



## FIRST CHURCH MINISTRY TEAMS

**Worship** – Worship is central to our life as Christians as we **Live in Gratitude**. The Worship Team provides the best environment for disciples to enter into personal and corporate worship. Includes: ushers, acolytes, weddings, funerals, seasonal events, music, altar guild, children’s church, communion stewards, baptisms, and healing services.

**Hospitality** -- offer the love of Christ to our guests and welcome them in such a way that they would be transform from strangers into friends.

**Mission** -- Being mission-driven means that we **Love by Serving**. We believe that every member is "sent" to share. Mission is participative rather than simply representative. At FUMC, we want missions to be the essence of the church rather than the expression of the church.

**Visitation** -- a spiritually gifted group of volunteer caregivers who connect shut-ins with the Body of Christ. Caregivers provide visitations, greeting cards, phone calls and prayer.

**Children** -- partner with parents and the church family to lay a biblical foundation upon which children can build their lives in Christ.

**Youth** -- provide a safe welcoming environment for youth to come to a transforming relationship with God, accept God’s purpose for their lives, serve others with gratitude, and grow as disciples of Jesus Christ.

**Adult** -- encourage greater discipleship through all stages of life

**Prayer** – encourage greater participation in prayer so that First Church will become a house of prayer. [Matthew 21:13]



## Thanks Living

Let us remember that, as much has been given us, much will be expected from us, and that true homage comes from the heart as well as from the lips, and shows itself in deeds. ~T. Roosevelt

Thou hast given so much to me,  
Give one thing more, - a grateful heart;  
Not thankful when it pleaseth me,  
As if Thy blessings had spare days,  
But such a heart whose pulse may be Thy praise.  
~George Herbert

### ▶ Thanksgiving is a time to **think** differently

“On Thanksgiving Day we acknowledge our dependence.” W.J. Bryan

- ✘ Renew our Perspective on the Present
- ✘ Renew our hope in the Future
- ✘ Celebrate the joy of our Past

### ▶ Thanksgiving is a time to check our **ugly filter**

"whatever is true, whatever is noble, whatever is right, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is admirable—if anything is excellent or praiseworthy—**think about such things.**" (v8)

### ▶ Thanksgiving is a time to **affirm** others

“if anything is excellent or praiseworthy —**think about such things**” v9

*The one thing I cannot live without is....*

**Rejoice in the Lord always. I will say it again: Rejoice! Let your gentleness be evident to all. The Lord is near. Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.**

**Finally, brothers, whatever is true, whatever is noble, whatever is right, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is admirable—if anything is excellent or praiseworthy—think about such things. Whatever you have learned or received or heard from me, or seen in me—put it into practice. And the God of peace will be with you. Philippians 4:4-9 (CEV)**

Today's Scripture is Philippians 4:-8 "Thanks-living"

**I. Thanksgiving is a time to think differently.** (Renew your mind)

In Phil 4:4 Paul tells us to have an attitude of thanksgiving. We are to rejoice in the Lord always No matter how dark the circumstances of life may be, it is always possible for the Christian to rejoice in the Lord.

How do you rejoice in the Lord? What does that mean?

How does this work in your everyday life?

Do you think this comes easily and naturally to us?

Why doesn't it? Read John 10:10

**II. Thanksgiving is a time to develop an ugly filter** (new game plan)

Phil 4:6 tell us to be anxious about nothing.

Is it really possible for a Christian not to be "anxious about things"? Why not?

**"What if scenario"**

What is anxiety? (a feeling of apprehension, activated by a threat to something we hold essential)

What are some of the things that make you anxious?

How can we rid ourselves of anxiety?

Discuss the steps in Phil 4:6 and Matt. 6:25 and I Peter 5:7.

In II Corinthians 10:5 we are told to bring all our thoughts into captivity?

What are some of the ways we can do this?

In Phil 4:8 Paul tells us to meditate on positive virtues.

Discuss these virtues and what they mean. True-(Eph 4:25), Noble-(I Cor 8:21), Just (Deut. 16:20), Pure- (Thess 5:22), Lovely (I Cor. 13:4-7), and Good Report (Proverbs 16:24)

### **III. Thanksgiving is a time to affirm others**

How do you affirm others?