

Foundations *focus*

FOUNDATIONS BIBLE CHURCH | MONTHLY
NEWSLETTER

DECEMBER 2021

LIVING A LIFE FILLED WITH THANKFULNESS



LOVE

Love is patient, love is kind. It does not envy, it does not boast, it is not proud. It does not dishonor others, it is not self-seeking, it is not easily angered, it keeps no record of wrongs. Love does not delight in evil but rejoices with the truth. It always protects, always trusts, always hopes, always perseveres.

LOVE NEVER FAILS.

1 Corinthians 13:4-8



As this weekend starts off the busiest shopping time of the year, let this verse be on our hearts and mind. Many of us get stressed with things of this world: buying presents, shopping, cleaning and baking. Along with that list adds more stress with crowds, long lines, empty shelves and money. Then added to all of this is the stress of extra parties and dealing

with some not so favorite people.

Many times we find ourselves losing patience and getting quite angry. Unfortunately, we normally take it out on the ones closest to us---the same people that we are doing all of this for because we love them! Now that is messed up! (see Luke 38-42)

Maybe we need a reality check and remember WHO we are really suppose to be celebrating. God, our Father, gave us the most amazing gift of all...His son, Jesus. Because of Him, we are offered eternal life through Him. He also gave us the fruits of the Holy Spirit. What makes someone the happiest? Isn't it when we see how much a person enjoys and uses something we gave them?

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DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS

- 01 -- Ella Bahr
- 01 -- Maia Bahr
- 01 -- Grady Bahr
- 02 -- Klynn Morrison
- 04 -- Jack Lester
- 05 -- Sierrah Poole
- 08 -- Jason Gilreath
- 11 -- Akeira Morrow
- 11 -- Derek Michaelis
- 14 -- Tyler Nepp
- 16 -- Beckham Sebesta
- 23 -- Douglas Jenkins
- 24 -- Debbie Herrmann
- 26 -- Addison Cyphers

LIVING A LIFE FILLED WITH THANKFULNESS

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This year has been a hard year for everyone. When we are out amongst the crowds, let us think about what others are going through. Maybe someone just lost their job or this is the first Christmas without a loved one. Maybe some family refuse to gather with others, making the holiday a time of sorrow filled with loneliness and anger, instead of excitement and love.

We know that we weren't called to find the perfect gift, have the perfect meal or have the cleanest house. However, we are called to be different from others in this world. Let us show others that we have put Jesus first and want to be found pleasing in His eyes by putting into practice the fruits of the Spirit. Let us be the light in this dark world.

So let's start repeating these two verses until they are embedded in our heart and mind. So when we are ready to lose patience standing in that store with only one checkout, both of these verses come to our mind to remind us....if you are God's child, show Me your faithfulness and show My love to others....have self-control, wait patiently, talk to others in line with a joyful voice, and when you finally get to checkout....speak with gentleness, kindness and respect, you might even say thank you for working during this hectic time. Maybe you will leave the store with more joy and peace in your heart than you had before. Let us truly be thankful for each other and share in the joys of others. Let us express

His love throughout the year.



Religious Exemption Letters

To request a Religious Exemption letter from Foundations Bible Church regarding vaccinations and therapeutic injections, please see LaNay Hervey, Pastor Daren, or fill out the request form online at [www.FOUNDATIONSbiblechurch.org](http://wwwFOUNDATIONSbiblechurch.org).

Any individual affiliated with Foundations Bible Church, as a member, congregant, social media community, relation or friend may request an exemption letter based on their Biblical beliefs and religious convictions as outline in the Constitution and Bylaws of Foundations Bible Church Winnebago, MN- amended, approved, and adopted June 13th, 2021 (also available for reading on the website).

Proverbs 22:17

"A merry heart does good like medicine"

DECEMBER ANNIVERSARIES

- 20 -- Tom & Martha Butler
- 20 – Travis & Rebecca Cyphers
- 23 – Mitch and Laurie Jenkins
- 29 – Toby and Carita Pudwill



Offering

Help, Healing & Hope

Missions Sunday

Tracy Muhlenbeck with Five Sisters Project will be sharing a message Sunday, December 5th during worship service.

Pastor's Pen

OK – sometimes the reality of how Laodicean God's people are becoming thoroughly takes “the wind out of the sails” – or so to speak... meaning it quenches the Holy Spirit. There's nothing like throwing lukewarm water on flames that will extinguish a fire – right... I am convinced by the Scriptures that most will continue to cool spiritually, listening to the world's ways more than the Lord's words, and it is prophesied - as par for the course - within the Church as the age comes towards the end. See the following passages:

1 Thessalonians 5:19-21 *Do not quench the Spirit. Do not despise prophecies, but test everything; hold fast what is good.*

Jude 1:16-19 *These are grumblers, malcontents, following their own sinful desires; they are loud-mouthed boasters, showing favoritism to gain advantage. But you must remember, beloved, the predictions of the apostles of our Lord Jesus Christ. They said to you, "In the last time there will be scoffers, following their own ungodly passions." It is these who cause divisions, worldly people, devoid of the Spirit.*

3 John 1:9-10 *I have written something to the church, but Diotrephes, who likes to put himself first, does not acknowledge our authority. So if I come, I will bring up what he is doing, talking wicked nonsense against us. And not content with that, he refuses to welcome the brothers, and also stops those who want to and puts them out of the church.*

Revelation 3:14-17 *"And to the angel of the church in Laodicea write: 'The words of the Amen, the faithful and true witness, the beginning of God's creation.' "I know your works: you are neither cold nor hot. Would that you were either cold or hot! So, because you are lukewarm, and neither hot nor cold, I will spit you out of my mouth. For you say, I am rich, I have prospered, and I need nothing, not realizing that you are wretched, pitiable, poor, blind, and naked. I counsel you to buy from me gold refined by fire, so that you may be rich, and white garments so that you may clothe yourself and the shame of your nakedness may not be seen, and*



salve to anoint your eyes, so that you may see. Those whom I love, I reprove and discipline, so be zealous and repent. Behold, I stand at the door and knock. If anyone hears my voice and opens the door, I will come in to him and eat with him, and he with me. The one who conquers, I will grant him to sit with me on my throne, as I also conquered and sat down with my Father on his throne. He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches."

The term used in the Bible for Spirit in Old Testament Hebrew is “ru’ach” and in New Testament Greek is “pneuma”. They have the same meaning – wind, breath, current of air, disposition, vital principle, life, soul. Together they are used 763 times. It is interesting that without wind a fire won't burn hot and bright... embers cool and smolder into a heatless ash heap. The life once blazing bold for the Lord fizzles out in the Laodicean environment... the passages above give us insight to what causes a lukewarm spiritual atmosphere within the heart of a believer and in a congregation of believers; while evidencing a conceited attitude of spiritual self-centeredness and worldliness :

- 1) When the prophetic is considered as nothing to look at or simply mocked, it renders a person's heart as spiritually conceited and the spiritual atmosphere as Laodicean. (1 Thessalonians 5:19-21)
- 2) When traits of dissatisfaction, complaining, murmuring, active opposition, saying arrogant things and feigning admiration for advantage persist, it reveals a person's heart as spiritually conceited and the spiritual atmosphere as Laodicean. (Jude 1:16-19)

Pastor's Pen Continued

- 3) When deriding and ridiculing, jeering and making fun of are major characteristics, it displays a person's heart as spiritually conceited and the spiritual atmosphere as Laodicean. (Jude 1:16-19)
- 4) When individuals' personal desires and passions dominate the direction of church and it's ministries it show a person's heart as spiritually conceited and the spiritual atmosphere as Laodicean. (Jude 1:16-19)
- 5) When coups to control and conduct while disseminating dissension to disjoin and dominate and so they have the say to sway in the congregation - it reveals a person's heart as spiritually conceited and the spiritual atmosphere as Laodicean. (Jude:1:16-19)
- 6) When preeminence and self-importance coupled with berating and prating are common occurrence among church laymen and leaders it exposes a person's heart as spiritually conceited and the spiritual atmosphere as Laodicean. (3John 1:9-10)
- 7) When assumption and presumption of spiritual correctness paired with a lack of recognizing spiritual ineptness and immaturity is extant it reveals a person's heart as spiritually conceited and the spiritual atmosphere as Laodicean. (Revelation 3:14-22)

There is hope for a person whose heart is spiritually conceited and a congregation who has a spiritually Laodicean atmosphere....it is found in **Revelation 3:18-22**

"I counsel you to buy from me gold refined by fire, so that you may be rich, and white garments so that you may clothe yourself and the shame of your nakedness may not be seen, and salve to anoint your eyes, so that you may see. Those whom I love, I reprove and discipline, so be zealous and repent. Behold, I stand at the door and knock. If anyone hears my voice and opens the door, I will come in to him and eat with him, and he with me. The one who conquers, I will grant him to sit with me on my throne, as I also conquered and sat down with my Father on his throne. He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches."

Regard what the Lord Jesus is counseling in His Word.
Repine and be refined by the Lord Jesus.
Repent and let the Lord Jesus open your / our spiritual eyes.
Relent and accept the Lord Jesus' discipline.
Return to the Lord Jesus with zeal and passion.
Respond to the Lord Jesus' knock and let Him in the door.
Reflect and listen to what the Holy Spirit is saying.

"May God himself, the God of peace, sanctify you through and through. May your whole spirit, soul and body be kept blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ." 1

Thessalonians 5:23

Remember God Loves You and So Do I,
Pastor Daren Lee Barnett



UPCOMING EVENTS

- Dec 05 - Potluck/Missions Sunday
- Dec. 07 - CED Team meeting 7 pm
- Dec. 13 - Stewardship Team meeting 7 pm
- Dec. 14 - Winnebago City Council 7 pm
- Dec. 16 - FBC Women's Group 9 am
- Dec. 19 - Baby dedication for Brooklyn Hervey/
Movie "The Enemies Within the Church"
- Dec. 21 - Spiritual Ministry Team meeting 7 pm
- Dec. 24 - Candlelight Service 5:30 pm
- Dec. 26 - No Sunday school-Christmas Program



Fellowship Hall Servers

- Dec 05 - Potluck
- Dec 12 - Carrie & Marilyn
- Dec 19 - Social Committee
- Dec 26 - Christmas program/Jesus birthday

Spiritual Ministry Team

By Nancy Jones

A Thankful Heart

As I sit down to write this article, many of us are preparing for Thanksgiving. We are planning our menus, cleaning and decorating our homes, baking our pies, and roasting the turkey, but how many of us stop to think about all of the ways the Lord has blessed us and all of the things we have to be thankful for.

When Thanksgiving comes around, we are reminded of the Pilgrims who crossed the Atlantic Ocean to settle in the New World. They were an adventurous group who came to an unknown land in search of religious freedom. In spite of all the hardships and losses they experienced in that difficult first year, they gathered to celebrate a Thanksgiving Feast to God for all His goodness toward them. We have continued that tradition each year since.

Psalm 100 show us various ways we should express our gratitude to God. We are to shout joyfully, serve Him, come with joyful singing, know Him, enter His presence with praise, give thanks, and bless His name. The Psalm also describes the Lord as our God, Creator, and Shepherd, who is good, loving, kind, and faithful.

Thankfulness is not an emotion, but rather a command from the Lord. Something that we need to train ourselves to do. Thankfulness is a choice and we need to be proactive about it, to the point where it becomes a natural part of who we are. Christians are to be so filled with thankfulness that we give thanks at all times and in all circumstances and for all things. When we give ourselves over to the Holy Spirit, He will teach us how to be thankful. The apostle Paul realized that thankfulness is a characteristic of a follower of Christ who is walking in the Spirit. Ephesian 5:19 tells us we are to sing and make music in our hearts unto the Lord, always giving thanks to God the Father for everything.

The Bible tells us we are to eat unto the Lord and to give Him thanks before each meal. We should not be afraid to pray publicly in a restaurant. When we pray in public, and it is not for show, we bring honor to His name. When we do that we are claiming what it says in James 1:17 that every good and perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father who is in Heaven. Every time we pray we are to give thanks. Colossians 4:2 tells us we are to devote ourselves to prayer, being watchful and thankful.

There are many reasons to be grateful. We should also consider the many ways God has been good to us personally. Each breath we take is a gift from Him. He keeps us alive and wakes us up each morning to a new day. He provides air to breathe, clothes to wear, and everything we need for life. Along with these, are our spiritual blessings that come with our life in Christ. He works in our hearts to transform our attitudes and empower us to love others. We can confidently talk to the Lord in prayer and know that He hears us, protectively watches over us, and guides our path. Every event in our lives and in this world is under His control, and He works everything according to His good and perfect will.

Yet often we forget all this and moan and groan about the situations in our lives or in the world. No matter what goes on around us or how bad everything seems, we need not fear, because we live in God's grace. Even if we go through times of sickness, heartache, or disappointment, the Lord never changes. He is always protecting, providing, and caring for us. It is not possible for a person who habitually gripes and complains and worries about his problems to be filled with the Spirit at the same time. A person who walks in fellowship with God will have a spirit of gratitude that becomes a part of who he is. Psalm 91 tells us that it is good to praise the Lord and to proclaim His love in the morning and His faithfulness at night. When we start each day with thanksgiving and end each night with thankfulness we will build a momentum within us that will transform our hearts.

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“Know that the Lord Himself is God” (Ps. 100:3). He is the source of everything that exists. He is also the One who has created a new life in everyone who receives His Son as Savior and Lord. “It is He who has made us, and not we ourselves”, The Lord has given us life and designed each person with unique personalities, talents, abilities, and gifts. He made no mistakes so we should never compare ourselves to others.

Through faith in Jesus Christ we have become children of God and members of His household. We now belong to Him and are not our own. Our relationship with God is like that of sheep to their shepherd. As our Shepherd, the Lord protects, guides, and cares for us. We know His voice and follow Him, and if we stray, He pulls us back to Himself.

The Lord is good. The evidence of His goodness toward us is seen in our eternal salvation, but sometimes in the midst of our temporary trials and suffering, we forget this truth. Yet even in our trials, God is working for our good. Since God cannot change, His faithfulness will never cease. Therefore, we can trust Him because He is always true to His nature and does exactly what He says. The Lord is worthy of our praise and gratitude because of His sacrificial love demonstrated at the cross, His continual goodness toward us, and His eternal faithfulness.

As we gather around the table this thanksgiving and throughout the year, let us not forget to praise and thank the Lord for our families, friends, for our church, and for Pastor Daren. For the freedoms that we are still able to enjoy and the privilege we still have to worship together. Even though the powers that be are trying desperately to take many of these freedoms away from us, to control our lives, lead us toward a one world order and a one world religion that will not recognize Jesus Christ as our Savior and the only way to eternal life in Heaven, they can never take Him out of our hearts and minds.

Let's remember to keep the Spirit of Thanksgiving alive and in our hearts throughout the entire year...as we celebrate the birth of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ.....as we enter into a new year.....as we remember His death and resurrection and in all we do, think and say in the new year.



WINNEBAGO'S
FROSTY FEST
IS BACK!
FRIDAY, DECEMBER 3RD
5:00 pm-7:00 pm At City Hall

Visit with Santa
Chili & Hot Dogs

Sponsored by Winnebago Community Improvement & Trust Fund
Free will offering will go to Winnebago Community Pool.

Please bring a non-perishable food item for the Winnebago
Ministerium Emergency Food Shelf.

Kids Crafts

First Financial Bank will be hosting a winter craft for kids.
Muir Library will help kids write letters to Santa.

Free Popcorn
Horse Drawn Wagon Rides

6:00 pm
Tree lighting and Christmas Caroling

Carolers provided by Genesis Classical Academy
Tree lighting will be led by Pastor Daren Barnett

Join the coloring contest at First Financial Bank, come in and get a picture to color, bring in the colored picture between now and Dec. 3rd and receive a prize!

