

Thanksgiving Word Search

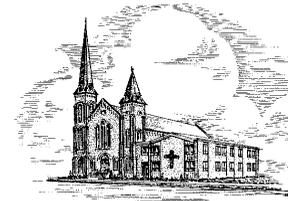


A G N I V I G S K N A H T G O
 R A E Y R R T I C U R O A D A
 L L T F E A S T E L S T M I T
 N P U M P K I N Y M H I K R R
 U L R Q C L N O V E M B E R E
 H A I D O E O T R O K U N N S
 F T L I F S L R I P G R O O S
 E T N E E R O E Z I U P U I E
 Y E O V N G C H B L F I Q T D
 A R Y R R E B N A R C O Y I D
 D C O R N U C O P I A M I D E
 I R P I H S R O W M T T J A W
 L O W E L B A T E G E V E R X
 O T S E V R A H A R B D U T E
 H G U C Y O K A H C A R V E A

- | | |
|---------------|------------------|
| 1. Carve | 11. Holiday |
| 2. Celebrate | 12. November |
| 3. Colonist | 13. Pilgrim |
| 4. Cornucopia | 14. Platter |
| 5. Cranberry | 15. Pumpkin |
| 6. Dessert | 16. Thanksgiving |
| 7. Farmer | 17. Tradition |
| 8. Feast | 18. Turkey |
| 9. Gather | 19. Vegetable |
| 10. Harvest | 20. Worship |



Per Brian Manchester, the Men's Breakfast has been moved back to 8:30 a.m. at Steve's Ranch.



Steeple Breezes

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Greetings to all,

Theology—the study of God. In a more general sense, theology refers to beliefs we hold about things of a spiritual nature greater than just who we are as individuals. We often talk about our personal beliefs in God, and these beliefs are part of our “personal theology.” I don’t believe it is possible for anyone, not even an atheist, to not have some form of “personal theology.”

What concerns me is that we often develop our personal theology in a haphazard way. As a result, we have a collection of beliefs that, at times, are in conflict with one another. Since we don’t spend a lot of time reflecting on our “theology,” we may even fail to see those conflicts.

At one time in my life, I would discourage people from thinking theologically. My reasoning was that theological disputes would lead to divisions. In some way, that is true. However, as I have grown older, I have decided that a lack of theological discussion leads to a weak faith that is not prepared to deal with challenges that will inevitably come.

I am considering, over the next few months, taking one theological issue each month and focusing a sermon around that issue. This would be a departure from my usual practice of following the scriptures as outlined in the lectionary. I must emphasize that at this point, I am only considering it; I have not reached a definite decision.

What will help me in the decision-making process is to hear from you as individuals

-continued on page 2

regarding your willingness to explore various theological positions. It would be most helpful if you give me your thoughts in writing and attach your name. Then, if I am unclear, I can contact you and get some clarification.

If you are willing to go along with a topic once a month, you might have some aspect of your beliefs that you would want clarification on. I can't promise that I would be able to address all of the topics of interest. However, I would like a list of topics that you would be interested in.

What I am looking for are the basic underlying issues of theology that we often don't give much attention. When I was growing up, someone might ask, "Is drinking alcohol wrong?" The underlying theological issue might be, "What is the meaning of the indwelling of the Holy Spirit in our lives?" There are many questions that seem to cause division because the questions themselves are the result of a particular unexamined theological position.

I hope that you will think about this and take some time to engage me in discussions about these ideas in the next few weeks.

Peace,

Pastor Ross

THIS IS YOUR CHURCH

Over the past few months, there have been a series of workshops to help us prepare for the future of First Baptist Church. From these meetings, a Mission Statement has been refined, and a Worship Committee has been appointed. Sunday worship is important to each of us. What do you hope to experience in worship? Is there a way to improve our worship experience? How would a visitor feel?

We all have thoughts and opinions. What do you like that we are now doing? What would you like to change? What would you like to discontinue? With our decreased number of congregants, should we meet in the sanctuary, fellowship hall, or the chapel? What about music? It is important that you share your ideas with a member of the worship committee: Sheila Claar, Bridget Holder, Adam Johnson, and Brian Manchester. Please be involved.

fun to work together). Please take a minute on your way into Sunday worship to see some of the completed quilts in a showcase in the narthex. You will see quilts of various sizes, shapes, and fabrics. They are designed for men, women, and children.

The mission is to visit someone who could use a little comfort and take them a quilt. It does not need to be shared by anyone in our church or go to anyone in our church. If you have a neighbor or a friend who would like to comfort someone with a quilt, bring them in, and let them select one. That way, they are more involved, and they have an opportunity to check out our church.

Please share in this mission in any way you can. Everyone can do something.

OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD

We are collecting items for the Operation Christmas Child Shoeboxes. Items that are needed include pencils, pens, crayons, notebooks (small), combs, and small toys. The Youth are filling the shoeboxes on November 5th, and they will be dedicated on November 12th. Items can be left in the church office.

SPIRITUAL LIFE TEAM ANNOUNCEMENTS

- Advent starts on December 3rd. Therefore, the hanging of the greens decorating will happen on Saturday, December 2nd at 10:00 a.m.
- Out of consideration for the victims of this year's hurricanes, wildfires, and earthquakes, the Christmas offering this year will be designated to the ABC Disaster Relief Fund.
- FBC will once again undertake our annual Christmas Basket and operation Christmas Child Gift Box Missions. Monetary donations are essential for these missions to proceed so please give with the Christmas spirit to make the holiday happier for those who are less fortunate. So are contributions for time. Those who plan to participate in the preparation and distribution of the Christmas Baskets and Operation Christmas Child Gift Boxes are encouraged to notify the church office by email or phone of their wish to help.

READING AND SHARING

Please join us on Friday mornings when a group of friends meet in the church library at 10:00 a.m. to share in discussion of a book. During September and October, Onesimus revealed to us the social atmosphere for early Christians, Paul's fervor in exalting the teachings of Christ even through extreme adversity, and the faith of His followers.

During November, we will be reading a current novel by Jodi Picoult, Small Great Things, with its profound message of social justice. Ruth is an African American labor and delivery nurse with more than twenty years of experience. During her shift, Ruth begins a routine checkup on a newborn. The parents are white supremacists and don't want Ruth to touch their child. The hospital complies with their request, but the next day, the baby goes into cardiac distress while Ruth is alone in the nursery. Does she obey orders or does she intervene? Ruth hesitates before performing CPR and, as a result, is charged with a serious crime. Ruth's public defender insists that mentioning race in the courtroom is not a winning strategy. Conflicted by the counsel of her public defender, Kennedy, Ruth tries to keep life as normal as possible for her family—especially her teenage son—as the case becomes a media sensation. As the trial moves forward, Ruth and Kennedy must gain each other's trust, and come to see that what they've been taught their whole lives about others—and themselves—might be wrong.

This is a timely book for everyone. If you are unable to join our Friday morning group, please read the book for yourself.

COMFORT QUILTS

Comfort quilts are a relatively new mission in our church. A group of friends meets in the sewing room at the end of the narthex and enjoy each other's company as they create small comfort quilts.

Everyone is welcome and appreciated. Don't tell Shirley you don't know how, as there is surely something you can contribute. Can you shop? Cut fabric? Sew? Iron? Pin? Surely you can tie knots!

If you can't come on Friday morning, you can work from home (but it is more

EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETING HIGHLIGHTS

September

- Custodian Ernest Dickey works 20 hours weekly and is in building on Monday, Wednesday, and Friday.
- Nadine will coordinate Christmas food baskets.
- Sheila Claar will coordinate the Operation Christmas Child boxes.
- FBC live website will begin by October 1st.
- A nursery worker is needed the 2nd Sunday each month.
- CROP Walk is on October 8th.
- 2018 proposed budget was distributed for review, editing, and return by October 8th.
- Recommendation was made for payroll/bookkeeping service to replace volunteers.
- Nominating Committee reports a full slate of officers has been completed; additional nominations are welcome.
- Date of Annual Meeting has been changed to November 19th.
- A New Mission is being developed by Brian Manchester.

October

- Second-floor boys' restroom will be renovated.
- Church alley is shared, and only half may be available in the future.
- New website is up and running.
- Christmas decorating scheduled for 10:00 am on December 2nd.
- Christmas Eve service on Sunday, December 24th; no Connection service.
- An afternoon worship service is planned at Vista Grande.
- Jackson Small Business Service will prepare FBC payroll in 2018.
- Proposed budget was approved for recommendation at Annual Meeting.
- Search Committee is working on church profile and will use survey in determining our needs.
- Feasibility of Prison Families' Ministry is being conducted by Brian Manchester.

