

West Side Weekly Special Edition

November 29, 2020

Last week
giving total
\$12,623

In person
attendance
126

Online
views
134

To help mitigate health risks, this week's service has been moved to virtual only.

**There will be no in-person service at the building. We'll stream our service LIVE at 10am on our Facebook and YouTube pages!
We'd love for you to tune in!!**

DIOS LE BENDIGA! (GOD BLESS YOU)

ARIS ORTIZ

QUE DIOS LE BENDIGA MI FAMILIA DE LA FE!

(MAY GOD BLESS YOU MY FAMILY OF THE FAITH)

HOPING YOU WILL HAVE A BLESSED TIME WITH ALL YOUR FAMILY.

FROM THE HISPANIC FAMILY! HAPPY THANKSGIVING TIME!

Leftover Thankfulness by Tim Tripp

After Thanksgiving there are generally leftovers that must be consumed. Some look at leftovers as blessings and others as a chore. What is the difference?

This year has been one that has made it difficult to find things for which to be thankful. The pandemic, hurricanes, tornadoes, wildfires, the election and murder hornets (whatever happened to those?) have all made it difficult to focus on anything positive. When you sat at your Thanksgiving table it might have been difficult not to think in terms of what you do not have. Maybe there were family members who could not come because of the pandemic. Maybe you and your family experienced a loss and the place that person occupied was empty this year. Maybe the misfortunes of 2020 left you with financial trouble or issues in relationships. Perhaps your health or the health of a loved one has declined since the beginning of the year.

Those are all difficult things that would be heartbreaking for anyone having to endure them. However, when the Bible directs Christians to be thankful, it is speaking of a spirit of thankfulness that endures regardless of our circumstances. This kind of thankfulness is the remedy for the blues that set in when misfortune (even a whole year of it) happens. This kind of thankfulness is a mindset, a way of thinking that refuses to give into negativity and painful circumstances. It is the mindset that in a pandemic enables us to be thankful we live during a time when vaccines can be made to address it, in financial or health crises is thankful for God who takes care of his children, in loss is thankful for the hope that we will one day be reunited with those who have gone before us.

The Psalmist says it this way, *"Why, my soul, are you downcast? Why so disturbed within me? Put your hope in God, for I will yet praise him, my Savior and my God."* (Psalm 42:11). He instructed his soul to hope in God and to praise him. Being thankful in the midst of difficulties is a characteristic of a mature Christian, rising above the storm to be thankful.

The difference in how we look at leftovers might be this. One person sees leftovers as something they have to get rid of so as not to be wasteful. Others might view them as a blessing of living in a place and time where food is abundant and they never have to go hungry. Thankfulness is not a response to getting what you want but being determined to be thankful for what you have.

For Prayer

- **Charles May** is currently hospitalized with Sepsis and is in critical condition. He is making some improvements. Please pray for complete healing.
- **Inez Selby** has been hospitalized with double pneumonia and low blood count. Please pray for a rapid and complete recovery.
- **Eli Thomas** was recently hospitalized to treat extensive blood clots in his arm. Please continue to pray for more answers and effective solutions.
- **Ann Humphreys** remains in the hospital at Dardanelle for evaluation and treatment. Please continue to pray for overall improvement.

Others with ongoing concerns

Niles Raines – leukemia
John Allen – hospice care
Ken Young – Covid -19
Holmes and Allen families