



Milan Christian Church

Where Faith, Friends, and Family Meet

NEWSLETTER
November 2026

OUR LEADERSHIP

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*** WELCOME HOME ***

Our Vision: *The Vision of Milan Christian Church is to strive every day to take the Gospel of Christ to those who need to hear it, to bring them into relationship with Christ through the waters of Christian Baptism, to teach them to become disciples of Christ, and equip and encourage all Christians to live their lives as Christ would live.*

CHRISTIAN THANKFULNESS: What it is (and isn't)

Interview with Pastor John Piper, desiringgod.org



Let's take a moment and ponder what the experience of thankfulness actually is.

I'm going to limit myself to Christian thankfulness, so I'm not talking about Hitler's thankfulness that his liquidation techniques have become more efficient. That kind of thankfulness is wicked. There is wicked thankfulness. Nor am I talking about a kind of good thankfulness the way most people celebrate Thanksgiving — who don't have any relationship with God at all but feel that they are the beneficiary of some kind of benevolence and usually attribute it to other people. I'm talking about Christian thankfulness, the kind that God is very pleased with.

Defining Christian Thankfulness - Now, what is it? It's a feeling, an emotion and affection in the heart, that rises spontaneously in response to receiving something that will increase our enjoyment of Christ. That's my definition of Christian thankfulness. A couple of comments about that definition:

A spontaneous emotion — so, I'm distinguishing thankfulness from saying the words "thank you." You can teach a child to say "thank you" to his grandma for a gift he does not want. There's no spontaneous thankfulness welling up in this child's heart, because he didn't want those black socks. So, no spontaneous emotion rose up in the child's heart when he got this gift that he didn't want. Saying "thank you" is not the same as being thankful. Being thankful is not a decision. Saying "thank you" is a decision. Being thankful is not a decision. It is a spontaneous heart response to the perception of someone giving you something that's good for you.

What makes the spontaneous response of the heart Christian is that it has the effect of increasing our enjoyment of Jesus. This is partly owing to the fact that we see Jesus as the source ultimately behind the gift, and we fully anticipate that the goodness of the gift will cause us to know him more and love him better. The gift may be an ice-cream cone and the gift may be the salvation of your soul by the power of the Holy Spirit. In either case, what makes the heart response of thankfulness Christian is that it comes from Christ and leads to the enjoyment of Christ. If ice-cream cones don't make you know and love Christ better, they're wasted on you.

All things are from him and through him and to him or for him (**Romans 11:36; Colossians 1:16**). Christians are Christians all the way down, from salvation to Dairy Queen Butterfinger Blizzards and all the blessings above and below, which also implies that thankfulness, while it may have its tears — it regularly has its tears — is a happy emotion. When it comes, we're glad that it comes. It is a gratifying experience. In fact, the human soul — let this sink in — is deeply made for this experience and, therefore, when it comes, we feel like we have become human as we ought — humbly receptive and sweetly thankful.

Meditating on the Power of Thanksgiving - Now, to help us revel in this happy experience on Thanksgiving, think with me about these few observations.

1. Thankfulness is a sweetly humble experience. It is, in a sense, the very opposite of pride: "What do you have that you did not receive? If then you received it, why do you boast as if [it was not a gift]?" (**1 Corinthians 4:7**). In other words, thankfulness, by its very nature, pushes boasting out of the human heart. You can't, at the same time, be a brash, swaggering, boastful, cool, self-sufficient person and a thankful person. You can't. Not in the same heart.

That's really important in our day, it seems to me, because in video after video — for all I can tell by the advertisements that slip in while I'm watching some documentary or something else — brash, swaggering, boastful, arrogant, self-sufficient, sassy heroes and heroines are evidently quite popular. Well, they're not popular with God because God delights in thankfulness. Picture some sassy, swaggering heroine or hero saying with humility to God or to a friend, "I am so thankful for your kindness to me." No, it won't work, because thankfulness necessarily implies humility and dependence and the finding of our happiness in receiving some good that another did for us that goes beyond what we deserve. It is the opposite of pride and swagger.

2. Consider that this is why thankfulness is purifying, especially to our mouths: "Let there be no filthiness nor foolish talk nor crude joking, which are out of place, but instead let there be thanksgiving" (**Ephesians 5:4**). It's amazing that Paul would contrast crude joking with thankfulness. It's because emotionally they just don't go together. I mean, try to imagine it. Why do people with crude, foul mouths lace their talk with four-letter words? Why do they do that? One of Paul's answers is that their hearts are not brimming with humble, happy thankfulness, especially to God. Nobody uses four-letter words or a crude phrase to express heartfelt, humble thankfulness.
3. Consider how everything that we have is a gift. If we know that we are sinners, then everything we have is an undeserved gift. Not just a few things here and there — everything. "[God] gives . . . life and breath and everything" (**Acts 17:25**). "What do you have," Paul asks, "that you did not receive?" (**1 Corinthians 4:7**). And the answer is *nothing*.

Which means that thankfulness for the Christian who lives in the light of this truth is utterly pervasive in all of life. This is the beat of his emotional heart. This is the air we breathe. This is the flavor of every experience. God is sovereign. God is wise, God is good. God turns everything for the good of his children. Thankfulness, for the Christian, is part of every experience. That's what **1 Thessalonians 5:18** says: "Give thanks *in* all circumstances." **Ephesians 5:20** takes it further: "[Give] thanks . . . *for* everything." When we are walking in the light of the truth, no emotion is more common in the Christian heart than happy thankfulness.

4. Finally, consider the vastness of the benefits that Christians have. "He who did not spare his own Son but gave him up for us all, how will he not also with him graciously give us all things?" (**Romans 8:32**). All things! "My God will supply every need of yours according to his riches in glory in Christ" (**Philippians 4:19**). "All things are yours, whether Paul or Apollos or Cephas or the world or life or death or the present or the future — all are yours, and you are Christ's, and Christ is God's" (**1 Corinthians 3:21-23**). It is only a matter of time, Christian, until you inherit the earth (**Matthew 5:5**).

Be patient, be faithful, and be thankful in everything all the time. We were made for this happy emotion.

NOVEMBER BIRTHDAYS



3 – Jay Oliver
 4 – Nathan Ward
 6 – Sue LaCaille
 9 – Camille Anseeuw & George Smith
 14 – Soren Roelf
 16 – Rosa McMeekan
 18 – Kathie McAdams, Larry Parker & Cavarius Werner
 19 – Abby Versluys
 26 – Jackie Anseeuw
 27 – Evah McClay
 29 – Michael Johnson

Prayer Requests

Phyllis Boley – Health issue
Anne Bosold – Awaiting shoulder surgery
Jamie Brooks Family (Passing of her aunt “Nanny”) - Comfort
Sue Huber – Cancer
Rebecca Kline – Health issue
Heather Kisner – Health issue
Paul & Barb Lane – Health issues
David & Diana Lee – Health issues
Dennis & Phyllis Martens – Health issues
Kathie McAdams – Job issue
Amy Mitchell – Comfort (back pain)
Jim Mitchell – Torn ankle muscle
Scott Powell – Health issue
Britton Rexroat – Health issue
Gretchen Rexroat – Job issue
Carrie Roelf – Recovery from her bicycling accident injuries
Linda Thomas – Health issue
Linda Tipton – Health issue
Chris Uribe – Cancer
Julie (Johnny Oeth’s mother) – Cancer
Di (Linda Tipton’s sister) – Health issue
Kim (Linda Tipton’s brother-in-law who cares for her handicapped sister) – Cancer
Heather (Sherry Powell’s granddaughter/Scott Powell’s daughter) - Cancer
Lacey (Sherry Powell’s granddaughter) – Health issue
Alyse (Don & Cathy Jo Merritt’s daughter-in-law) – Cancer
Francis (Kathie McAdams’ sister) – Spiritual issue
Donald (Kathie McAdams’ brother-in-law) – Recovery from surgery
Nicolette (Kathie McAdams’ niece) – Health issue
Wendy (Pete & Norma Leone’s niece) – Health issue
Sue (Angela Northcutt’s sister) – Cancer
Michelle (Kirsten Litton’s sister) – Continued recovery from serious injury
Mike (Brad Webster’s brother) – Personal issue
Angie & Shawn (David & Diana Lee’s daughters) – Health issue & Personal issue
Andi (David & Diana’s granddaughter) - Cancer
John (David Lee’s friend) – Health issue
Karen (Phyllis Boley’s friend) – Health issue
Bonnie (Phyllis Boley’s friend) – Injuries from a fall
Misty [NOT Misty from Coram Deo Church, Davenport] (Phyllis Boley’s friend’s daughter) - Cancer
Nate (Grandson of Jan Pugh’s friend) – Cancer
Killian (Linda Hocker’s son) – Recovery from hand surgery
Brian (Kristy Johnson’s brother’s father-in-law) – Health issue
Penny (Phyllis Martens’ caregiver) – Health issue
Pat (Betty Kisner’s sister) – Health issue
Jeff (Anne Bosold’s 84-yr-old neighbor) – Health issue
Bob from B&M Buckle (Prints our weekly Study Guides/Connections & monthly newsletters) – Cancer
Alex (Jan Pugh’s grandson) – Personal issue
DiAaron (Kathie McAdams’ son) – Personal issue
All our children dealing w/school or personal issues.
All who don’t know Jesus or need to come back to Him.
When We Pray Together, We’re Working Together

ALMOST HOME FOR THE HOLIDAYS

From guideposts.org

I was a college student in Illinois that Thanksgiving, and I couldn't wait to get home to Massachusetts for the holidays. A friend's mother offered me a lift as far as upstate New York, where my parents were going to pick me up.

Mrs. Case and I drove all through the chilly night. Just after sunrise on Thanksgiving morning, the engine quit and we rolled to a stop on a deserted highway somewhere in western New York.

Mrs. Case said calmly, "God doesn't get you just halfway. Let's pray, Richard." After we prayed a little, she turned the key again. The engine coughed and started. The car lurched down the road. We barely made it to a garage at the next exit. I found the owner in back.

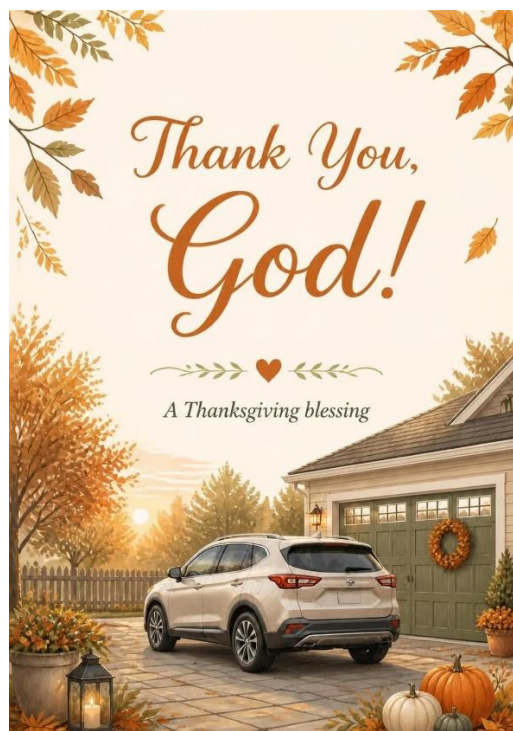
"Lucky you caught me," he said. "We're closed today. I just came in to clean up." He checked the engine, then gave us a funny look. "Who pushed you in from the highway?" We told him no one. He shook his head. "That's impossible," he insisted. "A part is burned out and the engine can't run without it."

He didn't have the part, and he told us no other shops were open that day. "I doubt anybody has it in stock anyway," he said.

Seeing our stricken expressions, he said, "Won't hurt to try, I suppose." He went to make a call. In a few minutes, he was back. "My buddy's shop is closed, but he just happened to be there doing some paperwork. Strange, huh? He's got the part you need."

Mrs. Case delivered me to where my parents were waiting with their car. At home in time for Thanksgiving dinner, I said a special thank you, because now I knew:

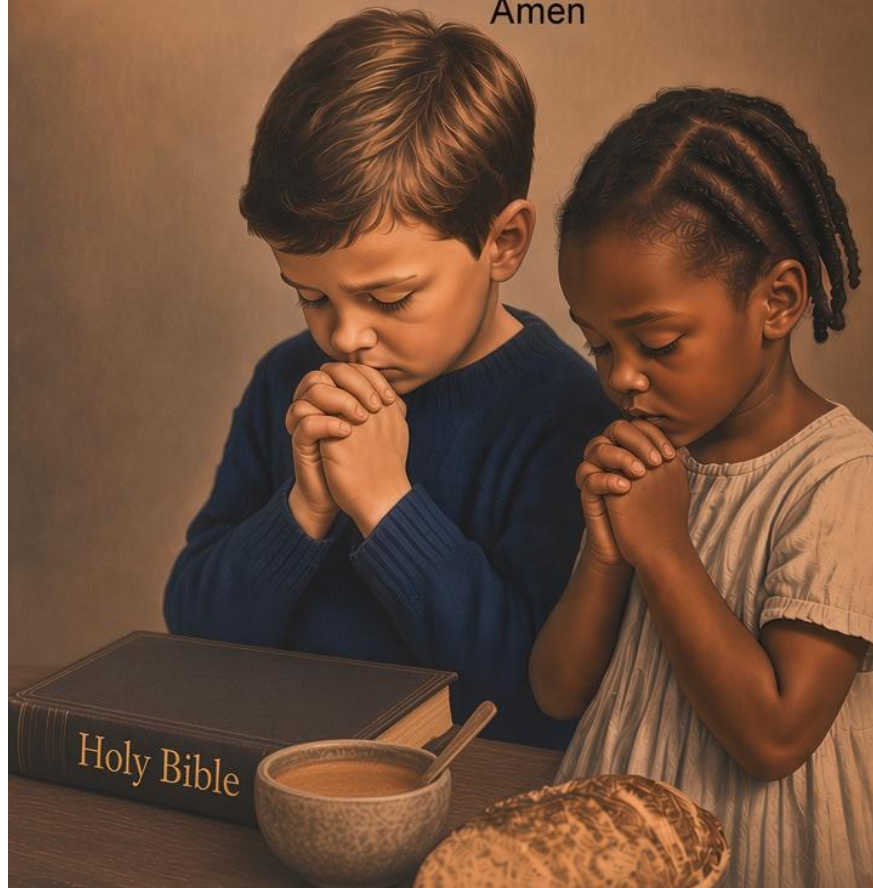
God doesn't get you just halfway.



Prayer of Thanks

O, heavenly Father,
We thank thee for food
and remember **the hungry**.
We thank thee for health
and remember **the sick**.
We thank thee for friends
and remember **the friendless**.
We thank thee for freedom
and remember **the enslaved**.
May these remembrances
stir us to service,
that thy gifts to us
may be used **for others**.

Amen



3 WAYS TO GIVE

- 1** 
Mail your gift
Milan Christian Church,
PO Box 425, Milan, IL 61264
- 2** 
Give online
Please see Andy Werner
- 3** 
Give in person
At Worship Service





Milan Christian Church *Welcomes You!*

Come As You Are To Our
**THURSDAY NIGHT
WORSHIP SERVICE!!**

 **5:30 PM** - A hot home-cooked meal.

 **6:00 PM** - Relax with God & come to a laid-back comfortable worship service.

Also Available: CHILDREN'S MINISTRY (Preschool - 5th Grade); **NURSERY**

709 Hillcrest Rd., Milan, IL 61264 | 309-787-6879



WANT MORE JESUS?

WELCOME TO OUR
SMALL GROUPS!

ANNE BOSOLD

Tuesdays @ 10am
In the church basement
Anne: 309-749-9776

JAY & MARY JO OLIVER'S HOME

Wednesdays @ 5:30pm
Jay: 309-738-0890
Mary Jo: 309-738-1237

BRITTON & GRETCHEN REXROAT'S HOME

Wednesdays Dinner @ 5:30pm
Bible Study at 6:00pm
Britton: 309-912-8767

Small Groups are where we *grow* together in faith, encourage one another, and experience God's *love*.

NEED HELP FINDING A GROUP? WE'D LOVE TO HELP! 309-787-6879



MILAN CHRISTIAN CHURCH
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www.milanchristianchurch.com
[Facebook.com/milanchristianchurch](https://www.facebook.com/milanchristianchurch)



WEEKLY CALENDAR:

TUESDAY (Not on Elderberries Tues.)—**Small Group**,
MCC basement, 10 AM

WEDNESDAY—**Small Group**, Oliver home, 5:30 PM
—**Small Group**, Rexroat home –
Dinner – 5:30 PM, Bible Study – 6 PM
—**Worship Rehearsal**, MCC, 6 PM

THURSDAY NIGHT WORSHIP SERVICE—Dinner 5:30 PM, Service 6:00 PM (Downstairs)

SUNDAY—**In-Building Worship**: 9:30 to 10:30 AM (Gluten Free Communion is available in the Coffee Room or ask a server, for assistance. Also, if anyone is in need of prayer & would like to pray w/someone, there will be individuals available at the front of the sanctuary after service.) Church services are available to view on our website at www.MilanChristianChurch.com.

- Nursery**: 9:30 AM (Main floor)
- Kids Church (Preschool-5th Grade)**: 9:30 AM (Downstairs)
- Student Ministry (6th-12th Grade)**: 9:30 AM, In the BOB (Building Out Back)

NOVEMBER

- 1 – **DAYLIGHT SAVING TIME ENDS**
- 3 – **ELECTION DAY**
- 10 – **ELDERBERRIES LUNCHEON**, MCC basement, 11:30 AM; See Anne Bosold or Sherry Powell
- 10 – **ELDER'S MEETING** (closed), 5:30 PM
- 11 – **VETERANS DAY**
- 15 – **SHOEBOX GIFT DEADLINE** (for those not attending the Shoebox Packing Party), See Amy Mitchell
- 21 – **MEN'S BREAKFAST**, Adventure Christian Church, Davenport, 7:30-9:30 AM, See Britton Rexroat
- 21 – **LADIES' BRUNCH & SHOEBOX PACKING PARTY**, MCC basement, 10 AM–2 PM, See Amy Mitchell
- 22 – **DECORATE-THE-CHURCH-FOR-CHRISTMAS SUNDAY**, following the 9:30-10:30 AM service, See Amy Mitchell
- 26 – **THANKSGIVING DAY**