



# Elijah Kellogg Church, Congregational

917 Harpswell Neck Rd., Harpswell ME 04079 • 207-833-6026 • [www.elijahkelloggchurch.org](http://www.elijahkelloggchurch.org)

Rev. Mr. Joseph Connolly, Interim Pastor

## ELIJAH KELLOGG CHURCH WORSHIP

November 12, 2023

Twenty-Fourth Sunday after Pentecost

THOUGHTS FOR MEDITATION — “Even when the experts all agree, they may well be mistaken.... Nevertheless the opinion of experts, when it is unanimous, must be accepted by non-experts as more likely to be right than the opposite opinion.” — *Sceptical Essays* by Bertrand Russell

“God is not a Christian, Jew, Muslim, Hindu, or Buddhist. All of those are human systems that human beings have created to try to help us walk into the mystery of God. I honor my tradition, I walk through my tradition, but I don’t think my tradition defines God. I think it only points me to God.” — Bishop John Shelby Spong

“What if kindness was the first measure of faith, not sentimental gestures or self-righteous pious deeds, but a costly tending to the stranger, the other, to a neighbor in need, who is my neighbor simply because another human being needs me. What kind of world would this be?” — Thomas Cahill

Welcome and Announcements

*A Time for Mission* — Blanket Sunday

**Passing of the Peace...**

\* Call to Worship —

ONE: The body is a unit made up of many parts; and though all its parts are many, they form one body.

**MANY: So it is with Christ. For we were all baptized by one Spirit into one body, whether Jews or Greeks, slaves or free. Let us worship God in Spirit and in truth.**

ONE: Blessed are those who dwell in Your house, O God.

**MANY: Blessed are those whose strength is in You.**

**Prayer of Invocation**

\* **HYMN** — *I Sing the Mighty Power of God* INSERT

**A Time for All Ages** —

**Lord’s Prayer (debts and debtors)**

**Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be Thy name. Thy kingdom come; Thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For Thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory forever. Amen.**

## OFFERTORY INVITATION

### \*OFFERING RESPONSE (DOXOLOGY)

*Old One-hundredth*

Praise God from whom all blessings flow;  
Praise Him all creatures here below;  
Praise Him above ye heavenly hosts  
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.

### \*PRAYER OF DEDICATION

## INTRODUCTION TO SCRIPTURE

A READING FROM THE *TANAKH* IN THE SECTION KNOWN AS THE PROPHETS —  
Joshua 24:1-3a, 14-25 [ILV]

[1] ...Joshua gathered all the tribes of Israel at Shechem and summoned the elders, the leaders, the judges, and the officers of Israel. Once they presented themselves before God [2] Joshua said to the whole assembly, “This is the Word of *Yahweh*, the God of Israel:”  
“Long ago your ancestors, including Terah the father of Abraham and Nahor, lived beyond the Euphrates, served and worshiped other gods. [3a] Then I took your ancestors Abraham and Sarah from beyond that river and led them through the entire region of Canaan. I made the descendants of Sarah and Abraham numerous.”

[14] ...Joshua said: “I now call upon you to revere, to serve *Yahweh* completely and with sincerity and faithfulness. Put away, cast off the gods that your ancestors served beyond the Euphrates and in Egypt and serve and worship *Yahweh*, God, alone. [15] Now, if you are unwilling to serve God, if you do not want to worship *Yahweh*, choose on this day, make a decision about whom you will worship, whether it will be the gods your ancestors served and worshiped in the region beyond the Euphrates or the gods of the Amorites in whose land you are dwelling. But as for me and my household, we will serve *Yahweh*, we will worship *Yahweh* Who is our God.”

[16] Then the people answered, “Far be it from us that we should abandon *Yahweh* to serve other gods. It was *Yahweh*, our God, Who brought us and our ancestors out from the land of Egypt, out of the house of slavery. It was *Yahweh*, our God, Who performed those great signs in our sight. It was *Yahweh*, our God, Who protected us along the way, along the entire journey and among all the peoples, through all the lands we passed. It was *Yahweh*, our God, Who drove out before us the Amorites and all the people dwelling in those lands. Therefore we also will serve *Yahweh*, Who is our God.”

[19] But Joshua said to the people, “You will not be able to serve *Yahweh*. *Yahweh* is a God most holy. *Yahweh* is a jealous God. *Yahweh* is a God Who will not forgive your transgressions. [20] If you desert *Yahweh* and serve foreign gods, after all that *Yahweh* has done for you, then you will bring disasters— fatal ones— upon yourselves.”

[21] And the people protested to Joshua, “No! We will serve *Yahweh*!”

[22] Then Joshua said to the people, “You are your own witnesses against yourselves. You have chosen *Yahweh*. You have chosen to serve God.”

And the people said, “Yes. We are witnesses.”

[23] Joshua replied, “Now then, throw away the foreign gods among you and turn your hearts toward *Yahweh*, the God of Israel.”

[24] The assembly then said to Joshua, “We will serve and obey *Yahweh*, our God.”

[25] So on that day, Joshua ratified the covenant with the people and drew up statutes and ordinances for them at Shechem, which were recorded in the book of the Law.

## **SPECIAL MUSIC —**

### **INTRODUCTION TO SCRIPTURE**

#### **A READING FROM THE GOSPELS — Matthew 25:1-13 [ILV]**

{Jesus said} “... the dominion of heaven will be like this. Ten attendants took their lamps and went to meet the wedding party. [2] Five of them were foolish, and five were wise. [3] When the foolish ones took their lamps, they took no oil with them; [4] but the wise ones took flasks of oil with their lamps, enough oil to keep their lamps burning. [5] However, the wedding party was delayed, and all of them became drowsy and fell asleep waiting.”

[6] “At midnight there was a shout, ‘Look! Here comes the wedding party! Come! Let us go out to meet them.’ [7] Then all the attendants got up and trimmed their lamps. [8] The foolish ones said to the wise ones, ‘Give us some of your oil, for our lamps are going out.’ [9] But the wise ones replied, ‘No! There will not be enough for you and for us; you had better go to the dealers and buy some for yourselves.’”

[10] “And while the foolish ones went to buy more oil, the wedding party arrived, and those who were ready went into the wedding banquet with them; and the door was shut. [11] Later, when the foolish attendants returned, they pleaded to be let in. [12] But the doorkeeper replied, ‘Truly I tell you, I do not know you.’ [13] And Jesus then said, ‘Stay awake, for you know neither the day nor the hour.’”

\* **HYMN** — *Watchman, Tell Us of the Night*      INSERT

SERMON — *Other gods*

**Piano Meditation —**

**Prayers of the People -**

SILENCE

\* **HYMN** — *Let the Whole Creation Cry*      INSERT, v. 1, 2

**BENEDICTION**

**CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE** — *Let the Whole Creation Cry* INSERT, v. 3

**Postlude**

Harpswell Community Radio – WHPW 97.3 FM

Harpswell Community Television – Channel 14

<https://vimeo.com/showcase/7960701>

Serving you this morning:	
Interim Minister	Rev. Mr. Joseph Connolly
Pianist	Elizabeth Cromwell
Reader	Ralph Davies
Ushers	Ken Chutchian & Carol Coultas
Coffee Hour	Robin Dwyer

## **Pastor's Office Hours**

**Office hours for the week of November 13 – November 17**

Monday, November 6<sup>th</sup> from 9:00 - 11:00.

**The Bible Study passage for Monday November 13<sup>th</sup> at 11:00 a.m. is:**

Joshua 24:1-3a, 14-25.



*The flowers in church are given by Bill & Kay Hunter in memory of and in honor of  
all veterans with sincere thanks for their service!*



*Win and Linda Gillis are happy to announce the birth of their first great-grandchild,  
Alden Finley Towle.*

## **Wanted \*\* Advertising Person**

After a couple of years of doing the advertising for church events, activities and suppers, I am ready to pass the baton to someone else. I have completed the ad for our upcoming Christmas Services with the Anchor, and will be ready to work with someone to start off the New Year! Please contact me if you are interested, and I have good notes to pass along to our new person.

Thank you,  
Carrie Bubier

## **Fellowship Hour**

Please join us for Fellowship following today's service in Fellowship Hall.

Fellowship Hour is a great way to get to visit with people. Hospitality needs your help hosting this time. Boards, committees and individuals are welcome to sign up for Sundays in November and December. Please see the sign up sheet on the clipboard hanging on the wall as you enter the kitchen.

# I Sing the Mighty Power of God

Isaac Watts, 1674-1748, alt.

ELLACOMBE C.M.D.  
"Gesangbuch," Wirtemberg, 1784



1 I sing the might-y power of God, That made the moun-tains rise,  
2 I sing the good-ness of the Lord, That filled the earth with food;  
3 There's not a plant or flower be - low, But makes thy glo - ries known;



That spread the flow - ing seas a - broad, And built the loft - y skies.  
He formed the crea-tures with his word, And then pro-nounced them good.  
And clouds a - rise, and tem-pests blow, By or - der from thy throne,



I sing the wis-dom that or-dained The sun to rule the day;  
Lord, how thy won-ders are dis-played, Wher-e'er I turn my eye:  
While all that bor-rows life from thee Is ev - er in thy care,



The moon shines full at his com-mand, And all the stars o - bey.  
If I sur-vey the ground I tread, Or gaze up-on the sky!  
And ev - ery-where that man can be, Thou, God, art pres-ent there. A-men.



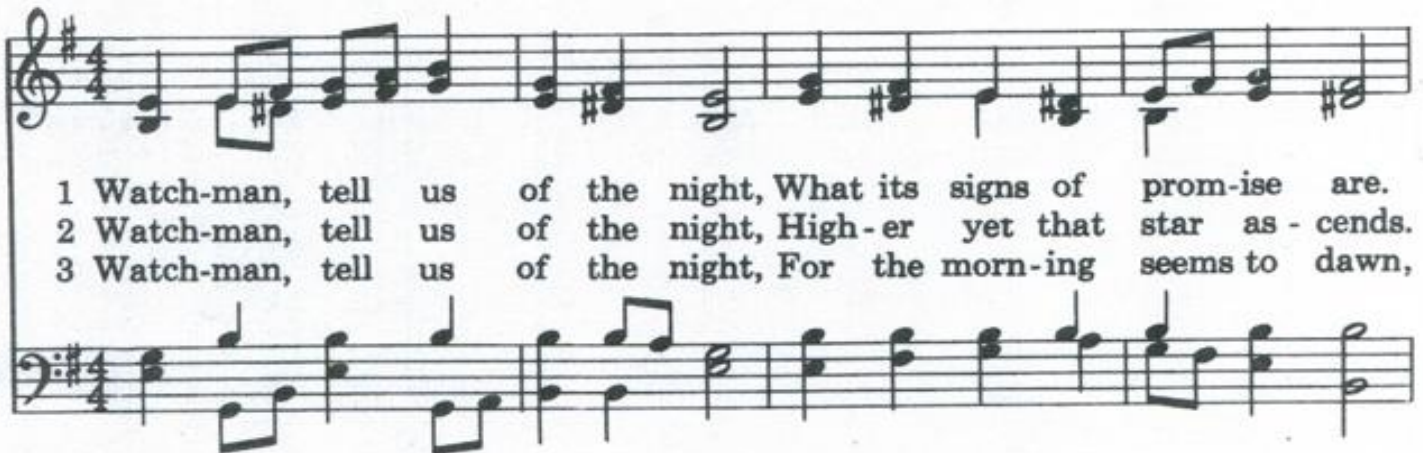


# Watchman, Tell Us of the Night

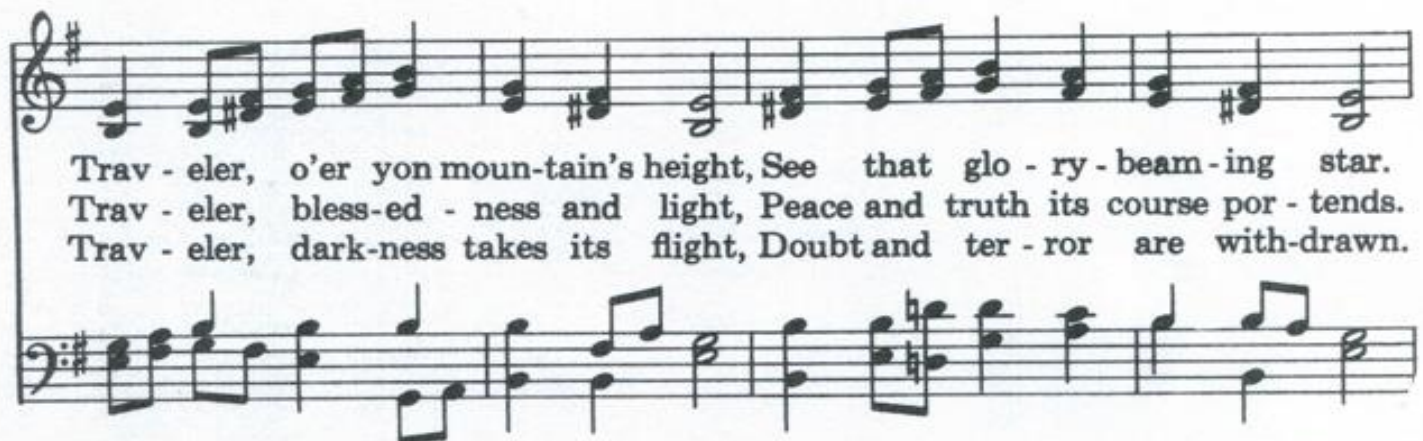
John Bowring, 1792-1872

ABERYSTWYTH 7.7.7.7.D.

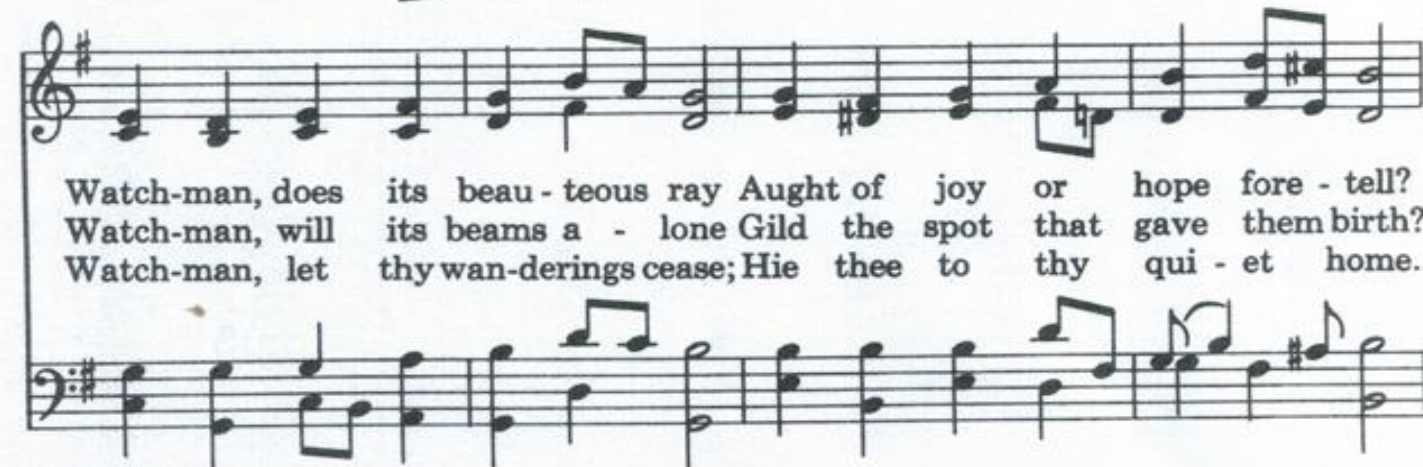
Joseph Parry, 1841-1903



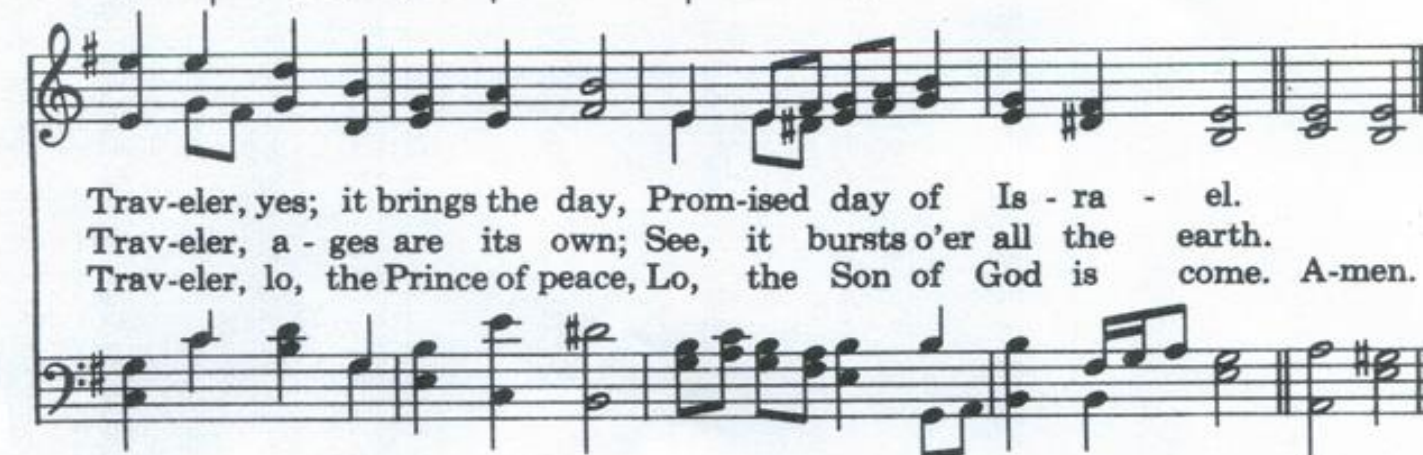
1 Watch-man, tell us of the night, What its signs of promise are.  
2 Watch-man, tell us of the night, High-er yet that star as-cends.  
3 Watch-man, tell us of the night, For the morn-ing seems to dawn,



Trav-eler, o'er yon moun-tain's height, See that glo-ry-beam-ing star.  
Trav-eler, bless-ed-ness and light, Peace and truth its course por-tends.  
Trav-eler, dark-ness takes its flight, Doubt and ter-ror are with-drawn.



Watch-man, does its beau-teous ray Aught of joy or hope fore-tell?  
Watch-man, will its beams a-lone Gild the spot that gave them birth?  
Watch-man, let thy wan-derings cease; Hie thee to thy qui-et home.



Trav-eler, yes; it brings the day, Prom-ised day of Is-ra-el.  
Trav-eler, a-ges are its own; See, it bursts o'er all the earth.  
Trav-eler, lo, the Prince of peace, Lo, the Son of God is come. A-men.



# Let the Whole Creation Cry

Stowford A. Brooke, 1832-1916

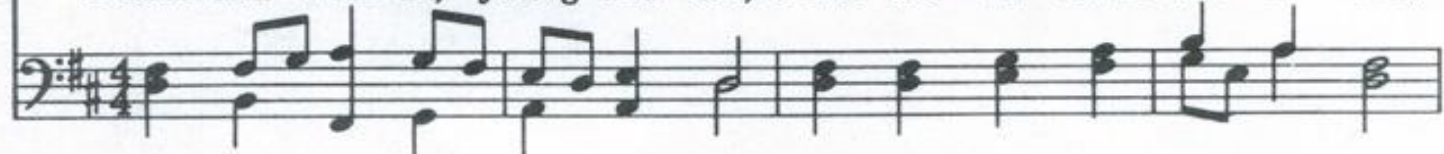
SALZBURG 7.7.7.7.D.

Melody by Jacob Hintze, 1622-1702

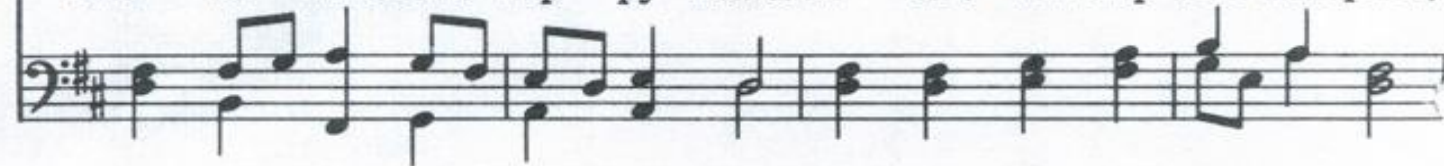
Harm. by J. S. Bach, 1685-1750



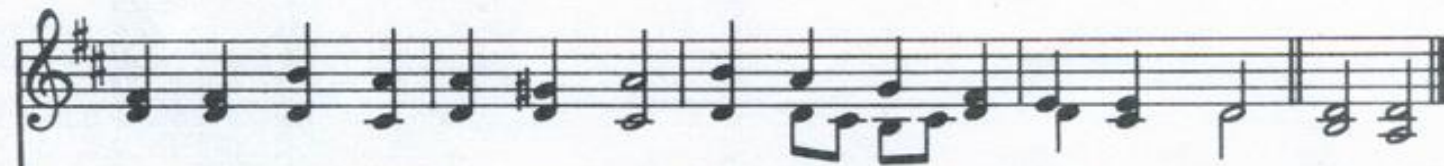
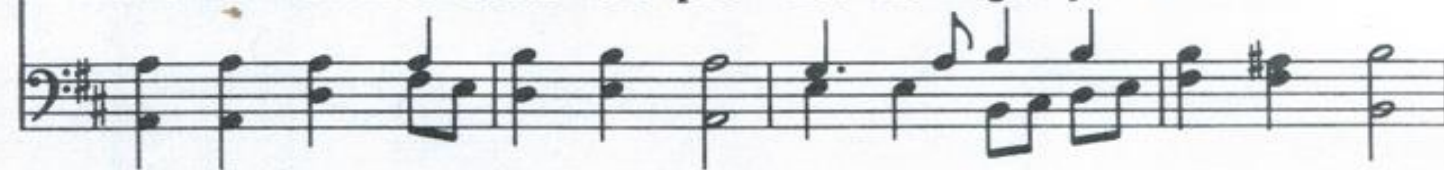
1 Let the whole cre - a - tion cry, "Glo - ry to the Lord on high."  
2 War-riors fight-ing for the Lord, Proph-ets burn-ing with his word,  
3 Men and wom-en, young and old, Raise the an - them man - i - fold;



Heaven and earth, a - wake and sing, "God is good and there-fore King."  
Those to whom the arts be - long, Add their voic-es to the song.  
And let chil-dren's hap - py hearts In this wor-ship bear their parts;



Praise him, all ye hosts a - bove, Ev - er bright and fair in love;  
Kings of knowl-edge and of law, To the glo - rious cir - cle draw;  
From the north to south - ern pole Let the might - y cho - rus roll:



Sun and moon, up - lift your voice, Night and stars, in God re - joice!  
All who work and all who wait, Sing, "The Lord is good and great!"  
"Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly One, Glo - ry be to God a - lone!" A - men.



## Prayer Requests for November 12, 2023

### At home...

Pat Moody

Mark Wilson

Connie Henry

### In nursing homes...

Sam Wright  
David Ferris

### In assisted living...

Tom Jones  
Joan Phillips

Ernestine Machesney

### Away...

Richard Haley

C V Noyes

Ellie and George Patterson

### Sick, in the hospital or rehabilitation...

### Recovering from illness or surgery...

Clara Braley

Nancy Simboli

George Perkins

### Grieving...

The family's of the Lewiston shootings  
Family of Jane Collins

### Thanksgivings...

The Pastoral Search Committee

### Special concerns...

For the people in the paths of storms and fires

Emergency responders / Health care workers / Essential workers...

Praise God for our partnership with WHPW and Channel 14!

Please keep those named above in your prayers. If you have any questions, or would like others to be prayed for, please contact Susan Ferris, Chairperson of our Prayer Circle.  
Susan can be reached at 666-3247 or [sueherb@myfairpoint.net](mailto:sueherb@myfairpoint.net).

Thank You



## 2024 Pledge Envelopes

It's hard to believe, but 2024 is right around the corner which means it's time to order pledge envelopes. If you would like to continue to receive pledge envelopes, you need to do nothing, and the envelopes will be ordered for you. If you receive pledge envelopes but do not need them this year, please let Stephanie know by Friday December 1<sup>st</sup>. If you do not currently receive envelopes but would like to for the coming year, please let Stephanie know by Friday, December 1<sup>st</sup>. Envelopes will be ordered the first week of December to ensure they arrive by January 1<sup>st</sup>.

**\*\*\* ATTENTION \*\*\***

### Mold Bros. to start work on Monday, November 20th

Mold Bros. are scheduled to perform the cleaning and sanitization of the entire basement to kill all mold spores present. In the limited time we have left, please focus on the areas where certain boards and committees may still have WANTED items to be stored in plastic containers. Empty containers can be found in the barn. **LAST CALL to get items you may want to save before the cleaning begins on November 20<sup>th</sup>.**

This last concerted effort to organize all wanted items that may STILL be left is only beneficial financially for the church. Any items left unaccounted for and not in plastic containers will be considered unwanted. A few exceptions will be considered.

Some of us have worked VERY HARD on clearing out unwanted items this past year, which have been discarded, or moved to the barn, or somewhere else.

Thank you for your understanding,

Dave Fitzgerald

### Craft Group

What is the true meaning of thank you? A polite expression of one's gratitude. For all of you who made items for the craft table or donated their time to help at the fair I want to say Thank You. Please give yourself a big hug and know the item someone purchased gave happiness to them.

Elly



Thank you to **ALL** who donated your talents and or time to make this years Holiday Fair yet another grand success!!



**2023**

**HOLIDAY FAIR**

# Moment for Missions

## It's Blanket Sunday!

This is our commitment to the Church World Service program to help supply warm blankets in areas of conflict, weather, catastrophes, ie., storms, hurricanes, floods, earthquakes, etc.

There will be envelopes in the pews for your contributions. Check may be received and made out to Elijah Kellogg Church, please note CWS in the memo line.

Thank you so much for caring.

## The Angel Tree is coming!

The Angels from the Salvation Army will be winging their way in soon. Watch for the Christmas Tree in Fellowship Hall!

## Tedford Update

The congregation contributed eight (8) large bags of needed toiletries for the Tedford Shelters. It was so gratefully received. **Thank you one and all!**

On top of that, we contributed 100 lbs. of food stuffs to the food pantry (MCHHP)! They could not believe our generosity. That may prove to be our largest one month delivery to date, and \$2.00 in cash. We have truly risen to the challenges.

Coming events will be Blanket Sunday (CWS), and the Angel Tree for the Salvation Army. Stay tuned for details!

## Food Bank (MCCHP)

The food bank has notified us of the following needs to restock their shelves:

- Canned Stew or Canned Pastas, ie., Chef Boyardee, Spaghettios, etc.
- Hearty Canned Soups (like Progresso)
- Spaghetti or Pasta Sauces
- Toilet Tissue

(Might we suggest some additional foodstuffs in line with the Thanksgiving holiday? Cranberry juice boxes, cranberry sauce, canned sweet potatoes, canned green beans or peas.) Instant puddings or Jello could be festive.

Thank you,  
Your busy Missions Board