

FROM THE PASTOR'S PEN

Dear Friends,

The first Sunday of the Advent Season begins our preparation for the birth of Christ and it falls on the last Sunday of November this year. I think this is most fitting because November is the month that we set aside a day to be thankful for all our blessings, and, as followers of Christ, we understand, "from whom all blessings flow." Also, "first" and "last" always remind me of the words of the One who was born in a manger. "Anyone who wants to be first must be the very last, and the servant of all" (Mark 9:35 NIV).

Dietrich Bonhoeffer wrote from his prison cell on Christmas Day, "When we go to his manger, something happens and we cannot leave it again unless we have been judged or redeemed. Here we with collapse or know the mercy of God."

In Paradise, we are redeemed and know the mercy of God. So, in this Thanksgiving month of November, which ends with the beginning of Advent, let us daily give thanks for the promise from Lamentations 3:23:

The steadfast love of the LORD never ceases,

God's mercies never come to an end;

They are new every morning; great is your faithfulness.

Yours in Christ,

Pastor Judy

MEN'S GROUP

There has been inconsistent attendance at Men's Group, so we are going to take time off and examine what would work to have a Bible study.

OUTREACH/MISSIONS

In October, we collected 62 boxes of facial tissues for the Food Pantry. The November collection for the Food Pantry is soup and the monetary collection in November is for our Christmas project, which will be announced in the near future.

Thank you for your continued support of these mission projects. If you have questions or suggestions regarding any of the collections or mission projects, please contact Linda East or a member of the Outreach and Missions Committee.

SUNDAY SCHOOL

Sunday School is held for all adults and teens at 10:00a.m. on Sunday mornings. If you have a younger child that is interested in attending Sunday School, please notify Angie. We are happy to have a class for our younger attendees.

The next Fellowship Sunday is November 9 at 10:00a.m. Please bring a friend and a breakfast dish to share!

WORSHIP IN NOVEMBER

November 2 (Pastor Larry) – "**How to be Great**" from Matthew 23:1-12;

November 9 (Pastor Judy) – "Serving Other Gods" from Joshua 24:14-25;

November 16 (Pastor Larry) – "Why Romans 8:28 is My Favorite Scripture;"*

November 23 (Pastor Judy) – "**The Least Among Us**" from Matthew 25:31-46; and

November 30 - Laity.

*This was Pastor Larry's sermon at Grandview, which was recorded and placed on Facebook. It was suggested that he preach it at Paradise and it goes through his history with an understanding of Romans 8:28.

POTLUCK SUNDAY

The next Potluck lunch will be Sunday, November 23, immediately following the worship service. Bring a dish and join us for a great meal and fellowship.

PRAYER PARTNER CONGREGRATION

This year our prayer partners are Arley United Methodist Church. In addition to sending two individuals to their church to worship with them, we also need to keep their church and church members in our prayers during the rest of 2014 and into 2015.