



Preaching, Teaching and Reaching for
Transformation and Liberation

“CONSCIOUS AND INTENTIONAL MINISTRY: DOING WHO I AM”

Also I heard the voice of the Lord saying: “Whom shall I send, And who will go for Us?” Then I said, “Here am I! Send me.” Isaiah 6:8

THE PASTOR’S PEN November 27, 2022

AM I THANKFUL FOR WHAT I HAVE OR WHOM I HAVE?

What we know today as Thanksgiving Day, is recorded as having been a harvest festival held in the fall of 1621. At this festival, the newly arrived Europeans [the Pilgrims] invited the indigenous people of this country [the Indians] to attend the feast. From that celebration, this country celebrates what is known as Thanksgiving Day.

I pause to question, “For what were those newly arrived European settlers thankful?” Since I was not there, I cannot provide a definitive answer to that question. However, when I consider the history of that time, I can easily speculate some of the things for which they would have been thankful.

First, they would have been thankful for life. Additionally, history documents that if it were not for the knowledge of and assistance from the indigenous people who taught the Europeans how to survive through the winter months they would not have lived. Although many died, the majority were able to survive and flourish.

Second, they would have been thankful for food to eat. History also documents that the indigenous people taught the Europeans how to smoke and dry meat and fish, plant corn, beans and squash, fertilize it and protect it with natural insect repellents.

Third, they would have been thankful for clothes to wear. History additionally documents that the indigenous people taught the Europeans how to tan hides used for clothing.

Fourth, they would have been thankful for their health. History furthermore documents that the indigenous people taught the Europeans how to identify species of plants, herbs, berries and roots and determine which ones were toxic, and which ones were useful for medicinal and culinary uses.

Therefore, at the harvest festival held in the fall of 1621, I wonder if the Europeans were more thankful for what they had or more thankful for those who made it possible for them to have what they had. As I consider this, I reflect on the fact that the Europeans would later consider the indigenous people who saved and sustained their lives as savages, heathens and demon possessed. I also reflect on the fact that many indigenous people died of diseases contracted from the Europeans (like smallpox and measles). Since the Europeans brought these diseases to this country, the indigenous people had no natural immunities to fight the diseases. For all of the sacrifices made by the indigenous people, I wonder how much ‘thanks’ was ‘given’ on their behalf. More than being thankful for life, food, clothes and health, were they thankful for the indigenous people who were in their lives?

Now, lest we be too hard on the Europeans, what about us? Perhaps the question, “For what am I thankful?” should be replaced with the question, “For whom am I thankful?” More than what I have, Am I thankful for who I have. It is so easy to emphasize the things I can touch, see and consume while not acknowledging the ones who made it possible for me to possess the things I can touch, see and consume.

On today, I express my thanksgiving for those whom God has placed in my life. Those who love me, help me, guide me, assist me, correct me, defend me and pray for me. I would not be who I am nor where I am if it were not for those people. More than life, food, clothes and health, I am thankful for the people that God has placed in my life – **I AM THANKFUL FOR YOU.**

The Pilgrim Rest Oasis *Sharing the Faith · Securing the Future*

Through faith God has given us the space to be an **oasis** in the middle of the city.

An **oasis** is a fertile spot in the desert where refuge, relief, and refreshment is found.

Be part of God's plan for Pilgrim Rest and this community.

Start contributing to the **Oasis** today!
Let's continue to make progress!

Thank you for your continued support of God's plan for us.



Beginning



Current

Your contribution can be dedicated to a specific activity or the Oasis, in general.

	Educational Enrichment	Technology Literacy	Athletics & Recreation	Performing Arts	Facility Innovation
\$500	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 15 Subject books for elementary (math, literature, history, etc.) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1 iPad 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 10 basketballs 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 10 art sets for aspiring artists 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> External security lighting to keep the street well-lit and safe
\$1,000	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 100 Summer Bridge books to help students retain learning during breaks 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 100 "learn how to code" kits for elementary students 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 10 tennis rackets 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 4 beginner saxophones or 8 beginner violins 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Camera security system to keep everyone safe
\$2,500	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 9 students can be challenged to excel using interactive problem-solving programs 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1 computer for graphic design and website creation 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 12 sets of golf clubs for children 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 10 Play Scripts with performance/ licensing fee and cast instructions 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Wireless PA system to easily communicate at the school
\$5,000	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1 smartboard to help teachers engage students in learning 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1 STEM lab cart of materials for a classroom with multiple activities 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 3-day Speed and Agility workshop for 15 young aspiring track stars 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 100 pairs of tap shoes for aspiring dancers 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Battery operated floor scrubber to keep the building looking its best
\$10,000	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1 trip for 15 students to visit 1 HBCU 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 100 Robotic kits to reinforce studies in STEAM subjects 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Open gym for 20 young people 1 X a week throughout the winter in a safe place 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 200 tickets to see Alvin Ailey Dance Company 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> LED light fixtures throughout the school to promote learning and natural light

WORK FOR THE WEEK

NOVEMBER MEMORY VERSE

¹⁸For the message of the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God.

1 Corinthians 1:18

NOVEMBER MEDITATION QUOTE

"The cross is a symbol of unity in diversity and a catalyst for pursuing justice in the face of injustice."

Dr. Gardner C. Taylor