

Orenco Church News

NOVEMBER Newsletter

See the [back cover](#) for what's inside!



Orenco Church
HOLIDAY CRAFT FAIR

Sat, November 15th
9:00 AM-2:00 PM

orencochurch.org

Sun, November 16th
11:30 AM-12:30 PM

FOOD **CRAFTS** **FUN**

Illustrations of snow globes, a Christmas tree, snow globes, a snowman, a penguin, and a polar bear.



November 23rd
After worship

**THANKSGIVING
POTLUCK**

Please sign up to bring a dish to share. See the list in the hallway.



Beyond Sunday Sermons

Biblical inspiration for the American tradition

Some historians tell us the Pilgrims' celebration of thanksgiving was influenced by biblical traditions they encountered in Europe. Parallels can be drawn between the first Thanksgiving and the Jewish festival of Sukkot, a biblical harvest festival celebrating God's provision. The Pilgrims may have modeled their harvest feast after this holiday. The practice of giving thanks for the harvest and God's provision for His people is a well-established biblical concept.

So what does the Bible tell us about being thankful? In the Old Testament, we find in Deuteronomy 26:1-9 that the Israelites were commanded to give thanks at harvest festivals, remembering God's constant provision for them. In the New Testament, we read that Jesus gives thanks before He feeds the five thousand (John 6:10-11, 23), and before the Last Supper meal in Luke 22.

When asked about thanksgiving, Billy Graham wrote: More than 150 times, the Bible either calls men to thank God or tells them how to give thanks. In Old Testament days, God designated a special offering of thanksgiving for His people. ... God was insuring the people of Israel against the time when they would forget to be thankful to Him. ...

More than 30 times in the Psalms it speaks of giving thanks. The psalmist said, "Be thankful unto Him, and bless His name" (100:4). And again he said, "It is a good thing to give thanks unto the Lord" (92:1). ...

Thanksgiving is a part of the most intimate relationship that exists between God and us. Intimacy with God is a profound, personal relationship characterized by deep spiritual connection, trust, and love. In our relationship with God, this intimacy involves knowing and being known by God, experiencing His presence, and communicating through prayer, by reading scripture, and through obedience.

Here are four (4) ways we can experience thanksgiving with God, not only at this time of the year, but always.

Through a deep personal relationship. Although God is the God of all we know and all that we don't know, He created us to have a deep personal and intimate relationship with Him. It's more than simply believing in Him – instead, it's a close, personal connection that can shape our thoughts, our actions and produce spiritual growth.

It's also a two-way connection. In this intimacy, God invites us to communicate with Him through prayer and listening to and for His voice, expressed to us through Scripture.

It's also a desire within us to know Him, to trust Him, and to obey Him – to grow in the intimate relationship we get to have with God.

And our relationship with God is such that we can experience Him in our everyday life, continually being molded and shaped to be the vessel God created us to be.

Intimacy involves experiencing God's presence in everyday life, which deepens our relationship with Him.

Lord, we come to you with thanksgiving, with praise and adoration. Thank You for your watchful care, for the promise that nothing can separate us from Your love. Create in me a heart for You and for those around me. Use me in such a way as to convey to those around me Your everlasting and perfect love. I pray these things in the name of our Savior, even Jesus Christ! Amen!

Sunday Worship at 10 AM

November 9th

We Have Heard for Ourselves

John 4:39-45

Communion Sunday

November 16th

Your Son Lives!

John 4:46-54

November 23rd

I Myself Am Working

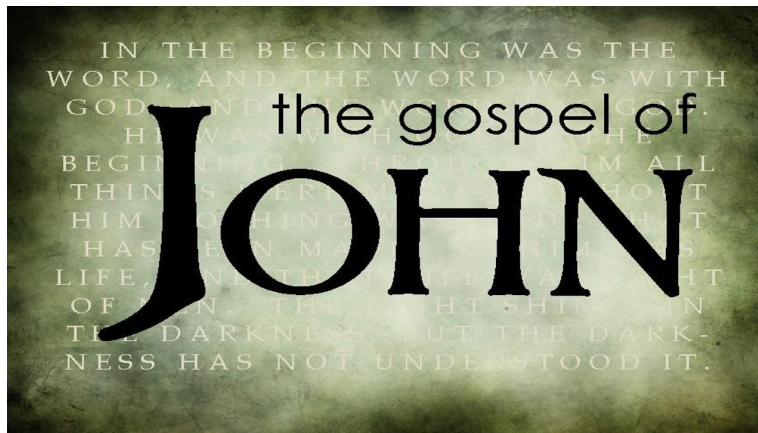
John 5:1-47

Thanksgiving Sunday - Stay for a potluck meal after the service!

November 30th

Kingdom Math! (feeding 5,000)

John 6:1-15





We have some great events coming up!
All middle and high schoolers are invited.
See Ryan on Sunday mornings or email
him: youthministry@orencochurch.org.

- ▶ Youth Conference November 15th
at Epic Life Church.
- ▶ Friendsgiving November 23rd.
Bring a side dish or dessert.
- ▶ Christmas Party December 14th.
*White elephant gift exchange, food, ugly
sweater contest, and games.*

Bring your bottles & cans on the
1st Sunday of each month!

Next Dropoff date: Dec 7th



BottleDrop[®]
GIVE

**Welcome to
Orenco!**

**Sunday Worship
10AM**

Join us in the sanctuary for music
and worship with friends!



Sunday Service
LIVE STREAMING

www.orencochurch.org

In every season, cultivating a spirit of gratitude draws us closer to God. Whether in abundance or in need, thankfulness reminds us of His constant presence and provision.

"Give thanks in all circumstances; for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus." — **1 Thessalonians 5:18**

Let us pause and reflect on the blessings, big and small, that surround us. A thankful heart not only honors God but also brings peace and joy to our lives.

Pizza Wednesdays had a great turnout, and we raised enough funds to welcome baby goats to our Pumpkin Patch this year...and they were a huge hit! The kids had a blast cuddling with the goats, selecting their perfect pumpkins, and showcasing their creativity with pumpkin decorating. Of course, the bounce house was a favorite once again, bringing endless giggles and energy!

Now that we've turned the corner into November, we're gearing up for our beloved Thanksgiving Soup Day. We're so grateful to everyone who donated treats for the cakewalk at the Trunk or Treat and helped set up canopies to make Pumpkin Patch Day such a success. Your support makes these joyful moments possible.

Thank you!

Karen Campbell,
Preschool Director
orencochristianpreschool.org



Thanksgiving in the Bible is about expressing gratitude to God, often through worship, meals, and celebrations, for his provisions, deliverance, and character. It is not a specific holiday but a recurring theme throughout scripture, found in Old and New Testament stories like the Israelites giving thanks for their harvest or Jesus giving thanks for food before a miracle.

Biblical concept of thanksgiving

- **An act of worship:**

Thanksgiving is an act of worship that acknowledges God's goodness and faithfulness, and it's connected to feasts, praise, and remembrance of God's actions.

- **Biblical examples:**

- **Old Testament:** The Israelites were commanded to give thanks at harvest festivals to remember God's provision (Deuteronomy 26:1-19).
- **New Testament:** Jesus gives thanks before multiplying the loaves and fish to feed the crowds (John 6:10-11, 23) and before the Last Supper (Luke 22:15-20). The Apostle Paul gives thanks during a shipwreck in Acts (Acts 27:35).

- **A state of being:**

Thanksgiving is also encouraged as a continuous state of being, as in 1 Thessalonians 5:18, which says to "give thanks in all circumstances".

- **Giving thanks for who God is:**

It involves giving thanks not only for what God has done but also for who He is, recognizing His attributes like grace and righteousness.

Thanksgiving in the Bible vs. the holiday

- The modern holiday of Thanksgiving has roots in early American colonial celebrations but is not a biblical holiday itself.
- However, Christians can and do celebrate it in a way that aligns with biblical principles by focusing on gratitude for God's blessings.

The biblical meaning of thanksgiving is not tied to the American holiday's specific traditions, but is instead a broad spiritual practice of expressing gratitude, praise, and worship to God for his blessings. This can be for daily provision, salvation, or help during trials, and it is a central theme throughout the Old and New Testaments.

Key themes of biblical thanksgiving

- **Praise and worship:** The Psalms often call believers to give thanks as a form of praise. Psalm 100:4 urges, "Enter his gates with thanksgiving and his courts with praise". Praising God for his character, goodness, and steadfast love is a constant theme.
- **Offerings and sacrifices:** In the Old Testament, thanksgiving was often expressed through tangible acts of worship, such as sacrifices and offerings. For example, Leviticus 7:12–15 describes bringing a thanksgiving offering of meat and bread to the Lord.
- **Gratitude in all circumstances:** New Testament authors emphasize that thankfulness should be a continuous attitude, not limited to times of abundance. In 1 Thessalonians 5:18, believers are instructed to "give thanks in all circumstances; for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus".
- **A reflection of humility:** The Bible contrasts thankfulness with pride, positioning gratitude as a humble recognition that all good things are gifts from God. James 1:17 states that "every good and perfect gift is from above".
- **Trust during trials:** Giving thanks even in difficult times is presented as an act of faith, reminding believers that God is in control and using trials to draw them closer to him. The prophet Daniel, for instance, gave thanks to God after discovering a plot against him.
- **A foundation for prayer:** Philippians 4:6 encourages believers to approach God with prayer and petition, but "with thanksgiving," emphasizing gratitude as a crucial component of communication with God.
- **The Eucharist:** In the New Testament, the Greek word for thanksgiving, *eucharistia*, is linked to the practice of Communion. At the Last Supper, Jesus gave thanks for the bread and wine, establishing an ongoing tradition of gratitude for his sacrifice.

Pastor Mark

MISSIONS

Operation Christmas Child mission is wrapping up!

This wonderful mission ends soon, so finish up your boxes and bring them in! The last day to drop off boxes is Sunday, November 16th. You may also drop them off on weekdays during office hours. Our goal is to exceed 100 shoeboxes!

If you aren't sure how to make a box, everything you need is on one brochure that's available in a stand in the main hallway. You'll need one brochure for each box and please remember to include the \$10/box shipping fee in the provided envelope. Lists of suggested items by age group are available online at <https://orencochurch.org/mission-outreach/missions>. Tip: pull up this link as you do your shopping. We have free boxes at the church or you can buy a shoebox size plastic bin. Quality gifts are highly recommended so that it lasts, this is likely the first and only present your child will ever receive. This mission is run by [Samaritan's Purse](#); they deliver the boxes to children around the world and tell them about Jesus and His love for them.



You may also give \$25 and designate it for "Build a Box" to have a box made for you, this includes the shipping fee. Just turn in a check or [click here](#) to donate online.

HOW CAN WE
PRAY FOR YOU?

Send us your request.



We are working on a new church directory. Please see Bob Kuest after worship if we don't have a photo of your family or if it needs to be updated. We prefer to use photos taken by Bob for a consistent look, however if you live out of town you may email a photo to the [office](#).



Now is the time to get your gift cards to use on Black Friday and to buy your Thanksgiving groceries. Stop by our desk on Sunday to see what we have in stock!

It's never too early to place an order with us for Christmas. Gift cards make great gifts and are popular with every age. They're also easy to send to family out of town. We're placing our next order on November 12th, be sure to get your order form in by then. They're on our bulletin board in the main hallway and also online at [www.https://tinyurl.com/OrencoDocs](https://tinyurl.com/OrencoDocs). We keep a sample of what's available onhand but you have a much larger selection and denomination choices when you place an order.

Our onhand gift cards vary and are first come, first serve, but we usually have: Amazon, Starbucks, Home Depot, Kohl's, prepaid Visa cards, Safeway/Albertsons, Kroger, Walgreens, and Target - plus a variety of other stores and places to eat.

you're there, do a little shopping from our onhand inventory. It varies, but we usually have most grocery stores, Amazon, Starbucks, Best Buy, Home Depot, Kohl's, prepaid Visa cards, and various restaurants and stores.

SAVE THE DATE!

Friday Dec. 5th 6:30-8PM

Annual Christmas Tree Lighting & Concert!





Times are tough and uncertain right now. Did you know that our deacons maintain a community food pantry? Huge thanks to everyone who responded to our recent food drive, you are amazing!

Anyone may stop by during office hours or Sunday mornings and pick up a prefilled bag of non-perishable goods. "Ready to Go" bags are also available that don't require cooking. If you or someone you know could benefit from a call, visit, or meal from our deacons, let the church [office](#) know or send an email to deacons@orencochurch.org. Thank you for helping us to help others.





Thank you for your gifts!

Tithes & Offerings

www.orencochurch.org/GIVE



Orenco Church
6420 NE Oelrich Street
Hillsboro, OR 97124

503-640-8179

www.orencochurch.org

www.facebook.com/orencochurch

<https://tinyurl.com/OrencoYouTube>

Pastor: [Mark Rainey](#)

Office Manager: [Nancy Collins](#)

Youth Director: [Ryan Abueg](#)

Children's Director: **We're hiring!**

Orenco Christian Preschool

www.orencochristianpreschool.org

<https://www.facebook.com/OrencoChristianPreschool1>

Director: [Karen Campbell](#)

Inside this Newsletter:

From Pastor Mark

Sunday Worship Schedule

Youth Ministry

Orenco Christian Preschool

Special Thanksgiving article

Missions

Prayer Ministry

Deacon Ministry

Gift Card Fundraiser

Church Calendar

[page 2](#)

[page 3](#)

[page 4](#)

[page 5](#)

[pages 6-7](#)

[page 8](#)

[page 8](#)

[page 9](#)

[page 9](#)

[online](#)



"We joyfully serve Jesus and our community!"



Orenco
YouTube



Online
Giving