



MISSION COVENANT CHURCH

# CONNECTION

NOVEMBER 2020

## **“Giving Thanks in All Circumstances”**

I Thessalonians 5:15-18 states; make sure that nobody pays back wrong for wrong, but always strive to do what is good for each other and for everyone else. Rejoice always, pray continually, give thanks in all circumstances, for this is God’s will for you in Christ Jesus.

Sit with this passage for a while and reflect on what it is saying. Do the right thing in every situation for everyone! Rejoice and pray on an ongoing basis and give thanks in all circumstances. Does this mean in the middle of a Covid-19 Pandemic that is forcing the church to suspend its services again for a two-week period? Does this mean during all the social unrest going on within our nation right now and all the expected unrest that will result after November 3, 2020? Does this mean giving thanks as well during the contentious political times we find ourselves living in. And, how about the economic challenges that many people are now facing because all of the above?

The Bible teaches to “give thanks in all circumstances,” not just the ones we like or the ones that are favorable to us. And by the way, this is not some kind of thin spirituality either or blind faith that denies reality. It is honest regarding life in this fallen world and the God we serve who is “able to do immeasurably more than we could ever think or ask.”

Thanks-giving is never based upon circumstances, rather it is based upon the God we serve! Happy Thanksgiving to all of you!

In Christ Love,  
Pastor Darrell L. Nelson

## “There’s Another in the Fire” Hillsong Music

There was another in the fire  
Standing next to me  
There was another in the waters  
Holding back the seas  
And should I ever need reminding  
Of how I’ve been set free  
There is a cross that bears the burden  
Where another died for me

God’s presence! God’s present(s)! As in gift to us, but also as in “right here, right now” present! Immanuel-God with us! He is with us, with you! Do you experience His presence? When do you notice it...or remember (what reminds you of) His presence? Is it clear; is His company poignant?! Or is it more of a mundane non-explosive, “I hope He’s there” thing?

I love to spend time with my wife Jennifer! We have been married for 30 years and 90 days, and the room still lights up when she is with me! I look forward to coming home and being together! I miss her terribly when we are apart! When she is there...wherever I am...her presence is unmistakable, undeniable, unavoidable (and that’s a good thing!) and most desirable! It doesn’t matter if things are going good or bad, I want her to be with me!

So...do I (we) crave God’s presence like that?? Do we notice Him and expect Him with that kind of joy?! Honestly, I struggle to experience God like that in the daily routine. It is not that He is not poignant...or present...He does not change! But I feel like we don’t look for or expect Him unless there’s trouble! There have been certain (non-trouble) experiences in my life where God’s presence was explosive and invigorating, when I felt like I could reach out and physically take His hand (sort of) and audibly hear His voice! But that is the exception rather than what I wish was the norm. I wonder (*squirrel!*) if the furnace thing was a big surprise to Shadrach, Meshack and Abednego?!

These guys had been ripped from what I would perceive to have been an OK life situation before the Babylonians stepped in. King Nezzar besieged Jerusalem and took captive men like these three: ***“from the royal family and the nobility— young men without any physical defect, handsome, showing aptitude for every kind of learning, well informed, quick to understand, and qualified to serve in the king’s palace” (Daniel 1).*** They were the best of the best (by the worlds standards) now dislodged from their lives (from wealthy important families) and transplanted in an enemy kings court, trained for 3 years in Babylon’s paganism and for the Kings pleasure. Obviously, we don’t know for sure what their relationship with God was like back in Jerusalem when life was good. But I am inclined to think that their steadfast faith throughout this ordeal may be evidence of a spiritual foundation formed earlier. And now, when they are faced with the punishment of death (if they will not bow down to the Kings golden statue of himself and worship him rather than God) they do not seem to flinch even a bit!

There are so many details I wish we knew more about in this story, but I think this is the point: they did what they did and lived like they lived because they knew God had been with them in the past, was with them in the present, and would be with them when it was over whether or not He delivered them from the effects of the flames! ***“King Nebuchadnezzar, we do not need to defend ourselves before you in this matter. <sup>17</sup> If we are thrown into the blazing furnace, the God we serve is able to deliver us from it, and he will deliver us<sup>[c]</sup> from Your Majesty’s hand. <sup>18</sup> But even if he does not, we want you to know, Your Majesty, that we will not serve your gods or worship the image of gold you have set up” (Daniel 3:16-18).*** And so they were thrown in. No mention of a scuffle or resistance. No one yelled “youre gonna regret this Nezzar!!” Did they even have the thought to text “I love you!” to their family because they might not ever come home again?? Did anyone scream, “What about Daniel????” And here is the kicker: when the writer states that king Nebuchadnezzar sees 4 figures walking around in the fire, they are just WALKING around.

Ok, so this is what I’m getting at: they acted like they were not surprised to see Jesus there with them! I know, we have no idea what they were talking about or how it was being said, but...I am fairly certain that if the physical

presence of God showed up in my “fire” I would be either jumping up and down screaming or passed out on the ground!! I have this nagging perception (mis-perception) that those things happened only in Bible days, and we must muddle through our lives with a “distant” God (well sure He loves us and is “with” us, but He probably won’t show up like He did back then)? I mean, I watch a lot of different people who are in the midst of their “fire” right now and it seems like they are getting burned; feeling the pain and losing the battle. Rack, Shak and Benny came out without even the smell of smoke! Happy dance!!!! C’mon, they must have at least done a happy dance! God was present with them in a miraculous, pain saving way!

But...Life, and TRUTH, the Gospel and God’s plan are not at all revealed, affirmed or fulfilled based on my perceptions, or experience (pain or joy etc), desires, outcomes or even beliefs! What is Real, True and Right (eous) is found only in God Himself! He never changes, and we must change our thoughts and lives to align with Who He Is...and He is always (omni) present with us, fire or no fire!

- **Psalm 139:6-8** *“Such knowledge is too wonderful for me, too lofty for me to attain. Where can I go from your Spirit? Where can I flee from your presence? If I go up to the heavens, you are there; if I make my bed in the depths, you are there.”*
- **Deuteronomy 31:8** *“The Lord himself goes before you and will be with you; he will never leave you nor forsake you. Do not be afraid; do not be discouraged.”*

God parted the waters for Moses and Israel to provide them safety and deliverance, but He also sent the disciples into a stormy sea while He went up a mountainside alone to pray, and didn’t come to them walking on the water ready to calm the wind until several hours of struggling and fear had occurred!

God allowed Satan to destroy most of what Job had and loved in this world, yet Jesus drove demons out of the people He met along the way.

God rescued Rack, Shack and Benny from the fire in a miraculous way, yet millions of Christians have died for their faith including the Jews that Nero burned in AD 66, the Jews killed by Hitler and the Nazis and so many others all around the world!

These are not contradictions exposing a fickle god. They reveal Truth and a God we cannot put in a mold. We cannot define God by our circumstances, we must define our circumstances by knowing we have a faithful and ever-present God! One shoe does not fit everyone and every circumstance. In fact, God’s plan has no shoes. Well, the armor of God has shoes fitted with the readiness of the Gospel! Put those on! Our righteousness does not protect our physical body or anything else really, but His righteousness protects our eternal heart! His salvation is our helmet! His Word is our offensive weapon! And mustard seed faith puts out the evil one’s flaming arrows! When we are suited up in Christ, we can head into the fire or water or battle and we will be ok, even if we are not delivered from the fire!

I don’t know how God will work in your fire, but I know He is in there with you! You are not alone if you know Jesus as your Messiah, your Savior! Have you confessed that you are a sinner that desperately needs to be forgiven and saved? If you have been trying to face the fire alone, don’t! Give it all to the one Who wants to step into your life, fire or water or whatever, and lead you through it!

Let’s remember, surrender, and not be surprised by Immanuel, God WITH us! There’s another in the fire!

Bananas 4 Immanuel,  
Pastor Carey

Songs to encourage:

Another in the Fire- Hillsong <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qCzY-gyup70>

Truth I’m Standing On- Leanna Crawford <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=mQq1zEBk41E>

With Me- Tomlin <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=NRaDNrjqrCc>

# HIS GLORY

*Have you ever wondered what God looks like in all His glory?*

I often think about this and long for the day when my faith will become sight! In scripture there are several instances where humans can see a visible manifestation of God's presence. In all of these cases there was a limitation to what the humans could see or experience about God. Fast forward to when Jesus came to the earth, he put his glory to the side and humbled himself (Philippians 2:7), but interestingly there is one moment that humans got a glimpse of his glory, an event called the transfiguration. In Luke 9:27 Jesus tells his disciples that "some who are standing here will not taste death before they see the kingdom of God." 8 days later Peter, James, and John witnessed Jesus' appearance glow like lightening (v.29) as well as see Moses and Elijah appear in "glorious splendor". Apart from this moment, Jesus looked like any other man during his years on earth. He had none of the brilliant glory associated with God in the Old Testament (Exodus 40:34). It is humbling to know that the God we serve possess all power and glory yet Jesus did not use that power to his own advantage but humbled himself "by taking on the very nature of a servant" in human likeness (Phil 2:6-7). During these difficult days we are living in, remember that our God is all powerful and yet was willing to becoming human ...and because of that, we have the opportunity to some day stand in his presence and enjoy the fullness of His glory without shame. What a day that will be!

In Christ,

Pastor Nathan



### Mission Statement:

“Partnering with families to help children discover Jesus and learn how to live for Him”

For more details, go to [missioncovenantchurch.org](http://missioncovenantchurch.org)  
(Mission Kidz! webpage)

### Mission Kidz!

Is a ministry for children  
6 weeks through 4th grade.



**Operation  
Christmas Child**  
A PROJECT of SAMARITAN'S PURSE

#### Operation Christmas Child

We will be collecting boxes until **Sunday, November 22**. Our goal is to collect 150 boxes. Everyone is encouraged to participate.

Every gift-filled shoe box is a powerful tool for evangelism and discipleship-transforming the lives of children and their families around the world through the Good News of Jesus.

Go to [www.samaritans.org/occ](http://www.samaritans.org/occ) for more information.

*Shoe boxes will be available and collection will take place at both church entrances.*

Mission Kidz! will continue the same until further notice for children ages 3 years old through the 4th grade. Two-year-old children are welcome to attend at parents discretion. Our Large Group Leader will be meeting the children by the MMC doors to walk them down to the classrooms and will return them to the MMC at the end of the service.

*Our November lessons will be centered around thankfulness and how even in the midst of the unknowns and chaos around us we can still find so much to praise God for!*

One side of the nursery will be open during all of the services for parents to bring and watch their own children. Video of the services will be livestreamed into the Mom's room.



### Mission Project

In 2020, our children are once again collecting an offering to support Deyling Lisbeth from Nicaragua. Yearly Goal: \$550

Offering total so far for 2020: **\$347.00**

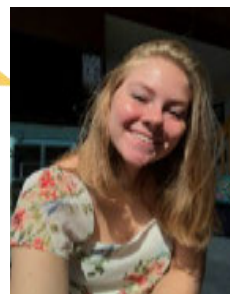
These monies are used to assist World Vision, a global Christian humanitarian organization. They partner with children (including Deyling), their families, and communities to help them reach their full potential by tackling the causes of poverty and injustice. Jesus' love is always at the center of their mission.

### Prayer Requests:

This month our Operation Christmas Child shoeboxes will begin their journey around the world where local churches will distribute them. Our gifts will help to bring the love of Jesus to children around the globe. May God use our boxes to help these churches share the Good News with the people in their communities. **Amen!**



### Star Of The Month



**Kylie Olson**

**Thank you, kylie olson, for sharing jesus and hanging out and helping with our kidz!!**

### Children's Christmas Program

We are excited about this year's Christmas Program:

**“For Such a Time as This!”**



# Financial Update

General Fund Actual Income through **Sept:** \$405,050  
General Fund Budgeted Income through **Sept:** \$404,276

General Fund Actual Expenses through **Sept:** \$376,600  
General Fund Budgeted Exp. through **Sept:** \$402,618

General Fund Actual Surplus through **Sept:** \$28,450  
General Fund Budgeted Surplus through **Sept:** 1,658

Missions Fund Actual Income through **Sept:** \$91,623  
Missions Fund Budgeted Income through **Sept:** \$84,885



All men are invited to join us for an hour of Bible study and Christ centered fellowship every Wednesday from 7:30 – 8:30 a.m. in the Fellowship Hall.



## Adult Bible Class

Want to learn more?

Join us this Fall on Wednesdays at 6:30 p.m.  
for our adult **Quest** Class taught by Pastor  
James.

Sign up by calling the church office



## Wednesdays

Elevate, Grades 6-8:	3:30-5:00 p.m.
Vertical, Grades 9-12:	6:15-8:15 p.m.



Wednesday, 3:30-5:00 p.m.

OR

Sunday, 10:00 a.m.



Church Contact Information:

Phone: 715-364-2738

Email: [info@missioncovenantchurch.org](mailto:info@missioncovenantchurch.org)



Good News Club  
is presently  
POSTPONED.

We are patiently waiting for clearance to hold Good News Club at NES. Thank you for understanding and please hug your Good News Club student for all of us. We miss each one so much! God is good and we are trusting Him for the right time to return. Please contact Jennifer Vik at 218-340-9059 if you have any questions.



Join us for **PICKLEBALL** at Mission Covenant Church. This is an extension of our SAM Ministry, but all adults are invited to play. We have the equipment – so come out join the fun and bring a friend!

We will play Monday, Wednesday and Friday from 9:00-11:00 a.m.



## Walk & Play Small Group

Let's get moving and fellowship while doing so! Kids are welcome, dress for the weather, we will plan to walk approximately 1.5 miles around church area then head back to play on playground. A light snack will be provided. Bring water or coffee. On rainy or really cold days we will meet indoors in the Mission Kidz! area. Held **Fridays until Nov 20th from 8:30 am to 10 am**. Sign up via Mission Covenant Church website/or Contact Tracy Gaffke with questions 218-640-0381 or email [tlgaffke@gmail.com](mailto:tlgaffke@gmail.com).



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***Shoe boxes will be available, and collection will take place at both church entrances.***



# November 1

Shop at **AmazonSmile**

And Amazon will make a donation  
to: **Mission Covenant Church**



AmazonSmile is a website operated by Amazon with the same products, prices, and shopping features as Amazon.com. The difference is that when you shop on AmazonSmile, the AmazonSmile Foundation will donate 0.5% of the purchase price of eligible products to the charitable organization of your choice. Go to [smile.amazon.com](http://smile.amazon.com) and log in using the same log in information as your amazon account. After signing in, underneath the Search box place your cursor over the word **Supporting**; and then to the right of the default charitable organization click on the word **change**. Click in the search bar below the spotlight charities box where it says, "Or pick your own charitable organization", type Mission Covenant Church in the box, click on the search button to the right, then select Mission Covenant Church Poplar WI. You are done! Amazon Smile will donate to MCC every time you shop! (Be sure you ALWAYS log in to Smile.Amazon.com for this donation to occur.) Feel free to contact the church office or stop in and we will be happy to help you set this up!

To date we have received

2019: \$180.57

2020: \$135.41

T: \$315.98

We thank you for your donations!

# We will not have a Thanksgiving Service



COVENANT WORLD RELIEF  
Partners in Transformation

We are still taking an offering to Covenant World Relief.

Please designate C.W.R. on the check or online giving platform



## Children's Christmas Program "For Such a Time as This!"

Sunday, December 20 at 10:00 a.m.

Children between age 2 through 4<sup>th</sup> grade who would like to be in the program, please contact Michelle Kephart or the church office at 715-364-2738.



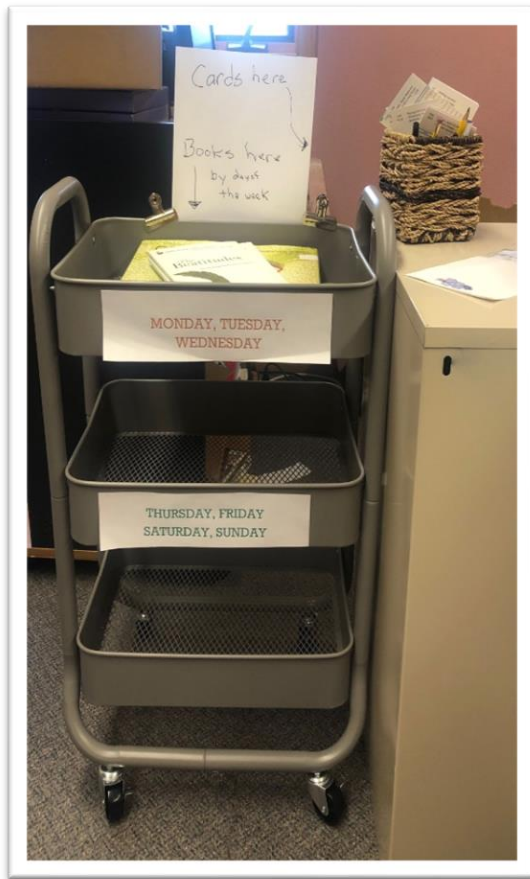
Although our in-person Christmas dinner has been canceled we do not want our message of "Christmas Joy" canceled. So, we have an opportunity for you to celebrate the season in your homes – your way. We will have a recorded Christmas program with worship, panel discussion of Christmas traditions, and Michelle Thompson will be giving a message on the *Joy of Christmas* even in trying times.

*Our prayer is that as you focus on Jesus this Christmas season and your joy will be full!*



# Library Lines

Generous donors have given books by Karen Kingsbury and Francine Rivers recently. Thanks so much for the support.



As a reminder, the library is open during the week, and the new rolling cart is labeled by days of the week for returns. This allows for a little quarantine of the returned items.

Please do a sweep of your shelves for any library items that may be hiding there. We have outstanding DVDs, books, and audiobooks. Perhaps you can help us out!



# Sharing One's Surplus

## Saturday, November 14



We will continue our SOS Foodshare distribution the same as we have the past 3 months with **ONLINE PURCHASES- see link below** and it will be a **DRIVE THRU ONLY service**, where guests will stay in their vehicles and shares will be brought out and loaded into your vehicle by our volunteers.

This process will be as follows:

- **DRIVE THRU ONLY** format so **PLEASE REMAIN IN YOUR VEHICLES.**
- You will be directed where to line up your vehicle.
- Please **ONLY** arrive 10 mins before your online registration time slot.
- Registration will begin at 10:00am and will end when all shares have been distributed.
- While you are waiting in line, our volunteers will come to your vehicle to confirm your online registration and put a 1/2 or full sign under your windshield wiper.
- When prompted you will pull your vehicle up the side church doors and volunteers will bring your share(s) to your car and load it into your vehicle.
- PLEASE HAVE **YOUR TRUNK EMPTY AND READY TO RECEIVE THE BOXES** CONTAINING YOUR SHARE. Some things may be boxed, but you should also have an extra empty tub or two in your trunk.
- **THE CHURCH BUILDING WILL NOT BE OPEN**, however, you may use the restroom.

In light of the current situation, we will be carrying out this distribution with considerably fewer volunteers. Please be patient with this process as we strive to follow CDC guidelines while we help our community to stretch their food budget during this critical time. We are hopeful that with a little patience and understanding we can make this a safe and successful distribution for those that participate.

***Link for online purchases which will only stay open until 12pm Friday!***

<https://eventsframe.com/e/tZ94lrs7C/mission-covenant-church-sos-food-share/>

Blessings,  
Your SOS Foodshare Volunteers



Dear Mission Covenant Church,

On behalf of our church's leadership I want to inform you that we will be suspending our in-person services for the next two weeks. Each of our Pastors have been exposed to an individual with a positive Covid-19 test. Out of an abundance of caution we are suspending all on-site ministries, services and activities at Mission Covenant Church.


As per the previous lockdown period in March, April and May of this past year we will have our worship services posted on our church's website each week.

Our goal is to open back up for ministry on November 10, 2020 with our church council meeting as well as our regular Bible studies and youth ministries on Wednesday, November 11, 2020 and then resume Sunday Worship Services on November 15, 2020.

Please continue to support the ministry of Mission Covenant Church financially as you are able. Again, thank you for your understanding and patience during these trying times we find ourselves living in.

Blessings,

Brian Johnson  
Church Chair

<div>SUN</div> <div>Nov 1</div> <div>Pre Recorded Service-Check Website</div> <div>Pre Recorded Online Service Check Website</div>	<div>MON</div> <div>2</div>	<div>TUE</div> <div>3</div> <div>10am Morning Break Live Online</div>	<div>WED</div> <div>4</div>	<div>THU</div> <div>5</div>	<div>FRI</div> <div>6</div>	<div>SAT</div> <div>7</div>
<div>8</div> <div>Pre Recorded Service- Check Website</div> <div>Pre Recorded Online Service Check Website</div>	<div>9</div>	<div>10</div> <div>7pm Council Meeting, CE 1/3</div>	<div>11</div> <div>7:30am Men's Bible Study, F. Hall</div> <div>9am SAM Pickleball, MMC</div> <div>3:30pm Confirmation, CE 1/3, MM</div> <div>3:30pm Elevate, Youth Group, MM</div> <div>6:15pm Vertical, Youth Group, MM</div> <div>6:30pm Quest Adult Bible Study, C</div>	<div>12</div>	<div>13</div> <div>9am SAM Pickleball, MMC</div>	<div>14</div> <div>9:30am SOS Food Share, MMC</div>
<div>15</div> <div>8:30am Mission Kidz!, CE Wing</div> <div>8:30am Contemporary Worship, M</div> <div>10am Confirmation, MMC 10/11</div> <div>10am Contemporary Worship, MM</div> <div>11am Traditional Worship, Sanctu</div>	<div>16</div> <div>9am SAM Pickleball, MMC</div>	<div>17</div>	<div>18</div> <div>7:30am Men's Bible Study, F. Hall</div> <div>9am SAM Pickleball, MMC</div> <div>3:30pm Confirmation, CE 1/3, MM</div> <div>3:30pm Elevate, Youth Group, MM</div> <div>6:15pm Vertical, Youth Group, MM</div>	<div>19</div>	<div>20</div> <div>9am SAM Pickleball, MMC</div>	<div>21</div> <div>9am Rural Care &amp; Share Food She</div>
<div>22</div> <div>8:30am Mission Kidz!, CE Wing</div> <div>8:30am Contemporary Worship, M</div> <div>10am Confirmation, MMC 10/11</div> <div>10am Contemporary Worship, MM</div> <div>11am Traditional Worship, Sanctu</div>	<div>23</div> <div>9am SAM Pickleball, MMC</div> <div>6:30pm Elder Board Meeting, P. D</div>	<div>24</div>	<div>25</div> <div>7:30am Men's Bible Study, F. Hall</div> <div>9am SAM Pickleball, MMC</div> <div>6:30pm Quest Adult Bible Study, C</div>	<div>26</div> <div>  <div>Happy Thanksgiving</div> <div>Office Closed</div> </div>	<div>27</div> <div>9am SAM Pickleball, MMC</div>	<div>28</div>
<div>29</div> <div>8:30am Mission Kidz!, CE Wing</div> <div>8:30am Contemporary Worship, M</div> <div>10am Confirmation, MMC 10/11</div> <div>10am Contemporary Worship, MM</div> <div>11am Traditional Worship, Sanctu</div>	<div>30</div> <div>9am SAM Pickleball, MMC</div>					

November Ministries