



The Presbyterian Church, 123 West Hill Street, Wabash, IN 46992-3049
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PASTOR'S DESK

Runneth Over

By Pastor Jonathan Cornell

Gratitude is a discipline that we are invited to cultivate in our life with Jesus. Unfortunately, however, unlike grace, it doesn't just come. It takes a bit of effort.

A few weeks ago, as I was beginning to think about Stewardship, it was apparent to me that it comes alongside two of the most beloved and valuable holidays we celebrate: Thanksgiving and Christmas. I found myself asking the question: What happened this year? For a very brief moment, I had one of those "can't see the forest from the trees" experiences.

As I sat there, notebook in hand, I began at January 1, 2017, and started to write down everything that came to mind from the life of Wabash Presbyterian from 2017. Within a few minutes, I had nearly 4 pages. That was just our church. I hadn't even started on the family gritudes.

And as I lingered in that moment, a wave of God's mercy and peace swept over me. I found myself feeling

Runneth Over

Living Gratefully, Giving Generously

so grateful for so many things. And the image that immediately came to mind was that of the psalmist from the beloved 23rd Psalm, who says "my cup runneth over" (to use the King James language).

We live in a society that has trained us so diligently to look at the things we don't have—that's the advertising industry's bread and butter. And as a result of all that we don't have, and all that others do have, the temptation we face is to become jaded, cynical, and jealous. This happens just as much to Christian folks as anyone else.

Which is why regular gratitude check-ups are important.

The psalmist, David, when he wrote this, was staring hundreds of feet down a rugged canyon to a little path that wove its way through the desolate landscape. There was very little water, scarce shade, and vulnerability on every side. This is the Valley of the Shadow of Death. It's easy to look out over the landscapes of our lives and be transfixed on these places we face.

But David, calling to memory moments of God's faithfulness—perhaps like the time he faced down the giant and emerged victorious—was shaken from his malaise and remembered the blessings. He remembered the cup which before him overflows.

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Community & Missions

*Loving people
with the heart of Christ
in the heart of Wabash*

Feed Our Community

You are always encouraged to bring canned/dry goods for the F.I.S.H. food pantry and drop them off in any of the boxes throughout the church. This month, we are collecting Tomato Paste & Sauce, and Pasta

WPC MISSION PARTNERS

- Peabody Retirement Community
- Kemmerer Village
- Meals on Wheels
- City of Refuge (Ghana)
- Thammavongsa Family Mission
- Wabash Ministerial Association's Assistance Program
- Wabash County Habitat for Humanity
- White's Residential & Family Services
- Winchester Community Center
- 85 Hope
- Arc of Wabash County
- The Access
- Campus Life
- F.I.S.H.
- Character Building of Wabash County

Christmas Jubilee

Saturday, December 9th, 9am

Our first Christmas Jubilee was in 1987. Few predicted then that we would still be helping needy families at Christmas 30 years later.

The Christmas Jubilee is a unique Christmas benevolent project. While many holiday toy give-a-ways simply deliver gifts to the recipient's doorsteps, we attempt to empower our guest parents by allowing them to select and wrap gifts for their children. In addition, we supply each family with gift food vouchers for the holiday meals,

It is time to start our preparations in earnest for this year's Jubilee. Those who have taken part in this project in the past know that it is a large undertaking, and its success depends upon the participation of many church members. Your mission committee is seeking your help once again. The type of assistance that is needed is listed below. Please notify Jim Kaltenmark with how you are willing to help.

Ways You Can Help:

- Pray that our Christmas Jubilee is successful, and that our thoughts and actions demonstrate Christ's love to those we serve.
- Donate money to be used to purchase toys and food SCRIP for the Christmas Jubilee.
- Provide transportation for guest families.
- Prepare and serve breakfast to our guests.
- Provide child care for our guest children in the Christian Education Building.
- Serve as a host for one of our guest families.
- Clerk at our "toy store" and help our guest parents make gift selections.
- Help our guests wrap gifts.

Access Holiday Meal

The Access Holiday Meal has been scheduled for Saturday, December 9th. Be on the lookout for more information!

The Loose Offering on November 12th will be given to the Access Youth Center.

November Church Calendar

| Sunday | Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday | Friday | Saturday |
|--|--|---|--|---|---------------------------------------|----------|
| | | | 1 Choir Practice (5:30pm) Community Meal (6pm) | 2 | 3 Friday Book Study (11am) | 4 |
| 5 Luther Class & Choir Practice (9am) Worship (10am) & Fellowship Hour (11am) <i>Loose Offering: Gas Vouchers</i> | 6 Monday Bible Study (1pm) | 7 | 8 Choir Practice (5:30pm) | 9 Buildings & Grounds Team (10am) Missions Team (6:30pm) Worship Team (7pm) | 10 Friday Book Study (11am) | 11 |
| 12 Luther Class & Choir Practice (9am) Worship (10am) & Fellowship Hour (11am) <i>Loose Offering: Access</i> | 13 Monday Bible Study (1pm) Helping Hands Ministry | 14 ROMEO Men's Lunch (12:30pm @ Michael's Diner) | 15 Choir Practice (5:30pm) | 16 Session (7pm) | 17 Friday Book Study (11am) | 18 |
| 19 Luther Class & Choir Practice (9am) Worship (10am) & Celebration Luncheon (11:15am) <i>*Stewardship Sunday</i> | 20 Monday Bible Study (1pm) | 21 | 22 Choir Practice (5:30pm) | 23 THANKSGIVING Office Closed | 24 Office Closed | 25 |
| 26 Luther Class & Choir Practice (9am) Worship (10am) & Fellowship Hour (11am) | 27 Monday Bible Study (1pm) | 28 JULIET Women's Breakfast (8am @ Fried Egg) | 29 Choir Practice (5:30pm) | 30 | | |

Business Notes

October Session Minutes

- Looking at re-locating both men's and women's bathrooms, and what is required to do so.
- May not need to replace boiler system.
- Working on 2018 Budget.

Loose Offering | WPC's Gas Voucher Program

The loose cash that is collected on November 5th will help provide gas vouchers to those in our community who come to the church for aid (i.e., getting to doctor's appointments, job interviews, etc.).

Financial Report

| | <u>Sept.</u> | <u>Total 2017</u> |
|-----------|---------------|-------------------|
| Income: | \$25,222 | \$194,742 |
| Expenses: | <u>23,071</u> | <u>196,288</u> |
| Balance: | 2,150 | \$1546 |

**We used \$10,000 from the Endowment Account to cover our expenses in September.*

[Give online.](#) Use our secure site to set up recurring gifts (like pledges) or for one-time gifts (like paying for a Bible study book or supporting our Mission Partners).

Worship & Connect

Perspectives Class

The city of Wabash has the privilege of being a location for a series of classes offered by Perspectives, a disciple course designed to mobilize the church to God's mission. Perspectives helps believers see God's work in the world and God's call on their lives. Their leadership and discipleship tools have helped members discover how they can effectively become part of the global Christian movement. A series of 15 classes will be offered starting January 7, 2018. For more information about time and location, visit perspectives.org and watch for brochures and additional articles in the church bulletin.

Community Meal

Our next meal is Wednesday, November 1st at 6pm. We'll have some "Minute to Win It" type games there for any who are adventurous enough to try! We encourage you to use the time during the other weeks of the month to get to know others in the church through meals, coffee, and outings. If you're interested in serving on a team to prepare the meal for one month this year, please see Denise Leep. If you're interested in helping lead games, please contact Kari Bartkus.

Connect & Serve

Cuba Trip Application Due Date

If you are interested in going on the Cuba trip in February, please turn in your application to Pastor Jonathan by November 12th.

Downtown Night to Remember

On Friday, November 17th, WPC will once again open our doors to the community as a part of the annual kickoff to the Christmas Season. We will have sanctuary tours, gifts, a kid's craft, and live music. If you would like to help provide hospitality for part or all of that time, please contact Pastor Jonathan.

Winter Coat Giveaway

The yearly winter coat giveaway for kids is underway at Helping Hands of Wabash County at 20 East Canal Street in downtown Wabash. If you know of a disadvantaged family in need of winter coats for their kids, please send them to Helping Hands to fill out an application for this program. In addition to new coats, each child will be given new underwear and socks.

DIG DEEPER

Just Keep Walking

By Kari Bartkus

It was laughing at me. The pile of unfinished work mocked my inability to get it all done. It wasn't long before I just wanted to give up. I was too tired, too frustrated.

Feeling defeated, I shoved the work away from me and turned my attention to something less demanding. And then the strangest phrase popped into my mind: "Just keep swimming." Dory speaks these words of advice to her fish friend Marlin in the movie, *Finding Nemo*. Marlin is discouraged. He is quickly losing hope that he will ever see his son Nemo again. So Dory encourages him to "just keep swimming."

Similarly, as I strive to live like Christ, I often become frustrated at the lack of progress I see. I am called to serve others, to be honest, to give generously of my time and energy, to love, to be hospitable, to offer encouragement. Yet numerous times throughout the day, I have to stop and admit how often I've fallen short. It's tiring. I seem to keep covering the same ground. But instead of giving up, I try to remind myself, "Just keep walking."

I encourage you to do the same: Just keep walking. Even when you're tired. Even when you don't seem to be making any progress. Even when it hurts. Just keep walking... and know that you're not walking alone.

Hebrews 12:1

We have all these great people around us as examples. Their lives tell us what faith means. So we, too, should run the race that is before us and never quit.



Pray about it:

- Take a moment to let go of everything running through your mind and simply focus on Christ.
- Think about a recent time when you felt overwhelmed. What was going on in your life during that time? How did you respond?
- Read Hebrews 12:1-3. Paul encourages us to "run with endurance." What is the key to such perseverance? What (or who) are we to focus on?
- Just like an athlete disciplines himself physically or an artist practices her craft, we can put certain practices in place to help us stay focused when we grow weary. Identify a few of those practices and prayerfully consider which one you should begin to incorporate into your life this week. Sample practices include:
 - Bible Reading
 - Bible Study – alone and with others
 - Praying
 - Solitude & Silence
 - Community/Small Group
 - Confession
 - Gratitude
 - Serving Others
 - Generosity

Kari



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**Loving people with the
heart of Christ in the
heart of Wabash**

A SEASON OF GENEROSITY

Sermon Series: Runneth Over

Pledge Dedication:

Sunday, November 19th, 10am
(during service)

Celebration Luncheon:

Sunday, November 19th, 11:15am
(following service)

See more information on pages 1 and 2.



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