GIVING 11.15.26

General Offering	$11,501.05
Building Fund	$723.00
Uganda	$441.00
Benevolence	$158.00
Total	$12,823.05
Attendance	247

> "A thankful Christian is a joyful Christian; and the more thankful we are, the more glory we give to God."
>
> — Thomas Watson

VISITORS + MEMBERS

For ALL church announcements, our church calendar, ministries for serving and small groups to join, please see our Church Center app.

ghbcva.org
9821 S Redfield Drive
Amelia, VA 23002
804.561.3742

Welcome to Grace Harvest Bible Church

11.22.26

SUNDAY BIBLE CLASSES
9:00am

Old Testament
Sanctuary A

Bereans - New Testament
Upstairs C

Young Adults
Downstairs B, Gray Room

College & Career
Downstairs B, Red Room

Surge (10 - 12 Year Olds)
Upstairs C

Youth (13 - 18 Year Olds)
Basement A

Children's SS
(Birth - 9 Year Olds)
Downstairs C

SUNDAY SERVICES
10:30am

Worship Service

Children's Church
(Birth - 9 Year Olds)

WEEKDAY EVENTS

American Heritage Girls
Mondays 6:30pm

Trail Life
Mondays 6:30pm

Women's Walk & Book Study
Mondays 6:30pm

Men's Book Study
Mondays 7pm

Worship Team Practice
Tuesdays 7:00pm

Awana
Wednesdays 6:30pm

Surge (10 - 12 Year Olds)
Wednesdays 6:30pm

Youth (13 - 18 Year Olds)
Wednesdays 6:30pm

Family Groups
Every other Thursday
9:00am, 6:30pm, & 7:00pm

Men's Book Study
Fridays, 6:00am

Pastor's Pen

A Thankful Heart!

"Give thanks in everything, for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus."
1 Thessalonians 5:18

As Thanksgiving approaches, our thoughts naturally turn to family, friends, and the many blessings God has graciously given us. Yet biblical thanksgiving is far more than a holiday tradition or an expression of gratitude for favorable circumstances. It is the daily duty of every believer and one of the clearest evidences of a heart transformed by grace.

The Puritans understood that thankfulness was not rooted in changing circumstances but in the unchanging character of God. They believed that every mercy, whether great or small, flowed from the sovereign hand of a loving Father. Nothing was accidental. Every meal, every breath, every answered prayer, every trial, and every joy was ordained by God for His glory and our good.

Thomas Watson wisely observed, "To be thankful for mercies is the way to increase them." A grateful heart magnifies the goodness of God, while a complaining spirit often forgets His countless mercies. The believer who remembers God's faithfulness in the past will trust Him with confidence in the future.

The greatest reason for thanksgiving, however, is not found around the dinner table but at the foot of the cross. Earthly blessings are temporary, but the grace of God in Christ is eternal. We deserved wrath, yet through Jesus Christ we have received mercy. We were enemies, yet we have been adopted as sons and daughters. We were spiritually dead, yet we have been made alive with Christ. Every other blessing pales in comparison to the gift of salvation.

This Thanksgiving, let us give thanks not only for what God has given, but for who He is. Let us thank Him for His sovereign providence, His unfailing promises, His sufficient grace, and above all, His indescribable gift, His Son. A thankful heart is a worshiping heart, and a worshiping heart brings glory to God.

May our homes be filled with gratitude, our lips with praise, and our lives with joyful obedience.

Your shepherd, Pastor Mark

Grace Gems

A Call to Thanksgiving
Alistair Begg

"Make a joyful noise to the Lord, all the earth! … Enter his gates with thanksgiving, and his courts with praise!" Psalm 100:1, Psalm 100:4

The one hundredth psalm, with its call to worship, is one of the most well known in the Psalter. This familiarity can make it difficult for it to impact our hearts, though. In many ways, it's easier to study passages that are less familiar because then we aren't complacent in our study. We don't assume that we already know them.

We should never feel so comfortable with the invitation to thanksgiving that we brush over it, as if it were only rhetoric. This psalm urges us into action! As God's people, we are called to joyful worship and to thankful praise.

"Make a joyful noise" is an invitation to exuberant, vocal adoration. Such praise should not be treated as a forced obligation, as if we've swallowed something distinctly unpalatable. Instead, it should be a response to God's activity in our lives, which leads us, to borrow a phrase from C.S. Lewis, to be "surprised by joy." The opportunity for worship lifts the spirits of the genuine believer—and nobody is left out of the exhortation. God has made "all the earth" for the praise of His glorious grace.

The invitation also beckons us to ***"enter … his courts with praise."*** Consider the experience of the commoner outside Buckingham Palace in London, where the best you can do is poke your nose through the railings and hope for a fleeting glimpse of royalty from afar. The gate is purposefully closed to protect the sovereign. But that is not our experience with the Father. Jesus' death tore the temple curtain in two (Matthew 27:51) and opened a new way of living for us. Through Jesus we have gained access to the Father, and the gates are thrown wide open in welcome.

Our expressions of gratitude in joyful worship and thankful praise are not to be tied to our circumstances or feelings. The real foundation for thanksgiving is in knowing that the Lord is God and that He has invited us into His courts, to surround His throne as His subjects but also as His children. To recognize this is to have firm ground underfoot so that each of us can say with the psalmist:

"He drew me up from the pit of destruction, out of the miry bog, and set my feet upon a rock, making my steps secure. He put a new song in my mouth, a song of praise to our God." (Psalm 40:2-3)

One day you will stand there, in His courts. Until then, each Sunday you can stand with others in your local church—an embassy of that heavenly throne room—and anticipate that future day by singing with joy to the Lord.