

Pastor Ray's Ramblings:

“And whatever you do, whether in word or deed, do it all in the name of the Lord Jesus, given thanks to God the Father through him.” (Colossians 3)



So much of life is spent wanting something we don't have or wanting something "better." "Something" may be a car, truck, motorcycle or boat. "Something" may be a different job or a different wife or husband. "Something" may be a house or furniture or decoration. There is always a "something." Virtually all advertising is directed to making an effort to create discontent in people a subtle or not so subtle appeal to make them want something else or something "better." I admit myself spending far too much time comparing what my world consists of and the world I see other people experiencing. This is a perfect recipe for creating discontent and unhappiness. I have been encouraged in recent years to, early in each day, make a written or mental list of ten things to be thankful for; and to try not to duplicate items on the list from one day to the next. It is amazing how many details of life begin to emerge. And then details within details. For example: I may one morning include being thankful for hands and fingers that work. Then that goes on to think about the details of what that means; grasping, feeling, my uniqueness as reflected in one of a kind fingerprints, how God made me that way, how I am able to use my hands for all kinds of things that bring joy and meaning, the incredible tool that a fingernail is, etc. Each thing to be grateful for can explode into hundreds more. Over time, being a thankful person changes everything.

The transformation of a person takes place from within, one detail at a time as God is allowed to take hold. We begin to see God in every detail of life and are able to glorify and praise our Creator. We begin to be more and more happy, more content, less judgmental, less envious; we just enjoy life more. I would encourage each of you to begin this spiritual exercise yourself. Like a muscle gets stronger slowly but surely through the right exercise, so does the Spirit of God within a person become more evident over time

when a small but intentional exercise within the human soul such as expressing gratitude happens. Over time, we look at people differently, we look at ourselves differently and we experience God differently. As the hymn declares "Turn your eyes upon Jesus...And the things of earth will grown strangely dim, in the light of His glory and grace.



Board of Charitable Giving:

Blanket Sunday - This time of year it is not unusual to see folks take an extra blanket to pile on their bed on a particularly cold night. Blankets aren't just a source of warmth; they can serve other purposes. Keeping warm is essential to our survival. But a blanket might also serve as someone's only barrier between them and the cold ground. Or the only cover overhead to protect them from the wind and rain.

We typically have more blankets than we can use at any one time, and likely seldom worry about having access to a blanket when we want or need one, for whatever purposes. The same cannot be said for many around the world.

Please consider these things as we approach Blanket Sunday. During March we will take a special offering for Church World Service and their annual blanket drive. Monies collected will be used by CWS to provide blankets throughout the United States and worldwide to those in need. Some go to needs families, others to those in disaster stricken areas. Your gift is providing so much more than "just a blanket" - you are providing warmth, comfort, shelter - the knowledge and encouragement for the recipient that someone cared enough to give.

God's Blessings,
The Board of Charitable Giving

Announcing "ConGo Enjoy-Meant" Events

We are "ConGo" (Christians on the Go) and **meant** to **go** and **enjoy** good food and fun activities together!
Sunday, March 25 - 5:30 - 7:00 p.m. - Baked Potato Bar and a Hymn Sing. More details TBA



EASTER FLOWER ORDER

_____ **6" Pot Easter Lilies (5+ blooms): (\$8.00)**
_____ **8" Pot Easter Lilies (10+ blooms): (\$16.00)**

6" Tulips: (\$7.00)

_____ Lavender
_____ Yellow
_____ Red
_____ Pink



6" Hyacinths: (\$7.00)

_____ Blue
_____ Pink

6"Daffodils: (\$7.00)

to be used in the sanctuary on Easter Sunday, April 1, 2018

_____ Following the worship service, I/we will pick up our flower(s).

_____ Following the worship service, the Altar Committee may take care of my/our flowers in an appropriate way.

Given by: _____

In Memory of _____

or

In Honor of _____

This completed form, along with your payment for each flower ordered may be placed in the offering plate, or in the church office by **March 16, 2018**

March Birthdays

- 1 Jim Morse
Linda Shively
- 7 Peter Lindner
Susan Zeerip
- 13 Maggie Sweet
- 14 Stacey Church
Karla Johnson
- 19 Betty Speet
- 21 Barb Clark
- 23 Bernie Denney
Al Smalligan
- 30 Ann Jeannero
Kelley McKivitz
George Purvis
- 31 Nancy Smalligan



March Anniversaries

- 24 David & Mary Zeerip
- 26 Jerry & Helen Miller
- 31 Rick & Wendy St. Peter

