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President's Message

by Harry Foockle



Tired! Worn Out! Fatigued!

Mask! Social distancing! A country at unrest!

Worship! Live Stream! Face Book! You tube! Zoom! Cell Phone!

*Pandemic! Will it ever end?
Will it be "normal", even a "new normal"?*

My answer came driving down Highway 1 in Kansas City early this morning. It was a clear blue sky with a rising sun in the East.

The trees, the magnificent trees in all God's Autumn splendor. The trees standing tall, so many beautiful colors together brighten up the sky.

Hope filled my tearing up eyes. If God can do this - God can somehow bring us together.

Thanks be to God! We worship you! We praise you! We give you the Glory!

"Worthy, Oh Master!

Yes, our God!

Take the glory! the honor!
the power!
You created it all;
It was created because
you wanted it."

With Thanksgiving and Blessings,

Harry Foockle



Executive Director's Message

Phil Tom

***Rejoice always, pray continually, whatever happens,
keep thanking God because of Jesus Christ.
This is what God wants you to do.***

1 Thessalonians 5:16-18 Contemporary English Version

In times of difficulties, sometimes it seems hard to rejoice and give thanks to God. Our country is facing many challenges - people dying and suffering from covid-19, people losing their jobs and economic security, increased acts of racism, hate and bigotry, and a growing divided nation.

Paul wrote these words in 1 Thessalonians to new believers who were suffering persecution because of their faith. He encouraged these new believers to stand strong for God, to not give in to despair but to be an ongoing witness to God's love and grace. Paul did not just preach this message, he lived this message when he was unjustly arrested, beaten without a trial, and thrown into the Philippian jail. At midnight, he and Silas were praying and singing hymns of praise to God. (Acts 16:25)

During these challenging times, as followers of Christ, we need to

continue to stand up, to rejoice and give thanks to God, to let the world know that the powers of darkness and death do not have the last word. As followers of Christ, we are a people of hope, light of God's light. We know that even in our darkest moment, God is with us, always! Let us give thanks, let us rejoice, let us be God's light to shatter and break through the darkness of this world, and to usher in God's kingdom on earth, to bring about hope, peace, and justice in our land.

**Rejoice.
Pray.
Give thanks.
Repeat.**

Peace,

Phil

THE CHRISTIAN COMMUNITY

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Ecumenical Congregations
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International Council of Community Churches

***"As people devoted to
following Christ we are
committed to community,
to treasuring diversity,
to living our faith in
service and love."***

2020 ICCC



Book REVIEW

By Rev. Kenneth N. Nelson

Thanksgiving 2020



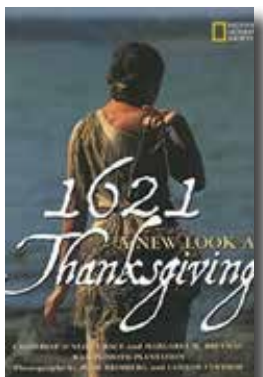
What are you thankful for this year? For many of us, just being alive will be enough for this year and the coming year. Recently I made a new friend from the Navajo Nation. After our meeting, I started rethinking the meaning of our traditional thanksgiving. What if, we looked at thanksgiving from the themes of more diverse people. Somewhere in our thanksgiving conversations this year, we will be caught between old and emerging traditions. So, let us consider some things we can discuss over the thanksgiving weekend that we will, perhaps, enhance our lives together.



Giving Thanks: A Native American Good Morning Message by Chief Jake Swamp, Lee & Low Booksamazon.com, **\$10.61**

Many of us will have a moment during our thanksgiving celebration to pause and reflect upon the moment. *Giving Thanks: A Native American Good Morning Message* seems to be an excellent book for adults and children who seek to celebrate the Earth and those living to preserve nature. This book

is a combination of words and illustrations that stirs the soul. The hidden treasure of this book are the words in this address and illustrations that offer a deeper meaning for life.



1621: A New Look at Thanksgiving by Catherine O'Neill Grace National Geographic Children's Booksamazon.com **\$7.38**

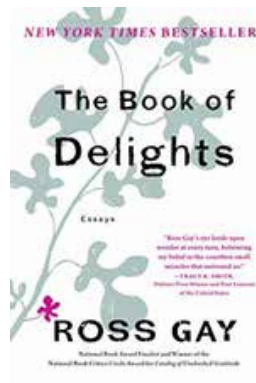
Countering the prevailing, traditional story of the first Thanksgiving, with its black-hatted, silver-buckled Pilgrims; blanket-clad, be-feathered Indians; cranberry sauce; pumpkin pie; and turkey, this lushly illustrated photo-essay presents a more measured, balanced, and historically accurate version of

the three-day harvest celebration in 1621 (good reads). *1621: A New Look* invites us to look at our history in more realistic terms. The photo essay may provide us with different lens to see and be thankful today and in the coming years.



We Are Grateful: Otsaliheliga by Traci Sorrell, amazon.com, **\$14.49**

Introduce a new word into your child's vocabulary: Otsaliheliga, used by members of the Cherokee Nation to express their gratitude. "It is a reminder to celebrate our blessings and reflect on struggles—daily, throughout the year, and across the seasons," Traci Sorell, a member of the Cherokee Nation, writes in the book for young readers. (The Oprah Magazine)



The Book of Delights by Ross Gay, Algonquin Booksamazon.com, **\$18.29**

Ross Gay's *The Book of Delights* is a genre-defying book of essays—some as short as a paragraph; some as long as five pages—that record the small joys that occurred in one year, from birthday to birthday, and that we often overlook in our busy lives. His is a meditation on delight that takes a clear-eyed view of the complexities, even the terrors, in

his life, including living in America as a black man; the ecological and psychic violence of our consumer culture; the loss of those he loves. Among Gay's funny, poetic, philosophical delights: the way Botan Rice Candy wrappers melt in your mouth, the volunteer crossing guard with a pronounced tremor whom he imagines as a kind of boat-woman escorting pedestrians across the River Styx, a friend's unabashed use of air quotes, pickup basketball games, the silent nod of acknowledgment between black people. And more than any other subject, Gay celebrates the beauty of the natural world—his garden, the flowers in the sidewalk, the birds, the bees, the mushrooms, the trees. (good reads)

SHARE YOUR COMMENTS. Thank you for sharing your comments. There are encouraging to our discussion. Remember, please share your thoughts at ICCCNOW@sbcglobal.net by the end of the month. And let us know if we have your permission to quote or paraphrase your comments. Thank you for your feedback and have a blessed month!

Sharing Joys With:

- **Rev. Douglas Cederberg, Greendale People's Church, MA**, who recently began as their Transitional Pastor. Welcome!
- **Rev. Bill Ireland**, the new Senior Pastor at **Norris Religious Fellowship, TN**. Congratulations!

Let Us Lift Up Prayers for:

- **The family of Rev. Bob Puckett**. Bob passed away September 28th. His memorial service was held on October 22nd.
- **Rev. Carter Garner, Park Road Community Church, DC** who is undergoing serious health issues related to his inability to maintain his equilibrium.
- **Roberta Smith, ICCC VP for Financial Planning**, who is suffering with vertigo.
- **ICCC Chaplain Conner Simms**, who is currently deployed overseas with the U.S. Air Force and will be through February.
- **Ron and Lonnie Miller, Wilson Memorial Union Church, NJ**. Ron still lives day to day with increasing cognitive deficits from dementia. Lonnie has recently been diagnosed with follicular lymphoma. Although the cancer will be a part of her life going forward, it is manageable and treatable and should not impede her quality of life for the foreseeable future. If you'd like to reach out to them, do so by email or snail mail only.
- Please continue to keep the following in your prayers as they face health challenges:

Rev. Dr. Sharyon Cosey, ICCC Regional Trustee

Christ Fooockle, son of ICCC President Harry Fooockle

Mike Donahue, ICCC VP for Informational and Outreach Services

Rev. Dr. Stephen York, ICCC Clergy in Special Standing

Mrs. Elaine McCreary, People's Community Church, OH.



Associate Pastor

The Church at Litchfield Park, a historic and dynamic independent community church located in a beautiful resort community west of Phoenix, is searching for an Associate Pastor to join our wonderful staff.

Preferred qualifications include having a theological degree from an accredited institution, being ordained in a recognized Christian denomination, and having a servant's heart, manifested in the pastoral gifts.

Specific areas of ministry will include small groups, fellowship, missions, visitation, counseling & support, some teaching, and occasional preaching.

CLP is a progressive church that "strives to love and serve ALL people through Christ".

Qualified candidates should e-mail a resume and cover letter to: personnel-chair@clp.church with Associate Pastor in the subject line. Visit the ICCC website www.icccnow.org/careers/ for the entire job description.

Senior Minister

The Historic People's Community Church (PCC) fosters a tradition of being a singing, praying, tithing, teaching, serving, and loving church, and is guided by one of its golden text 'I am come that they might have life and that they may have it more abundantly.' – John 10:10.

This Historic Church, a member of the International Council of Community Churches (ICCC) and located in the vibrant city of Detroit, Michigan is currently seeking an experienced Senior Minister to be the Spiritual Leader of its Congregation.

The Senior Minister is responsible for leading and moving the Congregation toward the fulfillment of God's mission for PCC. The Senior Minister will have an unwavering faith and a firm relationship with Jesus Christ and is dedicated to cultivating others in Christ.

For complete information visit <http://www.icccnow.org/careers/> or contact People's Community Church office (313) 871-4676.

*Whom shall I send,
and who will go for us?
And I said, "Here am I, send me!"*

Is 6:8

This is the focus and theme for our 2021 Annual Conference at the Embassy Suites Hotel in Dublin, OH. And our response should be, "Here we are, Lord; send us!"



Our Planning Committee is working diligently to plan and prepare another great conference for you. We're doing our best, given the current COVID challenges, to work around current restrictions and try to predict what limitations we may have to address in order to coordinate wonderful worship and workshop presentations for you.

As you can imagine, all of our plans are fairly fluid and uncertain. But at least we have a basic format, and are putting together what details we can address at this time.

We have a great Bible Study leader in Dr William Payne from Ashland University. A gifted pastor and professor, he has also spent almost 30 years as a Navy and Marine Corps chaplain, providing him with ministry opportunities around the world including Iraq, Panama, and Okinawa.

He developed and directs the chaplaincy degree program and is professor of evangelism and missions at Ashland Theological Seminary in Ohio. He will certainly inspire and challenge us to answer God's call (Whom shall we send, and who will go for us?) and respond to God's direction for our churches and our lives.

We also anticipate bringing the intergenerational mission opportunity to you with a Rise Against Hunger group event. We had this originally planned for our 2020 annual conference, and the Hunger Relief Committee is working to bring it to us next year.

We look forward to a great learning and growth opportunity next summer. We have no idea what next year will be like (who could have imagined what 2020 brought!). But we certainly know that we want to put this year behind us. You can be assured that the Planning Committee is putting together a great program we can look forward to; one that will challenge and change you.

See you in Dublin, OH.
Jerry Brown,
VP Planning



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<https://www.icccnow.org/donate/>

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- 1) You can now donate via PayPal!
- 2) By Mail: Send a check or money order to the ICCC, 21116 Washington Pkwy, Frankfort, IL 60423.
- 3) Visit our website to process a credit card contribution online.
- 4) Send a text to 815-506-9017 with the amount you would like to contribute. Make sure to include the dollar sign before the amount. Example: \$25. Within a few minutes, you'll be sent a text with a link to register. Click on the link and enter your cardholder name and credit or debit card information. Once your registration is complete, you will receive a text verification and a receipt via email.
- 5) Scan the QR barcode image with your smartphone
- 6) Call the office at 815-464-5690 and provide your credit card number and contribution amount.
- 7) You can now shop at Amazon, where .5% of your purchase price will be donated to the ICCC by the AmazonSmile Foundation.
- 8) You can now download the Give + app on your smartphone, and contribute to the ICCC in one easy step. Visit your app store for Give Plus Church and download today!

Your contribution will help the General Fund, which supports our shared ministry, if not otherwise noted. All donations are outright contributions to a religious organization incorporated under the laws of Ohio and Illinois and are legitimate tax deductions. Please retain a record of your contribution and, as specified by the IRS, no goods or services were provided in exchange for this contribution.