



### **Give Thanks In All Circumstances**

#### **In the Presence of Our Enemy**

Have you ever noticed how many times the Psalms say something about some kind of adversary? The word “enemy” seems to show up time and time again. It is important to remember that when something repeats in the Bible, it is often because the author is trying to tell us that this is something important.

Most of the Psalms are attributed to David, and he was certainly a person who had a lot of enemies. David was the warrior, the conqueror, the defender. When I think what David must have been singing about, I think of Philistines and Moabites. David also had enemies from within the Kingdom of Israel. I think of David’s long enmity with Saul, and then later the war he fought with his own son, Absalom.

When we think of who “the enemy” is in the Psalms, I am sure that these are the sort of people that David had in mind. However, we know that poetry can often have more than just its literal meaning. When we read or sing the Psalms, it evokes imagery beyond some long-dead people groups or the Biblical characters of old.

When I read the Psalms in 2020, I see the enemy not as an army or a political rival, but I see the more existential enemy of Coronavirus. That is the enemy that is foremost on my mind today. So when I read Psalm 23 where it says, “You prepare a table before me / in the presence of my enemies; / you anoint my head with oil; / my cup overflows,” I think of God’s care for us in the presence of Coronavirus.

Thanksgiving is soon approaching, and it promises to be a very “2020” Thanksgiving. No doubt for most of us it will be like no Thanksgiving we have ever celebrated before. As we sit down to eat at our much smaller tables this year, remember that the table is prepared in the presence of our enemy. God anoints, our cups overflow. God is with us, even as the enemy surrounds us. And the enemy will not be victorious.

So let us all keep up the good fight against this enemy. Let us all do our part in the war against Coronavirus. Let us not give in to anxiety or disappointment as many of our holiday traditions are disrupted. Instead let us remember the words of David: “Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me / all the days of my life, / and I shall dwell in the house of the LORD / my whole life long.”



**KidZone News**  
**ATTENTION:**  
**KIDZONE KIDS**

We need your help!!  
Plan to come to to  
our "KIDS AFTER-  
NOON OUT" next

Sunday, November 22nd from 1pm to 4pm at the Caleb House. We will be working on some crafts for our Holiday Craft fundraiser. Once again, we are planning to fill Christmas stockings for kids at Sand Springs Community Services. We will need to wear masks and follow safety guidelines. We need to know how many plan to attend. Please have your parents call/text Marty at 918-760-9947 or Debbie at 918-629-6546. We already have heard from some parents. We hope that you can make it next Sunday- we have missed seeing all of you!!

Ms. Debbie & Ms. Marty

**KIDZONE**  
**HOLIDAY CRAFT FUNDRAISER**

**WHEN:** FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 27th  
10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.  
SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 28th  
10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.

**WHERE:** THE WELL ( FAMILY LIFE CENTER)

***Masks required- all safety guidelines followed.***



**TITHES & OFFERINGS...**

Mail your checks to SSUMC, 319 N. Main St., Sand Springs, OK 74063 or give online at: <https://sandspringsumc.org/> Click on the "Giving" link in the top right hand corner and fill out the information and click "Continue."

You can donate to several funds online including Robyn Coney's mission.

**"The Prayer Box"**

June Brown, Philip Comer, Maureen Gibson, Sylvia Johnson, Ralph Rand, Martha Scudder, Betty & Linda Lund, Wava Burt, Ralph Ward, Gordonna Fisher, Harry Alford, Jim & Vi McAllister, Barbara McClintock, Montie & Betty Box, Bruce Warren,  
Prayer Chains And Unspoken Requests  
*I spoke with Martha on the phone last week and she sends her love. She is very hard to understand but we did just fine. -TG*

It is time once again to start thinking about Thanksgiving! This year is going to be a little different than years past, what with the pandemic and all, but we still want to be able to serve and love our neighbors.

**This year we are going to primarily need help with deliveries.** We are planning on delivering in more of a Doordash/Grubhub kind of style, leaving the food on the porch rather than handing the food over directly. If you or your parishioners at your churches would like to help us with deliveries, please come to The Well (101 W. 38th St.) at 10 AM. Please do not come into the building unless asked to do so. We are going to try to limit the number of people inside the building and do as much as we can outside. Please bring a mask and practice safe social distancing procedures. We will hand off the food and give you instructions on where to deliver.

If you would like to drop off food, please do so at the same location on the day before Thanksgiving between 9 AM and 6 PM. We are going to try to have as much as the food as possible cooked by our restaurant partners for added safety, but as usual we are going to need pies. **Pre-packaged store-bought pies will be our preference this year**, again, for the sake of being as safe as possible.

THANK YOU THANK YOU THANK YOU for your help this year. We would not be able to do this project without your help. It is a wonderful blessing to be a blessing to others on Thanksgiving, and particularly *this* Thanksgiving which promises to be more difficult than usual for so many.