

# *“Happy Thanksgiving!”*

Well, if this were a “normal” Thanksgiving Sunday, it would be a time for the choir, with the help of the former “Y-Teens” to sing “Bless This House”, Barbara Thatcher would have the Thanksgiving Sunday evening service organized, and the kitchen ladies would have refreshments all ready.....But this isn't a “normal” Thanksgiving. This is a Co-Vid Thanksgiving 2020 with all of its craziness.

However, it is still a time to celebrate the abundance of God, and we, as Christians, should be overwhelmed with gratitude for all that God has provided us.

We at CUMC have a Church family that is loving and supportive of each one of us, even when we “agree to disagree.” Our church building has survived a flood, we have the roof re-repaired, we provided much food to food banks from God's Green Acres, we managed to worship together through outdoor church services through the summer, and we were able to socially distance and worship together until this last hiccup.

This Thanksgiving invitation is about finding new ways to be thankful. We can express our gratitude by giving, by serving, and by loving each other, our neighbors, our community, and our world.

When Jesus was asked what the greatest commandment was, he gave two. Love God and love neighbor. You can't, Jesus says, separate them. You can't love God and not love your neighbor; it just doesn't work that way. Grace received has to be grace shared; that's what makes it grace. Jesus was saying to his people, “You have shown that you received grace because you lived it out in your everyday life.” So, we need to go out and do in whatever way works for you - financially, prayerfully, virtual volunteering, the list can go on and on.

This is also the last Sunday of the Christian year. So, these last few days of November are a culmination of all that has gone before us, a reminder of the Christ we follow and our gratitude for all that we have done together, even during a difficult year. Let us give thanks for God's goodness and for our place in the body of Christ. Let's be mindful of our blessings of this year as well as its challenges, giving thanks and praise to our God who holds everything together.

## **“Bless This House”**

(Arranged by Roy Ringwald)

Bless this house, O Lord we pray, Make it safe by night and day; Bless these walls so firm and stout, Keeping want and trouble out. Bless and roof and chimneys tall, Let Thy peace lie over all; Bless this door, that it may prove Ever open to joy and love. Bless these windows shining bright, Letting in God's heav'nly light; Bless the hearth ablazing there, With smoke ascending like a prayer. Bless the folk who dwell within, Keep them pure and free from sin; Bless us all that we may be Fit, O Lord, to dwell with Thee; Bless us all that one day we may dwell, O Lord, with Thee. Bless this house by night and day, O Lord we pray.