
The InnerNet

Early November 2021

Handling Money God's Way

God has a particular way of life for those who believe and follow Christ. It includes thanksgiving and gratitude for all things beginning with God's grace and moving to all of life. All of life means our physical life, and also our financial life, which provides for us food, shelter, and meaning. God's ways began in the Garden of Eden when God gave all to the first humans, except the tree of knowledge, insisting they not desire it. Unfortunately, desire was too strong, and it led to being cast out of the garden, and to a lifetime of toil and work. We remember that the Commandments include prohibitions against worship of idols and coveting. We also hear in the Proverbs the following:

(13:22) The good leave an inheritance to their children's children

(21:20) Precious treasure remains in the house of the wise, but the fool devours it.

God's way of life is different; he invites us to worship him and him above all else, focusing on where our money goes as that is our heart and treasure. God insists we save and plan ahead; asks us to be content and joyful in what we have and share. One of the more difficult sayings of Jesus is that we cannot serve 2 masters— keep money from being our master. Yes, God's ways are different from the world's ways. They can be tough to follow. Yet the world's allure can be tough too, when it speaks so temptingly, and leads us down to debt, and lack of resources.

The world says, want what everyone else has (covet) and pay for it with credit (idolatry).

The world says YOLO! you only live once; spend now and worry later (covet and crave).

The world's ways---Do not share. Do not give joyfully to anyone else, keep it all.

The world would look on Disciples of Jesus and ask why we share our precious resources with the congregation we are part of, why give back to God and not keep it all?

How would you answer?

The truth about giving: No one gives accidentally. It is an intentional act. That means that when they budget their money each month, they set aside a % of their income to give *first*, even before they save it. That's the instruction given in Proverbs 3:9-10: "Honor the Lord with your possessions, and with the first fruits of all your increase; so your barns will be filled with plenty, and your vats will overflow with new wine."

While we are no longer a farming society, the premise is the same. Give back to God in thanksgiving and with joy so that God's ministry, God's kingdom, God's love may be shared through this congregation as we move forward in faith and steadfast love to share the Good News of the Gospel.

November 14, 2021 is your opportunity to dedicate your intent to give back to God. Bring your intent card—if you will not fill in an amount, at least return it as a sign and pledge of your dedication to the Lord and the kingdom work done through Living Saviour.

Love in Christ, Pastor Angela

GATHERING @ THE TABLE

God wants to bless the world! God wants to use the Church to be part of that blessing mission. God wants to be known and for people to know God, love and be loved, to be healed and given hope. God asks the church to do that—yet the truth is, many have been hurt by the church and do not equate God with Church. Yet our call from God is to be God’s voice of hope in this world.

A small group of dreamers have gotten together and are working to bring a new and unique way of gathering people inside the building so that connections, community, and spirituality can flourish. We dreamers want to create with God a Gathering. We want to nourish the body with a good meal, and the soul with a different experience of gathering as God’s people.

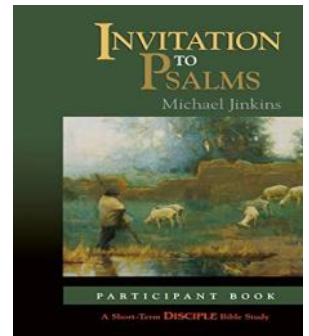
Gathering@theTable launches on Thursday night October 28 in the fellowship hall for those who are disillusioned by traditional church, de-churched altogether, or have not ever been in a church. This Gathering will happen around the table with a meal, breaking of bread and the lifting of the cup of blessing. We will talk about life and scripture, practice new ways of experiencing God’s presence, and pray. We might even sing!

This is a meal, a gathering to form community, a gathering to nourish body and soul. All are welcome. Let Ruth know if you plan to come by 9/25/21.

Bible Study!

Friendship, Laughter, Study, Deepening Faith Wednesdays at 10AM

A new Bible Study will be starting on Sept. 29th at 10AM in the Fellowship Hall. The book they will be using is "Invitation to Psalms" by Michael Jenkins. If you have any questions, please contact Janet Mayer at 704-562-8695 or janetmayer@bellsouth.net.



Financial Results for September 2021 Month End

Contribute directly to the church through the on-line button on the website, or by mail to

Living Saviour
6817 Carmel Road
Charlotte NC 28226

While we are not currently in a financial deficit, please do realize that a number of parishioners pre-pay their pledges and we have received their gifts for the year. We are holding a very tight line on expenses as well, and pray for God’s continued grace through your generous gifts of thanks to God.

Thank you for your generosity.

General Fund 01	Actual
Contributions, etc.	271,080
Expenses and Transfers	251,460
Net Contributions less Expenses/Tranfers	19,620
Facilities Fund 02-3241-442	
Beginning Balance	83,822
Transfers from General Fund	6,667
Contributions	3,615
Expenditures - H&S Roofing	(47,113)
Expenditures - Adams Heating	(4,197)
Ending Balance	42,794

THRIVENT OPPORTUNITY!

The Thrivent Member Network



-Southeast Region is providing a unique Thrivent Action Team opportunity in partnership with "Wine To Water." Join us for a meaningful, hands-on experience that will impact communities around the world with clean water and allow our clients to connect virtually and give back easily through the use of Thrivent Action Cards that are currently unplanned for use.



"Wine To Water" is a Boone N.C. based organization seeking to transform lives around the world by providing readily available sources of clean water. through the use of a water filter. Each water filter can provide clean water for 10 people for 10 years. Assembled kits will be distributed in places like Pakistan where monsoon flooding contaminated local water sources, the American Southwest where lead and other chemicals have contaminated Native American water systems and Africa where water based disease is the leading cause of infant death. For more information on Wine to Water, visit <https://www.winetowater.org/>

If you are a Thrivent member and interested in a filter build or simply ordering kits for someone else to assemble, please contact Brian Powell, 704-779-3631. Thrivent members are able to apply for an Action Team which would provide the materials for 3 filter kits. Kits can be assembled individually or this would be a great activity to do as a group, either in person or online. No tools are required. Each filter can be assembled in 10 minutes or less.

Opportunities for Worship at Living Saviour!

10:30 a.m. in-person
MASKS required

LIVE-STREAM 10:30 a.m. each Sunday
on our YouTube channel



Praying for Possibilities!

10/31-11/07 Pastor Angela & Dawn Gibson
11/07-11/14 Jan Sundberg, Corky Carver & Shallon Gordon
11/14-11/21 Mary Anne Eller & Janet Axtman
11/21-11/28 Glenda Kilminster & Anita Mitchell
11/28-12/05 Anne Chriske & Janet Mayer



Remember the Walking Challenge 9000 total congregational minutes of walking over the next 4 weeks Getting fit in body and getting fit in soul as we walk and pray together.

Reminder: The Walking Challenge will Wrap Up with a 30 min. group walk following worship this Sunday. Please return the challenge sheets with minutes of walking, bring comfy shoes and wear comfy clothes; a water bottle and a healthy snack are welcome as well.

H/W Health and Wholeness ministry sponsored event.

MECKMIN
COMMUNITY-WIDE INTERFAITH
THANKSGIVING SERVICE

THE ART OF GRATITUDE & THE HEART OF HEALING



TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 23 | 7 PM

The Annual MeckMIN Community-Wide Interfaith Thanksgiving Service will be a beautiful, energetic celebration of the power of ART, GRATITUDE and HEALING in the midst of challenge and struggle.

REGISTER AT www.meckmin.org/meckmin-interfaith-thanksgiving

In 1975, Rev. Dr. Sidney Freeman, minister of the Unitarian Universalist Church of Charlotte and Rabbi Harold Krantzler of Temple Beth El came together to begin a tradition that embodied the beautiful tapestry of our area's diverse religious community. A Unitarian Universalist and a Reform Jew, they envisioned a Community-Wide Interfaith Thanksgiving Service that would encourage neighbors to practice gratitude in ways that would unite and transform our community. Today, we celebrate and honor Rev. Dr. Freeman and Rabbi Krantzler for their ability to see beyond the lines that too often create division within the human family. We continue to build upon their legacy by welcoming people of all faiths and backgrounds as we come together in gratitude to celebrate diversity and pray for unity.

This year's service, to be held virtually on Tuesday November 23 at 7 p.m., will be a beautiful, energetic celebration of the power of art, gratitude and healing in the midst of challenge and struggle. The service includes a

food drive coordinated through Loaves & Fishes and an offering that supports MeckMIN and Crisis Assistance. We hope you'll join us at this energizing celebration of community. You can register to attend here <http://www.meckmin.org/meckmin-interfaith-thanksgiving>

The Faith Community Eviction Prevention Fund is a partnership between MeckMIN and Crisis Assistance designed to help the estimated 22,000+ Mecklenburg County families currently at risk of eviction. More information can be found on the MeckMIN website: <https://www.meckmin.org/faith-community-eviction-fund>. A press release with more details and an explanation of the need for the fund is attached to this email.

You can support the fund in four ways:

1. Regularly sharing stories of individuals and families who are being impacted by the threat of eviction. We post a new story on our website each week.
2. Having your house of faith make a donation to the fund.
3. Encouraging your members to make individual donations to the fund.
4. Sharing word about the fund with people in need. If you know someone at risk of eviction, please encourage them to contact Crisis Assistance at (704) 371-3001 to speak to someone. You can also find the online request form for emergency financial assistance here: <https://www.crisisassistance.org/programs/basic-needs/emergency-financial-assistance/>

ENDOWMENT COMMITTEE AT WORK

The Living Saviour Endowment Committee had the responsibility to consider and act on several grant requests during 2021. Grant disbursements are limited to three categories:

- Mission: local, regional or world projects
- Education: college or seminary assistance
- Youth: support for youth of all ages

One of the organizations supported this year is the Community Table at Bethlehem Lutheran Church in New Orleans. This is a 133-year-old historically black congregation whose central mission is to bring good news to the poor. Community Table provides about 450 free delicious, well-cooked meals each week to the Central City neighborhood of New Orleans. This struggling neighborhood of already low-income people (average annual median income \$16,083) was further significantly impacted by the coronavirus as the hospitality and tourism sector caused many of these people to become unemployed. Community Table feeds people of all ages, from children to elderly, primarily black, along with some Latin and white residents as well as people with health and substance abuse issues. All of the services are provided by volunteers. The Rev. Benjamin Groth is minister of this congregation and has worked with the church's Redevelopment Team to create this project.

Other organizations provided grants during 2021 will be featured in upcoming InnerNet issues.

The Endowment Committee is seeking one person to fill the term of a member who resigned this year because of moving. The term would be January 2022-December 2023. If you have interest in joining the Committee for this ministry please contact Barbara Avard, bj1949@bellsouth.net for more information.



A thank you received from Loaves & Fishes!

So far, donations from Living Saviour have contributed to the following:

- ◆ Served 39,211 of our neighbors with groceries through our food pantries
- ◆ Served 25,942 of our neighbors with groceries through our food shares
- ◆ Delivered 21,689 prepared meals to our elderly or infirm neighbors

You are a shining example of how we can all make a difference. On behalf of everyone at Loaves & Fishes/Friendship Trays, please know how much your compassion and generosity is appreciated.

Michelle Littlejohn, Annual Giving Manager

NOVEMBER 2021

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	
	1	2 2:00 p.m. Lectionary Study Group (Zoom) 6:45 p.m. Alleluia Ringers bell choir practice	3 10:00 a.m. Bible Study 6:00 p.m. Zoom Choir Rehearsal	4 6:15 Gathering@theTable	5	6	
7 10:30 a.m. Traditional Worship Live Streamed	8	9 2:00 p.m. Lectionary Study Group (Zoom) 6:45 p.m. Alleluia Ringers bell choir practice	10 10:00 a.m. Bible Study 6:00 p.m. Zoom Choir Rehearsal	11 Veteran's Day 6:15 Gathering@theTable	12 10:00 a.m. Caring & Sharing	13	
14 10:30 a.m. Traditional Worship Live Streamed	15	16 6:45 p.m. Alleluia Ringers bell choir practice	17 10:00 a.m. Bible Study 6:00 p.m. Zoom Choir Rehearsal	18 6:15 Gathering@theTable	19	20	
21 10:30 a.m. Traditional Worship Live Streamed	22	23 6:45 p.m. Alleluia Ringers bell choir practice	24 10:00 a.m. Bible Study 6:00 p.m. Zoom Choir Rehearsal	25 Thanksgiving Day Church Office Closed 6:15 Gathering@theTable	26 Church Office Closed	27	
29 10:30 a.m. Traditional Worship Live Streamed	30	<p style="font-size: 1.2em; margin: 0;">Stay Safe! 3 W's: Wear a Mask, Wash your hands, Wait away from others.</p>					
<p>November Birthdays</p> <p>11/03 Alexandria Goodman, Elijah Goodman, Brooks Miller, Samantha Stogner 11/04 Brenden Bleavins, Corky Carver, Amanda Thom 11/05 Tom Tobin 11/06 Jeff Conner 11/08 Barbara Tobin 11/11 Karter Haigler 11/12 Nicole Patterson 11/15 Cole Plunkett 11/19 Logan Campbell, Margaret Krause 11/20 Kathy DeLoache 11/23 Caroline Cochran 11/24 Joseph LaFollette 11/25 Katie Miller 11/26 Benjamin Thom 11/27 Johanna Krause, Chris Nein 11/30 Jeffrey Brown</p>							
							
<p style="text-align: center;">November Anniversaries</p> <p>11/01 Wayne and Lorene Thom (46) 11/05 Gordon and Nancy Hann (55) 11/06 Jeff and Barb Conner (57) 11/09 Gregg and Anita Mitchell (47) 11/19 Jeanne and Brook Davis (55) 11/30 Russ and Margaret Krause (64)</p>							
							