



November 2023

FAIRVIEW UNITED METHODIST CHURCH NEWSLETTER

Loving God & Loving Others = worship + missions

Thankfulness, gratitude, appreciation, recognition, these words bring forth feelings down deep inside of us. When I have found relief, I am thankful. When I have been needy, I have found gratefulness. When I have achieved a skill, I have found recognition. When my heart has been humbled, I have learned appreciation. This month we give thanks for those who have touched our lives. On the first Sunday of November (November 5th) we will place a flower at the altar in remembrance of those loved ones that have passed. We are thankful that they have been and continue to be a part of our lives through the memories made and remembered. They are a part of our heritage. Later in the service we will gather for communion; breaking bread with Christ our brother in thankfulness of the gift of the harvest and home.

Yes, November is a special month as we celebrate Thanksgiving. Yet is this the only time when we bow our heads and give thanks in prayer and praise to God the Father? Is this the only time to take stock of our lives and remember that we have been blessed? Perhaps you struggle with the feeling of thankfulness. Maybe it has to do with rainy days, but there are days when I throw myself a grand old pity party. I don't have a party hat. I don't have streamers and balloons. If there is a cake involved it is in the shape of the Little Debbie cake I've grabbed to stuff down my throat. I'll hang my head and begin my torch song of "Oh Woe is Me". You know the tune. The words may be a little different than your own, but oh how the tune is the same. It goes something like this: Oh, nobody knows the trouble I've seen, somebody's done me wrong, I can't get any respect no way, no how, and now I got tears in my root beer. Somewhere in the background there should be some really good twanging guitar playing if there is any justice in the world. Ever hear that kind of song? Ever sang it yourself? I hope you never have, but if you have, we need to start to write a new song. I was on my way back home the other day, and I was hearing the singing out to me and the urge to cry in my diet soda was getting pretty strong. Then a voice entered into my pity party. The voice said, "Let's start singing a new tune. Think about this for a second. If you are feeling a little underappreciated, a little unloved, overwhelmed by life's pressures, how do you think my Son felt? He knows your problem and He loves you. He is with you till the end of days and beyond little one." Whoa, talk about a skip in the record. That question kept going over and over in my mind. The tune I'd been singing began to get new lyrics. I began to sing of my thankfulness in my heart. Oh, the song wasn't sung too loudly at first, but it got stronger.

At first the words of thankfulness stumbled out of my mouth. It took awhile but I began to know the song well and sang it with joy. "Thank you, Lord for giving me this life. Thank you for your Son. Thank you for my Salvation. Thank you that no matter how hard my day, no matter how lonely I may feel, you know my heart. You know and it matters. Thank you for giving me reasons everyday to be thankful: for my family, the rising of the sun to warm my skin; people to see and talk with and listen to. Thank you for the family I love even when I struggle at times to understand them. Thank you for loving me even when I make it hard to do. Thank you for the air that I breathe, the wash of color on the autumn leaves, and for the gift of life in Christ Jesus." Got to admit, I like the lyrics better in this song than the blues! So, my friends, how's your song going today? Does it need a bit of an overhaul? That is ok. God doesn't mind helping you to find your song of thankfulness and joy. He is waiting for us to ask for the help to find it. It's there for you, waiting to be sung. May you find your new song and sing it with new found joy.

In Christ,
Pastor Joe Tomich

ALL SAINTS SUNDAY

On All Saints Sunday, November 5, 2023, we will once again recognize all those of the church or related to our church family, who have passed away. We will have this special service during worship.

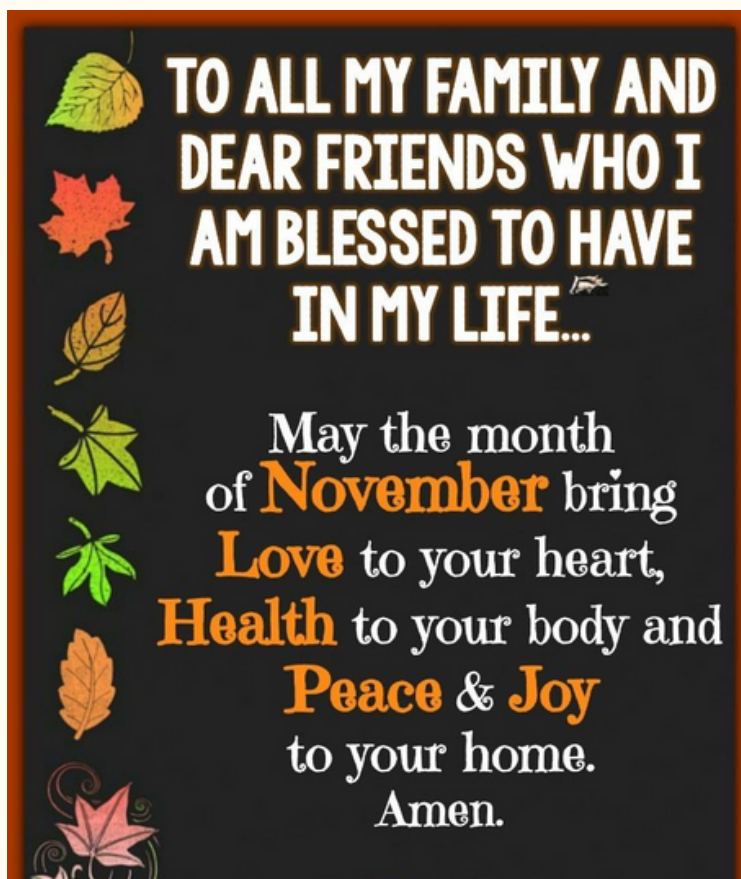
We invite all family and friends to attend this special worship service. If we have missed someone, please call the office immediately.

Bill Abbott



OFFICE CLOSED

The Office will be closing at 1:00 p.m. on Wednesday, November 22nd through Friday, November 25th. The church office will be open on Monday, November 27th.



#BeUMC

ResourcesUMC.org/BeUmc

Committed:

Acts 2:42 The believers devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching, to the community, to their shared meals, and to their prayers.

We Are the Church (UM Hymnal, 558) I am the church! You are the church! We are the church together. All who follow Jesus, all around the world! Yes, we're the church together!

We live into our commitment to God by being committed to one another. The very first Christians, whose stories the book of Acts shares with us, serve as an example to us still today. In this handful of verses we read about their commitments to learning together, meeting together, eating together, and praying together. They took care of one another, opened their homes, and "demonstrated God's goodness to everyone."

"We Are the Church"

- Verse 1 reminds us that the church is more than a building or place. We are the Church. When you think of your church, who comes to mind?
- Verse 2 has us singing about the diversity of the Church. Why is it important to recognize we are "many kinds of people"?
- Verse 5 refers to the Pentecost Sunday story in Acts 2. How is the story of Pentecost related to the Church? What is the Holy Spirit's role in our commitment to our church?
- Back in verse 1, we sing, "The church is not a resting place." How does your church help your faith stay alive and active? What activities and commitments encourage your continued growth as a disciple of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world?

Read Acts 2:42-47

- What commitments do you have? To family? Work? Others?
- Why are commitments important?
- This passage is part of a description of the early days of what would become the Church. How has our understanding of commitment to the Church changed from those days? In what ways is it the same?
- Why is it important to note that in addition to learning, worshiping and praying together, these early Christians also ate together?
- The author of Acts tells us that this group "praised God and demonstrated God's goodness to everyone." What might that have looked like?
- Why do you think this commitment to God and one another drew others to join them?
- How has your church showed their commitment to you? How do you show your commitment to your church?
- What does it mean to you to be a committed Christian?

How are you a committed person of God?

- How will you continue to honor your commitments to Christ and the Church?

Closing prayer:

Holy Spirit, you descended upon the early followers of Jesus in a powerful way, guiding and strengthening them in their commitment to Christ and one another. Unite your Church again today in our love for God, our commitment to one another and striving to share God's goodness with everyone. Teach us how we can be the Church, together. Amen.



OUR STAFF AND SERVICES AT A GLANCE

FAIRVIEW UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

3135 N. Cr 800e
Bath, Illinois 62617

10:00 AM Fairview Sunday School
10:50 AM Fairview Worship Service

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