

DAYBREAKING NEWS

Thankful Reflections by Amy Notbohm

There is so much to be thankful for.



It's hard to believe that Thanksgiving is just around the corner, but the signs are all there. The temperatures are falling, the tree leaves are taking up residence on the ground. The displays of groceries in the front of stores are piled high with boxed stuffing and cans of pumpkin. Thanksgiving is just around the corner. As almost everything is this year though, it is going to look and feel different. We're all deciding how to celebrate. Can we be with family or friends? Is it safe to share food? I was talking to my mom about a turkey and wondering how small we can possibly go? Can you get a four pound turkey? (I think the eleven pound one she got on sale is going to make for a lot of leftovers for our small family!)

One thing that will be the same though is having an attitude of gratitude. Our houses and ovens may not be full two Thursdays from now, but our hearts can be. How can we find ways to give thanks with our whole hearts? Some things will be the same, like the cooler temperatures and the store displays. We will be thankful for family and friends, for health and healing, for job and school successes. There are new things to notice too. Thanksgiving for sanitary and cleaning workers who's important work frequently unnoticed. We may notice the creativity that is being lived out as people learn how to navigate through the pandemic like 6-ft long Halloween treat dispensers and the science-creativity intersection of vaccine development. We give thanks for our healthcare workers who have given so much of themselves to care for others. We recognize that God is in each of these acts of love, creativity and courage. Below is a picture of a German Thanksgiving carpet "*Erntedankteppich*" courtesy a friend of Martha Broderon.

When we start thinking of all the things we are grateful for this Thanksgiving, we are filled with peace and joy, and there isn't much room left for anything else. Maybe gratitude can be like a Thanksgiving dinner. Fill yourself up with so much thanksgiving that there isn't any room left and you have to unbutton your pants.



Advent Study – LOW: An Honest Advent Devotional by John Pavlovitz

Our Advent study will be based on the book, “Low: An Honest Advent Devotional” by John Pavlovitz. In this short book, we will look at the Christmas story from the messy, dirty, humble low places in life. In his introduction, Pavlovitz says, “When Jesus offers the prayer, ‘Thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven,’ he reminds us that as we walk the road of Advent the invitation is not to escape this place to an elevated heavenly sanctuary somewhere; it is to bring heaven down.” The book is available for purchase online. If you would like a copy, but need help getting one, please contact the church office. There will be several opportunities to participate in this study. If you are online, please consider joining a Zoom class with Dayspring starting the week of November 28, times and leaders below. Please contact the Dayspring church office to register, [480.838.1446](tel:480.838.1446)

Sundays at 7:30am - Joel Bullock

Tuesdays at 11:00am and 5:30pm - Jeff Procter-Murphy

Wednesdays at 10:30am - Shirley Wells

Thursdays at 12 noon - Amy Notbohm

The second option is a correspondence class via this newsletter. Starting after Thanksgiving, each newsletter will have a question, reflection or story for the Advent journey. You will be invited to send in a written response that will help contribute to the following week’s written discussion. Or, if you would like to share a thought, but aren’t interested in writing it, you can always call Amy to share at 480-302-1768!

Community Prayers

Prayers for Sarah Burke, Paula Carmosino, Lee Smith, Sue Teel, Ruth Wymer, Lee Wymer & Tiffany Rodriguez (Betty Trabue’s granddaughter), Stacey O’Rourke and Morgan Schnorr (Martha Stowe’s granddaughter). If you have additional prayer requests, please let the church office know so that they are put on the prayer chain.

Giving

Thank you for your continued support for the work and ministry of Aldersgate United Methodist Church – mailing address is 3530 North 32nd Street; Phoenix, Arizona 85018-5609.

November Birthdays: Maureen Stevenson (11/20) and Martha Stowe (11/23)

Coming Up: Borderlands P.O.W.W.O.W. distribution event in the church parking lot on Saturday, November 21st from 8 a.m. to 11 a.m.

Thanksgiving Food Drive benefiting the United Food Bank, sponsored by Dayspring Children’s Ministry. The number of people and families experiencing hunger continues to be high. Please consider dropping off non-perishable food donations in the Aldersgate office during office hours 2-7pm on Friday, Nov. 20 or 7-11am Saturday, Nov 21. If you would like to donate a frozen turkey, Amy will be working at the Borderlands event Saturday morning and will have a cooler to store them before delivery.



Rev. Tom Kiracofe

Pastor

Martha Stowe
Administrator



Prayer for the Week

In this season of illness, distancing and death, we bless those who bear light, healing and hope:

Blessed are the joy finders, the joy sharers, the joy tenders;

blessed are the mask makers, the mask wearers;

blessed are those forgoing convenience and excess for someone else's survival;

blessed are the governors, and mayors, and legislators laboring for public health over profit, ego, and the deadly demands of gun-toting, fear-mongers.

Blessed are the essential workers—, the healthcare workers, sanitation workers, grocery store workers, mail carriers, farm workers—and also, blessed are these essential workers—the poets still feeling, dreamers still imagining, teachers still sparking curiosity, students still soaking up and sharing wisdom, caregivers still caring, journalists still investigating and reporting.

Blessed are the music makers, art makers, word makers, meaning makers;

blessed are the imams, the rabbis, the pastors, the chaplains, the spirit seekers ministering and tending and holding.

Blessed are the letter writers, the card senders.

Blessed are you in your tears, your prayers, your fears;

blessed are you every moment you choose tenderness, softness, gentleness, care,

Blessed are you in your living, your loving.

Blessed are you in your fearing, your dying.

Blessed are you, Sacred Child of God.

God is with you always. You are never alone.

Amen.

- Rev. Matt Laney, Senior Pastor of [Virginia Highland Church](#)



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