



# Flock Talk

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2020

## Give Thanks

As the calendar turns to November, it brings us closer to one of our most important holidays: Thanksgiving. I love that the importance of Thanksgiving hasn't quite been diminished by commercialism or candy, but that the focus remains on valuing family and friends and recognizing the ways that we have been blessed and to be thankful to those around us and towards God. In normal years we find this fairly easy to do, but this is not a normal year, and it may be harder to find thanks. You see, in order to give thanks, we must first have the thanks in us. Only what is already in us, stored up in our hearts and minds, can we give to others and to God. So how do we get the thanks in us in the first place?



As we navigate through this life there are all sorts of experiences and information that comes our way. The task that each of us have is to sort through and interpret all of those experiences and information and decide what to reject and what to incorporate into our lives. If our focus and attention is on the negative that happens to us and around us we may interpret that as "woe is me," and we may begin to think that God is distant or doesn't care about us. We may even grow angry or bitter towards Him and others around us, and the thanks will not be given out very freely.

We are not alone in this. The writers of the Psalms and Proverbs also struggled to see things from God's perspective. Psalm 10 is a good example of this. The opening words of the Psalm have a negative and even accusatory tone: "Why, Lord, do you stand far off? Why do you hide yourself in times of trouble?" If that's where we stayed, if that was our attitude all of the time, then we would certainly become bitter and untrusting of God. But thankfully, the psalmist doesn't stay there. He is reminded of God's love and greatness so that by the end of the psalm he can declare: "The Lord is King for ever and ever; the nations will perish from his land. You, Lord, hear the desire of the afflicted; you encourage them, and you listen to their cry, defending the fatherless and the oppressed."

This Thanksgiving may our eyes, ears, and hearts be tuned to the goodness and love of God. Yes, it's been rough, but He has not abandoned us. May we be filled with gratitude for all of the ways He has watched over us and cared for us, and may that gratitude then flow out of us towards others and back to God Himself.

*Pastor Ian*



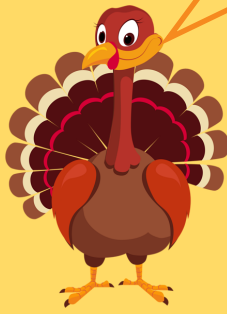
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## November Birthdays

2nd Sue Wiltfong  
10th Jered Price  
11th Marilyn Riley  
14th Elizabeth Price  
16th Bev Tatlock  
17th Barb Middleton  
24th Ethan Price  
27th Mike Copas



Happy  
Birthday

## November Anniversaries

4th Dave & Patti Tolley  
10th Dick & Donna McFadden  
26th Chuck & Sue Wiltfong



## 100 Verses Every Christian Should Know

Verse 63 of 100: Proverbs 22:7  
Verse 64 of 100: 2 Chronicles 31:21



## Mission Money Update

Sunday School offering for November will go to

### **WHITE CROSS**

White Cross is a program through the International Ministries and the AB Home Mission Society who work closely with the American Baptist Women (ABW). White Cross provides opportunities for individuals and churches to help the most vulnerable in our world. Since 1919, we have responded to those in need with the love of Christ by fulfilling specific requests to purchase much needed ministry supplies for global servants and partners. The money collected this month will go to our local ABW women's group who will use it to purchase items from a list given to them from the state organization.

### Last month's offering

Besides all of the items donated to the Edna Martin Christian Center in October, we also collected \$49 from the Sunday School offerings. Thank you to all who gave so generously to the EMCC.

## NOVEMBER CALENDAR

**Worship Service:** Sundays @ 10:00 AM  
in the sanctuary

**Adult & Children's Sunday School Class:**  
Sunday mornings @ 9:00-9:45 AM

**Bible Study:** Wednesdays Nov 4th, 11th and  
18th @ 4:30 PM in the sanctuary  
(no study on Nov 25th)

**ABC Club:** Tuesday Nov 10th chapter 7  
\*\*\*Thursday Nov 19th chapter 8  
@ 4:30 in the fellowship hall

**Ministry Council:** Mon Nov 16th @ 6:00 PM

**ABW:** Thu Nov 19 @ 1:00 PM  
in the fellowship hall

**Men's Bible Study:** Sat Nov 21st @ 8:00 AM  
in the fellowship hall

**Thanksgiving Day:** Thu Nov 26th



Thank you Father for the many blessings you have given to us.



## **Finances**



### **August 2020**

Income: \$12,824.03  
Expenses: \$11,814.38



### **September 2020**

Income: \$10,549.73  
Expenses: \$10,333.63

**\*Income includes all money received\***