). Whatever administration that is in control following the election, is one God has allowed (Romans 13:1), and we are to accept the outcome. God is still God, and we must trust Him.

Ultimately, we are reminded by the apostle to "Honor all people. Love the brotherhood. Fear God. Honor the king" (1 Peter 2:17). Now that the campaign is over, we need to redouble our efforts to put these concepts to work so that our Father in heaven may be glorified (Matt. 5:13-16).

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First of all, then, I urge that supplications, prayers, intercessions, and thanksgivings be made for all people, for kings and all who are in high positions, that we may lead a peaceful and quiet life, godly and dignified in every way.

1Timothy 2:1-2

JOHN WESLEY'S 3 SIMPLE RULES TO VOTING

These three simple rules seem to be good advice 240+ years after Wesley offered them:

"I met those of our society who had votes in the ensuing election, and advised them:

1. To vote, without fee or reward, for the person they judged most worthy.
2. To speak no evil of the person they voted against.
3. To take care their spirits were not sharpened against those that voted on the other side."

Special Sundays in November

Sunday, November 1

All Saints Day

From the early days of Christianity, there is a sense that the Church consists of not only all living believers, but also all who have gone before us. For example, in Hebrews 12 the author encourages Christians to remember that a "great cloud of witnesses" surrounds us encouraging us, cheering us on. All Saints Day is an opportunity to give thanks for those who have gone before us in the faith.

Sunday, November 22

Christ the King Sunday

Traditionally, Christ the King Sunday is the very last Sunday on the calendar of the Christian year, which begins the next Sunday with the first Sunday of Advent. A relatively recent addition to the liturgical calendar, Christ the King Sunday was instituted in 1925 by Pope Pius XI in response to the tragedy of World War 1 and the growth of secularism in the world. Still today - in the face of a chaotic, divided world - Christ the King Sunday is meant to remind us that in the end, God does reign over all things and says our task is to not only to trust in this truth, but to live the kind of lives through which the Holy Spirit of God can work to bring the full reign of Christ to fruition in all creation!

Sunday, November 22

Stewardship Sunday

Please pray and discern what your pledge will be for 2021! On this Sunday, we'll turn in our pledge cards and pray for God's blessings in the upcoming year.

Sunday, November 29

First Sunday of Advent

The season of Advent, which comes from the Latin word *adventus* meaning "coming" or "visit," begins four Sundays before Christmas and ends on Christmas Eve. During Advent, we prepare for, and anticipate, the coming of Christ. On this Sunday we will light the candle of hope. "... *those who hope in the LORD will renew their strength. They will soar on wings like eagles; they will run and not grow weary, they will walk and not be faint.*" Isaiah 40:31