

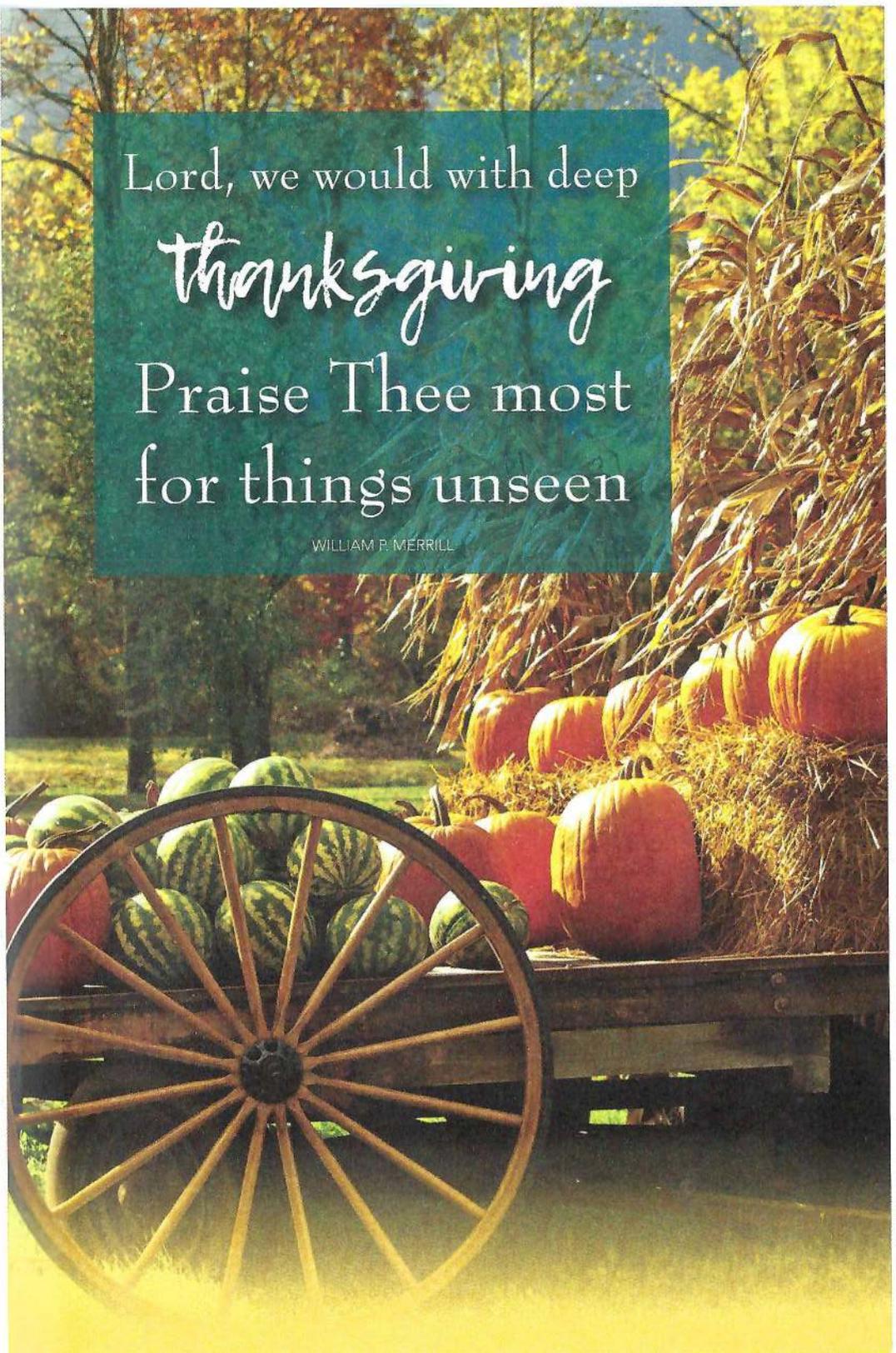
I AM GRATEFUL A DAY IS SET ASIDE EACH YEAR as a national day of Thanksgiving. But even if it were not, as Christians we are exhorted from Scripture to live in a spirit of thankfulness. The Apostle Paul wrote in his letter to Christians in Colosse, “As ye have therefore received Christ Jesus the Lord, so walk ye in him: Rooted and built up in him, and stablished in the faith . . . abounding therein with thanksgiving” (Colossians 2:6–7). Even though his letter was written almost 2,000 years ago, it is God’s Word and is just as important today.

The call to set aside a special day of thankfulness contrasts sharply with the fact that less and less gratitude is being expressed these days. One of the saddest scriptures in the Bible is a stern warning given to those living in what the Bible calls the “last days.” Paul warned the young pastor Timothy, “In the last days perilous times shall come. For men shall be lovers of their own selves, covetous, boasters, proud, blasphemers, disobedient to parents, unthankful, unholy . . . lovers of pleasures more than lovers of God; Having a form of godliness, but denying the power thereof” (2 Timothy 3:1–5). Notice that the word “unthankful” is included.

As a teenager, I thought of Thanksgiving as driving 100 miles to my grandparents’ farm to spend time with cousins and eat lots of tasty food, but I’ve since learned real thanksgiving is first of all heartfelt gratitude to God for all the spiritual blessings I receive by faith in Christ. “That ye might walk worthy of the Lord unto all pleasing, being fruitful in every good work, and increasing in the knowledge of God; Strengthened with all might, according to his glorious power, unto all patience and longsuffering with joyfulness; Giving thanks unto the Father, which hath made us meet to be partakers of the inheritance of the saints in light” (Colossians 1:10–12).

Paul J. Twist

Cart of pumpkins ©Debra Miller/Shutterstock • Printed in USA



Lord, we would with deep
thanksgiving
Praise Thee most
for things unseen

WILLIAM P. MERRILL

Covenant Church

3115 N.W. 16th Avenue Gainesville FL 32605

November 20, 2022

Call to Worship

Sounds of Hope

Invocation

Pastor Don Mauldin

Sing Unto the Lord

Hymn # 796 In Thanksgiving

Welcome and Announcements

Recognition of Guests

Mission Moment

Birthdays and Anniversaries

Ron Marks

Worship in Song

Hymn #790 We Gather Together

Offertory Prayer

Craig Alexander

Offertory

Rose Morgan

Sermon: "Why?"

Scripture: I Chronicles 16:34

Pastor Don Mauldin

Hymn of Benediction

Hymn # 170 Give Thanks

Pastor Don Mauldin

352-262-5349

Covenant News

Our ministry for November is SWAG. The Southwest Advocacy Group (SWAG) is a grassroots non-profit organization. Their mission is to address the needs of the community by connecting individuals and families to services and resources through advocacy and partnerships with agencies and community partners.

Mark Your Calendar

Covenant Thanksgiving Dinner

Tonight at 5:00 p.m.

We provide the turkey and dressing,
you bring your favorite sides.

Covenant Business Meeting

December 11, 2022, after the church service.

In Everything Give Thanks

For all that God in mercy sends
For health and children, home and friends;
For comfort in the time of need,
For every kindly word and deed,
For happy talks and holy thoughts;
For guidance in our daily walk
In everything give thanks!
For beauty in this world of ours,
For verdant grass and lovely flowers,
For song of birds, for hum of bees,
For the refreshing summer breeze,
For hill and plain, for streams and wood,
For the great ocean's mighty flood
In everything give thanks!