

Woodlawn *United*

THANKSGIVING LETTER 2016

Living a Life Filled With Thankfulness

Make a joyful noise all the earth! Worship your God with gladness.

Make a joyful noise all the earth. Come to this place with a song!

Enter these gates, thanksgiving. Enter these courts with praise.

Sing thanks to your God, and bless the holy Name.

Worship your God with a song! ~Psalm 100, Linnea Good~

Most of the world's major religions have Thanksgiving services. While not in the same category as Easter or Christmas, Thanksgiving gives us an opportunity to publicly affirm that at the heart of life and creation, there is a force of goodness and love that supports life in all its fullness. We call this force GOD.

This doesn't deny the existence of other more evil forces or that bad things happen to good people, but it affirms that through all the life journey we can count on God's love and presence and for that we are thankful.

Worship during October at Woodlawn United will give us all kinds of opportunities to celebrate and give thanks to God.

Happy Thanksgiving! Rev. Phillip Kennedy

There are many ways to say thank you including the offering envelope enclosed or the anniversary one in your envelope package.

One of the neatest ways I have seen to give thanks was when I lived in Quebec. While the Pilgrims and Mayflower are not part of French Quebec's history and culture, often the big turkey dinner with the family is not done, they have something they call: "Action de Grace"; a time to give back to life through volunteering of their time and talents to those in need. What a great way to say thank you!

Please join us for worship if you are able this coming month!

UPCOMING WORSHIP SERVICES 10 AM SUNDAYS

- **Oct 2nd ~ World Wide Communion Sunday** celebrations of unity in the church around the world.
- **Oct 9th ~ Thanksgiving service with special music celebrations.**
- **Oct 16th ~ United Church Women's Thank-offering service.**
- **Oct 30th ~ Join us for Woodlawn's 132nd anniversary as a congregation serving the local community through following Christ.**

Then join us at 5 PM for a potluck supper as we celebrate together.

COUNT YOUR BLESSINGS

Life does not always go as planned and it is easy to start to see all the negative things life throws at you. My son, Jack, broke his ankle this summer and I had a disc problem in my back. This truly cramped our style as trips were cancelled and medical appointments were made. It was easy to feel sorry for ourselves. Yet, there were still so many things for which to give thanks to God! My family spent 5 wonderful days at the cottage playing board games, reading, talking, connecting and dreaming about the fall. Because of this, we had to pull together and support each other in ways that highlighted everyone's strengths.

Perhaps Thanksgiving is a time for us all to step back and count our blessings, no matter how small (or big) they are. Phillip is doing well after knee surgery, Valerie is returning from sick leave, we have Shelley & Ruth in office supporting the life and work of Woodlawn, programs are starting up again and we have new folks joining our family of faith all the time. God is good! Happy Thanksgiving, Shannon MacLean