

NOVEMBER
2025

"Reaching Out In Word"
Colossians 3:17



"Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of the heavenly lights who does not change like shifting shadows." - James 1:17

My friends,

The three words that we hear most often during this time of the year are Grateful, Thankful, and Blessed. Some say that this is the proper order of words while others say Thankful should be before Grateful but always leave Blessed to bring up the rear.

I want to challenge you to think about putting Blessed first. Why would I add a little steam to the already whistling teapot? Hear me out. It is important that we remember that every good gift comes from our Father. Let's put a name to these gifts: family, health, jobs, home, friends, and the simple, everyday joys of living. That looks like a good start.

When we acknowledge these gifts, name them, we become closer to God developing a feeling of thankfulness. That feeling of thankfulness then spills over into how we treat others. We offer smiles when we pass on the sidewalk or in the grocery store, perhaps we hold the door for someone, or let's get a little crazy here, we buy a meal for a complete stranger or strangers.

Do you follow the sequence of events? By opening our eyes and hearts to see how Blessed we are develops thankfulness. This thankfulness changes the way we interact with others, giving us a more fulfilling life.

This overflowing life reminds us of where these blessings come from. They come from our Heavenly Father. This

creates a bubbling well of gratefulness within us.

When our hearts and minds are full of gratefulness for all of the blessings that we have, it is very hard for a negative thought cloud to dim our light. When we approach each blessing filled day with thanksgiving and gratefulness, we radiate joy and positivity, encouraging not just ourselves but those around us in our walks of faith.

Will life always be unicorns and fairy dust? Absolutely not. The days that bring on the most unexpected challenges can also be full of the best blessings; you just need to look a little deeper. Once you find these blessings, give thanks to God for them, joyfully praise Him. Spread your gratefulness to everyone you meet. When they ask you how you can be so joyful when things seem to be going the wrong way, tell them of the blessings that our Father has given you; how thankful you are for them; and that you want to share that gratefulness with others.

We are blessed...thankful...grateful.
With much love,
Lynne





Leadership Board Minutes August 20, 2025

Perry Miller called the meeting to order. Gary Knox led in devotions.

Secretary's Report:

July minutes read and approved

Treasurer's Report:

Treasurer's report was read and approved

Trustees

- None

PPR

- Lynne Otis was approved as Candidate for Ordination

Old Business

- Perry Miller will take care of the Back of church
- Ruth did not call for WiFi. She will do it by the next meeting.
- We need to advertise for a Newsletter Editor
- Back pack school items and monies collected will go to Chopin Hall
- Echoes of Grace will be here October 12. We will have a pot luck lunch that day
- Last Sunday in August is Hymn Sing Sunday.

New Business

- Deep cleaning of the Church will be done especially Fellowship Hall.

Pastor Report

- Lynne Otis asked for a Vision of our Church.
- We need to have something for youth activities and for families.
- Everyone needs to think about this problem

Lynne Otis closed with a prayer.

Next meeting on September 17 at 7 PM. Peter Zaras will have devotions. Meeting adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,
Peter Zaras, Secretary

Attendance: Peter Zaras, Lynne Otis, Perry Miller, Charles Wagner, Gary Knox, Eloise Knox, Ruth Wagner, Eugene Otis.

Website Up and Running – Sign in and book mark the site. <https://mtzionoffindlayohio.org/>



Sleep in an hour and then join us on Sunday, November 2nd, at 9:30 am, we will be having our regular fellowship time with a S.S. Lesson, donuts, coffee, and juice provided.

Come and join us for a time of fellowship and stay for the Worship Service following!



The collection dates for the Samaritan's Purse shoe boxes are November 17-21, 2025.



Salvation Army bell ringing at Kroger's on 6th Street – December 5 – 10:00 am – 8:00 pm. – look for sign-up sheet on counter in kitchen!!!





Thanksgiving Is A Call To Praise:

“Bless the Lord, O my soul; and all that is within me, bless his holy name. Bless the Lord, O my soul, and forget not all his benefits. Bless ye the Lord, all ye his hosts; ye ministers of his, that do his pleasure,” Psalm 103:1,2, 21.

The Bible invites praise more than prayer. Without prayer the believer will not be a believer . . . but without praise we are not in harmony with the Word.

WHAT IS PRAISE?

Everything that hath breath is commanded to praise God and not only things animate, but things inanimate . . . *“all deeps, firm and hail, snow and vapour; stormy wind, mountains and all hills; fruitful trees and all cedars,”* Psalm 148:7-9. And there are benefits too:

*“Who forgives all your sins;
Who heals all your diseases;
Who redeems your life from destruction;
Who crowns you with loving-kindness and tender mercies,”* Psalm 103:3-4.

THE HABIT OF DISCONTENT

It is not just the Israelites leaving Egypt that murmured, we hear it everywhere and daily . . . I’m turning off those newscasts that just relate how one candidate “blasts” the others. Let’s listen and get our act together. “How many good days do we have in a given month?” In many cases “it is as you think in your heart.” The farmers know that it will dry

off and they will get their harvest of beans. Have you been born again with a contented mind, a praising and thankful spirit?

THE BLESSED WHICH

John was a converted alcoholic. God had done a momentous miracle in his life, but the effects of heavy drinking on his stomach and his nerves, and the pull of the old ways, sometimes combined to depress him. After a week of seeing John in low spirits, a friend noticed a new brightness about him. The old zip was in him. When he commented on it, John said, “Oh, yes, I’ve been thanking the Lord all week for ‘the blessed which.’” John went on to explain, “one day I got home late from work and had to rush to make a dinner appointment. I called to my wife from the shower and said, “Honey, get my suit out for me.’ She hollered back “which?” I said, ‘What?’

“Which? Which suit?”

“Suddenly I remembered all that I’d been forgiven of and all that I have - - - **ABUNDANTLY** have - - - and I started to laugh and cry and praise God all at once. My depression lifted. All week long I’ve thanked God for that blessed ‘**which**’.”

When we forget what God has done for us, we have little gratitude. When we remember, gratitude, coupled with joy, comes. Thankfulness and love become our response to God’s graciousness towards us.

-Pastor Robert Baer. (1984)

GRATEFUL
Thankful
BLESSED

THANKSGIVING has two parts - gratitude and generosity.

Gratitude for the blessings of God - generosity for others.

That is the way it was on the 1st Thanksgiving Day. It is a holy day as well—when properly celebrated.

Thanks . . . and giving. Thanks to God . . . and giving to others!



FOR HIS GLORY

How oft have you sought some reward for a task you said was "for the Lord?"

How oft have you felt a stinging slight and felt that you were not treated right?

How oft have you said, "I quit – I'm through"? Nobody says "thanks" for the things I do.

How oft have you felt the precious thrill that comes from just being in His will?

How oft did you count earth's glory dim compared to the joy of serving Him?

What is it your heart has longed for?
Does praise of men – or His smile mean more?
-Harriet Haine.

ON BEING THANKFUL

We cannot really give thanks unless within our hearts we deeply feel that underserved blessings have been bestowed on us.

Our great sin is our carefree assumption that we deserve what God gives and that we are free to do with it what we please.



This is the way
the church
sometimes looks to
the pastor when he goes
into the pulpit.
He would just as soon
preach to a wood pile
as to empty benches.
There is no inspiration
in vacant pews.
Be faithful! Be regular!



SEASONED SALT

Sodium is an extremely active element found naturally only in combined form; it always links itself to another element. Chlorine, on the other hand, is the poisonous gas that gives bleach its offensive odor. When sodium and chlorine are combined, the result is sodium chloride -- common table salt -- the substance we use to preserve meat and bring out its flavor.

Love and truth can be like sodium and chlorine. Love without truth is flighty, sometimes blind, willing to combine with various doctrines. On the other hand, truth by itself can be offensive, sometimes even poisonous. Spoken without love, it can turn people away from the gospel.

When truth and love are combined in an individual or a church, however, then we have what Jesus called 'the salt of the earth,' and we're able to preserve and bring out the beauty of our faith.

-David H. Johnson.

It's a sad commentary on our society when the chief symbol of Thanksgiving has shifted from a living God to a dead turkey.



WHAT UNITES US

The fellowship of the church is based not upon the common cares, cares or conflicts of its members, but upon their common Faith. Christian community is found not in sharing the most recent sports thrill or trading the latest housekeeping or lawn-care tips, but in sharing our Christian concerns and rejoicing together in spiritual victories.

REAL THANKSGIVING



Thanksgiving comes from the heart and is – or should be – a daily occasion. Don't allow your problems to get in your way of recognizing your blessings. Practice the "but system" of thinking about your troubles:

My feet hurt, BUT I'm not in a wheelchair. Thank you, God.

My eyesight is poor, BUT I'm not blind. Thank you, God.

My taxes are high, BUT I earn enough to pay high taxes. Thank you, God.

My family doesn't listen to me, BUT God hears my prayers. Thank you, God.

Going to work is a drag, BUT I've got a job. Thank you, God.

I don't have all I want, BUT I have all I need. Thank you, God.

I have no family, But I do have friends. Thank you, God.

THIRSTY?

All of us are born thirsty. And all of us go through life trying to satisfy our thirst. Some try money and the things it can buy; others try power or sex. Some give up, and either kill themselves or live lives of quiet despair with senses dulled by alcohol and other drugs.



There is nothing and no person in this world that can fill the vacuum and quench the thirst. The longed for possession does not supply what it promised to give. The marriage partner cannot satisfy this deepest of all hungers. We were created for God. Only in Him can we find what we all seek.

Jesus has come into our world to bring us the water of life.

Drinking what Jesus offers means believing what He claims to be. Then and only then do we find that He does not only satisfy our thirst, we also receive life within ourselves. Where there was first a vacuum, we receive a power. The Bible calls it "living water in your heart." It means that those who come to Jesus to have their own thirst quenched are now able to offer the living water to others. God can turn your thirst into a fountain.

But first we have to bow down and accept Jesus.

Jesus said: "If anyone is thirsty, let him come to me and drink. Whoever believes in me, as the Scripture has said, streams of living water will flow from within him." (John 7:37, 38)

PSALM 95

The Bay Psalm Book (1640)

O come, let us unto the Lord
shout loud with singing voyce.
To the rock of our saving health
let us make joyfull noyse.
Before his presence let us then
approach with thanksgiving"
Also let us triumphantly
with Psalmes unto him sing.



(The first book to be printed in North America, the Bay Psalm Book was a collection of verse translations of the Psalms suitable for singing in worship. The aim of its authors, three Puritan ministers of the Massachusetts Bay Colony, was "fidelity rather than poetry." "If therefore the verses are not always so smooth and elegant as some may desire or expect," the preface said, "let them consider that God's Altar needs not our polishings.")