

The Stidham Story

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November 2017



MESSAGE FROM PASTOR MIKE

A Psalm this season we are entering into is Psalm 136. This Psalm tells the never ending story of God's love to us. It is written as a responsive reading. The first part of each verse is an exhortation to give thanks to God. The second part of the verse tells us that the reason we give thanks is because God's love endures forever.

Give thanks to the Lord, for he is good.	<i>His love endures forever</i>
Give thanks to the God of gods.	<i>His love endures forever</i>
Give thanks to the Lord of lords.	<i>His love endures forever</i>

Thankfulness is a habit of the heart. Thankfulness helps to give us perspective in all life. Consider this little saying:

I am thankful for

...the mess to clean after a party because it means I have been surrounded by friends.

...the taxes I have to pay because it means that I am employed.

...the clothes that fit a little to snug because it means I have to eat.

...my shadow who watches me work because it means I am out in the sunshine.

...my lawn that needs mowing, windows that need cleaning and gutters that need fixing because it means that I have a home.

...the spot that I find at the end of the parking lot because it means I am capable of walking.

...all the complaining I hear about our government because it means we have freedom of speech.

...my huge heating bill because it means that I am warm.

... the lady behind me in church who sings off key because it means I can hear.

... the piles of laundry and ironing because it means my loved ones are nearby

... the alarm that goes off early in the morning hours because it means that I'm alive.

... the weariness and aching muscles at the end of the day because it means I have been productive.

At its root thankfulness is a spiritual exercise. It is not enough that we choose to become Christians. We have the opportunity to become thankful Christians. A thankful Christian recognizes that God is in charge. When we choose to be thankful we are following the admonition of scripture to be thankful.

(Philippians 4:4-7)

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We are thankful because God's love to us. I am asking you to consider making a tangible method of giving thanks to God.

I am thankful to God for Stidham UMC, because of the lives it touches.

We give to the food pantry, homeless shelter, and many good things. Sometimes, we need to shore up the financial base of the church. Things we do not always think about: property insurance, heat, lights, air conditioning, and staff that depend upon our finances.

We are in a stewardship campaign with an emphasis on being transformed by God's Grace, Faith and Love. Each of these things that God provides for us. We experience them through our various church ministries. They add so much to our lives.

In order to be good and wise stewards of our resources and to have the best ministry for our congregation, we need for all to prayerfully consider how much our individual families give to Christ through our church.

Our finance committee needs your help in order to build a responsible budget.

Sunday, November 19, promises to be a special day in the life of the church. On that day we will be focusing on thankfulness to Christ. We will be asking people to make a setimate of giving to our church as a means of thankfulness for our ministries. We will be having a special thanksgiving meal following the wordship service.

Please join your church family as together we are thankful for god's presence among us.

Because of Jesus,

Pastor Mike



THINGS GOING ON IN THE CHURCH FOR NOVEMBER 2017

Helping Hand Sunday November 5 Please mark the pew envelope "Helping Hand")

Holy Communion Sunday November 5

Yoga Stretch & Praise" Monday Mornings November 6,13,20,27

Bible Study Monday Nights November 6,13,20,27 6:30pm

Choir Practice Wednesday Nights November 1,8,15,22,29 7:00pm

Lighthouse Prayer Group Thursday Mornings November 2,9,16,30 10:00am

Lighthouse Prayer Group Prayer Day Tuesday November 14, 8:00am-8:00pm Sign-up sheet in Fellowship Hall

Commitment Sunday November 19, Please bring your pledge and put in offering plate.

The Office will be closed Thursday November 23 for Thanksgiving

Sign-up for Poinsettia's by Sunday November 26, Sign-up sheet in Fellowship Hall

Finance Committee Monday Afternoon November 27, 4:00pm

FOOD PANTRY ITEMS NEEDED FOR OUR GROCERY CART EACH MONTH

JANUARY- CASH DONATIONS

JULY- MACARONI AND CHEESE

FEBRUARY-CANNED MEAT OR TUNA

AUGUST-PAPER PRODUCTS

MARCH-SPAGHETTI SAUCE OR NOODLES
(NO GLASS JARS)

SEPTEMBER-CASH DONATIONS

APRIL-PAPER PRODUCTS

OCTOBER- PEANUT BUTTER

MAY- CASH DONATIONS

NOVEMBER-SOUP & CRACKERS

JUNE-CANNED FRUIT

DECEMBER-OATMEAL OR CEREAL

A Quiet Place

I, again, am sitting at my kitchen table and am preparing to share a few words with you. The month of November encourages me to make time for giving thanks. Who do I thank? How do I thank? I recently read a short devotional in a very inclusive book about God that asks me to be in a silent place and listen for God's presence. I turned to Scripture and found in Mark 1:35 that Jesus went to his Father for a quiet time. It is recorded this way, "Very early in the morning while it was still dark, Jesus got up, left the house, and went to a solitary place where he prayed." This does not suggest to me to turn on TV or the radio and find a rewarding service to strengthen me. It doesn't direct me to get in my car and drive to a scenic place and be thankful for what nature provides. I'm not a radio listener. I enjoy quiet time at home. The house is seldom completely quiet. At this moment the washer is in action, cleaning a load of laundry. When I have windows open I hear the birds chorus in the trees in my yard. I see the dishwasher needs to be unloaded. I should make my bed. Lunch time is just around the corner and I will make a choice as to what I will prepare. Not so quiet after all.

I know a quiet place. It's at 5300 S 175 W, Stidham United Methodist Church. On November 14, 2017 from 8:00 am to 8:00 pm the church is inviting all of us to come for ½ hour and be in a quiet time with the Heavenly Father.

I have a little story to share with you. This incident took place several years ago. To tell this story I need to recreate the front of the sanctuary as it was at that time. Time does have a way of changing our needs. The pulpit area, especially the communication rail, was uninterrupted across the riser to the altar. The entrance to the pulpit was only on the far right. At a later date, a section of the rail was made to be removable, so we could enter the pulpit from the center aisle. When it was continuous there was a kneeling pad of tufted burgundy velvet in place for the comfort of those kneeling for communion or in prayer. The carpet down the center aisle was also burgundy. A custodians' nightmare.

On a day during the week I went to the church to prepare for a Sunday school lesson coming up. I taught fifth and sixth graders in the room behind the balcony. As I proceeded across the back of the sanctuary I glanced down the center aisle and to my astonishment, I saw large dusty foot prints that proceeded all the way down to the communion rail and stopped. I couldn't resist the desire to inquire. I followed the foot prints down the center aisle of this church. They ended at the kneeling pad, and to the right I saw a nest about 9 to 12 inches across of animal hair on the kneeling pad. Who and what had come to my church? My prayer was – they found comfort and inspiration to continue their life for another day.

Today the church would be locked and secured from anyone that doesn't have a door key. My key number is 9.

The church will be open Tuesday, November 14, 2017 from 8:00 am to 8:00 pm. Each of you are invited to come spend a quiet ½ hour or so all by yourself with the Master of this house. You can kneel at the communion rail, partake of the elements of communion at the table as you enter the sanctuary, use the prayer list of people we pray for, leave a prayer request, or simply sit in a pew and absorb the quiet time, having 'a little talk with Jesus'.

The Lighthouse Prayer Group is planning the day and we invite you to come. Pick a time on the diagramed sheet of paper, if possible, and add your name. It isn't easy for many of you to control your day. Come anytime and we will find a place for you to have a special time in this beautiful building. Discover what the guest with the dirty boots found on His visit many years ago.

Come be a thankful *hobo pray-er* with me on November 14, 2017. A special opportunity to begin celebrating the holidays of Thanksgiving and the entire Christmas season.

Love and prayers,

Betty Greene

Scripture from the NIV translation.

NOVEMBER BIRTHDAYS 2017

NOVEMBER ANNIVERSARIES 2017

HAPPY BIRTHDAY

HAPPY ANNIVERSARY

- 1- Keith Butler
- 2- Karen Wethington
- 7-Paula Dillard
- 18-Larry Hand
- 19- Connie Standiford
- 23- Tiffany Miller
- 24- Barbara Lawson



NO ANNIVERSARIES ON FILE

PRAYER LIST

Dear Heavenly Father,

We ask that you be with all that are on our prayer list, those who are going through health, issues, personal struggles, and other worries they may have. Let us show our faith and our love to one another each and every day. Amen



Maxine LeFevers, Kizer Family, Michael Marxson Family, Jim Withers, Lucy Keller, Darrell Wethington, Shirley Gamble, Dennis & Carolyn Hockstra, Bonnie Watts, Naomi Weaver, Virginia Perkins, Bud Dillon, Don & Jan Plantenga, Pat Baugh, Al Cummins, George & Doris Carlton, sandy Kukman, Our Military and Our World Leaders and those who are prayed for silently.

THOUGHTS FOR THE DAY

Because of my faith I am not alone.

God gave the very best for me. How can I give my best to others?

Our love unites us as brothers and sisters in Christ.



Would appreciate December Newsletter articles to be in the office by Thursday November 23

THANK YOU

LIGHTHOUSE PRAYER GROUP PRAYER DAY WILL BE
TUESDAY NOVEMBER 14, FROM 8:00AM-8:00PM
SIGN-UP SHEET IN FELLOWSHIP HALL.



INFORMATION REGARDING THE EXPENSE OF THE BAKED STEAK DINNER IS THE
YELLOW PAGE IN THE NEWSLETTER.

A BIG THANK YOU TO DAVE AND SUSIE WEBB FOR ALL THEIR HARD WORK AND
DEDICATION THAT THEY PUT INTO PLANNING AND MAKING THIS HAPPEN!!

POINSETTIA'S ARE COMING AGAIN THIS YEAR.

THE COST IS \$9.50 FOR EACH FLOWER. THE LAST DAY TO
ORDER WILL BE SUNDAY NOVEMBER 26.

PLEASE PUT YOUR MONEY IN A PEW ENVELOPE WITH YOUR
NAME, DATE, CHECK # OR CASH AND WRITE "POINSETTIA"
ON THE ENVELOPE AND PUT IN THE OFFERING PLATE.

THANK YOU

