

Let Us Give Thanks...

by Martha Hallquist



Let Us Give Thanks... this is what you read as you walked into the CEC Fellowship Hall at Mount Pleasant's Harvest Festival... and it exemplified the goodwill that was evident everywhere you turned on this special day in the life of our Church. Thank you to everyone who helped turn this Harvest Festival dream into reality. A real team effort with many moving parts was required, and we are grateful for all your help from all around! And that includes those church members who put out yard signs that invited our community to this event.

Do you remember those countless days of November rain -- that cold, windy rain that lasted for days on end? And then it happened... the clouds parted on Friday the 16th and the puddles and bog began drying up. By the next day, the most beautiful day of November appeared, just in time for our Harvest Festival. Let Us Give Thanks!

This "sweater weather" marked a day for walking around outside and enjoying God's glory wherever you looked, and we are grateful. We are grateful for the

- 17 vendors who set up shop in our front parking lot
- 15 baskets that were donated for our 2:00 drawing
- live music and many musicians put together by *Melanie Kennedy*
- farm petting zoo brought by *Denise & Keith Tuttle*
- photographer, *Joe Huff*, who donated photos to families
- trailer donated by *Terry Cook* and,
- the delicious Hot Dog & Hamburger Lunch grilled under our picnic shelter by many of our men. Our kindest appreciation go to these cooks and to our all-day cashier, *Bobby Whitesell*, for such a delicious lunch.

Special thanks go to the **Women's Service League** for organizing a church-wide Bake Sale under the guidance of **Robin Cobb**, and thank you to all who contributed a baked item. The word was out as people purchased a special cake or pie for Thanksgiving, and then came back for more!



Special thanks go to **Robin Haithcock** for heading up our Basket Drawings. Perhaps your Sunday School Class or small group provided a basket. These were spectacular and a very popular area of our festival. Special thanks also go to **Jacklyn Rippy** for soliciting our many vendors and for helping them throughout the day. The vendor area added much to the Festival!

Special thanks go to **Andy Clapp** for bringing about 3 dozen bales of hay that were used for both our Halloween and Harvest Festivals. These hay bales helped us decorate and offered a place to those who needed to sit down. We appreciate your generosity!

Special thanks go to our many volunteers who helped with indoor kiddie games. We had Inflatable Bowling, Go Fish, Cupcake Walk, Rubber Ducky Hunt, Turkey Toss, and Kids' Tattoos, as well as a craft offered by our Girl Scouts. Thank you especially to **Kate Hubbard, Ashley Smith, Teresa Weaver,** and **Faye Whitesell** for your help throughout the day.

Special thanks go to the many who decorated and helped set up before the event, and to those who cleaned up afterwards. Oh my, yes, thank you!! Our appreciation also goes to our **Parking and Security Team.** You helped the day flow smoothly and safely!

Special thanks go to **Pastor Andrew** and **Betty Newman** for heading up our evangelism efforts. With their help, we emphasized inviting attendees to come back to our Thanksgiving Service & Lunch the next day, as well as to events in the month ahead as we move toward Christmas.

Special thanks go to our office staff, **Dana** and **Mildred,** for putting in countless hours in preparation for this day. We also thank our church staff, **Johnny, Lilwanda** and **Ed,** for their support. All of you always rise to the occasion, and we appreciate you day in and day out!

And finally, special thanks go to **Benny & Janice Vickers** for helping hatch and nurture this idea of a Harvest Festival, which came just 17 days after our Trunk or Treat Halloween Festival. Our Harvest Festival began as a hope and dream for our Church, and through the grace of God and through the labor and love of our volunteers, it successfully came to life and provided yet one more way that Mount Pleasant UMC reaches out to our community with the love of Jesus. **Let Us Give Thanks!**

