

# TEMPLE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

4404 Sykes Road, Millington, TN 38053-8018

(901) 872-1544

D'Leigh Harvell, Pastor



## "TEMPLE TODAY"

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### From the Pastor's Desk

**Be thankful in all circumstances, for this is God's will for you who belong to Christ Jesus. – 1 Thessalonians 5:18 (NLT)**

Have you ever had one of those days when everything that can go wrong does? In our family, we call those days "Alexander Days," after the main character in the children's book, *Alexander and the Terrible, Horrible, Very Bad Day*. When you have an Alexander Day, (and we all have them), you feel like everything is going wrong and there isn't anything you can do about it. At some point during the last few months, I'm quite sure that you've probably had an Alexander Day where everything seems doom and gloom, and where tons of things were going wrong for you, and it just felt like your world was spinning out of control. In moments like those, it is a challenge to get out of bed, let alone be thankful like the above Bible verse encourages us to do.

But here's the deal—God wouldn't tell us to do something that we couldn't do. So, it must be possible to be thankful in all circumstances. But how? As simplistic as it sounds, I think it's just by finding **one small thing** you can thank God for—and then literally thank God for that thing...right then and there. Maybe it's the fact that you didn't have to go hungry at breakfast. Or maybe it's simply the fact that you woke up in that morning. Or maybe it's that you can keep in touch with your family and friends thanks to technology. There's power in finding a small thing to thank God for. As you focus on that small thing, others will come to your mind. The more you focus on the things in life that you can be thankful for, the more thankful you'll become. So, Faith Family, in an effort for us all to be more thankful, this month's calendar includes 30 Days of Gratitude. Each day, something is lifted for us all to pray in thankfulness. I challenge you to choose today to begin living in *eucharisteo*, a constant state of thankfulness; for I believe that as you focus on being thankful, the easier it becomes to be happy.

~Thankful to be in the journey with you—D'Leigh <><

thankful

### VIEW FROM THE PEW

Hello Everyone,

I've been thinking about writing an article for quite some time but did not feel like I had much to say- but here we go. We are all living in a season of confusion right now, but one thing I know is God is not an author of confusion, and he has this season just like he has had every season before and will have every season after this one. I choose to see that it is not COVID that has created this season, but it is Satan himself. We have to continue to believe that God has this, and we have to keep our eyes on Him. I recently purchased a shirt that has the saying "Faith over Fear" on it because that is something I have been saying since this season began. God tells us in Hebrew 11:1, "Now FAITH is confidence in what we hope for and assurance about what we do not see" and that is what I choose to lean on. When church got cancelled at the beginning, I was not happy and I did question D'Leigh about it, because I thought this was a time we needed to fall into church, not be pushed out of church. As time went on, I continued to not like not being in church, but it made me dig deeper into what I believed and search what I wasn't sure about. I have continued to pray for my church and faith family as well as countless others. So, I feel that this season has made my prayer life more intentional and focused. When we finally got to come back to church, it was a sense of peace that finally the doors were open again. I also think this season has taught me to think more before speaking. Going back to what we've all heard before- "You may be the only 'JESUS' anyone ever sees," and I definitely do not want to lead anyone the wrong way. God tells us to "BE STILL" in Psalm 48, and I think that is one of the invaluable lessons of this season. Just remember God takes "ORDINARY" people and uses them to do "EXTRAORDINARY" things. And He does not call the "QUALIFIED;" He qualifies the CALLED! So, all this being said, anytime you see the opportunity to spread "JOY"- please do, to show "Love"- please do, to show "COMPASSION"- please do, to share "JESUS"- please do. ~Written and submitted by Pam Lockhart