

The Reverend's Ruminations - November 2021

Well, here we are, “falling” toward another page on the calendar—one that is always full of changing temperatures, changing scenery, and sometimes even a change in life focus. We have fewer “snowbirds” among our congregation than in years past, but have you found yourself changing your daily activities as the days have grown shorter? Are you staying indoors more often or watching more TV? Have you begun craving the flavors of fall, like chili or roasted meats and root vegetables? What... did you think I meant pumpkin spice everything?!?

It's amazing how changing temperatures and amounts of daylight can influence our mental attitudes and even our physical health. Having holidays to celebrate and additional activities to attend during the winter months can be helpful, even if the weather sometimes influences our plans. If the warmer months kept you travelling or otherwise occupied, I hope that you'll take the opportunity of the approaching winter season to get involved in a church activity that can be a blessing to your soul. Before you know it, we'll be decorating the sanctuary, packing boxes for *Operation Christmas Child*, building gingerbread houses, and practicing for the children's Christmas program. Maybe you could volunteer some time to help make these a success? There is an ongoing monthly women's Bible study if you haven't gotten involved yet, and I'd like to start a monthly men's breakfast devotional in the new year. If you have other ideas for activities that reach members or the broader community with similar schedules or interests, please let me know!



Thanksgiving is of course the next waypoint on many peoples' minds, and while not every family's celebration will yet be back to “normal” because of the ongoing pandemic, I pray that you can find much to be thankful for in 2021.

I am particularly thankful to say that, as of the first of November, I've been your pastor now for five years! Where have those months and years gone?

We've encountered many ups and downs together, but to my recollection the “ups” have far outnumbered the “downs.” We've celebrated the big sesquicentennial of Congregational ministry in Fairmont, baptized and confirmed several young members, enjoyed fall festival and other potluck meals, hosted vacation Bible school, reinvigorated our Sunday School programs, and celebrated both weddings and funerals for members of our church family. These are not my achievements, but yours as a congregation; I'm just happy to say that I am a part of all the hard work and the resulting ministry that is continuing to better our community and advance the cause of Christ in a world longing for hope. Perhaps our thankfulness is best expressed by the Psalmist:

“Praise the Lord! I will thank the Lord with all my heart as I meet with his godly people. How amazing are the deeds of the Lord! All who delight in him should ponder them. Everything he does reveals his glory and majesty. His righteousness never fails. He causes us to remember his wonderful works. How gracious and merciful is our Lord!” (Psalm 111:1-4, New Living Translation)

As the leaves disappear and something whiter inevitably threatens to fall, I pray that you feel yourself wrapped in the warmth of God's everlasting presence!

Yours in Christ,

Rev. Cory Germain