

First Baptist Church
1600 S. Main Street
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Visit us on the Internet: www.lamarfbc.org

Return Service Requested

Come join us Sundays!

8:45 am Sunday School classes for all ages
10:00 am Worship



The Messenger

Volume 52, Issue 11— November 2019



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WORSHIP OPPORTUNITIES AT FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH

- ♦ *Sunday School for all ages, 8:45am*
- ♦ *Sunday Worship, 10:00am*
- ♦ *MS/HS Sunday Night Youth Group, 6:00pm*
- ♦ *Wednesday Ladies Bible Study, 11:30am*
- ♦ *Wednesday Awana Clubs, 6:00pm*
- ♦ *Wednesday Adult Bible Study, 6:30pm*

NOVEMBER

Wednesday Evenings 6:00 - 7:30



AWANA Calendar

November 6—Mustache Night
November 13—Normal Club Night
November 20—Bring a can
November 27—NO Club

Dear First Baptist Family,

It's been a bit crazy around the church here lately and getting this newsletter article kind of fell by the wayside. I apologize. I did ask a crusty old pastor acquaintance of mine if he'd write something for me. He agreed as he grumbled his way out of my office. I didn't get a chance to read it, so I hope it makes your Thanksgiving season a little more brighter and Christ Centered. He's been asking to preach for me some day. Let me know what you think.

Your servant,

Pastor Darren

The Benefits of Ungratefulness

Take a moment and think back over all the church newsletters you have read over the years. I'll bet that the vast majority of November newsletters had something to do with being thankful. Perhaps one or two of them suggested to start each day out by finding something for which to be thankful. Perhaps some of them did some fancy letter work where the letters of thanksgiving spelled out things to be thankful for, like

T is for Today,

H is for Happiness,

A is for All of God's creation,

N is for what's Next in God's plan,

K is for Kindness shown by others

F is for forgiveness God grants freely

U is for you, of course, and

L is for our Lord, the giver of all good things

and on and on and on. Maybe a couple of those newsletter articles lamented how we skip to Christmas after Halloween. To all of that, this year, I say, "Rubbish" and "Bah Humbug!" Let's look at the benefits of being ungrateful. You might be surprised at how many gains can be made by being dissatisfied and unappreciative.

The first thing that comes to mind as a benefit of being ungrateful is that being thankful requires us to both observe what's going on and remember things to a degree. Think about it, if we seriously looked around us and saw all of the things that God was doing right in our world and in us, we could easily be overwhelmed with amazement and awe. There's just so much about God that is good—so much about what God does is amazingly wonderful. The Scriptures tell us over and over and over again how wonderful and marvelous are his works, how true and just are His ways. Why not just focus on a few things that look negative instead. It is so much easier to find a few negative things to concentrate upon and grumble about. It also helps keep conversations with loved ones and even potential friends really short, because no one really likes a grumbler. It makes it easier for people to remember you as well. If you are a master grumbler, they'll do a 180 in a Walmart aisle when eye contact is made. Then, by jove, you have some one new to grumble about!

There are a few things one needs to be aware of, though, if you choose practice un-gratefulness. First, choose very carefully what you are going to grumble about, because what seems like a frustration today oftentimes is something that we'll look back on and say, "Wow, that circumstance actually was helpful for me to grow." And that just turns your grumbling into

gratefulness. Who wants that? Secondly, make sure you don't stick to one or two things to grumble about too long. God promises to turn all things into something good, and He has a 100% track record in keeping his promises.

The next thing is that grumbling gives you a complete sense of control over whatever you are grumbling about, and who doesn't like control? It makes us feel so smart when we're critical of others. It has always amazed me how much more a person watching a game on TV knows about refereeing. I am also amazed at how much more the employee knows about be-ing the boss than the boss does. Being ungrateful totally disregards whatever circumstances that someone else is going through and proclaims us as know-it-alls. The squeaky wheel gets the grease. The loudest or the rudest is the most feared. The most difficult get their way so that they will go away. See, control achieved.

Here too, I suggest caution and moderation. Yes, the squeaky wheel sometimes gets the grease, but when it won't stop squeaking, it just gets replaced. And although you may feel big when you make others feel small, others rarely see it as you do. God certainly never sees it that way. And apparently, if the Scriptures are correct, His opinion matters the most, but again I digress. What feels like control to you is just plain annoying ignorance to others. To keep this up for any length of time, you are going to have to up your game from ungratefulness to more sophisticated forms such as entitlement and just plain being mean. You are also going to have to be stubborn in your misguidedness and convince yourself that what others lovingly trying to tell you isn't as important as you believing you're in charge.

And about that control. If you are going to try to sustain being ungrateful, you are going to have to live blindfolded, for the real truth of the matter is that God is in control—not any of us. If you let yourself explore how much God has control, that'll lead you to the understanding of how much He loves you and how He has blessed you, and that'll just plain ruin your downward spiral into ungratefulness.

Being ungrateful can also be helpful because it leads to all kinds of other things, like worrying, rage, jealousy, pride, selfishness, and sloth. Those things come so naturally to human beings. I mean, we don't even have to try to do those things. They just happen, right? Ungratefulness just lowers our expectations of ourselves and our understanding of the fullness of God. We could spend eternity trying to understand the height and the depth and the breadth of God's love for us, His power within us and His plans for us. And yes, that would be extraordinary—full of joy and peace and love, but this is about being ungrateful, so I guess just try to block that good stuff out.

Finally, ungratefulness keeps life's expectations low. If I think the sky is falling, and it doesn't then it's really easy to just believe it will tomorrow. It really sets up a very dim and dismal vision of the future. Yes, Jesus said, "I have come so that you might have life and have it to overflowing," but that just sounds messy, doesn't it? Who wants to clean up all that good life that spilled over. It's just best to keep trying to keep that life well dry and believe that life is out to get you so just hope for the worst. That way when trials and tribulations hit, you didn't get disappointed. Yes, James tells us to even have joy in our trials, but if you look for the good in your trials your ungratefulness is doomed and you start to develop this thing called hope. And when that starts to bloom—man—you are in serious trouble. It's impossible to be ungrateful in a place of genuine hope. You might as well give up if that happens.

Well, I hope this has been insightful and helpful. I'd say something like "God bless you," but that would seriously be counterproductive to this letter's intent—because God does all the time...and in many ways we don't even see. I can't even really say, "Happy Thanksgiving" either because unless I'm just being flippant and shallow, that'll take you to a higher place as well. So I'll just end with this:

"Bah Humbug!

November Mission Emphasis

Retired Ministers and Missionaries

This mission emphasizes honors those who have dedicated their lives to God's service. By contributing to this mission, we are able to provide emergency assistance in times of need, and a thank you check at the end of each year.

Thank you for your support!

National Collection Week

November 18-25

Thank you for your support during October's Mission Emphasis,
Operation Christmas Child.

In the next couple of weeks our Youth Group and Awana Clubs will be packing shoeboxes with the supplies and donations that you gave. If you have packed boxes at home, we ask that you please try to have them to the church before Sunday the 24th. This will allow us time to have them counted, packed, and ready to load. Richard and Debbie Widener have volunteered to transport our boxes to Rocky Ford. They will have a trailer at the church on the 24th. We will need several hands to help load up our boxes after church. If you could help it would be very much appreciated.



Thankful
Grateful
and truly
Blessed

Happy Thanksgiving

November 28, 2019

Take time to be thankful. Use
your blessings to bless others!

Our Thanksgiving meal will be
held on
Sunday, November 17th.
Everyone is invited.



TIS THE SEASON!

LET'S ALL GATHER AND DECORATE
OUR CHURCH FOR CHRISTMAS.

November 30, 2019

10:00 am

Monique and I would like to thank our family at First Baptist Church for all of the wonderful outpourings of your love and generosity during Pastor Appreciation Month. Thank you for your kindness, your thoughtfulness, and your continued support. What a wonderful blessing it is to call you all our brothers and sisters in Christ and to work hand in hand for God's glory!

Pastor Darren and family

Harvest Fest 2019

Harvest Fest provides our church family and friends with an opportunity to gather in fellowship, enjoy some good food and fun, and share our many talents.

Staying with our yearly tradition, the evening kicked off with Tram rides for children 1 to 99. (Thank you Joan for your generous donation of the Tram. It will be cared for and proudly used to represent FBC.)

Our Deacons gathered at 4:00 to judge the Chili that had been entered. It's never an easy decision, and for some it's down right painful. The winners this year were: Hottest Chili-Even Mendenhall, Most Unique Chili-Dave Reid, Best Tasting Chili-Andy Wyatt. Congratulations, and thank you to all that entered and provided Chili and fixings for the evening.

Entertainment was provided by those that had signed up for the talent contest. This confirmed that we have many kids in our congregation using their various talents to serve God.

Our pumpkin contest exhibited artistic talent from all ages. We had painted pumpkins and carved pumpkins. They were all so good it was impossible to judge, so each entrant was a winner.

CE Board asked our various church boards to man a game room. After dinner the children went room to room playing games and loading up on candy.

From set-up to clean-up, thank you to everyone that helped!



T W U G G K T K S F S S C L I
 D F O L E N N N Y A H P N L G
 Y E A R T H I E J E R Y O N O
 J K M N S A A V E A P Q I J D
 H O S R T H G P I L Y K T O M
 Q R C N O S I S E G R E A Y Z
 V Y U P P F E P L U K V V F K
 Q O G N I S N A P C T N L U C
 M S H T P E D B O A M U A L O
 P R E S E N C E E S A D S H R
 H A N D W Z P R P T K M R H T
 N R V C T E G X F N E Z S O P
 K K D D H L O U Z Q R E Q U L

Psalm 95: 1-7

O come, let us **sing** to the **Lord**; let us make a **joyful** noise to the **rock** of our **salvation**! Let us
 come into his **presence** with **thanksgiving**; let us make a joyful noise to him with songs of **praise**!
 For the Lord is a **great** God, and a great **King** above all gods. In his **hand** are the **depths** of the
earth; the heights of the **mountains** are his also. The **sea** is his, for he made it, and the
 dry land, which his hands have **formed**. O Come, let us **worship** and bow down, let us **kneel**
 before the Lord our **Maker**! For he is our **God**, and we are the **people** of his pasture, and the
sheep of his hand.