



News From Holland

Holland First United Methodist Church

November 2012

Dr. Phil Shuler, Pastor

Web Site: www.hollandum.org

FROM THE PASTOR'S PEN

November is close at hand and winter will soon be upon us. This year November is special for two reasons: the national election and Thanksgiving. Let's look briefly at these two events.

If you think that you are about to read a political add in favor of one or the other presidential candidate, then you can guess again. I'm not writing to influence your vote for any candidate. I am writing to encourage each one of you to exercise your right to participate in the election of those who will lead us into the future. I'm not sure we really recognize what a privilege we have just to be able to go to a precinct and vote. The majority of the people on this earth do not have such a privilege. There are many different political systems of government that do not permit those who are governed to help select the people who will govern them. On the other hand, we are blessed with the right to be able to select those candidates whom we think will lead our country most effectively for the benefit of our citizens. What a shame it is, therefore, that so small a percentage of our registered voters will exercise the right to cast their ballots. I have read of others around the world who have walked miles and even days to be able to cast their ballots, and do so happily! If we in the USA could have a mere 30% number of registered voters cast their vote this year that would be considered a very good turnout for us. I hope that none of us will take this privilege lightly. Rather, let me strongly encourage each one of you to vote and to do so with a grateful Spirit. People have fought and died for you and me to be able to exercise the right to participate in an election process. Voting brings honor and appreciation to their sacrifice.

Showing appreciation brings me to the second event of November: Thanksgiving. Thanksgiving is traditionally a national observance – with religious overtones – that gives thanks for who we are as a nation. It is to be noted that it originally included both those who sailed across an uncharted ocean to settle here AND those natives in America who educated the settlers in the art of survival. The natives gave the settlers much of the information that enabled them to survive severe winters. As independent as we think ourselves to be, our forefathers would NOT have survived had it not been for knowledge gleaned from the indigenous peoples who dwelt here beforehand. This Thanksgiving, let's give thanks for our nation and its values, AND let's give thanks to God for those who helped our forefathers survive.

This year, Holland First UMC will continue the community celebration of Thanksgiving which is now conducted at the Holland Baptist Church. The date is the Sunday before Thanksgiving which would be November 18, 2012, and the time is 10:00 AM. Just remember what our founders experienced: we survive best when we help each other!

I pray that November will be a good month for each one of you, and that you have many reasons to give thanks this year! See you in Church, Sunday.

Phil Shuler, Pastor

Community Breakfast

On November 4th the free Pancake Breakfast will be held at our church 7:30-9:00am. Regular church service will follow at 9:00 am. Come and enjoy the food and fellowship!

Judy's News

Granger Community Food Pantry

Once again God provided and we served 61 families. We are estimating 75 families during Thanksgiving (November 15th is our date). We need dressings, cranberry sauce, sweet potatoes and desserts for this one. We will be providing turkeys or hams. Thank you once again for all you do.

We are seeing God answers through our Prayer line. Harriet Kubala asks everyone who comes through if they have need of prayer. Many are coming back and saying, "Thank you, as our prayers have been answered." All the workers pray together before we leave for all the prayer concerns we have been given. God is doing so much through this ministry.

5th Sunday Community Service

Our 5th Sunday Community was fantastic! Five churches were represented and the music filled the air as well as testimonies given. The Czech Chorus from Taylor was there with their beautiful music and voices. It was a great night of rejoicing.

Beth Moore's Bible Study on the Book of Revelation

We have started this study and presently have 12 attending, including two gentlemen. Kathy and Mary are driving from Holland so if you decide to give it a try, contact Kathy for sharing a ride. Our location has changed. It is held in the home of Margaret Doss, the newest member of our church.

UMM

The United Methodist Men will meet on November 10th at 8:00 am in the Fellowship Hall. Come join the fellowship and worship.

UMW

Our next meeting will be held on November 7th at 1:00pm in the Fellowship Hall. Everyone is welcome to attend.

Cowboy Church

We have a great program lined up so don't miss it. Get the word out and invite someone. October 28th at 5:00 P.M. Parking is free! Plans are being made for the November service.