



# The Messenger

BE JOYFUL IN HOPE, PATIENT IN AFFLICTION,  
FAITHFUL IN PRAYER. ROMANS 12:12

(NOVEMBER 2021)

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\* ARTICLES NEED TO  
BE SUBMITTED TO  
PETE BY THE LAST  
SUNDAY OF THE MONTH  
- FOR THE NEXT  
MONTH'S  
PUBLICATION.

## Carl's Comments - Reverend Carl Thompson

Later this month we will gather as a nation to celebrate Thanksgiving. This should not just be a one-day event for a Christian, we should be thanking God every day for our blessings. The blessing of living in a free nation, the blessings of health, home and family. You know what blessings God has given you, so say thanks every day for something new.



So many times, we take our blessings for granted. I hope that all of us will take the time to reflect on all our blessings as we celebrate Thanksgiving this year. I know that many of you have faced challenging issues in your lives this year, and many of you still are. It is easy to get discouraged and lose hope in the midst of trials. When this happens remember that God never leaves us or forsakes us. When King David faced loss, trouble, and tribulation in his life, he used music to calm his troubled soul. He played and wrote music. This is where the book of Psalms comes from; they are a collection of David's writings, as he dealt with both the joys and troubles in his life.



Take your time and read through them - they can bring peace to your soul. I also have a couple hymns that I like to listen to when I am facing issues in my life. They are my modern-day Psalms. One of them is the hymn, God On The Mountain. The first verse goes like this: "Life is easy, when you're up on the mountain, And you've got peace of mind, like you've never known, But things change, when you're down in the valley, Don't lose faith, for you're never alone, For the God on the mountain, is the God in the valley When things go wrong, He'll make them right, And the God of the good times is still God in the bad times. The God of the day is still God in the night." This hymn draws me back to a basic Biblical truth that God is always with me, and I need to put my trust in God and allow God to carry the load. A nice version of this hymn: ([Lynda Randle - God On the Mountain \(Live\) - Bing video](#)).

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## Calendar of Events

Unvaccinated are asked to wear masks & stay a safe distance from others. It is a good idea for others with health issues to wear masks also.

**Sunday Adult Education at 9:00 AM**  
**Sunday Worship and Communion at 10:00**  
**Communion is on the First Sunday/month**  
**Men's Prayer Breakfast Tuesdays @ 8 am**  
**Chair Yoga Tuesdays and Thursdays**  
**Wednesday Choir Practice at 4:00 PM**  
**Nov 7 - Time Change (Fall Back)**  
**Nov. 21 - Hanging of the Greens & Social**  
**Nov. 25 - Thanksgiving Day**

### 2021 November

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
	1	Yoga 1 PM	2	3	Yoga 10:30	4
	5	6	7	8	9	10
	11	12	13	14	15	16
	17	18	19	20	21	22
	23	24	25	26	27	28
	29	30				

Carl continued:

It is so important that as a nation we pause to recognize from where our blessings come, so enjoy the national holiday of Thanksgiving. My prayer for you this Thanksgiving is that each of you would truly pause and count your blessings, remembering from whom those blessings came. Stop and smell the roses of life. Enjoy your family and friends. Thank God in all things, knowing God is always there with you. Remember that the God on the mountain is still God in the valley. God is the God of both good times and bad times.

Finally, on Sunday 21 November after church we will decorate our Church for the Advent and Christmas season, it won't take long if we all participate. We haven't put up all our decorations the last two years, but this year we will try. We will also have a social while decorating the church. Participate in the "Greening" or just come and enjoy the season as we prepare the church to celebrate the nativity of our Lord.

Happy Thanksgiving, Carl



- ◆ We need to return ALL 2022 Pledge Letters before the end of November. With all the changes that have occurred in the church body in the last two years it is critical that an accurate budget be prepared for 2022. The Pledge Letters are the key to this Budget.
- ◆ On Sunday, November 21st, we will perform the "Hanging of the Greens" plus we will have a social and lunch will be provided! We will need six pots of chili or soup as the main course and sides of pimento and cheese sandwiches and desserts! Sign up in the Narthex. Shirley Lett
- ◆ New Session Members starting in 2022 have been nominated and voted upon to take office after training in January. They are Mike Hart, Sharon VanWinkle, and Jeanette West.
- ◆ The nominating committee selected, and church voted on, a new Nominating Committee for 2022 - they are Sarah Pettijohn and Laquita Arner.

## Common Lectionary Readings (Carl will change topics at times due to quests - especially in the Summer)

	24th Sunday after Pentecost - Nov. 7	25th Sunday after Pentecost - Nov. 14	26th Sunday after Pentecost - Nov. 21	First Sunday of Advent - Nov. 28
<b>1st Reading</b>	Ruth 3:1-5 & 4:13-17	1 Samuel 1:4-20	2 Samuel 23:1-7	Jeremiah 33:14-16
<b>Psalm</b>	Psalm 127	1 Samuel 2:1-10	Psalm 132:1-12, 13-18	Psalm 25:1-10
<b>2nd Reading</b>	Hebrews 9:24-28	Hebrews 10:11-14 & 19-25	Revelation 1:4b-8	1 Thessalonians 3:9-13
<b>Gospel</b>	Mark 12:38-44	Mark 13:1-8	John 18:33-37	Luke 21:25-36

## Nov. Birthdays



Pat	Hart	2
Renita	Menghert	4
Carl	Thompson	14
Rip	Van Winkle	16
Mike	Hart	28

## About our Members (and Prayer Requests)

**Julie Goggans** needs our prayers as she goes through the higher-powered chemotherapy each two weeks. Nov. 3 is one of those days. She has some really good days and then really bad days after the chemo. The good news is that the markers and scans have improved. We need to pray for continued effective treatments and more of the good days than bad.

**June Lubowinski**'s doing quite well these days. So far, this second brain tumor is shrinking, and other markers are improving. The Keytruda infusion every 21 days is working. A more definitive MRI will not be performed until December. June is not dealing with any pain but is fatigued much of the time. She thanks the church family for all the prayers and good wishes.

**Joe Carroll** has had a setback. He fell and fractured his lumbar vertebrae and spent six days in the hospital. An increase in his blood pressure medication seems to be helping with the fainting issue. He did get his trach removed

this week so that was a bright spot. He will get physical therapy at home for a while until they think it's safe for him to go back to outpatient rehab. Susan and Joe are very grateful to the church for your prayers! Pray for patience and perseverance for both Joe and Susan!

**Bob Todd** is continuing a three-week immunotherapy injection program which is controlling his cancer but is considering ear surgery to improve his hearing. He is still playing golf frequently and his score early this week beat his age by 2 strokes. A recent trip to his dermatologist discovered four skin cancers. He will have them removed on 12/13, 1/3, and 1/17. Please pray that these will be removed successfully in these three surgeries.

**Carl Thompson** is not feeling strong at times. This goes back to long-term issues that Carl has dealt with for years. Pray for remission and strength.

## Seekers Adult Education by Shirley Pinkston

This month will see the conclusion of our Covenant Bible Study before we begin Advent. The class is having good attendance and we are once again enjoying the fellowship of studying God's Word. We welcome all who would like to join us this blessed time together.

Our Covenant lessons are from the third part: "Trusting the Covenant". This is our schedule of lessons for the month of November:

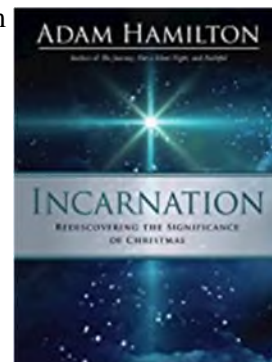
- ◆ November 7: Episode 22: "Restoration" The Israelites are returning home from Babylonian exile to encounter difficulties in rebuilding Jerusalem and the Temple.
- ◆ November 14: Episode 23: "Hope" The Israelites learn to trust God in times of crisis by looking to the future.
- ◆ November 21: Episode 24: "Revelation" We will put our hope and trust in Jesus' victory over evil.

Our Advent books will be distributed on 11/21.

Advent begins on November 28.

Our Advent study will be Adam Hamilton's book "Incarnation": We will learn the significance of the names given to Jesus by the shepherds, the wise men, and the angels as we celebrate this joyous season. Join us on Sunday mornings at 9:00 a.m. in the Sunday School room for discussion and fellowship.

Coffee and cookies will be served, and all are welcome.



## "Someone is Watching You"

I have been in contemplation and prayer for a couple of days now. I've been waiting for a sign as to what I'm supposed to write for the newsletter this month. And this last Sunday when I heard Carl say "Someone is watching you," I knew that was it.

Ralph and I just returned from a trip on Friday. We were gone for six days, visiting friends and relatives, celebrating births and birthdays. During the trip we ate in restaurants on several different occasions.

Now I don't know about you, but when I am out in public at a restaurant or in a store, my first thought is not "Who is watching me"? I am usually concentrating on the friends that I am meeting for lunch, what I am going to order, or in some instances, how my great grandchildren are behaving or misbehaving, as the case might be. Or trying to remember all the items that were on the shopping list that I left on the dining room table.

So I was a little surprised when a gentleman and a lady that I assume was his wife, approached our table at a restaurant in Burlison. (We had stopped there to have lunch and visit with some friends who used to live in Copperas Cove and attended our church in Killeen). The gentleman told us that he was a minister and that he just had to stop and tell us how wonderful it was to see people pray before eating their meal in a restaurant. We all responded that it was so kind of him to stop and acknowledge it, and that we really appreciated it.

I didn't think too much more about it until a couple of days later. We were in Durant, Oklahoma, finishing our dinner in a restaurant, when an older lady approached our table. She apologized for interrupting our dinner, and in a shaky voice, and with tears in her eyes,

she told us how it had really touched her to see Ralph and I holding hands and saying grace before dinner. Believe me when I say that she really touched my heart. We thanked her for her kind words and said "God bless you" as she turned to leave.

We were still quite a ways from home, so I had plenty of time to ponder the two events. I had a couple of different thoughts about what had transpired. My initial thought was "Are we living in such a godless world now that people are surprised to see prayer out in public"? And if so, how will that impact the future of religion, Christianity, and people of faith? I mulled that one over for quite a while. But even though I have felt for a couple of years now, that we are living in a "faithless generation", I just couldn't convince myself to accept that.



What I can accept and as my Grandma would have said, "hang my hat on", is simply this. No matter what is going on in this world, God is still in control. He always has been, and He always will be. And I choose to believe that he orchestrated both of those occurrences. I truly believe that was His way of getting our attention and reminding us that people are watching us, and that no matter what we may think is happening in the world around us, we are still called to "keep the faith" and carry on until it's our turn to go home to Jesus.

Psalm 34:1 "I shall bless the Lord at all times. His praise shall continually be in my mouth."

"Happy Thanksgiving" from "A Merry Heart,"

Linda Lloyd

## ♪ Musical Notes ♪

*“But thanks be to God! He gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ.” 1 Corinthians 15:57*

Can you believe it is already November and a time we especially turn our thoughts to being more thankful than usual for everything the Lord has given us! It is always so easy for us to take everything for granted. This is a lesson I have come to realize during these past 2 months since August 7 - living the saga of my duplex flooding.



The Lord definitely has been guiding me during these days as if He had already walked every step of my journey. Now, as of December 1, 2021, I will be the proud recipient of a real, live, home address, once again!

During my “houseless” days, I have come to appreciate the hospitality, care, and concern from so many precious people, but especially the prayers prayed for me in my specific situation. I cannot even imagine what it would be like not having a place to reside or to call “Home” at all. My greatest comfort has come in having

the hope and reassurance of some day living the guarantee of my eternal, heavenly home with God my Father, and Jesus Christ my Lord. Thanks be to God!

During this month you will be hearing some hymns on thankfulness and thanksgiving sung by both the congregation and choir. Many will be familiar from Thanksgivings of old. While some may be new to you, the theme of thankfulness is definitely intertwining the melody and words during this November.

One interesting discovery I made concerned the chorus, “Thank You Lord for Saving My Soul.” Having sung it since I was young, the chorus was all I knew. Well, surprise, surprise, this hymn has verses as well! The couple who wrote it were musical evangelists Bessie (composed melodies) and Seth Sykes (composed the poems/lyrics). What a blessing from our musical heritage, and another hymn whose legacy still lives on today!

Sharing in Christ’s Service,  
*Jeanette West*

## Local Service Agencies Sponsor Special Events from Pat Rehm

Our benevolent gifts to local non-profit agencies continue to serve our neighbors in this community. They appreciate “extra mile” support especially during the upcoming holidays, when their clients need more help. In November, both Salado Family Relief and the Heart & Hands Ministries are having annual events to enhance their programs.

On Saturday, November 13<sup>th</sup>, the ***Empty Bowl*** fundraiser will be held at the Salado Middle School’s cafeteria, 11 AM to 1:30 PM. It is sponsored by Salado Family Relief each fall as the primary source of funds to provide general assistance to its clients throughout the year. The public is invited to enjoy a bowl of soup and fellowship with friends and neighbors, and bowls made by students and local artists will be available for purchase. For \$10, you can choose from several kinds of soup from local restaurants, and you can add a hand-crafted pottery bowl for \$15.

The Heart & Hands Ministries will move its usual days for the pantry and clothing distribution to the 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Saturdays, during the holidays. It will also sponsor two special activities this month to provide additional food for our neighbors in need. On Friday, November 19<sup>th</sup>, volunteers are requested for assistance at Brookshire

Brothers to promote ***Food for Families***, brown bags of packaged food items for \$10 each. Please contact Pat Rehm at [pacrehm2017@gmail.com](mailto:pacrehm2017@gmail.com) or 512-876-4211 if you are willing to be at a table outside the store entrance for an hour that day, between 9 AM and 4 PM, to hand out brochures or to accept donations.

The second event is on Saturday, November 20<sup>th</sup>, when the annual ***Thanksgiving Community Meal*** will be held as a drive-thru event. *“Stay tuned!”* As we get closer to the event, a request will be made by email for volunteers to prepare certain foods, fill plates, or distribute the meals outside. Please contact Pat, also, to indicate your choice of which requested items you wish to supply.

### EMPTY BOWL PROJECT

**Date:** Saturday, November 13

**Time:** 11:00 am –1:30pm

**Where:** Salado Middle School

**\$25.00 for bowl and soup**

**\$10.00 for soup only**

**To Go:** \$15- Single, \$25- Family

