Pastor's Pen

Thanksgiving Vibe

Give thanks to the Lord, for he is good. His love endures forever. Psalm 136:1

The autumn season showcases nature's stunning beauty all around us, inviting us to reflect on God's wonderful creation. For many, November brings a deep sense of gratitude, gathering, and giving back. As we approach the end of the year, we naturally look back to thank God for His bounty, love, compassion, and comforting presence, while looking forward to celebrating with family and friends.

When these moments combine, the true spirit or vibe of Thanksgiving comes alive.

Psalm 136 perfectly captures this heart of gratitude. Inspired by the psalmist, let us offer our own litany of thanksgiving to God, reflecting on His goodness in our daily happenings.

Give thanks to the Lord, for he is good; his love endures forever.
Give thanks to the Lord, for we are fearfully and wonderfully made by the Creator.
Give thanks to the Lord, for the food, water, shelter, rest and sleep.
Give thanks to the Lord, for the Coffee and Cake; Tea and Toffee.
Give thanks to the Lord, for friends, family, children, grandchildren, great grandchildren and pets.
Give thanks to the Lord, for neighbors and community.
Give thanks to the Lord, for Church, Bishops, Pastors, Leaders and fellowship.
Give thanks to the Lord, for the faith stories of others that shape our own faith journeys.
Give thanks to the Lord, for rescuing life from dangers and temptations.
Give thanks to the Lord, for deliverance from illnesses, anxiousness, fear, conflicts, sin, evil, and negative influences.
Give thanks to God for birthdays, anniversaries, Veteran's Day, and for all special days and moments.
Give thanks to the Lord, for the departed saints as they enter eternity.
Give thanks to the Lord, for he is good; his love endures forever.

May this season of Thanksgiving lead you to deck the halls and your hearts with hope for the arrival of Jesus Christ this Advent.

As I always say, do not hesitate to reach out to me—whether you have a story to tell, need spiritual guidance, or simply want to pray together.

Peace and Blessings,

Pastor Satya.

November 2026 Newsletter



November 1
All Saints Sunday
"All Saints Sunday:Witness"
1 Thessalonians 2:9-13
*** McHenry CROP Walk 1 p.m.**

November 8
24th Sunday after Pentecost
"Always Give Thanks: Chosen"
1 Thessalonians 1:1-10

November 15
25th Sunday after Pentecost
"Every Day Habits That are Medicine"
Proverbs 17:22-28
Luke 6:43-45
*** Friendsgiving Potluck**

November 22
Christ the King Sunday
"Give Thanks to the Lord"
Psalm 136:1-9, 23-26
*** Mission Meeting**

November 29
1st Sunday of Advent
"Until the Dawn: Cry Out"
Psalm 80:1-7, 17-19
Isaiah 64:1-9



November Birthdays

Shelly Logston 11/6
Tristan Agabin 11/9
Nima Sudhakar 11/12
Narnia Le 11/20
Bryan Doyle 11/22
Nicholas Logston 11/23
Gary Gruebnau 11/25
Bev Vander Vorste 11/25

November Anniversaries

Enrico & Daisy Santoso 11/12

Larry & Cheryl Fournier 11/20

Moose & Beth Larocco 11/26

Chad & Kim Aupperle 11/27

Brian & Cathy Blackmore 11/27

If you are celebrating your birthday and/or anniversary this month, but do not see your name, please call the office and let us know.

ADULT FAITH FORMATION

SMALL GROUP GATHERINGS

Contact each group leader or call/email the church office to join the conversation. Check the weekly e-news or your leader's email for their in-person and zoom meetings.

Spirituality Group, Wednesdays at 9 a.m.
Linda Mullen *mullen520@comcast.net*

Women's Bible Study, Thursdays at 10 a.m.
Lisa Greenwood *lisajoegreenwood@yahoo.com*
Amy Doyle *amybryandoyle@aim.com*

Men's Group, Saturdays at 7:30 a.m.
Bryan Doyle *amybryandoyle@aim.com*

Praying Stitchers Ministry Monday, November 9 1 p.m.
Praying Stitchers invites all who know how to or are willing to learn to sew, knit or crochet! Can't make a daytime meeting? You can still participate! Sew a pillow case (we have an easy pattern). Knit or crochet a 12x12 square (or several) and one of our ladies will put them together making lovely prayer shawls. For more details, see Cheryl Fournier.

Advent Study Wednesdays, Nov 11 & 19 and Dec 2 &9 10 a.m.
For centuries, Christians have turned to the story and message of John the Baptist in the weeks leading up to Christmas. This Advent Season, we will be reading *Prepare the Way for the Lord: Advent and the Message of John the Baptist*, by Adam Hamilton. The study will explore the Advent themes of John's life and ministry, and how John calls all followers of Jesus to prepare our hearts for his coming. All are welcome to join the **Wednesday Spirituality Group** for the upcoming Advent Study on Wednesday, Nov 11 & 18 and December 2 & 9 at 10 a.m. The **Thursday Women's Bible Study Group** will also do the same study beginning Nov 19 at 10 a.m. Please let Nisha know if you would like to order the book.

Friendsgiving Potluck Sunday, Nov 15 Following Service
Good food. Great friends. Grateful hearts. Let us gather to celebrate our fellowship for God's bounty and guidance. Come with your family and friends and join us for a time of food and fellowship. Please bring your favorite dish to share. You can sign up in the lobby.

Bethlehem Marketplace Saturday, Dec 5 10 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.
Our 18th annual "Bethlehem Marketplace" will be Saturday, December 5. This event takes a lot of volunteers to put together. Costumes will be provided. Please watch for the sign up poster in the lobby. Together, we will reach out to the community. Thanks for your support!

CHILDREN & YOUTH

Sunday School Class 10:15 a.m.

After Children's Time during worship, the children will be dismissed to the Sunday School room. All children are invited to join the Sunday School class. If you have any questions or would like to teach the class, please contact Mindy Zeppo at mamcall27@yahoo.com.

Youth Group Sunday, Nov 8 & 22 4 p.m.

We invite all youth to come and meet your friends and have an evening of fun on Sunday, Nov 8 & 22.



November Collection



You can drop off gently used clothes & shoes in the bin.

Reach Everyone with Acts of kindness & build Communities of Hope

Christ United Methodist Church

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Satya Sudhakar, Pastor
Nisha Waters,
Administrative Assistant

LET US GIVE

Greetings from the Mission Team!

Our next **Mission meeting will be Sunday November 22nd** following worship. At this meeting we will decide how to spend our donations and funds raised. Stop by and see what missions is all about. Ask Michele Linner if you have questions.

Our **Culver's fund raiser** was a great success! We made around $1500 and had a fun time doing it! Thank you to all who volunteered and came out to have a meal.

Last month, we collected toilet paper to be distributed to all the 3 local food pantries we support. Thank you to all who donated this basic item.

In November, the food collected will be delivered to **Veteran's Path to Hope Food** Pantry. Each Sunday, we encourage you to bring food and paper goods for the local food pantry.

Giving Tree – watch for details in November to help local families with gift items and dinner options for the holidays. The dinner program is run by the Grafton Food Pantry and called Holiday without Hunger. The gift giving program is called Adopt a Family. CUMC will be participating in both programs this year, as usual.

If you have questions or want to contribute to the food pantries in any way (donating food, delivering food, monetary donation), please contact Michele Linner. Her contact info is: 815-861-6890 (cell) or email her at mlinner@sbcglobal.net.

We need your help-to-help others!!

Thank you for being a partner of Christ's ministry through your generous gifts!

You can now make all your donations online. Simply visit our website and click the "Online Giving" box on the main page or scan the QR Code on the top. You can also mail the donation to church, use EFT (Electronic Fund Transfer) or QCD (Qualified Charitable Distribution). For any assistance, contact Joe Greenwood, Financial Secretary at josephgreenwood@yahoo.com or 847-458-4698.