



“CONSCIOUS AND INTENTIONAL MINISTRY: DOING WHO I AM WITH UNDERSTANDING”

Of Issachar, those who had understanding of the times, to
know what Israel ought to do... 1 Chronicles 12:32

THE PASTOR’S PEN November 26 2023

AM I THANKFUL FOR WHAT I HAVE AND/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.**

WHY EDUCATION AND THE ACCURATE TEACHING OF OUR HISTORY MATTERS

Following is a small selection of books that have been banned in the identified counties of Florida and books identified by the ACLU of Massachusetts that are banned.

We understand that some fear that these books will actually be read by someone. Even more, they fear that these books, and others like them, will open the eyes of young Black and White school students and assist them in waking up to the realities of what has happened in our past and empower them to work for a different outcome for our future.

Therefore, since they have determined that these books, and others like them, are dangerous to the fulfilling of their agenda, I encourage you to read these books, get them for your children and grandchildren to read, buy them as gifts for your colleagues and peers to read.

Think about it, if these books posed no threat to them and the fulfilling of their agenda, they would not ban them.

Broward County, FL

The Bluest Eye by Toni Morrison

Clay County, FL

The Fire Next Time by James Baldwin

Woke: A Young Poets Call to Justice by Mahogany L. Browne

Escambia County, FL

Beloved by Toni Morrison

Palm Beach County, FL

Anne Frank's Diary: the Graphic Adaptation by Ari Folman

Letter from the Birmingham Jail by Martin Luther King Jr.

Roll of Thunder, Hear My Cry by Mildred D. Taylor

The 1619 Project: Born on the Water by Nikole Hannah-Jones

The Hate U Give by Angie Thomas

To Kill a Mockingbird by Harper Lee

The ACLU of Massachusetts has chosen to highlight a few pivotal, Black-authored books that have been targeted — recently or historically — for censorship.

The Hate U Give, Angie Thomas (2017)

I Know Why the Caged Bird Sings, Maya Angelou (1969)

The Color Purple, Alice Walker (1982)

The Bluest Eye, Toni Morrison (1970)

Beloved, Toni Morrison (1982)

The New Kid, Jerry Craft (2019)

Class Act, Jerry Craft (2020)

The 1619 Project, Nikole Hannah-Jones (2019)

Native Son, Richard Wright (1940)

Black Boy, Richard Wright (1945)

Their Eyes Were Watching God, Zora Neal Hurston (1937)

Invisible Man, Ralph Ellison (1952)



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MISSIONARY BAPTIST CHURCH

**Teaching, Preaching and Reaching for
Transformation and Liberation**

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

¹⁰ This is why we work hard and continue to struggle, for our hope is in the living God, who is the Savior of all people and particularly of all believers.

1 Timothy 4:10

NOVEMBER MEDITATION QUOTE

"Those of us who refuse to live under oppression and the threat to our existence are dangerous to this society because we become symbols of hope to our brothers and sisters, inspiring them to follow our example."

George Jackson – Soledad Brother

TODAY'S STUDY QUESTIONS AND MEDITATION:

Name some things that are distracting you right now (ex. people, technology, social media, money, worries, "stuff")? _____

FOR THE YOUTH

Name some things that are distracting you right now (ex. people, technology, social media, money, worries, "stuff")? _____
