



THE JOYBELL

of

The Baptist Church of Grafton

An American Baptist Church

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Message from Pastor Frank

Ephesians 5:19-20 *“Speak to one another with psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs. Sing and make music in your heart to the Lord. Always giving thanks for all things to God the Father in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ.”*

I must say that seems like an impossible thing to do when you take into consideration all of the things for which we have no reason be thankful. This year has certainly seen enough tragedy, violence, sickness, storms, and loss of life to leave one with an attitude that is far less than thankful!

Yet, we are called to give thanks always and in all things; that, I must confess, is seemingly impossible to do; give thanks always and in all things? Not!!

But listen; there is a difference between giving thanks **“for”** all things and giving thanks **“in”** all things. If we gave thanks **“for”** everything that would mean that we give thanks for the tragedy of loss, evil, and disaster in this world. No, a close look at scripture tells us is that regardless of what may be happening or have happened in our lives, and in the lives of those we love, we are not abandoned by God, rather lifted by His power and sustained by His Grace.

We can give thanks **“in”** everything” because we know that *“all things work together for good to them that love God.”* (Romans 8: 28) God stands with us in the midst of adversity as well as prosperity. We can give thanks **“in”** all things because God is in control and working them out for our good.

We can be thankful because no matter what may come our way, God will have the last word and we will be blessed by the richness of His Love and Grace. It takes faith to accept one's lot with gratitude in the midst of unfortunate circumstances.

So, on that note, let us consider the things for which we can be thankful. In so far as our church is concerned, we need to be thankful for and encourage all those who have worked to sustain an enduring ministry and effectiveness in doing the work for which we have been called to do by our Lord Jesus Christ. We can be thankful for our leadership, for those who quietly keep things moving ahead be it in the Kitchen, classroom, choir, etc.

And a special thanks needs to be continuously extended for the thorough and prayerful work of our search committee. They have been working diligently to find the person God has chosen to shepherd us into a new day and many more years of ministry.

So, as Thanksgiving quickly approaches please take a moment to intentionally thank God for His sustaining presence in your life and the lives of those you love: thank God because He so loves us that He would not only die for us that we may have life beyond life, but gives us great reason to rejoice, sing songs, and praise His name for His promise to bring good out of all we see that is not so good.

May we continue to be so blessed,
Pastor Frank

Pastoral Search Committee

The Committee continues to meet bi-weekly to work on the various reports needed to build a Church Profile. This Profile will be used to describe who we are and where we are in our faith journey. The current focus of effort is on defining a compensation package that reflects market conditions and standards for settled Pastors, while also being affordable for the Church. In addition, the Committee is assembling all the completed Profile sections into a consolidated document that is ready for review, edits and finalization. This completed Profile will then be used to perform outreach to Settled Pastoral candidates - and establish the basis of communicating Church pastoral requirements, while clarifying employment discussions with them. We realize this effort is a lengthy, but it is one that will be very helpful in matching our church and its needs with a pastor who is looking for a new opportunity to grow in faith and service. Please check the poster in RFH to see more details on this task! And thank you for your continued support for our work.

Christian Education

Bible Sunday November 12: Bibles will be presented at Children's Message Time during the Worship Service to members of our Sunday School in the Primary/Junior Class

who have not received one. We also request that all church members bring their Bibles. We will have a table on which special Bibles can be displayed and their stories can be shared! Meredith Christian has generously offered to have Bibles available to give to anyone who does not own a Bible and would like one.

Bible Study: This Group continues to meet on the 1st and 3rd Tuesday of each month and is now studying Revelations under the leadership of Meredith Christian. Everyone one is welcome to join this group – new perspectives are always welcome.

Donna Nicholas is replacing Susan Searles as Chair of the Committee as Susan's school schedule does not allow her to attend evening meetings.

Property Committee

Property Committee has been busy working to on plumbing issues at the Parsonage. A leaking pipe in the second floor bathroom caused water damage in a ceiling on the first floor. This is being repaired and hopefully there will be no more leaking.

Mission Committee

The Mission Committee received the following note from Ed Guerard who was its guest speaker last month:

Dear Members of the Mission Committee of the Baptist Church of Grafton,

Thank you for inviting me to speak to your committee. You also “spoke” to me. In my several years as Minister of Mission Support and more recently as coordinator of the Friends of Regional Ministries, I have sat with countless mission committees and while all of them have their “ears” in the right place, your committee also has its “head” in the right place. You illustrated the “ideal” in mission committees, because you not only spent money, you were committed to knowing how that money was making a difference! Please don't ever take yourselves for granted: you are unique and inspiring in the world of mission.

May God continue to bless your generosity and use your mission enthusiasm to inspire others.

Seafarers Friend Mission Project: The collection box for Seafarers is in place to receive donations on the Mission table in RFH. Thank you to everyone who donates to this worthy cause.

Fund Raising Update – One More Eating Opportunity!

October’s magnificent **Turkey Dinner raised over \$1,200** as over 80 hungry, happy guests crowded into every nook and cranny of the RFH! Congratulations to Head Chef Marcia Kamilewicz and her crew!! There was a wonderful spirit of fellowship in the hall that night with people lingering at the tables for conversation over their coffee and dessert. Thank you to all who supported the dinner through donations of vegetables, desserts and money to buy turkeys.

The last 2017 dinner will be held on **November 18**. The menu is **the Pasta and Meatballs Dinner**. This includes all the fixings of a hearty meal plus the delicious dessert buffet. Reservations are not required but are very much appreciated. See the sign-up sheet in Russell Hall or call the Church Office to make your reservation

Just a reminder that there is a **lighted parking lot behind 2 South Street** that can be used on the evenings of dinners plus the parking lot at the Library and the Public Parking lot just beyond that on Rt. 140. The new sidewalks make it an easy walk to the Church.

New Church Directory is Here

Our new Church Directory is now available. It has a sunny yellow cover and is as up-to-date as we can make it. Please take one home to keep by your phone. If you have any additions, please see Janice King so she can add them to the Office Copy of the directory for future updates. **Please take only one copy per family**. Remember that this a list of our **local** members and friends. If you need the address or phone number for someone not in the book but who is a member of the church, please call the church office.

Important Dates in November

1	Wednesday	~	Church Fair Set-up – all week long
2	Thursday	~	9:30am Prayer Time
4	Saturday	~	All Church Fall Fair 9:00-2:30
		~	Daylight Savings Time ends – turn your clock back!!
5	Sunday	~	10:00 am Worship Service to God’s Glory, Sunday School classes for our children and youth. Following Church there will an important business meeting. All members are encouraged to attend and vote
6	Monday	~	Long Range Planning with Meredith Christian
7	Tuesday	~	5:15-6:15pm AA Reflections Group
		~	7:30pm Bible Study with Meredith Christian

9	Thursday	~	9:30am Prayer Time in the parlor
		~	7:00 pm Property Committee with Barry Keith
11	Saturday	~	9:00am-2:00pm Crazy Quilters Meeting
12	Sunday	~	10:00am Worship Service to God's Glory, Sunday School classes for our youth. Coffee Fellowship following Worship.
		~	11:30am Choir Rehearsal with Pat Knowlton
13	Monday	~	Mission Committee with Garfield Atchue
14	Tuesday	~	5:15-6:15pm AA Reflections Group
15	Wednesday	~	3:00pm Worship at Crescent Manor
16	Thursday	~	9:30am Prayer Time in the parlor
			7:00pm Christian Education Committee with Donna Nichols
18	Saturday	~	5:30pm Pasta & Meatball Dinner
19	Sunday	~	10:00am Worship Service to God's Glory, Sunday School classes for our children and youth. Coffee Fellowship following Worship. ***Equal Exchange
		~	11:30am Choir Rehearsal with Pat Knowlton
20	Monday	~	7:00pm Board of Directors with Bert Engvall
21	Tuesday	~	5:15-6:15pm AA Reflections Group
		~	7:30pm Bible Study with Meredith Christian
23	Thursday	~	Thanksgiving Day – Church office closed
24	Friday		Church office is closed
26	Sunday	~	10:00am Worship Service to God's Glory, Sunday School classes for our children and youth. Coffee Fellowship following Worship. ***Undie Sunday
		~	11:30am Choir Rehearsal with Pat Knowlton
27	Monday	~	7:00pm Deacons with Tom Hodgdon
28	Tuesday	~	5:15-6:15pm AA Reflections Group
29	Thursday	~	9:30am Prayer Time in the parlor

- **Worship Service to God's Glory, 10:00am**, with Childcare and Sunday School Classes for children in Nursery through High School. Church Family Fellowship Time with refreshments following the Worship Service.:
- **Deacons of the Month for November** : Yves Fluery, Donna Nichols, and Patti Reichle
- **Tellers for the Month of November** Barthelmes and TBD
- Church Office Hours are Monday – Friday 9:00 am–11:30 am.
- Call the Church office for the Pastor's hours.

Advent Events

Advent Sundays are a time of preparation and are wonderful islands of peace in our hectic commercial world. Please mark your calendars now! Don't forget!

December 3 will be our annual Creche Sunday display. This is a wonderful afternoon to enjoy the true meaning of Christmas. Last year we displayed over 150 manger scenes for everyone to enjoy. This year we expect even more. Lots of help is needed for the set up [directly after Church] and the repacking of lots of little pieces when the display is over. Many hands make quick work! Please plan to help with this event!

December 24 Christmas Eve Service at 5:00 PM

Annual All Church Fair

The **Annual All Church Fair** will be held on Saturday, **November 4 from 9 a.m. to 2:30 p.m.** We will be looking for **help from everyone** to make this another successful effort.

We hope each family can donate one or more baked good items to the bake sale table. Please be sure to:

- Make these items from scratch;
- Wrap items in **plastic wrap** so people can see what they are buying
- Mark the name of the item on it as many breads/cookie/pies look the same;
- Bring them to the church on Friday, November 4.

There is a limited supply of our Hot Pepper Jelly this year. Come early for both a taste [if you dare] and the opportunity to take a jar home. Other jams and pickles will be available too. We will have strawberry rhubarb, blueberry, strawberry jam, mixed pickles, fudge, scones, breads and so much more!

Pat Knowlton and her crew have made over 65 pies this year – apple, apple blueberry, blueberry and strawberry rhubarb. Pat has also made some sugar-free pies for those who need to restrict their sweets consumption. **The pies, especially the specialty ones, go quickly so come early for the best selection.**

Chefs Marcia Kamilewicz and Everett Beaman will be serving up mouth watering food from the **snack bar**. They are looking for **monetary donations** to help defray the cost of this very successful part of our fair. They will buy the food, cook it **and** clean up – what a great deal!!

The ladies of the church have been crafting up a storm this year. We have aprons – both vintage colors and some wildly wonderful ones. We have hats and scarves, we have bibs for babies and burp cloths to keep their parents clean, we have afghans, we have nifty jeans pockets for the young at heart – hand crafted for your pleasure and fun to stuff for gifts.

The **Attic Treasures!** We expanded our **Attic** last year and it was a tremendous success.

We will be selling **books, CDs, videos and DVDs** so look thru your collections to see if there is anything that might be added to this table.

Our **Drawffle** is in its ninth year. You can buy a ticket for the opportunity to win one of several very special items. These include, a lovely hand quilted wall hanging, a ride for two in a Model A Ford car, a doll's bed complete with quilt and pillow, theme baskets and much more. **Please be sure to clearly label any and all donations for the Drawffle.**

Please **invite your friends and neighbors** to come to the fair. They can enjoy a wonderful hot meal at the snack shack, buy some jams, jellies, pies and delicious Baptist baked goods, a book to read on a snowy day, a treasure from the attic, or a Christmas craft. Encourage everyone to buy Drawffle tickets! Don't forget that there will be a table for youngsters where they can decorate cookies while giving their parents an opportunity to shop.

Sign up to help at a table, for clean-up or to assist during lunch rush at the snack shack.

SEE YOU AT THE FAIR!!

November 4, 2017

9 AM to 2:30 PM