

Grace Church of Central Point

100 Oak Street
Central Point OR 97502



A praying, family-centered congregation that loves Jesus!

GRACE NOTES

Vision 2024: Being light in a dark world

November 2024

From the Pastor's Desk...

Tough Times and Giving Thanks

When life is rolling along smoothly, it's easy to give thanks, isn't it? But... it's those times when the going gets tough, that we get bogged down in our giving of thanks. We might be in a situation where we think it can't possibly get worse – and guess what. It does! Things don't always go as planned. Plans can change, leaving us in a situation we didn't imagine could happen, and yet it does. That's when it's really tough. It's the time we ask, "Lord, How in THIS (and you fill the "THIS" in) can I possibly give thanks?"

So, that's what we want to think about in this month's column; why we should be giving thanks in the tough times. Let me share four reasons. I'll list the scripture reference, let you go read the verse, and then I'll share a brief thought about it.

Reason #1 - God commands us to be thankful.

Scripture: I Thessalonians 5:18

Thought: The first reason we are to give thanks is because the Word of God commands it. The verse says "in" everything give thanks. That's possible because God is in control. Nothing happens by accident or surprises God!

Reason #2 - It is a matter of choice and obedience.

Scripture: James 1:22

Thought: Since we have a command to give thanks, then we also have a choice; to do it, or not to do it. That's our free will. But... this verse directs us to be "doers of the Word." We make up our mind to be obedient and that we're going to have a thankful attitude even in times of struggle, trouble, sadness, sorrow, and even persecution.

Reason #3 - God is with us in the tough times.

Scripture: Hebrews 13:5b

Thought: When it states "I will never leave you nor forsake you." there are no conditions stated, no exceptions listed, no * as a footed exclusion. No matter what tough times we are in, we are NOT in them alone. We can be thankful for that!

Reason #4 - Tough times help us grow.

Scripture: Philippians 1:6

Thought: Sometimes His good work, by necessity, will take us through tough times... because he wants to refine us, When He takes us into a situation like that... what's inside of us, when the pressure is applied, will spring forth. Sometimes it is not a pretty sight... because what's inside is not what God wants

us to be... we fall short... our temper flares (**Ephesians 4:26**) or our tongue hasn't been tamed (**James 3:8**). And so we go through the tough times as part of God's plan, to refine us. What is most important when we face tough times, is not the trials we face, but how we face them.

Next time you face tough times, remember why you should be thankful in them, and then - givethanks!

ACTIVITIES AT GRACE

Sunday: Morning prayer	9:30 am
Sunday School	10:00 am
Worship Service	11:00 am
Tuesday: Women's Bible Study	10:00 am
Men's Bible Study	5:30 pm
Wednesday: Mid-week prayer meeting	6:30 pm
Thursday: Women's Bible Study	6:30 pm

UPCOMING ACTIVITIES

Nov. 1-3 Fir Point Fall Retreat (7th – 12th grade)
Nov. 17: Thanksgiving potluck



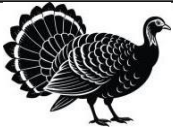
Grace Church will be having a booth at the Holiday Bazaar at Northridge Senior Center: Nov. 8: noon- 6 pm & Nov. 9 10am-4 pm. Helpers will be needed. See Bobbi Crammer if you can help. Proceeds will go to the Shoebox Ministry to help fill and ship the boxes.

Other Dates:

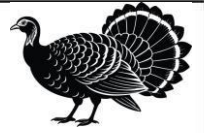
Nov. 10: Packing Shoeboxes after church. Lots of helpers needed, Bring your own lunch or snack.
Nov. 15 1-4 pm Finish packing Shoeboxes
Nov. 18 Deliver Shoeboxes to collection station.



November 17 will be our Thanksgiving Potluck. The church is furnishing the turkey. Please bring a side-dish and salad or dessert. Come and enjoy the food and fellowship.



NOVEMBER 2024



SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
	Standard time begins November 3. Remember to turn your clocks BACK an hour on Sat. Nov 2.				1 *Sarah Bartlett	2 *Jim Hibbs
3 *Whitney Spelber	4 *Cleo Caswell	5 Election Day *Leisha Young	6 Linda Redmond	7 Bill Shelton	8 Bea Shelton	9 Amanda Sill
10 *Melanie Glosser	11 Veterans Day Marie Simmons	12 *Lana Morley	13 *Debbie Ashton	14 Pete Slade	15 *Joshua Petsche	16 Jessica Speece
17 *Bob McLean	18 Stephanie Speece	19 Kyle Spelber	20 Pauline Stephens	21 Tony Vaccarino	22 Nicole Vaccarino	23 Ron Walch
24 Judi Walch	25 *Isaiah Oliver	26 Melba Waters	27 Annita Wheeler	28 Ed Whetstone 	29 *Roberta Claudson *Terry Pruett	30

Please pray for one another each day – those with a birthday are shown with an *



THE CHURCH BELL

For 44 years Grace Church was a church without a bell. Our church building was purchased from a local congregation in 1971 who took the church bell with them to their new location without any agreement that this would be done. Our church was without a bell from 1971 until 2014.

“In 1957, Kenneth Lamb, my dad, Dwight Funk, and myself, Rusty Lamb, went to the New Hope School in Grants Pass, where dad had purchased their bell. After removing the bell, dad placed it in his barn where it laid from 1957 to 2014.

One Sunday people were talking about not having a bell to ring. That bothered me. When I got home, I asked my mom, Janet, about giving the bell to Grace Church. She was all for it.”

In 2014, Rusty came to the church saying he would like to donate the bell to Grace Church in memory of his mother, Janet. Having talked with his mother before she passed away, he said she was excited that the church would have a bell again.

Church members came to the barn, loaded the bell up and took it to the church. With a lot of muscle power, the bell was placed in the Grace Church belfry. It took a week or more to put the bell in the belfry. Rusty was given the honor of the first official ringing of the bell. After 44 years of absence, the Good News would once again ring from the belfry of Grace Church calling people to Grace Church each and every Sunday morning.



(Contributors: Rusty Lamb, Ron Walch, Roy A. Bates)

REMEMBER TO VOTE NOVEMBER 5