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| November 2022 Newsletter |
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 Trinity UCC

101 East Main Street, Thurmont, Maryland 21788

www.trinityuccthurmont.org T: 301-271-2305

 A Word from Pastor Elsbury

**Thanksgiving for God’s**

# WORSHIP SERVICES

**Sunday @ 10:15 a.m.**

**In Church**

**and**

**Via Zoom**

**Meeting ID: 875 5390 4135**

**Passcode: MD848e**

# UPCOMING EVENTS

***November 6***

*Veterans Day Service*

***November 20***

***9:30 a.m.***

*Coffee Fellowship*

 **Abundant Blessings**

1st Thessalonians 5:15-18, ESV

***15****See that no one repays anyone evil for evil, but always seek to do good to one another and to everyone.*

***16****Rejoice always,****17****pray without ceasing,****18****give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you.*

This text is very fitting for this season when our focus is on thanksgiving for all of God’s gracious gift and his keeping us sound in many ways.  He protects our families, our homes, our careers and provides abundantly for our family’s needs.  This certainly should create a fountain for blessing, worship, and gratitude from the depth of our hearts.

**First, let us rejoice!** To rejoice is defined as to “feel or show great joy or delight.” I am sure each of us have experienced the emotion of joy many times in our lives. We can remember the “warm fuzzies” that delighted us when we began a relationship with the one who became our spouse, when our first child (or second, etc.) was born, or we got our first job or raise and so on I could go with multitude of God’s blessings.  Surely, we do remember and cherish those special memories and rejoice each time. However, this text does not only focus on our families but on God’s family.  He wants us to remember and rejoice in the day we discovered His grace and became his son or his daughter. He wants us to rejoice in His Word, His grace, His peace, His presence, His power, His ultimate triumph for us.  Let us share together both in our acknowledgement of God the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit as well as worship and obedience to them also. So, while each of us have much to rejoice about in life let us daily find time to spend in God’s Word and fellowship with him in prayer and worship. Surely, He longs for intimate fellowship with us as we do with our natural families. (cont’d on Page 5)



We are looking forward to our annual Veterans Day Service this Sunday, November the 6th. The service begins at our regular worship time of 10:15 am., and there will be a prelude with patriotic music beginning at 10:00 am. The Solid Ground praise band will perform patriotic songs, and Navy Chaplain Dale Williams will give the sermon. Sheriff Chuck Jenkins will read the names of the service members in the program. We hope you can join us for this special service.

Veterans Day Service

 Trinity’s monthly coffee and fellowship gathering will be held November 20 **from 9:30 –10:00 a.m.**, in the Social Room.



3 Ben Lillard

5 Linda Dellinger

7 Ashley Lillard

13 Ryan Tokar

29 Rocky Birely

Kitchen News

***Prayers Answered—Colorfest weekend was picture perfect, and despite the sidelining of our kitchen crew during the week of preparations, we can report sales and receipts to the church of a bit over $4,000.***

***Special thanks to family and friends who stepped in to help with preparations.***

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Council News

The church council met for the regular monthly meeting on October 19th, at Alice’s.

We are looking forward to our annual Veterans Day Service this Sunday, November 6th. The Council is honored to host this program each year and welcoming all veterans to honor and remember their service. We hope you can join us for this special service.

The Council has meetings scheduled with our two financial advisors during November.

The oil burner furnaces for the church and the Center Street rental property received their annual cleaning and tune up this month. Some repairs are required on the Center Street furnace.

The Thurmont Ministerium met on zoom in October. We are still looking for a bookkeeper/treasurer and placed an ad in the Catoctin Banner for this position.

The food bank is seeing an increase in the number of people coming in for groceries, due to the increase in cost-of-living expenses. The government grants that helped support the food bank during Covid will be running out at the end of the year. This will require a large increase from our food bank funds to cover this service. We encourage and appreciate your donations of food and money to the food bank.



Corey and Natsumi Ellis

Trinity’s Mission Sponsorship

Nothing new to report from Corey this month, but will be sure to update you as we receive more news. Please continue to keep Corey and Natsumi in your prayers as they continue their journey in the service of the LORD.

Food Bank

Thurmont Ministerium and Food Bank have preordered Thanksgiving food from the Maryland Food Bank but it won't be enough for all our families. Please ask your friends, churches or organizations to donate from the list below. We'll start giving out Thanksgiving items on Nov. 11th, so it would be helpful to have  donations before then.

In particular, the Food Bank is requesting:

Mashed Potatoes

Sweet Potatoes

Corn

Green Beans

Sauerkraut

Turkeys

Cake Mixes

Gravy

Cranberry Sauce

If you are able to help make a family’s Thanksgiving more bountiful, your donations, both physical and monetary, would be greatly appreciated.

Director, Thurmont Food Bank

10 Frederick Rd.

(or P.O. Box 74)

Thurmont, MD 21788

Food Bank

Food

CHRISTMAS GIFT SPONORSHIP

Again, this year the Thurmont Ministerium in partnership with the Moravian church is seeking sponsors for Christmas gifts for individuals and families in need in and around our community. Attached to this newsletter is the sponsorship form which should be completed and returned not later than November 28. You may return completed forms to

Graceham Moravian Church

8231 A Rocky Ridge Rd.

Thurmont, MD 21788

or emailed to: admin@gracehammoravian.org. You will be provided with a “wish list” for a family or senior.

A Word from Pastor Elsbury (cont’d from P. 2)

**Second, let us pray without ceasing!**Paul emphasizes in Ephesians 6:18, that we are to pray “at all times in the Spirit, with all prayer and supplication. To that end, keep alert with all perseverance, making supplication for all the saints.” First, Paul exhorts us to pray “at all times.” Obviously, that phrase inform us that prayer to God thru Jesus Christ is appropriate any time of the day or night that a need arises to either seek petitions or worship the Trinity. We can pray (either vocally or silently) driving our vehicles, mowing our lawn, resting in our easy chair, sitting in church, while walking for exercise, while visiting with friends or family and even in public (quietly and reverently). You may remember I shared with you during a sermon one Sunday morning that a lady stopped me in Food Lion and shared a family need. I stood by the shopping cart and quietly prayed for her and her family as she quietly cried. Secondly, Paul exhorts us to pray “in the Spirit with all prayer and supplication.” Supplication means to “ask or beg for something earnestly or humbly.” That can be done privately or publicly without calling attention to us, such as the one I did at Food Lion. This is not the most usual time or place but is certainly appropriate when done in a quiet and unassuming way. Let us not neglect God’s call for us to pray for others as well as ourselves in a timely manner.

**Third, let us give thanks!** Our text encourages us that it is the will of God to give thanks in all circumstances. That statement may seem strange to some of us simply because everything that happens to us does not always appear to be the best thing.  All of us deal with such challenges as financial crisis, health, employment, and death of a dear loved one, etc.  How do we harmonize these tragic situations with “the will of God in Christ Jesus for you.” Yet, we know Biblically\theologically that these situations affect us all. One obvious example would be, Hebrews (9:27) “And it is appointed unto men once to die….” We also know that in this world the righteous and ungodly both suffer declining health and struggle financially. Thus, even while we recognize these realities, we also continue to give thanks to God for our lives, for our families, for our churches, for our jobs and other such blessings that enrich our lives and we work diligently to make the most of them. Our thanks, furthermore, speaks to our recognition of our dependence upon God not only for the physical sustenance we need but also the necessity of God’s divine providence in our lives.  Let each of us recognize that it is God who sustains us and worship and give him gratitude for all of his good and excellent provisions.

 Household No.\_\_\_\_\_

 (For office use only)

**Thurmont Ministerium/Food Bank's Christmas Gift Program 2022**

**Sponsors' Registration Form**

This form may be used by individuals, Sunday School classes, groups, neighbors or families to sponsor a household for Christmas

Your Church or Organization:

Your Group:

Your name(s):

Contact email:

Contact address:

Phone number: Alternative phone number:: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Please indicate your family preference if any:

Would you like to help a family with children? ( Y / N )

How many children? 1-2 3-4 5-6 7-8 9-10

Would you like to help a household with Senior Citizens? ( Y / N )

 How many seniors? 1 2 3+

 Ideas for Gifts:

**Children age 0-5:** toys with no small parts that can be swallowed, toys that move or make music, Disney characters, Hot Wheels, dolls, balls, clothes, shoes, etc.

**Children 6 -12:** puzzles, arts and crafts, balls, trolls, Nerf products, Disney character toys, Star Wars Toys, Comic Book character toys, books, clothes, shoes, etc.

**Children 12-18:** Team shirts or hats, hand lotions, hygiene sets, gift card to hair dresser, gift card to Dollar Tree or local restaurants, etc.

**Senior Citizens:** A small holiday decoration, large print Word-Find books, hand cream, warm blanket, sweater, warm flannel shirt, puzzles, etc.

**Thurmont Ministerium Christmas Gift Program 2022**

**Sponsor Registration Information**

These registration forms should be dropped off or mailed to:

Graceham Moravian Church

8231 A Rocky Ridge Rd.

Thurmont, MD 21788

or emailed to: admin@gracehammoravian.org

***Sponsor Registration Forms are needed by November 28.***

You will receive a Gift Recipients' Registration Form with a household number and the first names of the members of the household that you or your group will be sponsoring for Christmas. You will also receive information on gift requests, ages and sizes of the gift recipients. We will do our best to assign you a family according to your preference as indicated on the form.

We suggest giving at least one clothing item and one "fun" item to each child or senior citizen on your list. Feel free to include a gift for the whole family or small gifts for adults as well. All gifts should be new and wrapped in Christmas paper with the person's name and the household's number on it. Place the gifts in a large garbage bag with the household number taped on it. Food will be provided by the Thurmont Food Bank, so please do not include food.

All gifts should be dropped off at Graceham Moravian Church on or before ***December 12*** so they can be delivered to the family **four days before Christmas Eve for Coyid-19 precautions.** The sooner you drop off the gifts the better, since the delivery team will have many gifts to distribute.

Please do not include books, movies, or anything with mature content that may not be appropriate for the whole family.

If you give gift cards please make them to local stores since many people do not have transportation. We recommend The Dollar Tree or local restaurants.

We suggest adding an invitation to your church's Christmas Service to your bag.

***Thank you for helping to spread the joy of Christmas by sharing Christ's love.***