

From the Pastor's Desk

From the Pastor: **Five Kernels of thanksgiving...**



As legend has it, the first winter the Pilgrims spent in their new home was very cold, and food was in short supply. Some days they only had enough food for each person to have five kernels of corn for the whole day. Finally spring came, and they planted crops that grew. Many of the Pilgrims survived.

From then on, when Thanksgiving came around, the Pilgrims put five kernels of corn on each plate to remind themselves of their blessings. Those seated around the table would each pick up a kernel of corn and tell of something for which they were thankful. The practice reminded them of the first Pilgrims and the source of their thankfulness. The Pilgrims had little, and yet they did possess gratitude.

We too recognize the need for thankfulness. One of the first things we teach children is to thank those who have given something to them. How often have we heard, said, “Now what do you say?”

I am suggesting we reclaim the five kernels custom this year. Even in these precarious times with war, economic trials, political unrest, lingering COVID concerns...we do have so much to be thankful for this year. Let me begin by sharing some possibilities from my list:

- 1) I am thankful for Jesus, plain and simple, for my faith, and the grace of his presence and care daily.
- 2) I am thankful for Jeremy, for the light of Christ that I see reflected in his life every day.
- 3) I am thankful for the people God has placed in my life, for our staff: Wanda, Jeff, Charlotte, Liz, Robbie, Barry. I am thankful for our worshipping community, and the joy that is shared. God has blessed us with incredible people with whom we share ministry.
- 4) I am thankful for every opportunity to be about ministry in this community, to see Christ in our neighbors and to work to make a difference in the world God so loves.
- 5) I am thankful for the beauty of creation, the fall leaves, the winter flowers, the beautiful sunsets. I am thankful for daily bread and a roof that does not leak. I am thankful for indoor plumbing and wireless communication. I am thankful for the quality medical care. I am thankful for fresh water, and heat on a cold day. Truly, there are so many things to be thankful for

Like the first Pilgrims I am thankful to God for the bounty of creation. What are you most thankful for? Consider placing five kernels on your plate this Thanksgiving, and pausing to give thanks.

With deep gratitude, Pastor Karen

And, I am so very grateful...

Thank you, thank you, thank you ... the Pastor appreciation celebration/reception on October 22nd was such a delightful surprise. Wow! The kind words, cards, notes, cake, flowers and the gift were all very much appreciated. I've been heard to say, “There's just something about setting a lovely table, that adds to the joy of the moment.” We lit the candles, and put out the cloth napkins. Lovely! Add to that all the good conversation that happened ... there was such a nice buzz around the room. It was such a good day all the way around: we welcomed the new Assistant to the Bishop, Pastor Peter Olson, celebrated with Pastor Fred his 80th birthday, and said “Good job!! Thank you so much (it really does take a village!!) to our Pumpkin Patch Team.

It really is such a blessing to be a part of this worshipping community. Thank you, we are together in ministry. Thanks be to God! *Pastor Karen*

