



## From the Pastor's Desk -

<sup>13</sup> Now listen, you who say, "Today or tomorrow we will go to this or that city, spend a year there, carry on business and make money." <sup>14</sup> Why, you do not even know what will happen tomorrow. What is your life? You are a mist that appears for a little while and then vanishes. <sup>15</sup> Instead, you ought to say, "If it is the Lord's will, we will live and do this or that." <sup>16</sup> As it is, you boast in your arrogant schemes. All such boasting is evil. <sup>17</sup> If anyone, then, knows the good they ought to do and doesn't do it, it is sin for them.

**James 4:13-17 (NIV)**

We are entering the season where we reflect on all that we have and all that we are thankful for. While most of the time we can remain centered in our gratitude, there are moments we can fall into the cycle of comparative thinking. We can get stuck worrying about what we do not have, or we can feel frustration when comparing ourselves to others. Sometimes we really do not have what we need. Someone loses a job. Someone experiences deep loss. Someone suffers abuse. This is different than what I am describing. The type of comparison I'm talking about is when we imagine others do not experience pain or loss, and we imagine their lives to be better than our own. This type of comparative thinking is normal. It is part of the human condition but living vicariously through others or longing for something that we do not have are not lifegiving and do not bring us closer to what scripture describes as the kingdom of God.

Thankfulness and gratitude are really ways of being. They are chosen perspectives on how to view the world and the way in which we fit into this life. Scripture reminds us that every day, even every breath is in essence a gift from God. In the book of Matthew when Jesus reflects on treasures in heaven versus treasures on earth, he challenges those listening to not worry about tomorrow. Jesus argues that the birds of the air and the flowers of the field have what they need. He concludes that nature is even more beautiful than all of Solomon's splendor. The implications are that we will experience heartache and disillusionment when our focus is misplaced. When we imagine that we are more deserving or owed something for who we are and what we do in this life, we will only find disappointment. Instead, we are encouraged to pay attention to what we have received, give thanks for those gifts, and respond with gratitude.

The passage above describes what I view as James' take on gratitude. In it, he suggests that even our future plans can become misdirected. When we start to live into the future with misguided expectations for what we deserve or what we are owed, we can miss the fact that nothing in this life is guaranteed. James equates this type of thinking to arrogance, and in this case, arrogance seems to be the opposite of gratitude.

As we enter into seasons of Thanksgiving and advent, how might you express gratitude for this moment. I encourage you to find something authentic. It can be small. It may seem insignificant, but whatever you find to be grateful for hold on to it. Gratitude and ingratitude are qualities that build upon themselves. When we live in a state of ingratitude, the list of what we wish would change can continue to grow larger and larger. When we choose to live in a state of gratitude, what we find to be thankful for can also grow.

James suggests that when we live within our means and acknowledge all that we have comes from the Lord we will lean into the good that we ought to do. May we find gratitude this season, so we may lean into the good that we ought to do. May it be so.

Peace and blessings,  
pastor Joel Beachy

# Grateful for our Goodly Heritage



## 70 years ago: 1952

**November 9** - Sunday, November 16 is Missionary Day. So will everyone please bring in your Savings Boxes next Sunday.

**November 30** - The following list of names are the group which were received into the church by baptism last Sunday. Mary Lou Fry, Doris Schrock, Janet Troyer, Colleen Rhodes, Sara Jane Snyder, Loretta Miller, Jeanette Rhodes, Linda Miller, Arlene Yoder, Esther Hershberger, Carolyn Zillmer, Kenneth Yoder, Donald Schrock, John David Miller, Ross Rhodes, Marlan Logan, Larry Yoder, Dale Miller, Keith Marner, Philip Hershberger.

## 60 years ago: 1962

**November 4** - The M.Y.F. will meet Wednesday evening at 6:30 in the Kalona Gym for a Pizza and Pepsi supper. The film "Button-wood Inn" will be shown. There will be a charge of \$1.00 for the supper.

**November 18** - All M.Y.Fers are invited to meet at Pleasantview Home on Thursday morning at 10:00 for a Thanksgiving program with the group there. Let us help make this a Happy Thanksgiving Day for them.

## 50 years ago: 1972

**November 12** - J. John J. Miller will be heard on KCII meditations three times each day during the week.

**November 12** - An Open House honoring Mr. and Mrs. Robert Schrock on their 25th wedding anniversary will be held this afternoon from 2 to 4 o'clock in the Kalonial Townhouse. Everyone is invited to attend.

**November 26** - Mr. and Mrs. Donald Zook are the parents of a daughter, LeAnne Marie, born November 24.



## 40 years ago: 1982

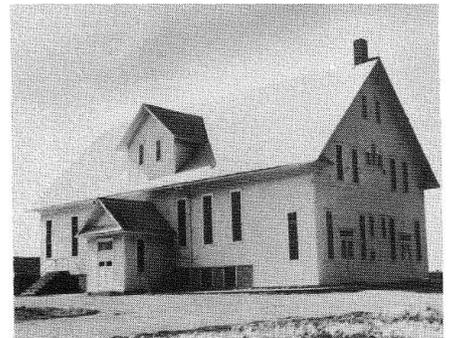
**November 7** - A request received for the use of the dishes from the church kitchen elsewhere than t East Union was turned down after and review and discussion of the policy set in 1974.

**November 14** - Henry and Alma Beachy and John and Mary Knepp left on Wednesday to spend the winter in Florida.

## 30 years ago: 1992

**November 1** - Congratulations to Dave and Lisa Yoder on the birth of a daughter, Emma Grace born on October 25.

**November 29** - Pay attention to the creche at the back of the auditorium each Sunday during Advent. There will be new figures added each Sunday. The barn was made by Dale Yoder and the figures were a gift from Donna Hochstetler's late mother, Viola Butler.



## 20 years ago: 2002

**November 10** - November 16 is the 50th wedding anniversary of Ike and Maretta Yoder. A card would be appreciated from their friends. Their address is Bradenton, Florida.

**November 17** - We extend love and congratulations to Nyle Kauffman and Lauralee Roth who were married yesterday in Mildord, Nebraska.



## 10 years ago: 2012

**November 4** - Congratulations to Megan and Victor Gingerich on the birth of Jesse Michael who was born on October 30th. He weighed 3 lbs and 4 oz and was 17 inches long. As with all premature births there is still some concerns, so all prayers for his health are appreciated.

# GIVE THANKS TO THE LORD



Discover the hidden words.



J	E	H	O	S	H	A	P	H	A	T	Q	F	S	Y
A	Q	T	T	V	X	L	F	Z	X	B	X	R	I	Y
D	A	L	A	F	R	E	D	G	O	T	B	U	N	F
B	D	B	Q	S	M	M	D	U	Z	A	L	J	G	C
K	L	H	P	R	A	Y	H	S	D	D	B	L	E	V
M	X	J	W	G	I	J	P	B	X	V	Z	J	R	C
J	A	H	A	Z	I	E	L	L	Q	A	U	C	S	Q
L	V	Q	O	L	U	H	X	S	O	D	G	H	Z	L
S	L	K	S	P	I	R	I	T	A	V	Z	B	S	Q
E	W	G	V	O	Z	O	N	H	C	S	E	Q	R	P
O	A	N	P	V	H	H	E	W	I	Z	T	N	G	V
G	R	I	T	H	A	N	K	S	G	I	V	I	N	G
X	O	K	K	D	W	U	V	S	Q	H	K	F	Z	Z
H	Q	D	L	Q	L	H	Q	T	F	P	X	P	D	B
I	D	D	F	A	S	T	M	Z	P	P	P	G	C	J

## Word Bank

JEHOSHAPHAT  
JUDAH  
GOD  
SINGERS

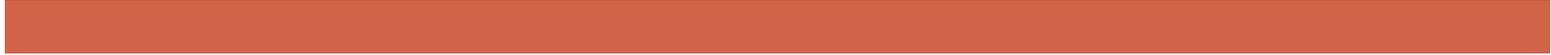
LOVE  
FAST  
PRAY  
THANKSGIVING

KING  
WAR  
SPIRIT  
JAHAZIEL





# NOVEMBER 2022



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1 <b>Mennonite Women Meeting</b>	2 <b>CHOW</b> Ruth Boller Norman Schrock Lynn Yoder	3	4 Denise Litwiller Joel Beachy  <b>Pleasantview Benefit Sale</b>	5
6 <i>Morning Worship</i>  	7 Gilbert Troyer	8 Joel Miiller Morgan Miller Norman & Joyce Schrock '75	9 Grace Rempel	10 Heidi Gingerich Detweiler	11 Donald Zook Logan Troyer	12
13 <i>Morning Worship</i>  <b>All Saints Remembrance Day</b>  Janet Geyer Cindy Fisher	14 Josie Miller	15	16 Nyle & Lauralee Kauffman '02  <b>Mid-Week Potluck</b>	17 Charlene Rhodes Will Higdon	18	19
20 <i>Morning Worship</i>  Colleen Stoltzfus Lisa Yoder	21 Kara Porter Brad & Alyssa Hershberger '15	22 Iris Yoder	23 Henry Yoder Greg & Sarah Yoder '01	24 	25 Marcia Gingerich Azry Leaton  <b>Office Closed</b>	26 Brian & Heather Hershberger '04
27 <i>Morning Worship</i>	28 Lou Miller Cade Groenewold	29	30 Steve & Tina Dachtler '91			