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(un-denominational)  
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First Christian Church - Memphis, Missouri  
**EVANGEL**

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Dear Ones,

Andy Williams sings "It's the most wonderful time of the year." He says "It's the hap .. Happiest season of all." I tease about being the "grinch" when it comes to the Christmas spirit. Some of my friends have been playing Christmas music for weeks. I've seen pictures of lights and living-rooms decorated for the season of which Mr. Williams sings. Sure enough, Christmas is less than a month away already!

Let me get back to that "most wonderful time of the year" thought again. I prefer to apply that thought to the season we have before us right now. I find much satisfaction in this part of the year we call "Thanksgiving." I am reminded of the harvest that is wrapping up. Garden produce may well be in the freezer or on the shelf in jars. Hunters are posting pictures of the game they will consume in the coming months. I am reminded of the heritage of our nation as a people who know the source of all our blessing as a nation. Thanksgiving asks for nothing, but appreciates every good and perfect thing. (James 1:17)

I mentioned several things in my sermon this past Sunday about Thanksgiving. I hope one or two of them speak to you this week. May we keep in mind that we are to rejoice always, pray continually and give thanks in all circumstances. (1 Thessalonians 5:16-18) Our joy is not a shallow emotion so easily crushed by circumstances. Remember that part of praying is listening to what God says through His Word to encourage and lead us. As we do these things, the ability to give thanks in all circumstances will be much more achievable.

A closing note ... A grateful person cannot be a grumpy person! When our focus is on the blessings we possess, it is terribly difficult to keep our attention on our complaints or less than ideal circumstances we may face. One more thing. May you have a Blessed Thanksgiving Week.

Lord Bless, *Preacher Jack*

### ***Youth Preacher's Post***

**"As the deer pants for streams of water, so my soul pants for you, O God. My soul thirsts for God, for the living God. When can I go and meet with God? My tears have been my food day and night, while men say to me all day long, 'Where is your God?' These things I remember as I pour out my soul; how I used to go with the multitude, leading the procession to the house of God, with shouts of joy and thanksgiving among the festive throng. Why are you downcast about, O my soul? Why so disturbed within me? Put your hope in God, for I will yet praise him, my savior and my God. My could is downcast within me; therefore I will remember you from the land of the Jordan, the heights of Hermon-from Mount Mizar" (Psalm 41:1-6 NIV).**

As the life of a deer depends on water, so our lives depend on God. Those who seek Him and long to understand Him find never ending life. Feeling separated from God, this psalmist wouldn't resist until he restored his relationship with God because he knew that his very life depended on it. Do you thirst for God.

The writer of this psalm was discouraged because he was exiled to a place far from Jerusalem and could not worship in the temple. During these God given holidays, the nation was to remember all that God had done for them. Depression is one of the most common emotional ailments. One antidote for depression is to meditate on the record of God's goodness to his people. This will take your mind off the present situation and give hope that it will improve.

In Christ, *Josiah Holloway*

**Prayer Requests:**

**Please Pray For...**

John Wheeler  
Jim Kratzer  
Ron Alexander  
Sam Berkowitz  
Marjorie Durham  
Joe Welsh  
Stephanie Sumption  
Mary Morgan  
Orin Sanders  
Dalene Bergman

**Shut-In:**

Dixie Drummond  
Roberta Small  
Roberta Beckert  
Jean "Effie" Allen  
Viola Heiner  
Georganna Lister

**Church Family  
Residing At:**

**Scotland Co. C C & R.C.F.**

Donna Meeks  
Georgia Couch  
Bette Herbert  
Donna Wheeler

**Schuyler County N.H.**

Marietta Garrison

*Sympathies to  
Don Norton family at this time.*



**November  
Book of Month**

II Corinthians

**STATISTICS**

**November 20, 2016**

Sunday School...54  
Worship....90

General Fund.....\$3,296.40  
Roof.....\$33.00

**BUDGET (To Date)**

Weekly Needs.....\$3,242.00  
Budget needs.....\$152,132.00  
Gifts.....\$142,565.53

**Sunday Services**

Sunday School.....9:20 AM  
Worship.....10:30 AM  
Junior Worship (Ages 3 to 5yrs). ....10:30 AM  
Super Church ( Grades K—6th).....During sermon

**Church Staff**

Jack Sumption.....Preacher  
Josiah Holloway.....Youth Minister  
Kelly Cochran.....Secretary

**ANNOUNCEMENTS**



**Children's Christmas Rehearsal  
December 10th**  
More details to come

**Children's Christmas Program  
Sunday, December 11th**



**All Church Christmas Caroling**

**Sunday, December 18  
at 2pm**



If a member has a neighbor, friend, or family member they would like to have visited by carolers please contact the church office with the name and address or share their name and address on the sign-up sheet at the back of the sanctuary.



**Reminder November 27, 2016**

West Greeter.....Holly Harris  
West Usher.....Chris Harris  
East Greeter.....Rose Briggs  
Sunday School at SCCC.....Ronnie Miller  
SCCC Pianist.....Sandra Blake  
Nursery.....Julie Clapp & Emily Terrill  
November Bus Driver.....Mary Morgan

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