



November 2024

Dear church family,

November is one of my favorite months. For my adult life, the Pierce family would celebrate Thanksgiving and Christmas together at Thanksgiving time, making the holiday season run from November through the first of the following year. We have so much for which to be thankful at Towering Oaks and such a wonderful opportunity is before us. God has some great days ahead of us, and so much for which to be thankful in these past days as well!

Psalm 116:17 tells us, ¹⁷ *To Thee I shall offer a sacrifice of thanksgiving, And call upon the name of the Lord.*

Ephesians 5:20 (NASB) ²⁰ *always giving thanks for all things in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ to God, even the Father;*

Perhaps my favorite verse, squarely addresses my responsibility in how I think. It is key in keeping a thankful heart. Philippians 4:8-9 (NASB) ⁸ *Finally, brethren, whatever is true, whatever is honorable, whatever is right, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is of good repute, if there is any excellence and if anything worthy of praise, let your mind dwell on these things.* ⁹ *The things you have learned and received and heard and seen in me, practice these things; and the God of peace shall be with you.*

We sang as children (not so long ago), *"Thank You Lord, for saving my soul, Thank You Lord for making me whole; Thank You Lord for giving to me; Thy great salvation so rich and free."*

Spend time being thankful. I am so thankful that God knows our hearts, motivations, and desires. He knows what we do, and why we do it. How about you?

I am thankful for the faithfulness of God's people who invest their time, finances, and most importantly prayers. It takes all of these to continue ministry at Towering Oaks. We appreciate your participation as we continue in our business of "knowing Him, and making Him known."

I have been amazed at how people have chipped in to meet the needs since the catastrophe of hurricane Helene. Thank you so much for donations totaling \$25,765. There is so much for which we can give thanks, and at the top of the list is YOU.

I am sincerely, and gratefully His.

Hello, my friends. What can be said that would do justice to what we have seen and felt and many experienced first-hand in recent weeks? My heart is like yours and remains heavy.

The church people have been buzzing in the chapel, many have worked countless hours to organize, coordinate, gather, and give. God has blessed us with new friends from miles away who arrived to lend a hand and more. I'm in awe of the LORD and His people at work.

You and I simply cannot measure the loss. We cannot fathom the enormity. Even as we might wrestle with the ebb and flow of "why," how great is our God to continue to be who He has always been!

The Great YAHWEH (*yah-way*) translated means "I Am who I Am." When Moses' faith weakened and he wondered if he would be believed, he asked "Who do I say sent me?" The Lord's answer? "I AM."

There is no arguing with the One who will always be who He has always been.

My word program flags that sentence as wordy. Bless it. It doesn't know how powerful those words are. They point us to the only trustworthy, steadfast, immovable safe place for all of eternity.

Keep believing. Keep praying. Keep reading your Bible. Keep attending small group Bible study and worship. Keep pouring into your godly friendships.

For many years now, I've repeated the old saying *life turns on a dime*. The only truer statement is ... are you ready...

YAHWEH LORD will always be who He has always been.

Parents, let me encourage you to continue to model and teach faithful living. Show your children how to trust in the Lord even when "why?" remains unanswered. Let them catch you praying. Let them see you believing and trusting Romans 8:28. Memorize this verse together and repeat daily.

The year ahead will contain more work helping people get back on their feet. Difficult days are here to stay.

Next week, hopefully, the election will be behind us. Will life turn on a dime once again?

I don't know.

Here's what I *do* know.

When everything else changes, we can trust YAHWEH for "*there is no shadow of turning with thee.*"

So ...

I'm looking forward to the month of November and more great biblical learning in Kidsmin. I'm looking forward to December 15th and the musical presentation of *The Nightshift Before Christmas*. We still need more kids to be willing to join us for the musical part. Please encourage your child to sing with us. Most of the singing rehearsal can be done using itunes or a listening CD at home.

I can't close my notes without saying an EPIC thank you ... see what I did there? I love my church family and how willing you are to jump in and try something different to reach boys and girls with Good News!

Come see me. We still need help in a few places and I'd love to have coffee with you and see if the next blessed TOBC member might be you!

I love yall,

Shelley

Here's some reading for your family: Malachi 3:6, Hebrews 13:8, Lamentations 3:22

A little over one month ago, our world was about as flipped around as it could have been. Amid tragedy, we came together, encouraged one another, and helped each other and the community around us. We became the hands and feet of Jesus, providing not only food and other necessities but prayer, support, and hear and see the gospel. As heart breaking as the effects and damage of Hurricane Helene have been, how exciting has it been to see the people of God come together, reach out, and provide assistance – even coming from out of state to help because they were compelled!

As we move into the Thanksgiving and Christmas season, I pray we continue forward with our hearts set on Jesus and our hands moving to help - helping those who need a hand, small repair, a smile, a hug, word of encouragement, and hope. Hope in Jesus. Hope in forgiveness. Hope in the gift of eternal life.

Let me encourage you to be active in our Bible study groups on Sunday mornings, as well as, joining us for worship both Sunday morning and night as we continue to learn about Seedtime and Harvest and sharing the gospel with others. Praying for all of us to continue meeting needs and sharing Christ.

It's an honor to serve,

Mark

Hello, Church Family! The school ministry has several events happening that we would love for you to be part of if you are interested. We will begin gathering gently used and new winter clothing items for our annual "Mitten Tree" collection; all items gathered will be sent to the Indian Reservation Post at Fort Belknap, Montana. We would also like to invite you to attend our annual T.O.C.S. Song Bee being held this Monday, November 4 at 1:00. The main sanctuary doors will be open from 12:45-1:00, and this musical event should last about 90 minutes. It is a wonderful time to see the musical talents and minds God has given to our young people. We will also be celebrating and hosting a Veteran's Day celebration on Friday, November 8 at 9:30 in the main sanctuary. Doors will open at 9:00, and a fellowship brunch will be provided in the chapel following the celebration. If you are a veteran, please join us to be honored for your service.

Amy Pfaff-Biebel

-Thanksgiving, 1863-

While the Civil War had not yet ended, Abraham Lincoln called the American people to a time of Thanksgiving.

This "Thanksgiving Proclamation" was not a generic "thanks", but a clear and unambiguous Thanksgiving to Almighty God.

In part, it read:

"To these **bounties**, which are so **constantly enjoyed** that we are prone to forget the **source** from which they come, others have been added, which are of so **extraordinary a nature**, that they cannot fail to penetrate and soften even the heart which is habitually insensible to the **ever watchful providence of Almighty God.**" &

"No human counsel hath devised nor hath any mortal hand worked out **these great things**. They are the **gracious gifts** of the **Most High God**, who, while dealing with us in anger for our sins, hath nevertheless remembered mercy." &

"It has seemed to me fit and proper that they should be **solemnly, reverently and gratefully** acknowledged as with **one heart and one voice** by the **whole American People**. I do therefore invite my fellow citizens in every part of the United States, and also those who are at sea and those who are sojourning in foreign lands, to set apart and observe the last Thursday of November next, as a day of **Thanksgiving and Praise** to our **beneficent Father** who dwelleth in the Heavens."

Our Nation, again, needs to engage in such a mission. As a people, we have seemingly forgotten The Source of our provision. We have neglected to be sorrowful and repentant of our sins. We have so often failed to seek God's face.

The Proclamation further called the Nation to- "...fervently implore the interposition of the **Almighty Hand** to **heal** the wounds of the nation and to **restore** it as soon as may be consistent with the Divine purposes to the full enjoyment of peace, harmony, tranquility and Union."

My prayer is that we be Thankful for God's Manifold Blessings, and seek His Forgiveness, Healing, & Restoration.

Today, we have so much for which we should give thanks.

"Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, and cometh down from the Father of lights, with whom is no variableness, neither shadow of turning." James 1:17

In His Grip,

Bro. Greg

Hello TOBC! Todd and Krystal Carpenter will be serving as Youth Group Leaders during the search process for the next Youth Minister. We wish Kollynn and his family the very best as he pursues his next role in what we hope is a lifelong, rewarding career in ministry.

In the meantime, Todd and Krystal, along with help and guidance from the Ministry staff, will oversee the Sunday morning and Wednesday night classes for our youth. Todd is a member of TOBC and spent many years as a high school teacher in Sullivan County, at both Sullivan North High School and West Ridge High School. Currently, he is a teacher at Sullivan Heights Middle School where his daughter, Ellie, attends. Krystal has been serving TOBC since May as the Church Administrative Secretary to the Pastor and her daughter, Mason, attends our school.

We want the church body and parents to know we are doing our best to meet the spiritual needs of the youth and to make sure they are loved and cared for during this time of transition. We want the youth to know we are there for them, we are praying for them, and we believe God will lead the right person to TOBC to be the next Youth Minister. Until then we encourage everyone, especially those who are closely connected to the youth, to remember Philippians 4:6-7 *Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, present your requests to God. And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and minds in Christ Jesus.*



**Annual
BUSINESS MEETING
VOTE ON 2025 BUDGET
Sunday, November 24
following Holiday Meal
that begins at 4:45pm**

Sign up for meal in Sunday School class, main foyer, or front porch area

ONLY ACTIVE MEMBERS CAN VOTE AT BUSINESS MEETING

Members of the Budget and Finance Team will be available in the Conference Room to answer any questions you may have on Wednesday, November 13th following our Wednesday evening Bible study and Sunday, November 17th following the morning worship service.



**Wednesday, November 20
6:00-7:00
Room 142
Contact Bro. Mark**

**Surviving
the Holidays**

Encouragement, support, and valuable tools to navigate the challenges of the season.

Join us for this 1-hour seminar

We are still giving out shoeboxes and collecting money to help with the cost of shipping 1,000 shoeboxes. Your assistance with our church wide mission project would be greatly appreciated. Shoeboxes and money are due by November 17th.

If you have any questions, please see Mrs. Virginia Cooter.



LADIES EVENT

Tuesday, Nov 5th

House of Prayer

6-7 PM

This will be a **church wide** event focused on prayer needs for our community, country, and each other

Child care provided

**PaceSetters November
Outing**

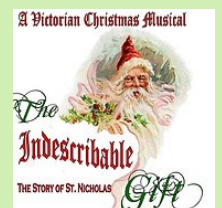
Saturday, November 23rd

Vans leaving church @ 12:45 PM

Victorian Christmas Musical @ Lamplight Theater in Kingsport

Tickets \$13

Money due by November 17



Sign up in Sunday School class, main foyer, or front porch