



Thanksgiving

Celebrate God's Goodness

THANKSGIVING 2018

*...We are called to be the church; to celebrate God's presence...
A New Creed*

This year October 7th is not only Thanksgiving Sunday, it is also World Communion Sunday. This means that not only will we be celebrating the harvest and all good things from God like many different religions do at this time of year but also giving thanks to God for the oneness we have in Christ and building bridges with other Christians around the world by partaking on the same day in Communion; our family meal.

Thanksgiving is really more than a day: it is an orientation to all of life. We can live thankful lives not because everything in our lives is always great, but because we have God and people in our lives that love us and are there for us in the good times as well as the bad.

Today's letter also includes a note from our stewardship committee and an offering envelope. The information about our current deficit is not meant to scare you but to give you information for informed decision making.

Fear and guilt are poor motivators for giving. If they do work, it is only for a short time. On the other hand, "appreciation" and "thanksgiving" are the true motivators for giving: giving from the heart. The Bible uses the phrase "God loves a cheerful giver." So, especially at this time of year, we want to ask you: Do you value and appreciate all that God and Woodlawn do for you, the community and world? If so, how does it compare to the many other things in your life that call on your resources of time and money? Jesus was pretty clear that how one spends one's time and money is what people really value. But there are lots of ways other than money to live a life of gratitude including prayers of thanksgiving. Our prayer for you this Thanksgiving and always is to give you the eyes of faith to live lives of gratitude to God.

Join us to "Celebrate God's presence."

Rev. Phillip Kennedy

Rev. Mary Lynne Whyte

Shannon MacLean

