

November  
2024



## Giving God Praise This Thanksgiving



## A Special Message From Pastor Tony Barnes

On a table in my house, a small wooden sign sits that states three words, "Thankful. Grateful. Blessed." It serves as a daily reminder to set my eyes on thanking God for what He has done for me. Although this may seem cliché, I think it fits perfectly with the theme of what the Thanksgiving holiday entails.

If thanksgiving is how we respond to God's goodness in our life, gratitude is what we feel in the depths of our hearts. Gratitude is the well by which we can draw authentic expressions of thanksgiving.

Did you know there's a slight difference between praise and thanksgiving? In Bible verses about praise and thanksgiving, what we see is that thanksgiving is generally about thanking God for what He has done for us. Praise focuses more on praising God for who He is.

For me, I believe that praise and thanksgiving also involves a spirit of contentment. Instead of always looking for my next blessing to arrive, I am learning to sit in what God has already given me. When I am content, I am more willing to bless others with those gifts, the way that God intended. It's easy to fall into the trap of comparison when I look at everyone else's seemingly "perfect" Pinterest or Facebook feed. To not feel defeated by comparison, every day I must switch my focus from not what I seem to lack, but to thanking God for how He has already blessed me.

*"Shout for joy to the Lord, all the earth. Worship the Lord with gladness, come before him with joyful songs. Know that the Lord is God, it is he who made us, and we are his, we are his people, the sheep of his pasture. Enter his gates with thanksgiving, and his courts with praise, give thanks to him and praise his name. For the Lord is good; his love endures forever, his faithfulness continues through all generations."* Psalm 100:1-5 NIV

If you break down what the Psalmist of this chapter is saying, these are practical actions we can take:

- Shout for joy.
- Worship the Lord with gladness.
- Come before Him with joyful songs.
- Know that He is God.
- Enter His gates with thanksgiving and his courts with praise.
- Give thanks to Him and praise His name.
- Recognize His goodness, love, and faithfulness through all the generations of your family.

I want to challenge you to spend this month reflecting on not only the things you are grateful to God for but also ways you can bless others using the gifts God has given you. I love this time of year because it reminds me to spend time worshipping the God who deserves all of my praise and thanksgiving.

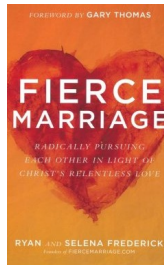
God Bless,  
Pastor Tony  
[tony.barnes@stillwaterchurch.com](mailto:tony.barnes@stillwaterchurch.com)

# PEOPLE HELPING PEOPLE LOVE AND SERVE JESUS

## MARK YOUR CALENDAR!

### WEDNESDAY NIGHT DINNER AND PROGRAM

Join us for Wednesday Night Dinner and Program! We have programs for all ages from nursery, elementary, middle, and high school students to adults of all ages. The young adults (18-30 years old) are studying "The Hard Stuff," led by James Currie and Trae Weeks. We have two additional adult programs. "Fierce Marriage" is a book-study led by Scott and Shauna Crenshaw, and Pastor Tony is leading an in-depth study on the parables of Jesus. Dinner starts at 5:30pm with the program following at 6pm. Meal cost is \$8 for adults, \$6 for children, \$25 family maximum, and first-time guests and college students eat free.



### THANKSGIVING POTLUCK DINNER, NOV. 20



Stillwater's annual Thanksgiving Potluck Dinner is Wednesday, Nov. 20, at 5:30pm in the Fellowship Hall. Meat, dressing, rolls, and drinks will be provided. Bring your favorite dessert or side dish and join us for dinner and fellowship. Family and friends are always welcome!

### PRAYER TEAM

The Prayer Team will be selling "Read Me When" prayer jars with color-coded bible verses inside for when you are happy, thankful, angry, anxious, lonely, or sad. The prayer jars will be available in the front lobby at the welcome desk for \$20 each or two for \$30. See Terry Hopper or any Prayer Team member to purchase them. They make great gifts and stocking-stuffers for Christmas. All proceeds will go to the Stillwater General Fund. The Prayer Team invites you to join them on Tuesdays at 6pm in the sanctuary to pray for those on our prayer list and more.



### DISASTER RESPONSE TRAINING

Disaster Response Training will be held at Stillwater on Nov. 23, 8:30am-3:30pm. For more information, contact Preston Sasser or the church office.

### TUESDAY ADULT SMALL GROUP

The Tuesday Adult Small Group will have its last session for 2024 on Nov. 19 and will resume after the holidays on Jan. 7, at 10am, in the Choir Room. All adults are welcome.

### OTHER UPCOMING EVENTS

- Mondays - Food Pantry, 9-11am
- Tuesdays - Tues. Adult Small Group, 10am, Choir Rm
- Tuesdays - Prayer Team Meeting, 6pm, Sanctuary
- Nov. 3 - All Saints' Day
- Nov. 3 - Men's Breakfast, 7am, Fellowship Hall
- Nov. 5 - Election Day
- Nov. 7 - Missions Team Mtg, 5pm, Fellowship Hall
- Nov. 8 & 10 - Community Tables
- Nov. 15 - Club 345, 6pm
- Nov. 17 - Advent Wreath Making Workshop, 2-4pm, Fellowship Hall
- Nov. 20 - Thanksgiving Potluck Dinner, 5:30pm
- Nov. 23 - Disaster Response Training, 8:30am-3:30pm
- Nov. 24 - Decorating Church for Christmas, 2pm
- Dec. 1 - Men's Breakfast, 7am, Fellowship Hall
- Dec. 5 - Nurture Team Meeting, 9am, Choir Room
- Dec. 15 - Stillwater Christmas Concert, 6pm
- Dec. 24 - Christmas Eve Candlelight Services, 4pm & 6pm
- Dec. 29 - Night of Worship, 6pm

### HANGING OF THE GREENS

Join us on Sunday, Nov. 24, at 2pm, as we pull out all of the decorations and transform our church for the Christmas season. We will have soup and sandwiches for dinner around 5pm and hope to have all decorations in place by 7pm. Lots of help is needed! See Betty Moye for details.

### ADVENT WREATH MAKING WORKSHOP

Are you ready to start a new family tradition? An Advent Wreath Making Workshop will be held on Sunday, Nov. 17, 2-4pm. This workshop is for singles, couples, and families with children. The cost is \$20 for wreath supplies and candles. During the workshop, we will share Christmas traditions and talk about ways to help our families focus on Christ during this season of Christmas. Sign-up sheets will be available in the lobby beginning Nov. 3.





# PEOPLE HELPING PEOPLE LOVE AND SERVE JESUS

## NOVEMBER SERMON SERIES, "THE FAITH OF FRIENDS"

Join us in November for the sermon series, "The Faith of Friends." This four-part sermon series explores the profound impact of being a part of a church community. By looking at biblical examples and teachings, we will seek to understand how genuine friendships in the body of Christ provide loving support, encouragement, and spiritual growth in all of us.

### SERMON SCHEDULE

Nov. 3	"Surrounded by Friends"	Hebrews 12:1-2
Nov. 10	"Mi Casa, Su Casa"	Acts 2:42-47
Nov. 17	"Stronger Together"	Mark 2:1-5
Nov. 24	"Rooted in Love, Overflowing with Thanks"	John 15:9-13



## KIDS KORNER

**Club 345** will meet on Friday, Nov. 15, 6-8pm. We're having a Thanksgiving Scavenger Hunt! All 3rd, 4th, and 5th graders are welcome to come for dinner and an evening of fun!

A new **Kids Ministry Team** is being formed. This team will consist of parent representatives from each age group (birth-5th grade) and a variety of people who work with our Kids Ministry in volunteer or paid positions. The purpose of this team is to discuss ministry needs for each age group, implement new programming, encourage volunteer participation in programming, and dream for the future. If you would like to become a member of this new team, contact Betty Moye at 251-604-0949 or [betty@stillwaterchurch.com](mailto:betty@stillwaterchurch.com).

The **Kids Christmas Pageant** will be a part of the Christmas Concert on Sunday, Dec. 15. Kids will be playing the part of Mary, Joseph, shepherds, angels, wise men, and lots of cute animals! Dates and times for an informational meeting and practices will be announced soon.

## MONTHLY NEWSLETTER IS GOING ONLINE

The monthly newsletter is going to transition to online only in early 2025. You will be able to find the newsletter on our website. If you would like to continue having a paper newsletter mailed to you, contact the church office at 251-675-2728.

**STILLWATER EARLY LEARNING CENTER**  
**PRESCHOOL ENROLLMENT**

We are excited to announce that enrollment is now open at **Stillwater Early Learning Center!** We have expanded availability in our infant room, as well as in our K2-K4 programs. If you would like more information or would like to schedule a tour, please feel free to call or email us, and we will be happy to assist you.

MONDAY TO FRIDAY  
415 McKeough Ave.  
Saraland, AL. 36571  
[Linden@stillwaterchurch.com](mailto:Linden@stillwaterchurch.com)  
251-675-2904

## MISSIONS TEAM UPDATE

Because of your outstanding response to the request for hurricane recovery supplies, the Missions Team was able to make two deliveries to Florida to go to the people in need in Georgia and Florida. The Children's Shoebox Project was also a success. We have lots of boxes of goodies to brighten the days for children around the world.



The Missions Team November project is a toy drive for Dumas Wesley. Bring in new toys and bikes through the month of November and make Christmas special for families in need in our community. For more information, visit our Missions Table in the lobby, or contact Betty Moye at [betty@stillwaterchurch.com](mailto:betty@stillwaterchurch.com).

**The Missions Team will pack the Christmas shoeboxes on Nov. 7, 5-7pm, in the Choir Room. Join us if you would like to help!**

## STILLWATER CHURCH FOOD MINISTRIES

The Food Pantry needs volunteers to sort and distribute produce and dairy items that are received on the first, third, and fifth Fridays of the month. The truck arrives at the church between 11am and 12pm and distribution begins at 12:30pm. The Food Pantry also continues to serve residents of Saraland, Satsuma, Creola, Chunchula, and Axis, on Mondays, 9-11am. If you would like to serve in this mission, contact Therese Brown at (251) 751-5346 or the church office.

The Backpack Ministry needs people to pack bags, deliver bags to the schools, and food items. Donated items can be dropped off at the Missions Table in the church lobby. Sign up to pack bags or deliver bags at the Welcome Desk in the church lobby. Thank you for your support as we supply our area school children with much needed nutritional assistance on the weekends.

## Happy Birthday!



11/02	Paige Brown Michael Milner
11/03	Joyce Boshell Judy Callen
11/04	Stone Brown Pat Eagan
11/05	Stacey Boutwell
11/06	Zak Ingram Donna Latusek Carol Spencer
11/07	Jarod Billingsley
11/09	Vickie Smith Ryan Sullivan
11/10	Harmony Gibson
11/11	Cindy Middleton
11/12	Sherry Robbins
11/13	Amanda Hasiak
11/14	Pat Bryant Tony Feaster Cynthia Mead
11/16	Jenn Nabholz
11/17	Nathan Ott
11/18	Barbara Bunker
11/19	Julia Mae Sullivan
11/20	Morgan McCann
11/21	Becky Downing
11/22	Mary Squires
11/23	Celia Mitchell
11/24	Linda Burr
11/25	Melanie MacPhail
11/26	Philippa Feaster
11/28	Brad Pearce Luvenia Spotswood
11/29	Lynda Massey
11/30	Lauren Robbins

Find us online at  
[stillwaterchurch.com](http://stillwaterchurch.com) and  
 Facebook. Email us at  
[info@stillwaterchurch.com](mailto:info@stillwaterchurch.com).

## Monthly Financial Update

	Attendance		General	Capital
	In-Person	Online	Fund	Fund
Oct. 6	185	34	\$ 13,137	\$ 528
Oct. 13	164	54	\$ 6,789	\$ 30
Oct. 20	143	47	\$ 4,214	\$ 10
Oct. 27	185	58	\$ 11,930	\$ 270

### THANK YOU...

~Everyone who helped make Trunk or Treat a success!

### CONGRATULATIONS TO...

~Gabriel Boyce, Melanie MacPhail, and Melody Moore on their baptisms.



### SYMPATHY TO...

~Mary Boyington's family on the passing of her husband, Buddy Boyington.

~Ann Carter's family on the passing of her sister-in-law, Doris Robertson.

### WAYS TO GIVE

1. Scan the QR code with your phone.
2. Mail your gifts to the church at P.O. Box 415, Saraland, AL 36571.
3. Recurring giving online by creating an online giving account at <https://www.stillwaterchurch.com/online-giving>. Thank you for your faithful giving to God's work!

