



**Love. Grow. Serve.**

*"Where the Word of life gathers, nurtures, and sends us forth to serve."*

November Newsletter from the pastor:

## Thanksgiving

When November is mentioned what comes to my mind is Thanksgiving, the day we set aside in our country to express our gratitude to God in an intentional way. This month, as you can see from this article's title, I have changed the word to **Thanksgiving**. I hope what we will be doing as a congregation this month will help us live as a grateful people.

The first Sunday of the month, November 4, we will observe as All Saints Sunday, the day we traditionally remember those whom the Lord has called from our midst during the past year. Naturally we will remember our brother in Christ, Jack Mizak, who reflected his faith in diligent Bible study, willing service, and faithful participation in our worship. We will also remember the saints still living with us who have baptismal birthdays, for which we do not know the actual date on their baptisms, when they were united with our Lord Jesus Christ and made members of His holy family. May "All Saints Sunday" encourage each of us to live thankful lives to the glory of our gracious God--while we are living before the Lord calls us home!

**Grateful Receivers - Gracious Givers** is the title we are giving to our 2019 financial commitment endeavor. November 11, we will highlight this theme in our worship. In Jesus' missionary discourse, Matthew 10, He send His disciples out to heal and help, to witness and serve with these words, "You received without paying; give without charging." Paul aids us to understand that all we have is a gift from God: "What do you have that you did not receive?" he asked the Corinthians (I Cor. 4:7) and us. Such graciousness from God can motivate us to respond with like graciousness--with cheerfulness, eagerness, and generosity. Please arrange your schedules to be present November 11, when we will help one another realize the basis for our giving, and again November 18, when we will dedicate our commitments to the Lord, asking His blessing on our response to His grace. May God's gifts enable ours!

Our special **Thanksgiving Worship** is scheduled for Wednesday, November 21 at 7:00 P.M. Meeting at that time permits us to enjoy time with our families and loved ones on the actual day of Thanksgiving, as well as allowing us to follow our usual Wednesday evening routine. May the Psalmist's outburst, "O give thanks unto the Lord, for He is good; His steadfast love endures forever," inspire us not only to give thanks at this special time, but also lead us to commit to living with a thankful spirit throughout the year. I hope you'll be there to celebrate with us.

A quick "heads up:" our midweek Advent worship will begin Wednesday, November 28 at 7:00 P.M. and continue through December 19. Preceding each service, a potluck supper will enable us to enjoy fellowship with one another, as we focus on beautiful promises from Isaiah foretelling the Savior's birth. They will help us know that in Jesus Christ **"God is with us."**

Our November worship will climax with Christ the King Sunday, November 25, a powerful and inspirational way to wrap up this church year--and **help us to live as a truly thankful people.**

Grateful for your partnership in Christ,

*Pastor Michael*

Community Helping Place White Christmas is the annual Christmas outreach which serves Lumpkin County residents in need during the holiday season. Last year CHP White Christmas served 227 households which included toys for 295 children. Not only does CHP White Christmas help our neighbors during the holiday season but also provides emergency assistance throughout the year.

We invite you to participate this year by donating new, unwrapped toys and non-perishable food items. Like last year, our friends at Fresh and Low have made it easy to purchase the Christmas food we distribute. Visit our local Fresh and Low and let them know you'd like to purchase a CHP White Christmas box, for \$14.85. They will take care of everything--including making sure it gets to our offices! Fresh and Low will have these items available until the end of December, but we will begin assembling the meals soon so feel free to shop at your earliest convenience.

Financial contributions are always welcomed and most appreciated. If you would like to make a monetary donation, please make checks payable to CHP White Christmas and **mail** to P. O. Box 712, Dahlonega, Georgia 30533.