



November 22, 2020

Weekly Newsletter

The Preacher's Post – *Darin Kennedy*

“Them’s fightin’ words!”

This next week is going to be a strange Thanksgiving. Many families will not be able to gather as they normally do because of COVID protocols. More than that, we may simply not feel like we have much to be thankful for in this 2020 fiasco of a year. COVID, a nasty election, racial tension, economic loss, loss of a loved one, etc., have all imprinted themselves on our memories of this year. This Thanksgiving, giving thanks will not come naturally flowing out of abundance, but it will have to be intentionally produced as a weapon against the year's circumstances and our feelings of anxiety and isolation. We are going to hold down 2020 by the neck and tell it, in the words of Jacob who wrestled with God, “I will not let you go unless you bless me” (Genesis 32:26). Who knew Thanksgiving could be so violent?

Whether circumstances have been good or bad, thanksgiving has always been a weapon for spiritual warfare. Giving thanks goes into the inner recesses where demonic voices often speak and exorcises them from our hearts and minds. Down deep, we hear the voices of anxiety and worry, hopelessness and fear. We may also hear the voices of pride and self-sufficiency, covetousness and arrogance. Either way, thanksgiving challenges their power and authority: “You won’t cause me to feel helpless. I thank God who has sustained me,” or, “You won’t cause me to feel prideful. I owe everything I am and have to God.”

Thanksgiving is more than a contrived joy, a dismissal of pain. It is admission into a wholly other, more truthful reality where God is good and at work

doing good. God has much better things in store for us than full bank accounts. God has much greater plans for us as we work for what lasts for all eternity rather than for one paycheck after another. God sticks it in the eye of our troubles, using them to produce stronger, more faithful disciples. God increases the strength of the heart to withstand temptation. God fixes our vision so that we might perceive how puny our enemies really are.

Let the beat-down begin—“Give thanks to the Lord for He is good; his love endures forever” (1 Chronicles 16:34).



Harvesters

Harvesters serves 26 counties in the KC area. This holiday season they are asking for food donations to pack holiday food boxes. Here are the items needed: pkg. stuffing mix; 15 oz. cans of sweet potatoes, cranberry sauce, green beans, and corn; packages of gravy mix, corn bread mix, instant potatoes, and 10 oz. cans of mushroom soup. A collection tub will be in the lobby of the church.

Prayer Requests

Ben Church's cousins (David and Diane Litton) – recovering from COVID, **Samantha Pollard's** cousin (Ruth) – is recovering from COVID. She is in the COVID unit in a nursing home, **Cathy Eldridge** – is in the hospital. She had emergency surgery to fix some internal bleeding. So far it looks like the surgery was successful. But we will know more on Sunday. Please continue to pray for her!!!, **Susan Foster** – is recovering from knee replacement surgery, **Hannah Guntert's** friends (The Palmers) – lost their 3 year old son (Truett) after some severe health complications including cancer, stroke and seizures, **Vickie Sullivan's** brother – passed away unexpectedly, **Pat Kreisel** – is experiencing some back pain and is limited in her mobility, **Larry Sullivan** – is recovering from shoulder replacement surgery, **Joe Harber's** wife (Charlotte) – is suffering from some ongoing health issues, **Hannah Guntert's** grandmother (Wanda Thomason) – has been diagnosed with breast cancer, **Mitch and Peggy Rush's** granddaughter (a family from East Independence church) – is suffering from a severe head injury. She is 6 years old. She was in a car accident., **Stormy Cook's** brother (Ralph) – has been put on a liver transplant list, **Hannah Guntert's** cousin (Grant Funderburk) – is in the process of receiving a nerve stimulator implanted in his colon. He is 7 years old, **Buddy and Sharon Self's** daughter (Lisa Self) – has a blood clot and fluid in her lungs. She is slowing regaining her strength, **Shirley Simmons** – is recovering from open heart surgery, **Kelly Seuferling** – **UPDATE: Surgery today!!!** **Flora Swartz's** friend (Joanie Green) – **UPDATE:** She finished chemo this week! She will go back for scans and checkup in January, **Andy Hester, Joel Morehead, Bruce Keeton, Will Kreisel, Lena Bramlett, Dave Nash, Jurhee Bench**



Hadyn Hoggatt is turning 16!!!
Dawson Johnson is turning 5!!!

Saturday, December 5th @ 2PM - Youth Christmas Project

All youth are invited to go on a shopping excursion for 10 underprivileged children.

This year we are adopting 10 underprivileged children and buying them Christmas presents.

We will meet at the building at 2PM. Then we will go shopping for these children, eat dinner together, and come back to the building to wrap the presents.

It's not too late to give money for this project. If you are interested in donating money to buy presents for these children, add "Youth Christmas Project" to the note section of your offering or give through Breeze.

Birthdays: November 22nd – 28th

Darin Kennedy – 25th

Shea Hastings – 25th

Carol Hendrix – 26th

Dawson Johnson – 27th

Hadyn Hoggatt – 28th

Lyndall Reynolds – 28th

Announcements:

Parking Lot:

Concrete repair has begun on the church parking lot. The circle drive is blocked off. There is still plenty of parking available. Just be prepared to go in and out of the parking lot the same way. Thanks to David Foster for working on this.

Wednesday Night Bible Class:

We will not have any Bible classes at the building or a livestream this Wednesday, November 25th, due to the Thanksgiving holiday.

Thanksgiving decoration with cutlery - Alexandra Fedorova © 123rf.com
children read a bible on the bed – Volodimir Kalina © 123rf.com
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