

A Word From The Pastor

“For God so loved the world, that he *gave* his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life.”

– John 3:16

I have been pondering the *gift* of Christ to the world lately. It seems incredible to me that God so loved the world enough to give such a tremendous gift.

The Word says that God *gave*. . . The word gave literally means to give a *gift* or a *present* to someone. It reminds me very much of Christmas when we give to one another gifts or presents. In this instance, however, it is God who does the giving. It is God who makes the sacrifice to obtain the gift and send it special delivery to the world.

God gave this gift because He *loved* the world – which in itself seems inconceivable. Think of it – God loving a world that did not love Him, and in many cases wanted nothing to do with Him. And yet He loved the world anyway. Still today many want nothing to do with God. Even at this time of year, they do not want to hear Christmas carols, nor do they want to hear of God’s love—no, they are satisfied to feed off of the things God made for us rather than God Himself. They desire to make this great act of love that we celebrate at Christmas into a secular event revolving around Santa and gifts.

And yet God sent this gift into the world as a remedy for our sin and death. Indeed, the Word says that “whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life.” Whether we realize it or not, we are perishing, and we live in a world that is perishing. All we need do is look around us and see the leaves falling from the trees, or our lawns turning brown. We can easily be reminded of friends and family who are no longer with us. Why? Because we are perishing! Nevertheless, God sent his only begotten Son into this world to give us eternal life!

The purpose of the gift . . . the purpose of the giving is *eternal life*! Imagine if you can, humanity no longer fearing disease, old age, or death. There is no need to fear for when we believe in the Son, we have eternal life. And whatever else eternal life may mean, it certainly means liberation from these things that hold us in the clutches of fear. We have been liberated to live life at its fullest through the One who came to set us free.

Certainly God has given us the most valuable present that every existed. No, it isn’t the Pink Star diamond sold recently for 80 million dollars. Nor is it Pablo Picasso’s *Les Femmes d’Alger* which broke the record for the most expensive painting ever sold at an auction. No, the most valuable gift in the world is the unique Son of God!

Dr. James L. Fleming

ANNOUNCEMENTS

HANGING OF THE GREENS

Come and help decorate the church for the Christmas season on Saturday, December 2, at 10:00 a.m.

OCALA HARMONY

The Ocala Harmony Chorus will be performing during our morning service on Sunday, December 3.

CAPTAIN MIKE’S RIVER CRUISE

Take a cruise down the Withlacoochee River on Thursday, December 7, at 12:00 noon. Cost is \$20 per person. Sign up in the narthex.

CHRISTMAS POINSETTIAS

Joy to the world! The Lord is come. Let us rejoice by purchasing a poinsettia to decorate our sanctuary for the holidays. Cost is \$5. Last day to place your order is Sunday, Dec. 10. See Juanita Torres for more info.

ANGEL TREE

If you are participating in the Angel Tree, please return your wrapped gifts, tied together with the angel tag, by Sunday, December 10. Limit 3 gifts per child. See Irene Rogers for more information.

**COLLEGE PARK
CHURCH OF GOD**

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You can also find us on Facebook

OUR MINISTRY TEAM

Senior Pastor

Dr. James L. Fleming

Children's Director

Vanessa Small

Youth Director

Clay Parton

Music Director

Tambry Green

OUR SUNDAY SERVICES

10:00 a.m. - Sunday School

11:00 a.m. - Worship Service

WEEKLY ACTIVITIES

Tuesdays

1:00 p.m. - Small Group

Wednesdays

5:30 p.m. - Worship Practice

6:30 p.m. - Pastor's Bible Study

Thursdays

6:30 p.m. - Youth Group

MONTHLY ACTIVITIES

First Tuesday - December 5

Prayer Group at 10 a.m.

Last Sunday - December 31

Food Drive Collection

OFFICE HOURS

Tuesday, Thursday, and Friday

9:00 a.m. to 3:00/4:00 p.m.



ANNOUNCEMENTS

HAPPY BIRTHDAY, JESUS, PARTY

Children 5th grade and under are invited to a birthday party for Jesus on Sunday, December 10, from 10:00 a.m. until 12 noon. Contact Vanessa Small for more info.

WOMEN'S CHRISTMAS PARTY

Our annual Women's Christmas Party will be Saturday, December 16, at 12:30 p.m. at Olive Garden. All women are invited to attend and are urged to bring a wrapped Christmas ornament. Secret Sisters will be revealed, and forms for 2018 will be handed out. Please sign up in the narthex if you plan to attend.

CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICE

Join us for our Christmas Eve Service on Sunday, December 24, at 6:00 p.m.

DONATIONS FOR SALVATION ARMY

The Women's Ministry is collecting plastic grocery bags for the homeless mats they are crocheting to give to the Salvation Army. They also need men's and women's toiletries. There is a box in the foyer for these items. See Irene Rogers for more info.

DONATIONS FOR KIMBERLY'S CENTER

The Women's Ministry is continuing their mission to help Kimberly's Center by collecting items such as diapers, panties, art supplies, notebooks, pens, toys, etc. There is a box in the foyer to collect these items. See Irene Rogers for more info.

TUESDAY SMALL GROUP

Everyone is invited to a weekly Bible study on Tuesdays from 1-3 p.m. at the Clemmings' home. Pastor Fleming leads us as we review the previous Sunday's sermon. Small Group cancelled on December 26.

PASTOR'S WEDNESDAY BIBLE STUDY

Pastor Jim's Bible study meets Wednesdays at 6:30 p.m. They have started a series on the book of Galatians. You are welcome to join the class any time. For those who do not have books, lesson can be picked up ahead of time in the narthex. Bible Study cancelled on December 27.

YOUTH GROUP (GRADES 6-12)

The youth group meets Thursdays at 6:30 p.m. If you are willing to provide a meal for the youth, please see Clay Parton.

Happy Birthday!

- 01 - Harvey Radford
- 02 - Ryan Lee
- 04 - Amanda Pfeffer
- 05 - Peggy Damsma
- 05 - Bernadette Toan
- 07 - Irene Rogers
- 07 - Denise Skinner
- 09 - Bryce Weller
- 12 - Gail Fleming
- 21 - Donna Highness
- 25 - Jackie Cook
- 25 - Fred Skinner
- 28 - Matthew Mitchell
- 30 - Donna Smith

Happy Anniversary!

- 03 - Ted & Susan Owenby
- 15 - Basil & Althea Clemmings
- 29 - Werner & Grace Edwards



If you would like your birthday or anniversary added to this list, please contact the church office.



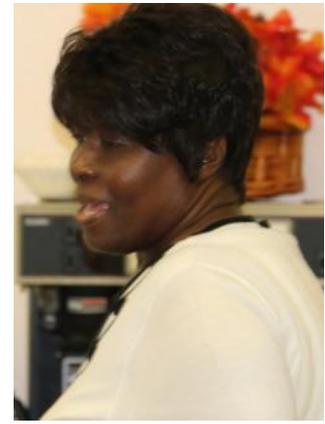
Thanksgiving Dinner

Sunday, November 19, 2017



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