

CENTERVILLE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

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James A. Cannistraci, Pastor

Pastor Jim's Thoughts and Prayers – November 2016

Dear Friends,

It's hard to believe Thanksgiving will soon be here. Where did the time go? Each year as Thanksgiving approaches, I'm overwhelmed with the wonderful blessings God has given me. Each year I make a list of these blessings and they become a part of my prayer time in a special way. Here are a few of the blessings for which I'm thankful.

The gift of God's love. I'm so thankful for the gift of God's grace and the fact God never gives up on me, in spite of the mistakes I make. I'm thankful that God gives me second and third and fourth chances to "get it right" and do my best to live as Jesus lived. I'm thankful for the gift of eternal life that God gave me when I accepted Jesus as my Lord and Savior. I'm thankful to all the people who I've been blessed to meet throughout my life who've shared the story of God's love. I'm thankful for all the faithful folks who've shared gifts of time, talent, financial resources, and compassionate love with me and welcomed me into their Church Families throughout my life. I can still see the smiles of dear friends whose lives have been an inspiration to me.

The gift of my loving family. I have family members who I can call and talk with on the telephone, and I have family members who are in Heaven with God. I'm thankful my family loves me and accepts me just as I am; at the same time they encourage me to do my best to live my life in a way that reflects God's love. Like God, my family members never give up on me, in spite of the mistakes I make. I'm thankful they give me second and third and fourth chances to "get it right"! They are truly my "cheering section"!

The gift of being called to serve God as your pastor. I'm honored to be your pastor. I'm blessed to walk with you as we celebrate the amazing gift of God's love. I'm blessed to share your life journey, and invite you to share my life journey as we invite others to receive the gift of God's love and eternal life. Thank you for welcoming my family and I into your life.

The gift of being an American. I am so thankful to live in a country where we are free to worship God. I'm aware that folks in other parts of the world must literally risk their lives to worship God. I'm thankful for the brave men and woman who served our country in the past, those who have made the supreme sacrifice of their lives, and all those who currently serve to protect and defend the liberty and freedom I enjoy.

How about you? When you stop and "count your blessings", what comes to mind for you? As Thanksgiving approaches, I hope each of us will pause and "count our blessings and give God thanks!"

Dear friends, our Centerville Church Family is a blessing in my life. This Thanksgiving season, let's all invite others to join our Church Family so we can all share and receive God's blessings of love and grace in new and exciting ways.

Love and Prayers,
Pastor Jim



Open hearts. Open minds. Open doors.

The people of the United Methodist Church