Helmar Heartlines

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From the Pastor—THANKSGIVING 2026

Charles Spurgeon writes: "There is a pastor now preaching the gospel of God, and God is blessing him. This pastor says he owes his passion to a remark I made at a certain college I visited. I was asked on the spur of the moment to speak a word to the students, and I said, 'Well, brethren, I have nothing to say to you except this—Whenever you see the devil, have a shot at him!'

The young man told me that he recalled that sentence, and it had often been of service to him. So, I say it again to every Christian here—Whenever you see the devil, have a shot at him. If you see sin, rebuke it. If you see doubt, try to remove it. If you see darkness, bring the light to bear upon it" (Carter, From the Writings of Charles H. Spurgeon, pp. 57-58).

The day of national Thanksgiving will soon be here. It is a day of food, family, and football. Now there is nothing wrong with good food, family gatherings, or televised football. But these become an unholy trinity when joined together in place of gratitude to God! Sadly, many today don't give a passing nod to the Lord with praise and thanks. Stomachs are full but our hearts are empty!

Church, let's do what Spurgeon said—Whenever you see the devil, have a shot at him! This Enemy hates people thanking the Lord for His grace and goodness. We are very thankful for Jesus our Lord and Savior, for the Cross and the Blood. For the Resurrection and Jesus' return. So, this Thanksgiving, take your shot! As the psalmist declared to God, "I will give You thanks with all my heart" (Psalm 138:1).

Happy Thanksgiving!

Pastor Steve

Upcoming Events:

November 7th, 4pm: **Operation Christmas Child Shoebox Packing Party and Soup Supper**! We will start setting up the FLC around 2pm. Packing will begin about 4pm. When we are finished with the shoeboxes, we will have dinner together. Please sign up for the Soup Supper at the Welcome Center, so we don't end up with 9 crockpots of Chicken Noodle.

November 16th-23rd—**National Collection Week**: Once again, our church is a collection site for OCC shoeboxes. In addition to participating in the global impact these boxes have in sharing the gospel, this is a great opportunity to welcome the community into our building, pray with them, and share about the ministry that we have here. We will be open to receive shoeboxes for 2 hours each day (M 3-5pm, Tu 4-6pm, W 8-10am, Th 3-5pm, F 8-10am, Sa 9-11am, Su 12-2pm, M 8-10am) There are signup sheets at the welcome center. Contact Michelle Holdiman for details. 630-335-3563.

November 25th, 6:30pm: **Thanksgiving Eve Service**

November 29th, 10am: **Youth Service**

December 3rd, 6:00pm: The DWWC committee is looking forward to our annual **Christmas Dinner Potluck**. Come enjoy a night of fellowship with high school to old school ladies. Please invite your family and friends for fellowship as we prepare our hearts ready for the Christmas season. The evening starts off with your cooking and baking talents shared with others as you bring a dish to pass. Chicken and beverages are provided. After dinner we start with a devotion, then with anticipation we hear from Fran and Sheri Klaas giving a special message and in closing we sing Christmas songs as a group. Leave the hustle and bustle behind, mark your calendar and be part of this evening - it will be special!

December 13th, 10am—**Sunday School Christmas Pageant**: Music practice will take place during the SS opening exercises. There will be a **dress rehearsal** for the pageant on December 12th from 9:30-11am. Please have your children in the FLC and ready to go by 9:30 sharp! Help is needed with getting the kids in costume and providing a light snack for both the day of the practice and the pageant. Ruth is also looking for assistance putting together gift bags for all the participants. Watch for a letter to all the parents coming soon! Contact Ruth Karales for more information. 815-791-6566

December 24th, 6:30pm: **Christmas Eve Candlelight Service**

November 2026

Pickleball M-F 7-10am, Open Volleyball M 7-9pm, Open Basketball Th 7-9pm

1	**S**	8:30am Fellowship; 9am SS; 10am Worship
2	**M**	9:30-1 Firm Foundations Co-op; 2-6pm FLC closed for cleaning
3	**Tu**	
4	**W**	6:30am Men's Bible Study, 2pm Adult Bible Study, 6:30pm BLAST/JAM/HS; 6:30 Christian Life Group
5	**Th**	9:30am Ladies Bible Study; 6:30pm Gengler Life Group
6	**F**	9am Ladies Prayer Hour; 7:30pm Pilon Life Group
7	**Sa**	
8	**S**	8:30am Fellowship; 9am SS; 10am Worship
9	**M**	9:30-1 Firm Foundations Co-op; 2-6pm FLC closed for cleaning
10	**Tu**	6:30pm Deacons/Trustees Mtg; 7:30pm Council Mtg
11	**W**	6:30am Men's Bible Study, 9am-2pm Quilting, 2pm Adult Bible Study, 6:30pm BLAST/JAM/HS; 6:30 Christian Life Group
12	**Th**	6:30pm Gengler Life Group
13	**F**	9am Ladies Prayer Hour; 5-7pm Food Pantry, 7:30pm Pilon Life Group
14	**Sa**	
15	**S**	8:30am Fellowship; 9am SS; 10am Worship
16	**M**	9:30-1 Firm Foundations Co-op; 2-6pm FLC closed for cleaning
17	**Tu**	
18	**W**	6:30am Men's Bible Study, 2pm Adult Bible Study, 6:30pm BLAST/JAM/HS; 6:30 Christian Life Group
19	**Th**	6:30pm Gengler Life Group
20	**F**	9am Ladies Prayer Hour; 7:30pm Pilon Life Group
21	**Sa**	
22	**S**	8:30am Fellowship; 9am SS; 10am Worship
23	**M**	3-5pm Food Pantry, 2-6pm FLC closed for cleaning
24	**Tu**	
25	**W**	6:30pm Thanksgiving Eve Service
26	**Th**	Thanksgiving
27	**F**	9am Ladies Prayer Hour; 7:30pm Pilon Life Group
28	**Sa**	
29	**Su**	8:30am Fellowship; 9am SS; 10am Worship—Youth Sunday
30	**M**	2-6pm FLC closed for cleaning