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# THE BELLRINGER



November 2018

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## Pastor's Study

A few weeks ago someone in our congregation shared a quote with me that said, "What would you do if you woke up tomorrow morning and all you had was what you thanked God for yesterday?" I was grateful for the reminder as it made me think quite a lot!

Later this month our families will gather and celebrate Thanksgiving Day. There are things about Thanksgiving Day that make it what it is - - the food, gathering with family, decorations. Because of the extent of the cooking required and amount of turkey prepared, it would not be practical to have that kind of Thanksgiving Day every day, but we can have *thanksgiving days* every day.

Thanksgiving to God, or gratitude to God, has a profound impact on how we live. It is central to our understanding of who we are and how we are to live as the people of God, and the benefits of this calling have been highlighted by many non-religious researchers, leaders and writers who have noted the impact that gratitude brings. For example, a few years ago, Forbes Magazine ran an article on the benefits of gratitude, which include sleeping better, opening the door to more relationships, increased physical and psychological health, enhancing empathy and reducing aggression, and improving mental wellbeing (*7 Scientifically Proven Benefits of Gratitude That Will Motivate You to Give Thanks Year-Round*, Forbes Magazine, November 23, 2014.)

Even with lists of proven benefits, gratitude - - like all good things - - takes intention to cultivate. It is learned, and increased, by the modeling of others and the time and focus that we give to it. What would it mean for us to intentionally take the month of November to increase our gratitude as a congregation and as individuals? I am going to see if I can do so, and invite you to join me on that journey.

Need a starter? The Psalms are a great place to turn for a thanksgiving boost. Check out Psalm 33, 89, 98, 106, 111, 146, 147, 148 and more. Take a few minutes to look out the window – any window –

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and see the color of the leaves, a bird or other creature, or any other element of creation that reminds you of God's amazing handiwork. Spend a few minutes with a cat or dog. Gratitude exudes from pets who are getting a good scratch or kind word. Talk with a child. Sit in the sanctuary just for a few minutes and be in awe of the windows and light. Take some time to reflect with family and one another. I learn so much from my kids and husband, and from all of **you** - - truly. Some of you bring me newspaper articles about good things, others share stories, your ideas on how to serve others, and just the joy you bring. I am grateful.

To support our thanks and celebration, thanksgiving and gratitude will be woven throughout our worship this coming month. The first Sunday we will give thanks for the Saints, our own saints and those throughout the heritage of our church, taking time to light candles of thanksgiving and remembrance for loved ones and those who have formed us as Christians. Our monthly celebration of communion

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will also occur this first Sunday. The second Sunday of the month we will give thanks as we welcome two new members! The third Sunday, November 18<sup>th</sup>, will be our thanksgiving service as a congregation, with lots of music and thanksgiving. And we will include thanksgiving in our fourth Sunday too!

“All your works shall give thanks to you, O Lord, and all your faithful shall bless you.” Psalm 145:10  
May we give thanks to the Almighty for *everything*.

With thanks for you, Diane

## Session highlights

Session held its regularly scheduled meeting on October 18<sup>th</sup> at 1:00 p.m. Business included the presentation of a report from the Board of Deacons, a report of the Trustees, the Treasurer's Report, the Clerk's report, and reports from church ministries and the pastor.

The Treasurer raised the issue of the support over and above the Per Capita allotment that the church provides to the Presbytery. This presently stands at 3.5% of undesignated offerings. This will be tabled for the time being. The Treasurer also requested that ministries/boards submit budget information ASAP.

Ministry reports included a summary of upcoming worship plans for the month of November, including the All Saints Sunday, Heritage Sunday (moved from May), and Thanksgiving celebrations. Bean supper plans are progressing. Five raffle baskets are being prepared for the evening, signs have been distributed throughout the community, and plans for setting up the Bazaar are in place. The Third Thirty program will be held November 18<sup>th</sup> following worship with a light lunch of soup and bread. Chris Pomfret will be present for the session.

Session approved two new policies, the Child and Youth Protection Policy and the Sexual Misconduct Policy (thanks to Dorothy Evans, Alice Wiseman, Sharon Berryhill, and Sue Seiler for their work on these documents).

Session approved the receipt of new members Betty Blose and Linda Worthington during worship on November 11<sup>th</sup>.

The next meeting of Session will be November 15<sup>th</sup> at 1:00. This is an open meeting and all are welcome.

## Mission

REACHING OUT TO OTHERS –  
Supporting the Alternative High School



Over the summer we began collecting school supplies for some Bellbrook students for the 2018/2019 school year and also began collecting supplies for the Alternative High School for a "mid-year refresh". We will continue to collect supplies for these students and their classrooms through November 18<sup>th</sup>. There is a school supply tree in fellowship hall with tags on it that indicate the type of supplies needed. They include pens, Swiffer wet cloths, Clorox wipes, pop-up Post It Notes, Kleen-x, paper towels, and first aid supplies (among other things). We welcome any additional supplies brought in during the next three weeks.

Thank you!

### Interfaith Hospitality Network

The families staying at Interfaith in Xenia would be grateful for any Christmas cards and stamps that we might bring them so that they can send cards to their loved ones. If you have extra cards, or would like to donate stamps, please see Penny Zoller.



## The Third Thirty

“Growing old has been the greatest surprise of my life.” The Rev. Billy Graham begins chapter one of his book Nearing Home with those words. As Graham reveals in each chapter of his book, growing old presents both challenges and opportunities.

We are all growing older. Some of us are further along than others, but we are all growing older with each day. “God gave these years to us – however few or many they turn out to be – so that we could do His will” (another Nearing Home quote). The Third Thirty program is designed to help us live the fullest, most faithful life we can in all of our days, however many there are.

The Third Thirty program will meet each third Sunday of the month at about 11:30 a.m. Soup and sandwiches will be provided to sustain us during the conversation. Each month, a different topic will be explored.

Chris Pomphret, Ruling Elder from the Bath Presbyterian Church, and Third Thirty Coordinator for our Presbytery, will be joining us for our first Sunday session November 18<sup>th</sup> (at 11:30). He has prepared a presentation for us titled, “You, Your Third Thirty, and Your Loved Ones: Advisory and Prayerful Insight on How to Make the Final Third of Your Life as Much Fun as Possible....*For Everyone!*” Chris has 30-45 minutes of content to prepare, and then will spend time with us discussing the content and any other thoughts or concerns that we have.

Chris is a LOT of fun and a wonderful presenter. Whether you are in your third thirty, approaching it, or just thinking ahead, you will enjoy his insights. In addition to Chris’ presentation, at the meeting on the 18<sup>th</sup>, a schedule of upcoming topics for future months will also be shared.

(A note for those who attended Chris’ conversation about The Third Thirty this summer: this is NOT a duplicate presentation but something new he has prepared.)

Please plan to attend this wonderful session if your schedule permits. It will be a great time of learning and fellowship together.



***“For all that has been, thank you! For all that is to come, Yes!”***  
Daj Hammarskjold.

Thank you to all who took part in our Consecration Sunday celebration! On October 21, we celebrated the end of our stewardship campaign with pledge commitments and a luncheon that followed. It was a wonderful celebration and time of fellowship.

Here is a brief report on the results of the stewardship campaign.

- During worship, sixteen pledge cards were received in response to the stewardship campaign. With the assumption that regular contributors will continue to Tithe at the same rate or greater that adds an additional 20, for a total of 36 regular giving units.
- Assuming those contributors give at the pledged rates or at a rate equivalent to their 2018 giving, those 36 contributors will contribute a total of \$84,300.00 in the coming year. When Rent from the Manse is added at \$9000.00 the grand total income for 2019 is \$93,302.00. The previous 12 Months the Offering Plate Cash has amounted to \$2200.00 and Use of Church \$600.00. That’s a Grand Total of \$96,102.00

If you have questions about the campaign, or would like to see a profit and loss statement for the 2018 year to date, please see Mike Seiler, Treasurer.

The Stewardship Ministry is comprised of Mike Seiler, Betty Blose, Dorothy Evans and Al Evans. If you would like to participate in this ministry, additional ministry members are welcome.

# November Happenings



**Outreaching hands...November 4th is communion Sunday.** As Jesus feeds us, on **Communion Sunday**, we will feed others. Place your non-perishable food or healthcare items in the baskets at the front or back of the sanctuary and we will donate it to Interfaith where the Xenia Area Fish Food Pantry is located and the Bellbrook Area Resource Center. All donations will be greatly appreciated.



**STUDY GROUP Bible Study.** Study groups meet on Monday at noon and Wednesday at 6:00 p.m. Join us! . Both sessions offer great conversation and learning with others.

**Heritage Sunday/ All Saints Sunday-** November 4<sup>th</sup>. Join us November 4<sup>th</sup> for a service of thanksgiving and remembrance as we celebrate our Heritage and remember the Saints. We will be lighting candles to remember loved ones, and sharing in the sacrament of Communion. We would love to see you there!

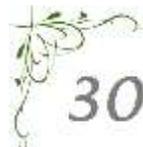


**Movies That Matter is an engaging way to look for and talk about the presence of God in real life - - and in the movies!**

**Join Us November 11th for  
"Secret Life of Bees"**

Haunted by memories of her late mother and abused by her father (Paul Bettany), 14-year-old Lily Owens (Dakota Fanning) runs away with her friend and caregiver Rosaleen (Jennifer Hudson) to the South Carolina town that holds the key to her mother's past. There, Lily meets the Boatwright sisters (Queen Latifah, Alicia Keys, Sophie Okonedo), who take her in and teach her about beekeeping, honey, and the Black Madonna. Lily also discovers that the truth about her mother is closer than she thinks.

**Thanksgiving Service- November 18<sup>th</sup>** – Celebrate the beauty of the Thanksgiving season with a special worship service November 18<sup>th</sup>. Special music will be an important part of the service as we worship and give thanks together. All are welcome!



Mark your calendars! The Third Thirty program kicks off Sunday, **November 18<sup>th</sup>** following worship with Chris Pomfret (Ruling Elder, The Third Thirty Network Coordinator, and Member of Bath Presbyterian Church) getting us started. This first session is an orientation to the program, and a session that will provide us with points of reference for the "thirties" of our lives and how we can live fully in each of them. Soup and sandwiches provided.



7- Alexandra Contestable  
9 – Phil Rogers  
15 – Nancy Hearrell  
18 – Kristen Garrison  
20 – Larry Dumford  
27- Josie Dunaway  
28- Loy Boncek



1 – Phil and Sally Smallwood

Coming up.....



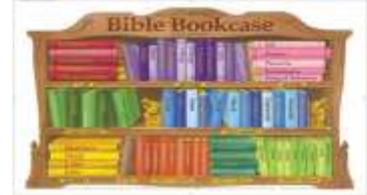
Mark Your Calendars: November is just beginning, but Advent is nearly upon us! On Sunday, December 2<sup>nd</sup> (the first Sunday of Advent) we will be decorating the church after worship. A soup and sandwich lunch will be provided to warm and sustain decorators. Join us for 30 minutes or a couple of hours during this time of fellowship and festivity. Oh! And don't forget the TYKE SHOP too.



## Reading through the Bible Scriptures for November

Day 203 - 1 Corinthians 9; 2 Kings 1-2; Amos 7  
Day 204 - 1 Corinthians 10; 2 Kings 3; Amos 8  
Day 205 - 1 Corinthians 11:1-16; 2 Kings 4; Amos 9  
Day 206 - 1 Corinthians 11:17-34; 2 Kings 5; Obadiah 1  
Day 207 - 1 Corinthians 12; 2 Kings 6:1-7:2; Jonah 1  
Day 208 - 1 Corinthians 13; 2 Kings 7:3-20; Jonah 2  
Day 209 - 1 Corinthians 14:1-25; 2 Kings 8; Jonah 3  
Day 210 - 1 Corinthians 14:26-40; 2 Kings 9; Jonah 4  
Day 211 - 1 Corinthians 15:1-34; 2 Kings 10; Micah 1  
Day 212 - 1 Corinthians 15:35-58; 2 Kings 11; Micah 2  
Day 213 - 1 Corinthians 16; 2 Kings 12-13; Micah 3  
Day 214 - 2 Corinthians 1:1-2:4; 2 Kings 14; Micah 4:1-5:1  
Day 215 - 2 Corinthians 2:5-3:18; 2 Kings 15-16; Micah 5:2-15  
Day 216 - 2 Corinthians 4:1-5:10; 2 Kings 17; Micah 6  
Day 217 - 2 Corinthians 5:11-6:13; 2 Kings 18; Micah 7  
Day 218 - 2 Corinthians 6:14-7:16; 2 Kings 19; Nahum 1  
Day 219 - 2 Corinthians 8; 2 Kings 20-21; Nahum 2  
Day 220 - 2 Corinthians 9; 2 Kings 22:1-23:35; Nahum 3  
Day 221 - 2 Corinthians 10; 2 Kings 23:36-24:20; Habakkuk 1  
Day 222 - 2 Corinthians 11; 2 Kings 25; Habakkuk 2  
Day 223 - 2 Corinthians 12; 1 Chronicles 1-2; Habakkuk 3  
Day 224 - 2 Corinthians 13; 1 Chronicles 3-4; Zephaniah 1  
Day 225 - John 1:1-18; 1 Chronicles 5-6; Zephaniah 2  
Day 226 - John 1:19-34; 1 Chronicles 7-8; Zephaniah 3  
Day 227 - John 1:35-51; 1 Chronicles 9; Haggai 1:1-2:23  
Day 228 - John 2; 1 Chronicles 10-11; Zechariah 1  
Day 229 - John 3:1-21; 1 Chronicles 12; Zechariah 2  
Day 230 - John 3:22-36; 1 Chronicles 13-14; Zechariah 3  
Day 231 - John 4:1-26; 1 Chronicles 15:1-16:6; Zechariah 4  
Day 232 - John 4:27-42; 1 Chronicles 16:7-43; Zechariah 5

## The Books of the Bible



We are continuing to work on learning the books of the Bible in worship. For this month, we are looking at the five books of Wisdom: Job, Psalms, Proverbs, Ecclesiastes, and Song of Solomon (also known as Song of Songs).

The Wisdom books contain all kinds of exactly that - - wisdom. Particularly in times when we are in need of a sustaining word the most - - times of not understanding why things are unfolding as they are, times of worry, times of fear - - and also for those times when we want to offer a word of joy or hope - - the Wisdom books are there.

Over the four weeks of November we will consider these five books, get to know a little bit about each one, and look up a few verses for practice. Everyone is encouraged to bring a favorite verse from Psalms or Proverbs to worship on November 18<sup>th</sup> where we will have the opportunity to share.

Our Bibles are great resources for guidance and help and hope. Learning where the books are, what they contain, and how relevant they are for us is a lifelong journey and something that will always benefit us. We hope you are encouraged by the effort to learn the books. (**And** don't worry if you missed previously studied books because we will come back around.)

# November

				1	2	3
			<p>11:00am Bellcreek Seniors 6:00 pm Bible Study 7:00 pm Choir 7:00pm Troop 75</p>	<p>Winter's Library 4:00-8:00</p>		 <p>Before you go to bed</p>
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
<p><b>Communion Heritage/All Saints Sunday</b> 8:45 am Keystone Class 9:30 am Choir Practice 10:00 am Worship 10:20 am Children's Sunday School 11:00am Fellowship Hour</p>	<p>Noon-Bible study</p>	<p>Winter's Library 4:30-5:30</p>	<p>11:00am Bellcreek Seniors 1:00 Computer Class 6:00 pm Bible Study 7:00 pm Choir 7:00pm Troop 75</p>	<p>Trustees 7:00pm</p> <p>Worship 7:00pm</p>		
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
<p><b>Birthdays</b> 8:45 am Keystone Class 9:30 am Choir Practice 10:00 am Worship 10:20 am Children's Sunday School 11:00am Fellowship hour <b>2:00pm Movies That Matter- Meet at 2pm</b></p>	<p>Noon-Bible study</p>		<p>11:00am Bellcreek Seniors 1:00 Computer Class 6:00 pm Bible Study 7:00 pm Choir 7:00pm Troop 75</p>	<p>Session 1pm</p> <p>Winter's Library 4:30-5:30 pm</p>		
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
<p><b>Anniversaries Thanksgiving Service</b> 8:45 am Keystone Class 9:30 am Choir Practice 10:00 am Worship 10:20 am Children's Sunday School 11:00am Fellowship Hour 11:30am Third Thirty</p>	<p>Noon-Bible study Historical Society 7:00pm</p>	<p>Men's Breakfast 8:30 (BBC)</p>  <p>Winter's Library 4:00-6:00</p>	<p>11:00am Bellcreek Seniors 6:00 pm Bible Study 7:00pm Troop 75</p>			
25	26	27	28	29	30	
<p>8:45 am Keystone 9:30 am Choir Practice 10:00 am Worship 10:20 am Children's Sunday School 11:00am Fellowship Hour</p>	<p>Noon-Bible study</p>		<p>11:00am Bellcreek Seniors 6:00 pm Bible Study 7:00 pm Choir 7:00pm Troop 75</p>	<p>Winter's Library 4:00-8:00</p>		



Katie Henry  
Sharon Berryhill  
Doug Baird  
Sharon Berryhill  
Andrew Berryhill  
Tree of Life-Pittsburgh  
Jennifer Glass  
Josie  
Matthew Stallings  
Kim Berryhill and Family  
Kalani and Yumi Radtke  
Roger and Linda  
Roberta  
Barb Knisley  
Matthew Erickson  
Family of Geneva Edgington  
Hurricane Victims  
David Van Pelt  
Family of Delores 'Dorie' Howell  
Mike Lische  
Stephen Bilen  
George Walker  
Megan  
Eva Sexton  
Hurricane Areas  
Ed Boncek  
Capt. Edward Boncek  
Larry and Doris Dumford  
Betty Mickey  
Sandy Edwards  
Mel Yearick & Charlene  
Barb Wagner  
Cancer Patients and caregivers  
Alzheimer patients and caregivers  
Traveling prayers



Terry Allen- 620-4811

Dorothy Evans 317-5008 or 287-7219

Kim Hensley 848-4756

Allene Circle-Rader 848-8218

Donna Ruschau 429-2107

Sue Seiler 848-2043. 478-1426 or  
604-1426

Call with assurance of confidentiality, love and  
prayer

### **Philippians 4:6**

Do not worry about anything, but in  
everything by prayer and supplication  
with thanksgiving let your requests be  
made known to God.



Virginia

Darlene

Betty

Bud

Barb

Larry and Doris

Ben and Charlotte

To visit or send cards please check with  
office for addresses.



**Bellbrook Presbyterian Church**  
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