



Thanksgiving 2019

*Enter His gates with thanksgiving and His courts with praise;
give thanks to Him and praise His name.*

Psalm 100:4

Dear Members and Friends of
Chippawa Presbyterian Church,

Over my years of ministry, I have come to see that gratitude, thanksgiving, is a source of joy, a source of peace and a source of healing. Thanksgiving encourages us to focus on what we have and what we have experienced. It reminds us that even in difficult circumstances there are blessings. It disciplines us to look for God's goodness especially when anger, bitterness or discouragement threaten to overwhelm our souls. In this season of thanksgiving, as the hymn says, 'count your blessings' and give thanks for what God has done.

As always, we have much for which to give thanks as a church family.

On Sunday, October 6th over 620 knitted and sewn items and gift baskets were dedicated to be shared with the community. It was a cornucopia of crafted items on the stage, a tribute to the abundance of care and God's love.

Sunday, October 13th we will celebrate Thanksgiving together by gathering at the Lord's Table for Communion. As we gather at family tables for Thanksgiving dinner, it is beautiful to see again that the Lord invites us to his table too. You are invited to bring a food donation for our local food bank, Project Share, or to use an envelope in the pew to support our Benevolent Fund with which we provide grocery support for those who come to our door looking for assistance.

On October 20th Lena Koiter embarks to Nicaragua to be part of the sewing team, training women in Nicaragua in the creation of goods that can be sold and proceeds used to support their families. Thank you to all who made such generous contribution of supplies and materials.

This fall there are three Bible studies underway. A Monday afternoon study meets weekly at the church. A women's study is meeting Thursday evenings at the home of Wendy Schonberg and there is a once monthly meeting after church to look at the Psalms.

On Saturday, October 19th there is a half day workshop on spiritual gifts. Come refresh and renew your understanding of how God has uniquely equipped you for the kingdom.

On Saturday, October 26th there will be a baptism class. Those who wish to be baptized are encouraged to attend.

On Sunday, November 3rd we will again host our 'Conversation Dinner'. Held in the Lower Hall of Chippawa Presbyterian Church, you will enjoy a simple potluck dinner. At this event you will be paired with one individual, and be given a list of personal, but fun, questions to discuss with one another. You will be amazed at how quickly you will turn a stranger, or a mere acquaintance, into a true friend.

On Saturday, October 26th, join us for the Women of the Church's Fall Village Market, with baking and local vendors, this will be a great opportunity to pick up those unique items all while supporting the congregation's ministry.

Shoeboxes will be available again this year for Operation Christmas Child. If you wish, you can take a shoebox, fill it with needed items and gifts. These shoeboxes are then distributed to children who are living in poverty around the world.

You can pick up your shoeboxes beginning October 20th. They are to be returned by November 17th. We will once again be a drop off centre for Niagara. Look for opportunities to volunteer.

Sunday, December 1 will be the date of the Church Family Christmas Dinner. Mark your calendars for a great evening of food, church family and tree decorating.

We continue to be a support to the community providing space to 22nd Niagara Scouts, Guides Canada and polling for the federal election.

There has been fantastic progress on the mortgage with \$71,000 being paid against the principle year to date bringing the amount remaining down to \$190,000. Thank you for your faithful generosity. We will soon be mortgage free.

This Thanksgiving, along with Session, the Board of Managers and staff, I am giving thanks for you, your participation in ministry, your generosity, your commitment to worship God and your enthusiasm for your church. Thank you.

May you have a blessed Thanksgiving.
Yours in Christ,



Doug Schonberg