

Charge Clarion

Oct/Nov 2023

Pastor Dave's Corner:

Will anyone rob God? Yet you are robbing me! But you say, "How are we robbing you?" In your tithes and offerings! Bring the full tithe into the storehouse, so that there may be food in my house, and thus put me to the test, says the LORD of hosts; see if I will not open the windows of heaven for you and pour down for you an overflowing blessing.—(Malachi 3:8, 10, NRSV)

In the theme of our recent sermon series on "Got Questions?" I received a question about tithing. What is it? Is it 1/10th and if it is, 1/10th of what? And to this I'll add, what did Jesus say about tithing? What are we called to give?

The Hebrew word we translate as a tithe means 1/10th. In the Old Testament, the tithe had several purposes. When the tribes of Israel entered the Promised Land, they were allotted land, except for the Levites. The Levites were set apart to serve the Lord in His sanctuary. The Levites had no land from which they could provide for themselves so they were supported by the people's tithes much like clergy are supported by the congregation's offerings today (Nu 18:21). The tithe was also used to feed the resident aliens, orphans and widows in Israel (Deut 14:28).

A tenth of the first fruits of one's labor belonged to God. "All tithes from the land, whether the seed from the ground or the fruit from the tree, are the LORD's; they are holy to the LORD" (Lev 27:30). Proverbs 3:9 says, "Honor the LORD with your wealth, with the first fruits of all your crops."

The tithe is seldom mentioned in the New Testament. Jesus refers to the tithe when he's chastising the religious leaders of his day. "Woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! For you tithe mint, dill, and cumin and have neglected the weightier matters of the law: justice and mercy and

faith. It is these you ought to have practiced without neglecting the others" (Mt 23:23, Lk 11:42). Jesus didn't say we shouldn't tithe but more importantly, we shouldn't lose sight of what really matters, justice, mercy and faith. Jesus also warns us not to tithe so that we can boast (Lk 18:9-14) or give alms so that we can be praised by others (Mt 6:1-4).

As Christians, what does that mean for us today? There is nothing we can do to earn God's grace or favor. God's grace is a gift from God. Jesus demonstrated the depth of God's love through his life, ministry, death and resurrection. Whether we give or not will not change the depth of God's love for us. We don't tithe or make offerings to receive anything in return. We give willingly, graciously, and with thanksgiving in response to what God has already done for us through Christ Jesus.

St. Paul in his 2nd letter to the Corinthians wrote, "Whoever sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and whoever sows generously will also reap generously. Each of you should give what you have decided in your heart to give, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver." (2 Cor 9:6-7).

Should we tithe and on what? Giving is a matter of the heart. It's between you and God. You may be surprised that most Christians only give 2%-3% of their income to the church, but about 5% give 1/10th or more. For those that tithe, on what they tithe varies. It might only be on their salary, pension, or social security. Some may tithe their after-tax income. For others, it may be on all their income, including interest and dividends, before taxes, in other words, their first fruits. 70% of others are in this latter group.

In the end, the amount or percentage of our income we give isn't important. What's important is what's in our hearts. The widow, though she had little, gave all that she had (Mk 12:41-44) whereas, the young rich man couldn't bring himself to give away his wealth to the poor to follow Jesus (Mt. 19:16-24).

John Wesley said we should earn all we can, live simply so we could save all we can, and then give all we can. For Wesley, the discipline of giving all we can developed a deeper trust in God, God's providence, that everything we have belongs to God, and that we are merely God's stewards. To paraphrase Wesley's closing words from his sermon *The Use of Money*, "Employ whatever God has entrusted you with, in doing all possible good. This is no small part of 'the wisdom of the just.' Give all you have, as well as all you are, a spiritual sacrifice to Him who withheld not from you the Son, his only Son." Amen.

Your brother in Christ,
Pastor Dave



<u>Oct Birthdays</u>	<u>Nov Birthdays</u>
1-Roy Greisler, III	1-Henry Knuppel
2-Anita Bokma	2-Charles Johnson Jr.
Elizabeth Lorah	3-Judy Deel
7-Jerry Unglesbee	6-Valerie Spampinato
8-Holly Johnson	17-Sharon Leavitt
10-Dawn Huber	18-Carl Watkins
11-Lambert Cissel	19-Emily Greisler
Paul Shoffiett	21-Ronnie German
12-Heather Johnson	Claylene Warfield
13-David Huber	23-Mark Ueltschy
14-Pat Browning	25-Jenny Glenn
19-Jordon Lambert	Matthew Greisler
20-Ryan Bennett	Mason Wick
21-Susan Reynolds	27-Dale Cordisco
Patty Walter	29-Danny Knill
23-Ariel Hood	
24-Carol Agrawal	
John Wamsley	
26-Kathy Johnson	
27-Bobby Johnson	
29-Tom Hood	
Jerry Wick	



Annual Picnic at the Browning's. Great Time!



October concludes our Outdoor Worship Services



OCTOBER YEAR A

October 1, 2023

Exodus 17:1-7; Psalm 78:1-4, 12-16;
Philippians 2:1-13; Matthew 21:23-32.

October 8, 2023

Exodus 20:1-4, 7-9, 12-20; Psalm 19;
Philippians 3:4b-14; Matthew 21:33-46.

October 15, 2023

Exodus 32:1-14; Psalm 106:1-6, 19-23;
Philippians 4:1-9; Matthew 22:1-14.

October 22, 2023

Exodus 33:12-23; Psalm 99;
1 Thessalonians 1:1-10; Matthew 22:15-22.

October 29, 2023

Deuteronomy 34:1-12; Psalm 90:1-6, 13-17;
1 Thessalonians 2:1-8; Matthew 22:34-46.

St. Michael's Food Cellar

St. Michaels Food Cellar is taking food donations. Please bring your canned goods to church on the 1st Sunday of the month or take them directly to St. Michaels Catholic

NOVEMBER YEAR A

November 5, 2023

Joshua 3:7-17; Psalm 107:1-7, 33-37;
1 Thessalonians 2:9-13; Matthew 23:1-12.

November 12, 2023

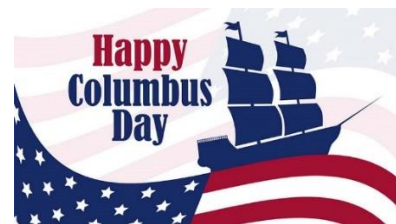
Joshua 24:1-3a, 14-25; Psalm 78:1-7;
1 Thessalonians 4:13-18; Matthew 25:1-13.

November 19, 2023

Judges 4:1-7; Psalm 123;
1 Thessalonians 5:1-11; Matthew 25:14-30.

November 26, 2023

Ezekiel 34:11-16, 20-24; Psalm 100;
Ephesians 1:15-23; Matthew 25:31-46.



October 9, 2023



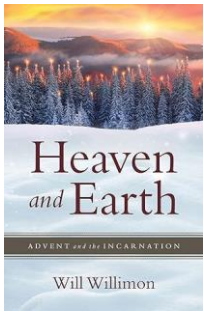
MORGAN'S COFFEE HOUSE

6750 Woodbine Rd – Woodbine, Md. 21797

Doors open at 5:30 pm, Music Starts at 7:00 pm

Oct 20: Billy Harrison & Haywire Band

Nov 17: Charlie Zahm w/Tad Marks on the fiddle



Advent Study

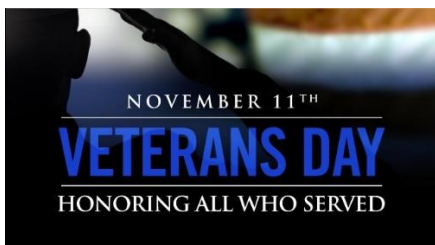
Please join me for an Advent Study, *Heaven and Earth: Advent and the Incarnation*.

This Advent, as we celebrate and anticipate the life-transforming good news that

God is coming to us, Will Willimon, author, retired United Methodist bishop, and Professor of Practice and Christian Ministry at Duke Divinity School, will introduce us to God who not only cares about us but is willing to show up among us and do something with us, here and now, bringing heaven to earth and changing everything. The study will begin Wednesday, November 29 at 6:30 pm for four consecutive weeks. If you're interested, please let the office know before Tuesday, October 31 so we can order books. A \$12 donation to offset the cost of the study book is welcome.

I hope you will join me for this exciting study. To quote Will Willimon, "Watch out. Get ready. God is on the way."

PD



Annual Gospel Concert

Saturday, Oct. 14 – Lisbon UMC, 4:00 pm.

Gospel performances by:

The Spiritual Harmonizers//Northern VA Hopkins UMC-Next Generation//Highland, MD St. Stephens AME Church Male Chorus//Elkridge, MD.

\$20 admission/tickets can be purchased at the Door.



Thank you again for the beautiful stoles in honor of my ordination! I was wowed by the finished product. They are magnificent! Again, thank you.

Thank you also for the cards, vegetables, cupcakes, "Holy Moments", book by Matthew Kelly, and all the well wishes on my birthday. It made the day special. Pastor Dave





Thanksgiving

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

NOVEMBER
 HAM
 POTATOES
 THANKFUL
 DINNER
 FEAST

TURKEY
 PUMPKINPIE
 PECANPIE
 MAYFLOWER
 FAMILY
 PARADE

STUFFING
 CRANBERRIES
 PILGRIMS
 CORN
 FOOTBALL



“It is not happy people who are thankful, it is thankful people who are happy”



Christmas Cantata

Love to *SING*? If you would like to be a part of the Christmas Cantata this year, please contact Patty Bush at

410-245-6081 or bushpatr@hotmail.com.

Rehearsal info: Lisbon UMC, Mondays 7:00 – 8:30 pm.

8 rehearsals, Oct. 23 – Dec. 11.

Performance: Lisbon UMC, Sunday Dec. 17, 7:00 pm.

Cost: \$15 for book, mp3, copyright (fee waived for HS and College students).

no audition *shower singers welcome*



OCTOBER

2023

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 St. Michaels Food Pantry Collection	2 J.C. Cancer Support Group, 7:00 pm P.S. Bd meeting, 7:00 pm	3	4	5 Choir Practice, at P.S., 6:30 pm	6	7
8	9	10 J.C. Board Meeting, 7:00 pm	11	12 Choir Practice, at P.S., 6:30 pm	13	14 Lisbon UMC Annual Gospel Concert, 4:00 pm
15	16	17	18	19 Choir Practice, at P.S., 6:30 pm	20 Morgan's Coffee House, 7:00 pm at Morgan Chapel UMC. Billy Harrison & Haywire Band.	21
22	23 Christmas Cantata rehearsal, at Lisbon UMC, 7:00-8:30 pm	24	25	26 Choir Practice, at P.S., 6:30 pm	27	28
29	30 Christmas Cantata rehearsal, at Lisbon UMC, 7:00-8:30 pm	31				

NOVEMBER

2023

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1	2 Choir Practice, at P.S., 6:30 pm	3	4
5 St. Michaels Food Pantry Collection	6 J.C. Cancer Support Group, 7:00 pm P.S. Board Meeting, 7:00 pm Christmas Cantata rehearsal, at Lisbon UMC, 7:00-8:30 pm	7	8	9 Choir Practice, at P.S., 6:30 pm	10	11
12	13 Christmas Cantata rehearsal, at Lisbon UMC, 7:00-8:30 pm	14 J.C. Bd. Meeting, 7:00 pm	15	16 Choir Practice, at P.S., 6:30 pm	17 Morgan's Coffee House, 7:00 pm at Morgan Chapel UMC. Charlie Zahm w/Tad Marks on the fiddle	18
19	20 Christmas Cantata rehearsal, at Lisbon UMC, 7:00-8:30 pm	21	22	23 Choir Practice, at P.S., 6:30 pm	24	25
26	27 Christmas Cantata rehearsal, at Lisbon UMC, 7:00-8:30 pm	28	29 "Heaven and Earth" Advent Study, 6:30 pm via Zoom	30 Choir Practice, at P.S., 6:30 pm		

POPLAR SPRINGS U.M. CHARGE

2601 Jennings Chapel Road

Woodbine Md. 21797