



November 2021

Newsletter

Countless times throughout Scripture the word “thanks” is used. “Give thanks in everything,” Paul exhorts. “Give thanks to His Name,” the writer of Hebrews declares. “We give thanks to God for you,” “Let no filthy talk come out of your mouth, but rather give thanks.” You begin to think there is an obsession with thankfulness. And no doubt this is true. Paul states in 1 Thessalonians 5.18 “Give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you.” Do you realize that the will of God for you is to continually, every moment of the day, without ceasing, have a life of thanksgiving?!?! Thanksgiving is not a once-a-year event where we stuff our faces and sit back for a brief moment to reminisce about how good we got it. Thanksgiving is a lifestyle. What would your life look like if all the complaining, frustration, anxiety, problems, issues, circumstances, gripping, distrust, confusion, criticizing, and grumbling were swallowed up in a life of thanksgiving? If the fragrance of your life was Jesus rather than the stench of yourself? I am continually around people who are “woe is me” or “can you believe so and so did such and such” or “my professor assigned me homework over break” or “I really hate when that person ____.” Such a life is polluting and only produces death to the people around you. But the life of a Christian is about one single thing – Jesus. If we truly grappled with a full understanding what it means to have Jesus in one’s life, how could we do anything but praise and give thanks? Again as Paul declares in 1 Thessalonians: “Rejoice always, pray without ceasing, give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God for you in Christ Jesus.” Perhaps the problem is not seeing life as God sees it. Perhaps all you can see is the single tree before you and have missed the beauty of the forest. Romans 8.28 says that “ALL things work together for good, for those who love God.” Even the most tragic or destructive experience can be used for the glory and grandeur of Jesus if we will allow Him to work it for His good and pleasure. In such light, can we keep from living a life of Thanksgiving? A popular worship song states “You give and take away, yet my heart will choose to say, ‘Lord blessed be Your Name!’” May we begin to allow Jesus to give us His perspective in our every situation that we too may declare in the good or the bad “Lord blessed be Your Name!” May your every moment today be overflowing with the glory, grace, goodness, and grandeur of Jesus! May He capture and ravish your heart with His Person. May your life take on the fragrance of His nature in an attitude of constant thankfulness. And may your day be brimming with praise and adoration for the love and sacrifice poured out upon the Cross on your behalf. Happy Thanksgiving ... every day.

Community Events * Birthdays * Anniversaries

Nov. 3rd	Wed. Bible Study 6pm
Nov. 5th	Men's Meeting 6:30 @ Randall Shively's
Nov. 6th	Turn your clock back 1 hour tonight
Nov. 7th	Annual Business Meeting/Potluck after Worship
Nov. 10th	Wed. Bible Study 6pm
Nov. 11th	Veteran's Day
Nov. 12th	Ladies of Grace Thanksgiving @ 6pm
Nov. 14th	Leadership Meeting 4pm
Nov. 17th	Wed. Bible Study 6pm
Nov. 24th	No Wednesday Pm Service
Nov. 25th	Thanksgiving
Nov. 21st/28th	Christmas Decorating TBD



Give thanks

Nov. 11th

Jayce Lowe

Nov. 17th

Linny Desch

Nov. 23rd

Danny & Rachel Bailey

Count your blessings instead of your crosses.

Count your gains instead of your losses.

Count your joys instead of your woes.

Count your friends instead of your foes.

Count your smiles instead of your tears.

Count your courage instead of your fears.

Count your full years instead of your lean.

Count your kind deeds instead of your mean.

Count your health instead of your wealth.

Count on God instead of yourself.

A thankful heart doubles our blessings,
causing us to enjoy them twice –

Chronicles of a struggling Christian...

Do you ever feel like your life as a Christian is a struggle? Do you ever think it's hard, day after day, to keep going? Do you ever find it hard to trust God, to live for Jesus, or even speak about Jesus with other people? Maybe you look at other Christians—at church, or online, — it seems that they have it all together and they are able to live their Christian lives, happy and largely free from struggles. And then you look at yourself and think: "What's wrong with me? Why is it all such a struggle for me?" Whether or not any of this is part of your experience, there is a letter to the Ephesians, written by Paul who has something very important to say to you. Struggling is normal for Christians. In fact, it's not just normal. Christians should be struggling according to Paul's letter. The Christian life is a struggle. Struggling is vital for our Christian life, ministry and mission. We need struggling Christians. We need more people who are committed to the tough, hard slog of trusting God, living for him, being transformed and changed, and sharing Jesus and our lives with others. In his letter to the Ephesians, Paul describes the normal Christian life as a spiritual "struggle" (Ephesians 6:12). It's about standing our ground against an opponent who wants to throw us down, and grappling with everything we've got to keep our place. It's a spiritual struggle against spiritual powers, but this struggle is not just about supernatural events. This spiritual struggle takes place in the daily struggles of the ordinary Christian life. It involves living, speaking and trusting the gospel of Jesus Christ. And it's a struggle that all of us need to take part in, as Ephesians 6:14-16 says "Stand firm then, with the belt of truth buckled around your waist, with the breastplate of righteousness in place, and with your feet fitted with the readiness that comes from the gospel of peace. In addition to all this, take up the shield of faith, with which you can extinguish all the flaming arrows of the evil one." Paul says to "stand" in our struggle, living for the gospel will be a lifelong struggle. And yet, we can be confident in that struggle, because it's a struggle Christ has already won for us. We are to "stand" in the things that belong to Christ already, and which he shares with us. The struggle of the Christian life is not a hopeless struggle, or a struggle where we don't know the outcome. It's a struggle to stand our ground, in the territory Christ has already won for us, using the resources Christ has already provided for us in the gospel. This should give us great confidence and hope, even as we struggle, day by day, to keep putting on what Christ has already given us.

Sometimes we can forget that living the Christian life is fundamentally a struggle. We can think it's about comfort or career. When this happens, there are two possible results. Either we can despair, because our lives aren't comfortable, and we think they should be. Or we can become complacent, because our lives are comfortable, and we want them to stay that way. When that happens, we're in great danger. The danger is that we give up the struggle. If we stop struggling, we are no longer living for Christ and his purposes. The Christian life is a struggle. It's a struggle to live for the gospel. It's a struggle to grow in the gospel. It's a struggle to share the gospel with others. Yet it's a struggle that we must have confidence in, because Christ himself has already won. ❤

Dear FCC,

Well, this year has just flown by, it's already November and a blink of the eye we'll be celebrating Jesus' birthday.

This past year, as being your chairman of the leadership, I have had a blast working with the men that you trust to sit on the leadership of FCC. We have had some good times like always picking on Jerry Locey and telling him that almost anything the church purchases comes out of Building and Grounds budget, and then the retaliation of getting punched in the gut, in love of course!

We also had a few little bumps in the road along the way, but to brag on my church family, things got talked through and resolved in the love that God has placed inside of all of us. That's what families do, right?

Another obstacle that has presented itself is still the COVID pandemic. It's sad to look around and not see the faces of the people who came before this came about. Just know that we miss you, and hope to see you back soon! The body of Christ, the church, misses all of it's parts. Very important parts. You! Also, just know that we always lift you up in our prayers. One thing to keep in mind, is that God is bigger than COVID, and everything else. He is still in control!

On another note, I will soon be handing the torch over as chairman to a very capable man, who I have had the privilege to watch grow in his spiritual walk, and has been a very important part of your leadership, Ben Caldwell! Again, it is a great privilege to serve with all the men that sit on the leadership. I have pushed us all to grow closer to God, and to be the best leaders we can be. I think the most important thing we have learned this year, (ladies) is that us men have terrible communication skills! Trust me, we are really working on it. The first step is realizing and accepting the problem. We finally heard you, we just didn't let you know. Ha Ha!

Seriously though, thank you again for allowing me to serve as your chairman. I love working and serving with the guys on the leadership to try to make this the best church we can, to have God be pleased with us here at FCC.

Love you all,

Eddie Owens

Thankful Grateful Blessed

Who Are We?

I really can't answer the question for everyone. But I can answer the question, "Who Am I?"

I am a Christian. But what does that mean. I think many people would answer it differently. I am a Christian and I have always been a Christian.

I was born and raised Catholic. And yes, most Catholics are Christians. Just like most people who call themselves Christian are truly Christians. I've always believed in God. I've always prayed. I've always been in church, at least weekly. I've always believed that God is for me and not against me. I have always believed that God hears my prayers. And I've always believed that God had or has something special for me to do in this world. Between my ages of 19 to 24 years old I did some searching in my personal life and with God. He led me to the First Christian Church of Wayne City, Illinois.

That all may not seem like a big deal to most of you but I grew up in a small town in Kentucky. I lived in a conservative rural community and most of the people I knew were Catholic. Up to the age of 18, that was my life. At the age of 19, I met my dear sweet little wife. Her quiet soft spirited heart led me in ways I could not of done on my own. And at the age of 24, I was baptized by immersion and became a member of the First Christian Church of Wayne City. The bottom line was that I wanted to follow what the Bible had to say and I've been learning ever since with my own personal Bible.

So what is your personal meaning of being a Christian? What takes place in your life that proves that you are a Christian. I don't want anyone to compare with my life because we are all on different paths. And I have made many mistakes. But what can you tell God at this moment that would please Him. Isn't that why we exist? To make a positive difference in this circle of life we are in and to please our Heavenly Father. Because we all know, at least the Christians know, that a day is coming when each of us will be held accountable for our daily walk.

I really think that us Christians should pursue righteousness with more fervor and more earnestly. Which means to work harder, study more, read more, build relationships more, love more, but most of all, build and maintain a relationship with our Heavenly Father. That is what He wants. Our Heavenly Father wants us to know Him and His Son better so we can make a positive impact on this world while we are present.

What do you think? Are you a Christian, a real Christian?

Sincerely,
Randall Shively
A Growing Christian

From the desk of the Pastor

Hopelessly devoted to You!

"Hopelessly Devoted to You" is a song recorded by English-born Australian singer Olivia Newton-John for the movie Grease: The Original Soundtrack from the Motion Picture (1978). What is the meaning of the song Hopelessly Devoted to You? It means that she is so in love with him that she loves no one else!

The words of this song should be on our lips!

Jesus, we are hopelessly devoted to You!

Jesus, there is no one we love more!

In this Thanksgiving season give thanks for everything God has given us!

Colossians 4:2 "Devote yourselves to prayer, being watchful and thankful."

FCC stay devoted and faithful.

FCC stay in focused prayer.

FCC stay at watch for outreach.

FCC stay in the mind of thankfulness.

Thankful for you,

Pastor Steve

