

REV. JIM'S THOUGHTS AND PRAYERS

November 2017



Dear Friends,

As Thanksgiving fast approaches and Christmas is just around the corner... I find myself asking... where did the year go? Looking back since last Thanksgiving I'm thankful so for all of the wonderful blessings God has given me. I'm reminded of the chorus of an old hymn I heard as a child, "Count Your Many Blessings":

Count your blessings, name them one by one,
Count your blessings, see what God has done!
Count your blessings, name them one by one,
Count your many blessings, see what God has done.
And it will surprise you what the Lord has done.

Here's a short list of my blessings. As you read them, I hope you'll think of your blessings.

- I'm blessed to have a wonderful and loving Mom, sister and son. I'm able to talk with them each day. I've also been blessed with so many other family members who've gone on to heaven and I look forward to being with them again.
- I'm blessed to be a part of our loving, caring church families. As the pastor of our churches I meet so many amazing people and I'm invited to be a part of your lives in wonderful ways.
- I'm blessed to live in the United States of America, the greatest country on earth. I realize I often take for granted the freedom to worship God that people in other countries must risk their lives to enjoy.
- I appreciate how I'm blessed to know about God's love and have the gift of Eternal Life that comes from my relationship with Jesus. I realize my awareness of God's love is a gift I received because so many people shared the story of His love and invited me to be a part of church families that surrounded me with Christian love. As a child growing up in in the church I received the gifts of time, talent, resources and compassionate love from so many wonderful caring people.

How about you, When you stop and "count your blessings", what and who comes to mind for you?

As Thanksgiving approaches, I hope each of us will pause and "count our blessings and give God thanks!" May we all hear God's call to be a part of our loving, caring church family and continue the tradition of sharing the story of God's love. I'm looking forward to seeing you in Church!

Love and Prayers,
Pastor Jim