

## **Kevin's Korner**

Thank God! That is the main thing I want to say as we prepare to enter what I call the Season of Gratitude, or the Season of Thanksgiving. Oh, I'm also grateful for a little Halloween candy, especially Peanut Butter Cups. But today I'm just grateful for warm clothes and warm house, a warm office as I write, hot coffee in the morning. And I'm grateful for love; the love of God, the love of Shannon, my family, our puppy (tentatively) – Sprite, certainly this loving congregation and my friends near and far. I'm also grateful that I don't have to worry about what my family and I will eat in November and beyond. I'm grateful for the Community Food Bank and the Food Bank of the Rockies, both of which have been feeding thousands of people who otherwise would be worrying about what their families would eat.

And, unfortunately, right now it looks like hundreds of thousands of people will be added to that number of people worrying about having enough to eat, for themselves and for their families, including children who have been receiving meals at school. I continue to try my best to remain non-partisan in this divisive world we live in. And I can do so as I criticize all of our congressmen and women and all of our senators who together are holding hostage all of these needy people and families in order to further their political agendas. I'll not judge those agendas today. I will only judge our American society that allows this to happen and continue, especially going into the holiday season. I am not grateful for our present political situation!

But I am grateful that I have choices in how I respond. Shannon and I have a Christmas tradition of not giving gifts to family members who don't need anything we can give them. Instead, for years, we have given gifts to mission that we have given in their names. We're not the first to do this. But at this particular time in America and around the world, where there is so much need, while many of us are privileged to have plenty and more; this would be a great time for all of us to consider ways that we can make life a little bit better for someone else. None of us has Bill Gate's resources to lift up communities and maybe even nations. But each of us can lift up someone a little bit.

Shannon and I have preferred supporting the ministry of Week of Compassion. They are our Disciple's Emergency Kit, which responds to critical needs quickly, often within 24 hours of a disaster. And they help individuals as well as communities. We're talking about setting up an ongoing donation to the Community Food Bank or Food Bank of the Rockies, or both. These are amazing organizations that meet people where they are most vulnerable, individually, through schools and other organizations – like our Street Ministry, and on a larger scale – like Meals on Wheels for seniors.

There are many different organizations, including our own First Christian Church Love Fund. I do hope you will continue your support for our church and ministries and even consider increasing your support. It makes a difference in people's lives. But I hope that this year, during the holiday season and beyond, that you will find another way of reaching out with your blessings to meet the needs of someone else. Jesus has given us the example of recognizing no one as a stranger beyond his love and healing care. Our church has done the same in many ways, locally, regionally and as a denomination. Elderly and children have been a special focus for many years. The unhoused have been our local focus for some time. We have made a difference (Thanks Bruce and others!). We are invited to follow Jesus' example and "be Jesus" for someone in need. I hope you will pray about this and consider making a difference from now on. If you need further ideas, please contact me, Bruce, the Outreach Ministry, or the church office.

I am grateful for your consideration in reading this!

Blessings,

*Pastor Kevin*