

FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
Lawrenceburg, TN - NOVEMBER 10, 2008

In some parts of Mexico hot springs and cold springs are found side by side. Because of the convenience of this natural phenomenon women often bring their laundry and boil their clothes in the hot springs and rinse them in the cold springs. A tourist was watching this happen one day and said to his Mexican friend and guide, "I imagine they think old Mother Nature is pretty generous to supply such ample, clean, hot and cold water here side by side for their free use." "No, senor," replied they guide. "There is much grumblng because she supplies no soap." (Story taken from Illustrations Unlimited).

If you've ever been around a person that complains about everything and gripes about how nothing is ever the way it ought to be, you know that negativity feeds on itself. And you also know that more than likely that person is going to see practically every situation in a negative light. You also know that those persons are not always a delight to be around. On the other hand those persons who live with "an attitude of gratitude" are just the opposite. These persons are generally always positive, and they see almost everything in a positive light. Those persons who are positive and possess that attitude of gratitude are much more delightful to be around.

With the coming of November I consider us to be in the Thanksgiving Season of the year, and as we come into that season there are many things for which I am thankful. One of those things is our church. I wrote in my Pastor's Report for Charge Conference that we are a happy church, a welcoming church and a most caring and gracious church. And we are. And for that I am deeply grateful.

That we are a church that has these characteristics tells me also that we are a church that has a positive attitude and that we are a church that has an "attitude of gratitude." We are indeed thankful to God for all God's blessings to us. And that we are a church with a positive outlook and an attitude of gratitude makes everything around us better.

A man named Fulton Oursler tells of his old nurse, a woman who was born as a slave on the eastern shore of Maryland and a woman who attended both the birth of his mother and himself. Oursler says that this lady taught him the greatest lesson in thanksgiving ever. He says that he remembers her sitting at the kitchen table with hard, old, brown hands folded across her apron, with glistening eyes, and with a husky, old, whispering voice saying every time before she ate, "Much obliged, Lord, for my vittles."

Oursler says that one day he asked her what a vittle was, and she told him that vittles were what she had to eat and drink. Then Oursler said to her, 'But you'd get your vittles whether you thanked the Lord or not.' To that the old nurse replied, "Sure, but it makes everything taste better to be thankful." Indeed, it surely does.

As we approach this season of thanksgiving, I hope that we will remember that "it makes everything taste better to be thankful." I hope we will remember that all things are better when we have a positive outlook on life. I hope we will remember that to have an attitude of gratitude just makes the whole of life better, both for ourselves and for others with whom we come in contact.

Let us not fail to have an attitude of gratitude this Thanksgiving, and let us not fail to have an attitude of gratitude all year long. An attitude of gratitude can transform our whole way of living and our outlook on life. This is just something for us to ponder.

Until next time, **Bro. Jim**

COMMUNITY WIDE THANKSGIVING SERVICE

Mark your calendars. First UMC will host a Community-wide Thanksgiving service on Sunday evening, November 23, at 7:00 p.m. Rev. Don Goodrum, pastor of Calvary Hill Church of God and president of the Ministerial Association will be preaching. A number of other clergy will be participating also. Each person attending is asked to bring one non-perishable food item to be given to God's Storehouse. A time of fellowship with finger foods will be served in the CLC following the service. Please make plans to attend this time of community fellowship and thanksgiving.

CELL PHONE RECYCLING

Ever wonder what to do with that old cell phone, lying around the house? Bring your old cell phones to church and the youth will recycle the phones, (and earn a little cash in the process AND help the environment!) We are collecting only phones, no cords, no chargers, **ONLY PHONES**.

“BREAKFAST, BAKED GOODS, AND BEYOND” UPDATE”

Thanks to so many of you who baked pies and cakes, made chicken and dumplings, chili, beef stew, pimento cheese, chicken salad, made can and cookies, and many other items for sale-our B-B&B was a great success. Over \$4,000 was raised Saturday, November 8th. These profits will be used for the United Methodist Women’s outreach to local Lawrenceburg missions, to national UMW missions, and to international missions.

We are so blessed to have such wonderful facilities for the event and to have so many generous people who not only donate items to sell but also so many of the church and the community who shop with us.

The women of Lawrenceburg First United Methodist Women send you a big THANK YOU. God bless you all.

GREETINGS FROM BELINDA FORBES

Recently we received an email from Belinda Forbes, a United Methodist missionary in Managua, Nicaragua. She is well know to and well loved by many of our church members who have visited Nicaragua. She writes “My greetings to the pastor and to members of Lawrenceburg First United Methodist Church. Congratulations on your continued commitment to the partnership with Amatitan and CEPAD. Grace and peace to you for the coming Advent season.

Belinda Forbes

NEWS FROM THE HAPPY ELDERS

The Happy Elders have 14 tickets to see the play “Tuna Christmas” on Dec. 4, 2008. We will leave the west parking lot of the church at 9:30 a.m.; have lunch at noon and then the play with dessert at intermission. We should be back in Lawrenceburg around 4:30 to 5:00 p.m. Call Jean Robertson or see Terri in the church office. Sign up and money should be in by Nov. 14, 2008. Cost is \$25.00. **There are 3 available tickets left, if you would like to go.**

WEDNESDAY NIGHT MEALS

The Wednesday night food planning committee will meet on Tuesday, November 18th, at 4:00 p.m. Two members from each Sunday school class are asked to attend this meeting.

WEDNESDAY NIGHT MENU FOR NOVEMBER 19TH

The Wednesday night menu for Wednesday, November 19, is: Meatloaf, Creamed Potatoes, Green beans. Children’s menu is: Corn dogs and Creamed potatoes

*Please note-since the food must be purchased for Wednesday night early in the week, it is most helpful if you can turn in, or call with your reservations by noon on Monday.

WEDNESDAY NIGHT CHILDCARE

The SPRC has received a suggestion that childcare on Wednesday night might enable more people to be involved in Wednesday night activities, particularly Choir practice and Bible study. We need to know your opinion on that, especially those who have children. We also need to know if we have adults who would be willing to provide childcare, maybe on a rotating basis, should we decide it good to provide it. If you have an opinion on either subject, we invite you to speak with either Alecia or Bro. Jim.

FIFTH SUNDAY - ITEMS NEEDED FOR LOAVES & FISHES FOOD PANTRY **(SUNDAY NOVEMBER 30)**

Toilet Paper
Diapers

Toothpaste

Laundry Detergent

FIFTH SUNDAY SINGING AT LORETTO UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

The next scheduled Fifth Sunday Singing will be on Sunday, November 30, at Loretto United Methodist Church. The singing will begin at 6:00 p.m. Please plan to join us for this time of fellowship and music.

YOUTH TO SPONSOR TRIVIA NIGHT

The youth are sponsoring a Trivia Night (general knowledge) and silent auction to benefit the summer mission project, on Sunday February 15, 2009. More details to come in January. What the youth need right now, is Sunday school classes or individuals to donate baskets or items for the silent auction. To donate or for more information, contact Alecia at the church office, or email her at youth911@Hotmail.com.

THANKSGIVING EVERY DAY

“Do not worry about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God.” Philipians 4:6, NRSV

“Those who bring thanksgiving as their sacrifice honor me; to those who go the right way I will show the salvation of God.” Psalm 50:23, NRSV

Most of us consider Thanksgiving Day as an opportunity to visit with family, watch parades and football games, and eat a traditional meal that includes turkey and pumpkin pie. We tend to have fond memories of this holiday. As Christians, we must remember that each day is a *thanksgiving day*. We are blessed with God’s abundant love every day.

Create a thanksgiving box with your family during the first few days of November. Ask your children to decorate the outside of a shoebox with typical Thanksgiving symbols: turkeys, pilgrims, and so on. Keep this box in a conspicuous place, such as your kitchen table or the coffee table in the den. Each day during family time, ask family members to reflect on their day by recalling one aspect of the day for which they are thankful. Family members may write this one recollection on a slip of paper. Family members then share what they have written with the family and place the slips of paper in the thanksgiving box. Close your time together with a family prayer, and thank God specifically for those recollections.

On Thanksgiving Day, open the box with your family and review these slips of paper. Count your blessings!

Questions to Discuss with your family

- For what are you most thankful?
- Is being thankful a choice or just a feeling?
- Do you remember any stories from the Bible about thankful people?
- How will you continue to give thanks to God each day?

AGE-LEVEL MINISTRIES COMMITTEE

There will be an Age-Level Ministries Committee meeting on Monday, November 17th at 5:00 p.m. in the Friends and Fellowship classroom. Items for discussion are the calendar for the remainder of 2008, ministry projects, and “hands on” work putting the care packages together.

SPRC MEETING - MONDAY, NOVEMBER 17

There will be an SPRC committee meeting on Monday, November 17, at 6:00 p.m.

WEDNESDAY NIGHT BIBLE STUDY

After this Wednesday night (November 12), there will be no more Wednesday night bible study until the first of the new year. We will announce in upcoming newsletters and bulletins when bible study will resume.

ADVENT READERS FOR ADVENT SEASON

We will need Advent readers for both services during the Advent season. Please call the church office or let Bro. Jim know if you are willing to do a reading.

