

Paul's Perspectives:



Human beings thrive on encouragement. Even the thickest-skinned person responds to appreciation. A thank you in the right place can travel a great distance. A mother who, having spent hours preparing a meal, watches it disappear in minutes down hungry teen-age throats, is greatly blessed by a simple "Thanks, Mom!" A harassed secretary, pushed to the limits by her demanding boss, find new desire to please, and new energy to serve, once the "thanks word" is voiced.

But, it is in the spiritual realm, that thankfulness needs to be fully appreciated. One of God's chief complaints against humanity is that despite his self-revelation, **"they neither glorified him as God, nor gave thanks to him."** This does not mean that God was upset because he wasn't appreciated adequately, but rather, that mankind was functioning in a matter that denied human uniqueness. That uniqueness is seen in the capacity to receive revelation of eternal things, to appreciate them, and to articulate that appreciation in Thanksgiving. To fail to be thankful is to fail to be fully human.

A good place to start being thankful is at the meal table. Offering thanks to God, as well as to Mom, does not make the food into something it isn't, but it does make the eaters into something they weren't . . . thankful! A good place to continue - is in regular worship with God's people, where even the most depressed person can find a lift from discouragement, as the soul, in concert with others, reaches to the heights of praise and thankfulness.

The Pilgrims didn't invent Thanksgiving, they just did it in a most difficult and perilous time, when each and every day was challenging beyond description.

The ancient prayer of General Thanksgiving says it all, and it is worth our reviewing - as we approach the soon coming season of Thanksgiving.

"Almighty God, Father of all mercies, we, Thine unworthy servants, do give Thee most humble and hearty thanks for all Thy goodness and lovingkindness to us, and to all mankind. We bless Thee for our creation, preservation, and all the blessings of this life; but above all, for Thine inestimable love in the redemption of the world by our Lord Jesus Christ; and for the means of grace, and the hope of glory. And we beseech Thee, give us that due sense of all Thy mercies, that our hearts may be unfeignedly thankful; and that we shall show forth Thy praise, not only with our lips, but with our lives, by giving up ourselves to Thy service, and by walking before Thee in holiness, and righteousness, all our days; through Jesus Christ our Lord, to whom, with Thee and the Holy Ghost be all honor and glory, world without end. Amen."

With Thanks to God - for God, and for you,

Pastor Paul

**GIVE THANKS
TO THE LORD
FOR HE IS GOOD**
HIS LOVE endures FOREVER!!!



November 2021



You can watch Rev. Ray on your phone or computer every Sunday morning at 10:15 am on Zoom. (Our I.D. is 8493568945, Password 998736.) Just go online and get your ZOOM App. It's free!

Bible Study - Evening Bible study meets on the 1st, 2nd, and 4th Monday at 7:00 pm.
We are studying the book of Revelation.

Sunday, November 7th - 10:15 am Worship Hour. Special music by Steve Dolphin. Our Church will have the Fall Business Meeting following the Worship Hour. Please join us in the Fellowship Hall for a Coffee Hour and meeting.

Sunday, November 14th - 10:15 am Worship Hour. Special music by Daniel Mitchell.

Monday, November 15th - 7:00 pm Church Council Meeting.

Sunday, November 21st - 10:15 am Worship Hour. Special music by Lora Gensler, Melanie Mingus, and Rose Seeger. Our Annual Thanksgiving Luncheon follows the service in the Fellowship Hall. All members, friends, and visitors are welcome. Please bring a dish to pass.

Thursday, November 25th – Thanksgiving Day!



Sunday, November 28th - 10:15 am Worship Hour. First Sunday in Advent.
Special Music by Jubilee and others.



Lectionary Readings

11/7 Ruth 3:1-5; 4:13-17; Psalm 127; 1Kings 17:8-16; Psalm 146; Hebrews 9:24-28; Mark 12:38-44.

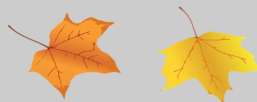
11/14 1 Samuel 1:4-20: 1-10; Daniel 12: 1-3; Psalm 16; Hebrews 10:11-25; Mark 13:1-8.

11/21 2 Samuel 23:1-7; Psalm 132: 1-18; Daniel 7:9-14; Psalm 93; Revelation 1:4-8; John 18:33-37.

11/28 Jeremiah 33: 14-16; Psalm 25:1-10; 1 Thessalonians 3:9-13; Luke 21:25-36.



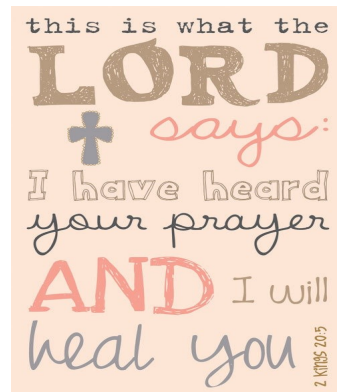
Prayers and Concerns



COVID19 Responders and Caregivers	Ed Manwing
Victims of Terrorism	Neely McNeal
Victims and volunteers of natural disasters worldwide	Dan Medkalf
Our Nation's Leaders	Stephanie Mutz
All military personnel and their families	Matthew Olson
Casa Bernabe Orphanage	Julie Pagan
Douglas Depatis	Torin Philips
Kristy Novak Enger	Reid Shamus
Rachel Frashingbauer	Jack and Jeanie Smith
Oscar Jacobs	Sandy Theide
Tom and Lynn Koeper	6 year old Clinton
	Barbara
	Lois

Health Care Facilities:

Jean Moyer has a new address!
Oak Park Place 1700 Tuet Road
Apt. 1118
Burlington, WI 53105
Phone Number 262-758-6718



COUNCIL MINUTE HIGHLIGHTS



Treasurer's Report

- For the month of September: deposits (income) were \$9,935 and withdrawals (expenses) \$11,509.

Worship Commission

- We continue to fill Sundays with special music.

Fellowship Commission

- Sunday, November 7th, Coffee Hour during Fall Business Meeting.
- Sunday, November 21st, Thanksgiving Potluck dinner following the Worship Hour.

Mission Commission

- Adopt a family will begin in December. Christmas Tree will be put up in November.

Buildings and Grounds

- Windows have been repaired in the parsonage.
- Plan to finish firepit and platform before snow falls.
- North door and southwest door will be painted.

Next Council Meeting is Monday, November 15 at 7:00 PM



**FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH
OF ROCHESTER**

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Pastor PH. 508-837- 4611

*“For where two or three are gathered in my name,
there I am in the midst of them.”
Matthew 18:20*

www.fccrochesterwis.org

November 2021

All services are shared on ZOOM.

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1 Bible Study @ 7:00 pm	2	3	4	5	6
7 10:15 am Church Special Music by Steve Dolphin	8 Bible Study @ 7:00 pm	9	10	11	12	13
14 10:15 am Church Special Music Daniel Mitchell	15 Church Council Meeting @ 7:00 pm	16	17	18	19	20
21 10:15 am Church Special Music by Lora, Melanie, & Rose Thanksgiving Luncheon after church in Fellowship Hall	22 Bible Study @ 7:00 pm	23	24	25 	26	27
28 10:15 am Church 1st Sunday of Advent Special Music by Jubilee	29 Bible Study @ 7:00 pm	30				

Pastor Ray's Office Hours are Monday through Wednesday, 9:00 am to 12:00 pm.

