

NOVEMBER 2022

Journeys

A PUBLICATION OF CARVERSVILLE UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST



WHEREVER YOU ARE ON LIFE'S JOURNEY, WE WELCOME YOU HERE.

Thoughts for the Soul November 2022

GIVING THANKS

Our national myth names the Pilgrims as the originators of what has become our modern Thanksgiving, expressing their gratitude to God for their first harvest and having survived their first year in Plymouth.

Actually, Spaniards and the French conducted thanksgiving services in territory currently belonging to the United States in the 16th century. And Thanksgiving services were routine in what became Virginia as early as 1607.

Abraham Lincoln was the first to institute Thanksgiving as a national holiday, establishing a regular rhythm to its occurrence. Our contemporary practice of holding Thanksgiving on the 4th Thursday

of November wasn't firmly established, however, until 1942 by an act of Congress.

Today, more people travel to be with loved ones during the Thanksgiving weekend than for any other holiday. Thanksgiving traditions seem to evoke a security that comes with being with family. Usually unspoken is the sense of gratitude folks may also have when they gather together with the significant others who share their lives.

Our churches, our communities and our country would all be better off if we gave more attention to being grateful. To that end, I share the following essay.

Pastor Fogal

Finding Gratitude

By Johann Christoph Arnold

Live your life so that the fear of death can never enter your heart. When you arise in the morning, give thanks for the morning light. Give thanks for

your life and strength. Give thanks for your food and for the joy of living. And if perchance you see no reason for giving thanks, rest assured the fault is in yourself.

—Ascribed to Chief Tecumseh

The medieval mystic [Meister Eckhart](#) once suggested that if the only prayer we ever said was “thank-you,” it would still suffice. If we take his advice superficially, it might be easy enough to follow. Yet to give thanks to God from the bottom of our hearts for all God gives, and to live every day in a spirit of gratefulness, is work for a lifetime. What does it mean to be thankful?

[Henri Nouwen](#) writes:

To be grateful for the good things that happen in our lives is easy, but to be grateful for all of our lives – the good as well as the bad, the moments of joy as well as the moments of sorrow, the successes as well as the failures, the rewards as well as the rejections – that requires hard spiritual work.

Still, we are only truly grateful people when we can say thank you to all that has brought us to the present moment. As long as we keep dividing our lives between events and people we would like to remember and those we would rather forget, we cannot claim the fullness of our beings as a gift of God to be grateful for.

Let us not be afraid to look at everything that has brought us to where we are now and trust that we will soon see in it the guiding hand of a loving God.

It is just as important to be thankful for the bad things that happen to us as for the good things. So long as we shrink from every predicament, every situation that frightens us or sets us on edge, we will never know peace.

This does not mean we must silently accept everything that comes our way. Jesus himself says we should pray, “Lead us not into temptation.” But because there is so much in life we cannot control, we must learn to look at things that test us not as obstacles, but as opportunities for growth.

If we truly mean the words, “Thy will be done,” we will gratefully receive whatever God sees fit to give us. Even the children of Israel were answered with a rod of punishment at times. They did not receive only manna from heaven. As for the good things – family, food, house, friends, love, work – if we are

honest, we must admit that we often take them for granted. . . .

In my experience, the most common root of ungratefulness is not hardship, but a false understanding of happiness. . . . The presence or absence of hardship need not have anything to do with our state of mind or soul. “God alone suffices.” If only that thought would arouse in us the endless gratitude that it should!

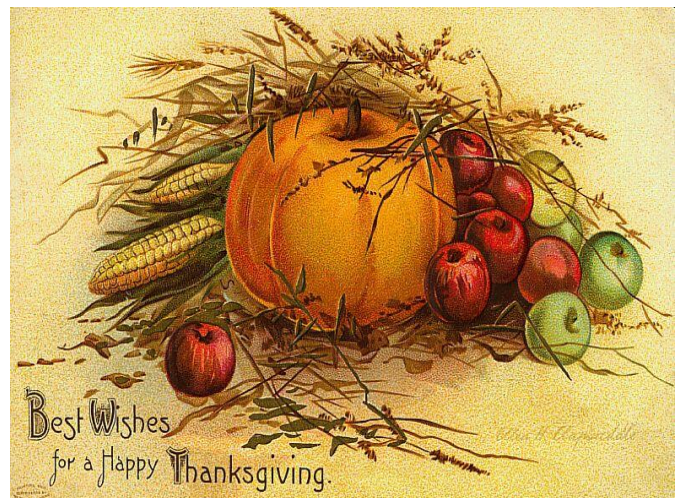
Nothing can satisfy us when selfish expectations make us discontented with our lot; hence the cliché, “The pasture is always greener on the other side of the fence.”

So long as our vision is limited by the blinders of our own wants and needs, we will not be able to see the wants and needs of others, let alone the things we have to be grateful for.

This essay is an excerpt from [Seeking Peace: Notes and Conversations along the Way](#) by Johann Christoph Arnold, an award-winning author with over two million copies of his twelve books in print in more than twenty languages. A noted speaker and writer on marriage, parenting, and end-of-life issues, Arnold was a senior pastor of the [Bruderhof](#), a movement of Christian communities, until his death in April 2017. Born in Great Britain in 1940 to German refugees, Arnold spent his boyhood years in South America, where his parents found asylum during the war; he immigrated to the United States in 1955.

SOURCE:

<https://www.plough.com/en/topics/culture/holidays/thanksgiving/finding-gratitude>



BIRTH ANNOUNCEMENT



Andrea Renee Kraus was born on Tuesday, September 27, 2022, at 2:46 a.m. She weighed 6 lbs. 5.5 oz. and was 20 inches long.

Andrea is the daughter of Sean and Melissa (Grawe) Kraus. She joins big sisters Leah and Vanessa. Our congratulations and best wishes to the family.

CONGRATULATIONS!!!

Cheryl Costella graduated from Delaware Valley University in August 2022 with a Master of Arts in Management and Organizational Leadership. She is the Director of Financial Analysis for PE GI Solutions, a healthcare management company, in Jamison, PA.



WITH SINCERE SYMPATHY

Larry Grawe passed away on Wednesday, October 5, 2022. He was the husband of Becky (Livezey) Grawe and the father of Melissa (Grawe) Kraus (Sean) and Larry Grawe, Jr.

Larry's funeral was held in our church sanctuary on Wednesday, October 12, 2022. Internment was in Carversville Cemetery. A reception followed in the church social hall.

We extend our deepest sympathies to the family.



WHAT'S THE BOOK GROUP DOING?

It was another uplifting literary get together at Jackie's. The discussion of The Memory of An Elephant was thoughtful even though the brutality of poaching was difficult to discuss. We learned some fascinating elephant trivia. Who knew elephants are the only mammals that can't jump AND they are afraid of bees. Farmers even use beehives to deter elephants from coming onto their land!

While the discussion was wonderful, it was the auxiliary entertainment Jackie lined up that made the day! Jackie's adorable new kitten, Harley, zoomed through our meeting and "played" with purse straps. Also, Jackie's beautiful 15-month-old granddaughter, Louisa, dropped by to charm us with her toddler Frankenstein walk and piercing stare!

Continuing the African animal theme, our next book is West with Giraffes by Lynda Rutledge. We'll meet at Barb Gunn's on Monday, Nov. 14, to discuss it! Join us and find out why we always leave Book Group smiling!





TROOP 64

Troop 64 has been very busy! Over the summer, we had a group travel to West Virginia and participate in Summit High Adventure! They enjoyed a week of zip lining, shooting sports, whitewater rafting, mountain biking and skateboarding at an over 10,000 acre Scout camp. They walked approximately ten miles a day to get to each adventure and came home more mature, tightly knit and TIRED! With only a few days rest, they then headed to Ockanickon for their annual week at our local camp to work on merit badges. Since beginning the new school year, the boys had a great experience at West Point where they toured the academy with a current cadet and watched the Army vs. Villanova football game. We are headed to Gettysburg in a few weeks for a weekend of biking and exploring the battlefield. These boys like to travel!

WREATHS AND GARLANDS:

As we move into the fall, we are starting to organize our annual wreath sale! The boys will be at the church on **10/30** and again on **11/6** to offer the same wreaths and garlands for sale. ***We will deliver the items during Thanksgiving week.***

22" Wreath (\$28)	25' garland (\$23)	75' garland (\$40)
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We will also be at Peddler's Village on Friday, November 18 for the Grand Illumination when they turn all the lights on for the holidays to sell glow items. We hope to see you there!

As always, we thank you very much for your support of Troop 64.

CELEBRATE THE CHRISTMAS SEASON WITH LUNCH

Let's start our Christmas countdown with a lunch gathering at the Plumsteadville Inn! On Monday, December 5, the women of CUCC will be gathering for lunch at 12:30.

Those of us who attended last year want to do it again, and we'd love you to join us. If you'd like to attend, let Jackie Putman know by Thursday, December 1. Call or text her at **215-262-6115**, or email jackiwoman@comcast.net. Each of us will be responsible for our own check.

Because we all love giving and getting presents, we'll reprise last year's fun secret gift exchange, accompanied by a "pass the package" game. If you'd like to participate in the gift exchange, please pick up a gift for no more than \$15, and wrap it beautifully – the unwrapping is part of the fun! See you soon!



SUE'S CAR ISN'T EMPTY ANYMORE

Thanks to your response to the challenge to fill my empty car, I delivered a very full car of food items to the Doylestown Food Pantry. The staff at the Food Pantry was very grateful as the demand for food is up and giving is down due to high food costs.

Although small in numbers, Carversville UCC always responds generously when asked to help with a need. Thank you, thank you, Little Church with the BIG heart for helping to fill local tummies.



Harvest Breakfast
Submitted by Cheryl Costella

It's BACK!!!!

We are bringing back the Harvest Breakfast this year. It will be the Sunday before Thanksgiving, November 20th, and starts at 9am followed by service in the social hall. We will recognize long-time members that day as well.

We need both volunteers to set up, cook, and clean up AND a few people to bring baked goods (they don't have to be homemade 😊). The sign-up sheet will be on the table by the grandfather clock next to the sanctuary.

Minimum \$5 donation per person suggested.



Treasurer's Report
Submitted by Cheryl Costella

As of September 30, 2022

Revenue	\$ 69,009
Expenses	<u>102,669</u>
Deficit	<u>(33,661)</u>

The church currently has a deficit of \$33,661 which is \$2,485 more than last year at the same time. Giving through 9/30 is down 3% from last year; however, we are coming into the end of the year which is when we typically see higher giving. I have already seen a bounce back in the first two weeks of October.

If the church continues to operate at this level of a deficit, we will use up our reserves within 10 years or sooner. The church has been in this position before, well before I was treasurer. With fewer people going to church, it's down to 25% of the US population, that doesn't help. And yes, not having the Oyster Pork Supper also doesn't help.

But the church is planning two events for next year that hopefully will bring some funds without the army of volunteers and large amount of time needed to do the OP Supper. More bang for our buck as they say.

In the meantime, please pray and think about what you can give. Maybe you haven't given in a while, need to "true up" your pledge for the year, or can give a little more. If you haven't visited us in a while, please come by! We have service every Sunday at 10am and if you aren't sure, check us out on YouTube. Our services stream live and are also saved, just search for Carversville UCC, and subscribe to our channel.

Also, the front marquee sign is currently being worked on by Metal Masters. If you pledged to give money toward the sign renovation (remember we had enough pledged and with a matching donation that it is fully paid for) please make the donation and make sure to mark it "Sign Restoration". The final payment will be due within the next month.

SANCTUARY CHRISTMAS TREE



J. Walter Livezey, III, has donated a live tree for our Christmas holiday season for nearly thirty years. The tree is always beautiful and is enjoyed by everyone who comes into the sanctuary during the holidays, especially Christmas Eve.

Walter wishes to continue this tradition, but he needs some help. Setting up the tree and putting approximately 3,000 lights on its branches is a big job. He needs assistance, as he can no longer do it himself.

If you are willing to help Walter with this project, please call Jeanne Brown at 215-348-3614.



CHRISTMAS POINSETTIAS

by Jeanne Brown

The poinsettias for our Christmas Eve service have been ordered. They will decorate your home or be a bright holiday gift for someone. Red, pink and white plants are available. The cost is \$7.25 per plant.

A list of people who purchased the plants will be in the Christmas Eve worship program. If you wish to include a dedication, please give me the information with your order. Please pick up your plants following the service.

The **deadline** for orders and payment is **Sunday, December 11th**. Please make checks payable to Jeanne Brown.

See me on a Sunday, mail your order to me or call me at **215.348.3614**.

NOTE: CUCC Office Hours Change

Beginning the week of November 6, the church office will be open on **Wednesdays and Thursdays from 9:00 AM to 1:00 PM**. Pastor Fogal will be in the office only on Wednesdays and will be available by appointment any other days as needed.

CONTACT INFORMATION:

Rev. Robert E. Fogal, PhD.

Wednesday from 9:00 a.m. ~ 1:00 p.m. and by appointment.

Email: pastorfogal@gmail.com

Cell phone: 610-945-4955

Lynn Bullock, Organist

Email: lynnbullock8@gmail.com

Cell phone: 215-260-1569

Chris Ochadlick, Office Admin.

Wednesday and Thursday ~ 8:00 a.m. ~ 1:00 p.m.

Office phone: 215-297-5166

Email: carversvilleucc@gmail.com

Email: carversvilleucc@gmail.com

Website: CarversvilleUCC.org

[Facebook.com/carversvilleucc](https://www.facebook.com/carversvilleucc)

3736 Aquetong Road, PO Box 26

Carversville, PA 18913

Office phone: 215-297-5166





Our Communion service will be held on November 6. If you are participating from home, be sure to have the elements ready prior to the service.

Linger after the service on November 13, to enjoy some coffee and conversation with your church friends!



PRAYING HANDS

Here is a list of those who would benefit from receiving cards. We encourage you all to reach out to these people as it will mean a lot.

Catherine Halper- PO Box 564, Lahaska, PA
18931

Judy and Frank LeVien-6264 Pt. Pleasant Pike,
Doylestown, PA 18902

Jim & Sally Seeton- 1850 Lower Mountain
Road West, Furlong, PA 18925

Gordon Keckeissen- 555 N. Broad St., #508A,
Doylestown, PA 18901

Jack and Patsy King- 503 Windrush Bay Dr.,
Tarpon Springs, FL 34689

Lon and Pat Pritchard- 1131 West Kings Highway,
Coatesville, PA 19320-5512

Marta Strait- 6446 Fawn Lane, New Hope PA
18938

Kathy Thompson- 403 S. Main St., Apt. B 102,
Doylestown, PA 18901

Laura Tompkins- 56 Gentry Terrace, Souderton, PA
18964



