



THE OPEN DOOR

November 2021

Pastor's Letter

Welcome to November!

Do you ever get the feeling that November almost as a whole just gets skipped?

October tends to bring cooler nights, beautiful days and preparations for fun Halloween. Before October ends it feels we are in the full swing of Christmas already. What happens to November- does it simply become a buffer to prepare for December and Christmas? Thanksgiving should be one of the greatest holidays we celebrate as a nation. Time to gather with friends/family and give thanks. I've frequently gone "Black Friday" shopping- but refuse to go out on Thanksgiving itself. I hope we are not rushing through the month. Here are two things I wish to highlight that will take place in November.

The first is a request for each of us to prayerfully consider joining in the efforts of "Giving Tuesday." This pseudo-holiday is touted as "a global generosity movement unleashing the power of people and organizations to transform their communities and the world." In 2020 alone approximately 34.8 million people gave an astonishing \$2.47 billion (yes, with a "b") to worldwide nonprofits. The Sunday before Thanksgiving bright orange envelopes will be available for you to take home to prayerfully hold and consider an extra mission offering. If you wish to give, simply return the envelope with your mission offering inside. This is not your regular offering, please don't take your regular amount and divide it in half. This is a request for extra giving. An opportunity to say "Thank You" to God for the blessings of 2021. The money given will all be earmarked for missions. (By the way, 5% of all your General Fund giving also is earmarked to Missions too!). With this money, we support local food pantries, refugee relief, the UCC special offerings, kid's programs, a new Literacy Pancake Breakfast starting in January-March, among other worthy causes and new efforts. An email will also go out on #GivingTuesday with a link to give online.

The second highlighted thing is that Advent begins November 28 (yes, I just complained we rush November!). This year our Advent Worship Series is "Cast of Characters" and we will look at some of the roles a few of the typically forgotten characters play in the Christmas story. Your story of redemption and love is intimately tied into their stories of generosity, faith and obedience.

Have a wonderful November everyone,

Blessings,

Pastor Tim

77 years

924 months

4,004 weeks

28,105 days



A very Happy 77th Anniversary to Martha & Harold Bradfield who were married on November 18, 1944.



Nichole & Leonard Reiter November 9

Martha & Harold Bradfield November 18

Mary & Duane W. Kaley November 25

Genny & George Pavlick November 27



Rhett William Podojil was born on September 2, 2021. He is the son of Megan (Kibler) Podojil and Sam Podojil. His Edinburg grandparents are Doug and Marcia Kibler and great-grandparents are Bill and Donna Kibler.

Jace	Simmons	November 01
Kim	Bradley	November 02
Jennifer	Mix	November 03
Sandra	Nickles	November 04
Davinda	Baldasare	November 07
Cindy	Stuart	November 07
Damian	Dech	November 08
Debbie	Phile	November 08
Arlene	Shambach	November 11
Jenna	Phile	November 16
Cathy	Thomas	November 16
Ryan	Zimmerman	November 16
Fran	Pruchenski	November 17
Lin	Dennis	November 20
Rick	Mann	November 20
Kevin	Kibler	November 24
Travis	Brown	November 26
Tina	Finney	November 29
Nicole	Reiter	November 29

Thank
you

Thank you to the Sunday School kids (and Sara and Melissa) for the beautiful card and gift card. That was so thoughtful, kind and generous.

Pastor Tim

Thank you too all our pie makers for 2021! 6 weeks and over 1000 pies made! Great job team. All of the volunteers are absolutely wonderful and a huge thank you to each person for helping with pies. A special thank you as well to Jeneen for her organizing of dough making, Beth for purchasing supplies and Andrew for organizing the whole thing (including Crisco cutting).



It was great to be back together again too.

Thanks again to everyone who helped.



Reminder that Sunday School is from 9:30-10:15 am for children preschool-5th grade at Edinburg United Church.

Children will be released from the Worship Service (which starts at 9:00 am) to the Sunday School teachers and go to the Kid Watch Room downstairs at 9:30. Children can be picked up in the same room at 10:15.

Can't come every week? That's fine! We'd love to see you whenever you are able.



Youth grades K-3rd



Cub Scout pack 3558 would like to invite any kids from grades K-3rd to work with them earning their religious emblem from the P.R.A.Y. program.

Religious emblems are created by the individual faith groups to encourage their members to grow in their faith.

There are items that will need to be done at home.

We will be having these meetings on Wednesdays from 6:00-7:00, starting on December 1st through January 19 (if we need to, we will meet on Saturday, January 22nd to finish up) and the cost will be \$10.00 (this includes the cost of the book and materials). You will also be asked to bring some items

Please talk with your child about these programs. We would like to know by **November 15, 2021** who is going to participate in the religious programs, also money will be due at that time.

Jesus and Me is for K-1: Please bring an empty paper towel roll

God and Me is for 2nd & 3rd: Please bring a shoe box or something similar & a picture of the child. Start memorizing the Lord's Prayer.

Some activities may have to be done at home.

Any questions call or text Cyndi Oblisk at 330-217-6938.

Here are 2 Thanksgiving prayer options for folks to pray before Thanksgiving meal



Father, We Thank Thee

For flowers that bloom about our feet,
Father, we thank Thee.

For tender grass so fresh, so sweet,
Father, we thank Thee.

For the song of bird and hum of bee,
for all things fair we hear or see,
Father in heaven, we thank Thee.

For blue of stream and blue of sky,
Father, we thank Thee.

For pleasant shade of branches high,
Father, we thank Thee.

For fragrant air and cooling breeze,
for beauty of the blooming trees,
Father in heaven, we thank Thee.

For this new morning with its light,
Father, we thank Thee.

For rest and shelter of the night,
Father, we thank Thee

For health and food, for love and friends,
for everything Thy goodness sends,
Father in heaven, we thank Thee.

—Ralph Waldo Emerson

OR

Our Father in Heaven, we give thanks for the pleasure of gathering together for this occasion. We give thanks for this food prepared by loving hands. We give thanks for life, the freedom to enjoy it all and all other blessings. As we partake of this food, we pray for health and strength to carry on and try to live as You would have us. This we ask in the name of Christ, our Heavenly Father.

—Harry Jewell