



*Katie, Elizabeth, Jason, and Kim Allen and Sandy Clements enjoy the World Communion Sunday Picnic on October 4.*



# THE INTERIM

Volume 77 Issue 24

November 22, 2020

## From the Pastor...

Thanksgiving often gets lost between Halloween and Christmas. Just look at the store shelves, which are driven by profits. Businesses make a lot off of Halloween decorations, costumes and candy; and even more from Christmas. At Thanksgiving, however, they only sell a few decorations and more turkeys.

Thanksgiving isn't a money maker, but that's not the only reason it hasn't become overly commercialized. It's also hard to co-op Thanksgiving, because it's focused on gratitude. It's difficult to mix greed and gratefulness. For this I'm truly thankful.

Of course this Thanksgiving will be like none other. The COVID pandemic is limiting our ability to celebrate in our normal ways. We need to listen to the experts and do everything we can to keep one another safe. We might not get to see all those we love, but we can still be grateful for them.

While we keep our distance from one another, remember that God is always near. Perhaps the break in our traditions might actually serve as an opportunity to focus more on God. Stores may not have co-opted Thanksgiving, but we can still lose its significance amidst food, family and football.

I invite you this Thanksgiving to refocus the holiday on gratitude and generosity. Make a gratitude list. Read Psalm 111 or one of the other psalms of thanks. Sing "Count Your Many Blessings" and then do it. Call or write people to express your appreciation for them. Give a donation of thanks to our church or a charity of your choice.

Someone once told me, "Different isn't always bad – it's just different." I would go even further and say that change carries the possibility of blessing. Of all days, Thanksgiving isn't a time to mope. You and our entire congregation will be very high on my thankful list. I pray you will have a meaningful Thanksgiving; despite (or because) of the changes.

*Nolan*

**Happy Thanksgiving!**

*Great are the works of the Lord;  
they are pondered by all who delight in them.*

Psalm 111:2



## Schedule

### Sunday, November 22

7:00 a.m. Sunday School Lesson  
Uploaded to YouTube

9:00 a.m. Sunday School - FLC & Zoom  
10:00 a.m. Worship

### Monday, November 23

8:30 a.m. Pickle Ball  
7:00 p.m. Pickle Ball

### Wednesday, November 25

8:30 a.m. Pickle Ball  
9:30 a.m. Precept Bible Study  
12:00 p.m. Virtual Bible Study - Zoom

### Thursday, November 26

**Happy Thanksgiving**  
Church Office Closed

### Friday, November 27

Church Office Closed

### Sunday, November 29

7:00 a.m. Sunday School Lesson  
Uploaded to YouTube  
9:00 a.m. Sunday School - FLC & Zoom  
10:00 a.m. Worship

### Monday, November 30

8:30 a.m. Pickle Ball  
7:00 p.m. Pickle Ball

### Wednesday, December 2

8:30 a.m. Pickle Ball  
9:30 a.m. Precept Bible Study  
12:00 p.m. Virtual Bible Study - Zoom  
5:30 p.m. Wednesday Evening To-Go Meals  
Menu: chicken a la king, wide egg noodles, mixed vegetables, & chocolate chip cookies

### Thursday, December 3

8:30 a.m. Pickle Ball  
1:00 p.m. Clothes Closet

### Saturday, December 5

8:30 a.m. White Christmas

# Happy Birthday

### November 1

Laura Sipe Karriker

### November 2

Samuel Harper  
Piper Lewis

### November 3

Mike Edwards

### November 4

Eric King

### November 7

Zoe Devine  
Bill Eckliff  
Emma Gordon  
Andrew Mullins

### November 8

Andy Poole  
November 8  
Sharon Abercrombie  
Hannah Byrd

### November 9

Shannon Ashley

### November 10

Kathy Sills

### November 11

John Garland

### November 12

Karen Dellinger  
Macie Durfee  
Kelley James  
Kathy White

### November 14

Valerie Granade

### November 15

Jim Falter  
Sue Hedrick  
Max Lewis

### November 16

Sherry Johnson  
Vicki Marsh

### November 17

Boomer Lewis

### November 18

Kayley Potter Crouch

### November 20

Nicole Pratt

### November 21

Sebastian Acosta

Aaron Milstead

Jack Tillery

### November 22

Alan Williams

### November 23

Nancy Milstead

### November 24

Marian Moore

### November 25

Nedra Van Zee

### November 26

Karen Cline

### November 29

Karla Duncan

Jared Faulk

### November 30

Ruth Bondurant

## Church Staff Directory

Dr. Nelson Granade.....Senior Minister  
Mr. James Martin.....Minister of Music & Worship  
Rev. Melissa Wilson.....Minister of Children & Youth  
Mrs. Elizabeth Kilby.....Minister of Young Families & Missions  
Mr. Eddie Wiseman.....Accompanist / Music Assistant

OFFICE HOURS: 9:00 AM - 5:00 PM Mon - Thur, 9:00 AM - 1:00 PM Fri  
Tel: 704-873-7231

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## Spiritual Statistics

### Weeks of November 8 & 15, 2020

	11/8	11/15
In-Person	.98	.77
Live Stream Views	35	42

## Financial Statistics

	November	Year-to-Date
Giving Goal	67,370.00	136,467.00
Budget Receipts	52,545.00	108,336.00
Needed to Meet Goals	14,825.00	28,131.00
Alms	200.00	940.00
Designated	1,749.00	3,744.00

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# Covid-19 Update

As you are aware, COVID-19 infections, hospitalizations and deaths are at an all time high. Our desire is to do everything we can to minister during these days and to keep everyone as safe as possible.

As of now, we will continue to offer Sunday School and worship services online and in person. Our staff and Medical Team, however, continue to monitor the situation and will make changes as warranted.

We encourage you to use your best judgment and stay home if you are at risk, feel ill or have been potentially exposed to an infected person. If you choose to come to in-person worship, you must keep your mask on at all times. We also ask that you refrain from singing – as counter as that is to worship.

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## A Note from Minister of Young Families & Missions Elizabeth Kilby

Thinking of Thanksgiving, I will be the first to admit this year my thankfulness meter is not off the charts like I would want it to be. I am frustrated with the current state of affairs, and yet I find hope in the mundane. I am annoyed with the sense of displacement and confusion that this year has brought, yet have an underlying peace. I am worried and anxious about the days ahead, and yet I have an understanding that God in his infinite wisdom did not bring us this far to give up our journey or work on his mission. I have come to the realization that I don't have to be ok with every situation that is coming my way. I know who is in control and that in itself provides enough thankfulness and joy that the rest of the world can move on and I can be secure in Christ. Many around us do not have this secure trust in knowing the one who we are so thankful for during the uncertainties, but they are watching how we respond. They are watching our words and we are learning that we can be both caught up in frustrations but understand that life is bigger than us. Here is to walking out our lives well, being real with those around us when we don't have it all together, and trusting deeply in the one who does.

Many thoughts and prayers.  
Elizabeth

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## A Thanksgiving Prayer

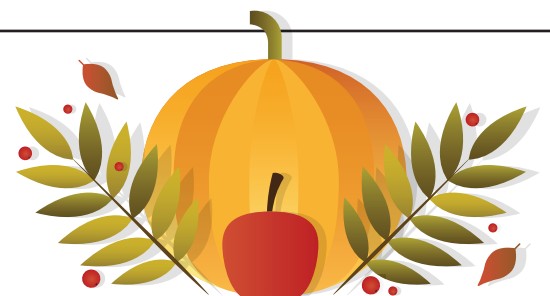
This Thanksgiving will probably be unlike any other Thanksgiving for most of us, as we have been asked to limit the size of our celebrations and the number of people we gather with. But is that what Thanksgiving is really about? I believe Psalm 103 gives us a great description of Thanksgiving in the first few verses: "I (thank) the holy name of God with all my heart. Yes, I will (thank) the Lord and not forget the glorious things He does for me. He forgives all my sins. He heals me, He ransoms me from hell. He surrounds me with loving-kindness and tender mercies. He fills my life with good things! My youth is renewed like the eagle's! He gives justice to all who are treated unfairly. He is merciful and tender toward those who don't deserve it; he is slow to get angry and full of kindness and love." And it goes on and on. Take time to read this Psalm in its entirety, and as you read it, give thanks to God.

Have a wonderful Thanksgiving as you thank God for all His blessings! (This passage was taken from The Living Bible, Paraphrased, 1971.)

His servant and your friend,  
Ginny Stikeleather

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"Give thanks to the Lord, for he is good;  
his love endures forever."  
1 Chronicles 16:34





### CBF Mission Bite

#### Mission Bite 202: Securing Insecurities

*When we arrived in Spain over 7 years ago, Spain was slowly climbing its way out of a difficult economic crisis. It has only been in the last year or so that we have seen signs of economic growth. And then, COVID-19 hit. People have speculated that the economic fallout will be worse than the previous crisis. Lines are already growing at food banks as people are without work and without a way to provide for their families.*

*Working at the food bank of the Baptist church in Cerdanyola has been a regular part of our ministry since the beginning of our time in Spain. In addition to serving at the food bank, we have been able to provide financial support for the ministry.*

*Recently, while working at the food bank, the coordinator, Pedro, pulled us aside. "Thank you again," he said. "Thank you for your hands to help and thank you for the financial support. It means so much." He had already thanked us numerous times, but he felt the need to make sure we understood how truly grateful he was. I shared with him that we had received additional support from CBF partners and would be making another donation to the food bank. He thanked me again and shared the following.*

*The normal regulations stipulating who receives food have been lifted by the government. This means that people seeking aid do not have to provide the authorization papers and anyone can receive assistance. This enables the food bank to assist more people. That very morning, Pedro told me that he had seen a man digging through the trash to find metal to sell for money. This is a common practice among those without work. That morning, without the regulations and with additional support they had received, Pedro went over to the man to ask if he had food at home. When the man responded he did not, he was invited over to the food bank and an allotment was given to him. On the way back to the food bank, Pedro saw another family and asked them the same. They too came for help.*

*At the Cerdanyola food bank, we are seeing the loaves and fishes being multiplied and people receive a small glimpse of hope in the form of an allotment of food during a difficult time.*

*Challenge: Food insecurity is a struggle not just in Spain but also in the US. Get to know local ministries addressing food insecurity and ask about ways your church can help.*

*-Michelle Norman, Cooperative Baptist Fellowship field personnel serving in Barcelona, Spain*

## Announcements

### Deacon Election

Crystal Beale, Mike McLain, and Alan Williams were elected to the Deacon Ministry Team on Sunday, November 8. They will begin to serve in January 2021.

### Sunday School Curriculum

Our next Sunday School curriculum "The reMARKable Journey Begins" will begin Sunday, December 6. The student and teacher guides are available to be picked up outside of Adams Hall.

### Clothes Closet Needs

The Clothes Closet is still accepting cold weather clothing ONLY. We also need men's belts, underwear (men's, women's and kids), and all socks.

### A Note of Appreciation from David & Beth McDaniel

In this season of thanksgiving, David and I would like to extend our thanks for all the many ongoing prayers, cards, calls and visits we have received from our church family during David's illness.

We feel very blessed to be a part of this caring community of Christ.

Thank you again.  
David and Beth McDaniel

### White Christmas Saturday, December 5, 2020

If you would like to shop for a child or volunteer on December 5, you may sign up at [www.statesvillefbc.org/missions](http://www.statesvillefbc.org/missions), by calling the church office at 704-873-7231, or by e-mailing Christine at [christine@statesvillefbc.org](mailto:christine@statesvillefbc.org).