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Pastor Mark's Notes for November 2020 - A Thanksgiving Prayer - Psalm 113



1 Praise the Lord!

Praise, O servants of the Lord;
praise the name of the Lord.

2 Blessed be the name of the Lord
from this time on and forevermore.

3 From the rising of the sun to its setting
the name of the Lord is to be praised.

4 The Lord is high above all nations,
and his glory above the heavens.

5 Who is like the Lord our God,
who is seated on high,

6 who looks far down
on the heavens and the earth?

7 He raises the poor from the dust,
and lifts the needy from the ash heap,

8 to make them sit with princes,
with the princes of his people.

9 He gives the barren woman a home,
making her the joyous mother of children.

Praise the Lord!



The Book of Psalms is, in many ways, a “song” book and a prayer book all wrapped into one. It is filled with expressions of **thanksgiving and praise to God** for all God has done in the world and for creation. God’s creation, of course, includes all of us – you and me and all people who - throughout the ages - have placed our faith in God and humbly give our thanks and praise to God—**each and every day**.

Psalm 113 is a wonderful example of a song-prayer of thanksgiving. It makes it clear that God never gives up on anyone – and that God gives **special attention** to those in need. It also reminds us that, **through our faith, we have the hope that suffering doesn’t last forever – and from it, a new song of praise and thanksgiving will burst forth**.

This is the hope for the world that often overwhelms us, especially in the throes of the COVID pandemic; for our country, which by the time this issue of the Gram is in your hands will be passed (or nearly so) this contentious election; for our lives as Christians everyday as we trust God who in this is the source of our praise - and our thanksgiving as a people united by God’s love for us.

I encourage you as you sit wherever and with whomever you find yourself this Thanksgiving holiday to include Psalm 113 in your “saying grace” at your meal this year. Let this song-prayer speak for all your blessings – for your family, your food, your home – and mostly for our One, everlasting, amazing God who blesses us abundantly – **each and every day**.

Happy Giving Thanks! - Pastor Mark

And speaking of Saying Thanks...

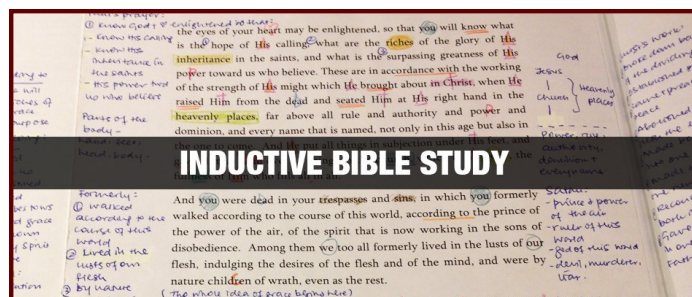
My family was blown away by your generous gift of the deck fire pit for pastor's appreciation month. Please know how much we appreciate all of you and give thanks to God every day for bringing us all together for such a time as this. God is so good! Can I get an AMEN?!?!?



And many thanks, too, for all that YOU do for the life of our church. The YOU being:

- the Session who leads us so dutifully, the Deacons who serve so faithfully, the Trustees who care for us so diligently, to our terrific staff - and ALL our committee members giving of themselves so generously for the life and mission and stability of our church;
- to our youth leaders and the young people who come to grow in faith with us and their families who have entrusted their children to us;
- to our S'more Time team, to those organizing the Back Pack program and making deliveries;
- to those who give of their time and resources to support the Samaritan Shelter, Spirit Kitchen; to feed the hungry through the blessing box, the community garden;
- to each and every member and guest – younger and older, new-to-us and been-here-a-while, who come diligently to worship to show the world that the church is alive and well in Berlin and everywhere;
- to anyone I've unintentionally forgotten, you know who you are - and we love you!;
- and mostly to God – THANK YOU! From Pastor Mark

Something New for Spiritual Growth!



Inductive Bible Study—A Unique Approach to Reading, Studying and Experiencing the Scriptures

Where: Taylor Hall

When: Thursdays 6:30-8pm or Fridays 10-11:30am

Date: Beginning November 5th or 6th

Friends - all are invited to gather in Taylor Hall – masks on, keeping distance around the tables, please – learning to not only read the Bible, but glean its richest blessings for our lives through this simple, yet powerful way of slowing down and really engaging with the words we read. Please let Pastor Mark know if you are interested in participating and which day/time you prefer. Sign up sheets are on the tables in both Taylor Hall and in the Sanctuary. Depending on interest and availability, we may adjust meeting times accordingly.

Come Buckingham – bring your favorite Bible and your heart wide open for all that God has to say to us in this time and place! And please feel free to bring a family member or friend.

*Important
DATE!*



**Help Keep Our
Blessing Box
Full!**

Combined Worship @ 10:00am

followed by our

Annual Congregational Meeting

Sunday, December 6, 2020

**All Members encouraged
to attend**

STEWARDSHIP SUNDAY

November 15 at both 9am & 11am Services—

All are welcome to come and celebrate as we recommit to our giving of time, talents, & resources for our church. Envelopes will be arriving soon. Please plan to attend or send in your pledges as they help tremendously in developing our annual budget.

- 11/11— ALEXIS Black
CAMERON Tull
- 11/14— Claire Parker
- 11/15— RICHARD Jones
JAMES Welch
- 11/16— Todd Gibboney
Jordan Simpson
- 11/18— In Memory of
CAROLE Smith
- 11/21— Penelope David
- 11/25— JAMES Mallory

No November Anniversaries



What fun the youth and Christian Ed has had in October! October 9th kicked off the fun with pumpkin painting. 34 kids came out to paint pumpkins and learn how Christians are like pumpkins. Are you wondering how you are like a pumpkin? Well, we each were picked out by God, taken in and cleaned off, then God opens us up and scoops out all the yucky stuff (seeds of doubt, hate, and greed), carved eyes to see his work and a mouth to spread his word. Finally, God puts a light in us all and sets us out to shine for all the world to see.

On October 23rd we held our 2nd Trunk or Treat night. 14 Trunks were decorated, and candy was handed out. Thank you to those who decorated their trunks, donated candy, and helped to make this night so successful once again! We had over 100 kids come through, all were very respectful and kept their distance between one another. \$108 was collected in donations to be donated to The Cricket Center, to advocate for abused youth in Worcester County.

The holiday season planning is in full swing! November 13th will be the next S'more Time with Jesus, which is also World Kindness Day! November 27th will be a kid's holiday paint night, be sure to reserve your spot on our Facebook page as space will be limited.

December 5th will be our annual Breakfast with Santa, this will look a little different this year, as it will be an all you can eat pancake breakfast instead of the traditional buffet style to help keep the community safe. More details to come as we work through our best way to still make this awesome day possible!! December 11th S'more Time with Jesus we will be getting Messy with our 1st, of hopefully many, "Messy Church" family services. Messy Church is a global movement to create a welcoming space for those outside of a traditional church for people to build relationships with God and each other. This is for all ages to come create crafts together, share in the breaking of bread together and celebrate God through worship together. Our first Messy service will be based on the Story of Christmas and the birth of Jesus. All are encouraged to join in this casual worship service filled with the meanings of Christmas and traditional Christmas carols. We have several other activities in the works for the holidays be sure to keep track on Facebook, through emails, and of course the Gram as the details of the events come together.

Thank you to everyone who has supported the Ocean City Elementary Backpack program! We have been providing meals for the weekend to 27 students each week. In September many of the meals were delivered by several members of our church. I cannot thank everyone enough for stepping up to help get food to the kids in need! Most of the children have returned to school so the meals are delivered once a week to the school for the students to take home from there. If anyone is interested in helping in any way, packing bags, delivering to the school, donating, or shopping for the food please contact any Christian Ed committee member or the church office.

A Note from Historian Lynne Murray

Dear Friends,

Although this month's article doesn't discuss church history, it does concern church members and local history. My sister **Susan Taylor Cropper** and I planned to donate some items from the Plimhimmon Hotel on Second Street to the Ocean City Life-saving Museum. Our parents owned what is now known as the Plim Plaza during World War II and I have a glass syrup pitcher from the dining room and Susan had linen napkins stamped with the Plim laundry mark. I was going to send my daughter Teresa with Susan to the museum and had composed an article for their newsletter when we vaguely recalled having given the napkins to the present owner, Hale Harrison. We have other items of interest for the museum and will schedule the presentation at a later date. I offer this article for your perusal and hope you will find it of interest.

Built in 1894 by Talbot County widow Rosalie Tilghman Shreve, she named her luxurious new Ocean City hotel the Plimhimmon in honor of her family's property near Oxford. Shreve's great grandfather was Colonel Tench Tilghman, an aide de camp to General George Washington, who was trusted to deliver Cornwallis' Yorktown surrender papers to the Continental Congress in Philadelphia.

Our parents, Jesse Jarvis Taylor and wife Dorothy purchased the Plimhimmon from Mrs. Shreve and managed it during the World War II years. Taylor, a General Motors Chevrolet and GMC dealer in Berlin, had virtually no new car business during that time as automobiles were requisitioned by the government. Known for its elegant decor and excellent cuisine, the Plimhimmon hosted prominent and well to do guests from throughout the East Coast. As the war years came to a close, the Plimhimmon was sold to another local couple, Jiggs and Katie Jenkins. Dorothy Taylor re-entered the hospitality industry when she built the King's Arms Motel in 1960 and the Empress Motel in 1965. She was one of the "Steel Magnolias," a group of ladies honored by the O.C. Hotel Motel Restaurant Association for their success in business.

In November 1962 the main section of the Plimhimmon was burned down in a spectacular conflagration considered to be one of the largest ever fought by the OCVFD. When the hotel was rebuilt in 1963 it gained a more contemporary name, Plim Plaza, but kept its iconic architectural dome. The property is currently one of a number of resort hotels owned by the Harrison Group of Ocean City.

Happy Trails, **Lynne Taylor Murray**



Have old tennis shoes that are still wearable, but you just do not wear anymore? Great news, you can bring them to church!! A little girl, **Abby**, is fighting a brain tumor and collecting adult and child sized shoes for her birthday. The shoes will go to an organization called "GotSneakers?", which will then donate funds to Abby's family to help with her medical expenses. New athletic sneakers and sports cleats — never worn with or without tags — will earn \$3 per pair. GotSneakers? will pay \$1 per pair for used but still wearable athletic sneakers and sports cleats. They should be gently worn without holes, rips, or sole separations of any kind. They earn 25 cents per pair for used non-wearable, recyclable, athletic sneakers and sports cleats. (No boots, heels, sandals, dress shoes or single, non-paired athletic sneakers will be accepted.) Old sneakers will be evaluated by "GotSneakers?" Those that are at the end of their life will be recycled. Shoes that can be cleaned and repurposed will find new life on the feet of children in need, both in the US and all around the world. Recycled sneakers are broken down into parts and repurposed to create and resurface playgrounds and sport courts, or into new shoes, insulation, carpet padding, and other uses. Abby's 5th birthday is in November and is the cousin of **Laura Amrhein**, one of the church's Sunday School teachers.

It's that time to start packing boxes for Operation Christmas Child. If you want to participate without physically packing a box you can do so online for \$25. Links can be found on the church website, Facebook page or by going directly to <https://build-a-shoebbox.samaritanpurse.org/goal/view/770ce01b-4ae3-4005-a059-bfc73652b7b0>

all boxes built online through the church link will help our church reach our packing goal. Of course, boxes are also available to pack physically if you would like to do so! Here are some items, you could bring in or include in a box you are packing. Small doll babies, small tool sets, fishing supplies, small trucks, sewing kits, bar soap, wash cloths, spiral bound note books, pencils, pencil sharpeners, crayons, colored pencils, coloring books, t-shirts, flip flops, shoes, hairbrush/combs just to name a few. Think learning, crafts, hygiene, play, clothing, and personal care. Items and or boxes will be due back by Nov. 15th.



Your Deacons in Action

We have been supporting **Buckingham Elementary** as needs have arrived and we've been notified. Having their "Student of the Month" award ceremony was quite a change. In the past we purchased the ice cream for the awardees. There are 25 each month. The folks that paid for the T-Shirts could not do so this year. We paid \$300 toward shirts for the kids.

We've also been getting requests for gently worn clothes for kids in a couple of families. We shared this request with the congregation and the community and then went out and purchased new underwear and socks for the kids. We are stockpiling used children's clothes at church for when we receive more requests. Many thanks to former **Deacon Cathy Leyden** for so much help and support.

A dinner of ham, mac and cheese, green beans, deviled eggs and cake was delivered to the **Samaritan Shelter** along with the usual milk, bread, juice and coffee creamer (they had received eggs from the food bank). At that time there were 7 clients staying there.

We parked cars at church during the Oktoberfest. We were blessed with great weather and lots of cars (at one point we had 73 cars parked in the lot and on the lawns). At the end of the day our "found money" from this event was \$978.25. That will go a long way toward helping folks. Many thanks to **Bob Arthur** and **Pat Rouch**, former Deacons for their help.

As is said, once a Deacon, always a Deacon and we are sure blessed to have all the former Deacons to pitch in. The Deacons will soon be compiling a list of folks who will get our annual Christmas bags of goodies. Do you know anyone you would like to suggest to the Committee? We sure don't want to miss anyone. Please feel free to make a recommendation to anyone on the Committee, Paul Chambers, Debi Cook, Gloria Gubosh, Charlie Herpen, Carol Neal, Tammy Nickell, Carol Rose, Evelyn Warren.



CONGREGATIONAL LIFE

Take-out Meals and Home Deliveries—Nov. 14th

Place your orders now for a delicious take-home meal of Baked Ziti and all the fixins. Sign up, too, to deliver food to our members who have a hard time getting out. What a great way to both be fed and to feed others. Thanks to the **Congregational Life Committee** for this wonderful endeavor!

See any member of the committee with questions.

Sign-up sheets will soon be available.



2020

| Sun | Mon | Tue | Wed | Thu | Fri | Sat |
|--|--|--|---|---|--|---|
| <p>1</p>  | <p>2</p> <p>Sharing & Caring 6:30pm</p> | <p>3</p>  <p>Pastor 3-5pm Session Mtg. 6pm</p> | <p>4</p> <p>Pastor 1-3pm Combined Kids & YA Groups 5pm</p> | <p>5</p> <p>Inductive Bible Study 6:30-8pm</p> | <p>6</p> <p>Pastor 10am—Noon Inductive Bible Study 10-11:30am</p> | <p>7</p> |
| <p>8</p> | <p>9</p> <p>Sharing & Caring 6:30pm</p> | <p>10</p> <p>Pastor 3-5pm Trustee Mtg. 6:30pm</p> | <p>11</p> <p>Pastor 1-3pm Deacon Mtg. 6pm</p>  | <p>12</p> <p>Inductive Bible Study 6:30-8pm</p> | <p>13</p> <p>Pastor 10am—Noon Inductive Bible Study 10-11:30am S'More Jesus</p> | <p>14</p> <p>Take-out Meals & Home Deliveries 4-6pm</p>  |
| <p>15</p>  <p>STEWARDSHIP SUNDAY</p> | <p>16</p> <p>Sharing & Caring 6:30pm</p> | <p>17</p> <p>Pastor 3-5pm</p> | <p>18</p> <p>Pastor 1-3pm</p> | <p>19</p> <p>Inductive Bible Study 6:30-8pm</p> | <p>20</p> <p>Pastor 10am—Noon Inductive Bible Study 10-11:30am</p> | <p>21</p> |
| <p>22</p> | <p>23</p> <p>Sharing & Caring 6:30pm</p> | <p>24</p> <p>Pastor 3-5pm</p> | <p>25</p> <p>Pastor 1-3pm</p> | <p>26</p> <p>Thx Breakfast 9am</p>  | <p>27</p> <p>Pastor 10am—Noon Inductive Bible Study 10-11:30am Kid's Holiday Paint Nite</p> | <p>28</p> |
| <p>29</p> <p>1st Advent Communion Sunday</p> | <p>30</p> <p>Sharing & Caring 6:30pm</p> | <p>"November comes And November goes, With the last red berries And the first white snows. With night coming early, And dawn coming late, And ice in the bucket And frost by the gate. The fires burn And the kettles sing, And earth sinks to rest Until next spring." — Clyde Watson</p> | | | | |

The Christmas season will soon be upon us, and of course, that means it's time to start thinking of ordering the poinsettias that will beautify Buckingham's Sanctuary. This year, we will turn to Parkside High School for our poinsettias. It's a program for future farmers. The cost will be \$5.00 per pot and it will support their continuing education program.

Please complete the order form below and return it along with your check. You can either place the order & check in the offering plate, or mail to Buckingham Presbyterian Church P.O. Box 248 Berlin, MD 21811, or simply leave on the desk in the secretary's office. **Make your check out to Buckingham Presbyterian Church and be sure to designate on the check that it's for your Christmas flower order.** All orders must be in by Tuesday, December 15th, 2020.

I would like to order: _____ TOTAL @ \$5.00each \$_____

Please dedicate your poinsettias as follows: (To be printed in the Bulletin & January Gram)

PLEASE PRINT -

IN MEMORY OF

IN HONOR OF

Will pick up poinsettia(s) following Christmas Eve Service (please check) _____

Your Name(s)

PLEASE PRINT SO INFORMATION IS RECORDED CORRECTLY

NOTE: Due to COVID, we had no in-house Easter services this year. If you donated money for Easter flowers in April, I will ascribe that donation to Poinsettias and unless I hear otherwise from you, I'll use the same dedication.

