

Grace Tidings



A Newsletter of Avalon Grace Church

November, 2025

Giving Thanks is the Will of God

In polite society we are taught to say 'please' and 'thank you'. However these words teach us more than just good manners. They teach a proper relationship with the giver and can ultimately teach us about our relationship to God.

When God gave life, man returned the favor through disobedience. When God gave the world, man showed his ingratitude by worshiping it instead of the Creator. When God gave food, prideful man saw it as the fruit of his own labor.

Through these sins man would die and God would give man over to the consequence of sin.

"Because that, when they knew God, they glorified him not as God, neither were thankful; but became vain in their imaginations, and their foolish heart was darkened."

– Romans 1:21

In this dispensation, God has revealed the depths of his wisdom and grace by sending Christ to die for the sins of his enemies.

Through his blood we have received forgiveness of sins, redemption from the kingdom of darkness, justification by faith, sanctification by the spirit, and eternal life in heavenly positions.

(continued on page 2)



AVALON GRACE CHURCH

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Pastor Phillip McClellan, Jr.

Pastor Emeritus Arthur Sims

Kathleen Smith, Editor

All Are Welcome!

Sunday Worship 10:30 AM

**(Sunday Messages available on website:
www.avalongracechurch.com and You Tube)**

Children's Sunday School 10:45 AM

**"And to make all men see
what is the fellowship of the mystery,
which from the beginning of the world
hath been hid in God, who created
all things by Jesus Christ: . . ."**

- Ephesians 3:9

Giving Thanks is the Will of God (Continued from Page 1)

Just as in the beginning when God first gave life, he now gives life again by his grace and not because we deserved it.

The proper response to God's grace is thanksgiving.

"I am crucified with Christ: nevertheless I live; yet not I, but Christ liveth in me: and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by the faith of the Son of God, who loved me, and gave himself for me."
- Galatians 2:20

When we realize that what we have is not ours, and the life we live is not our own we are able to express our gratitude for what has been given.

The object of our gratitude is the only proper object of our thanksgiving which is the Living God, the fullness of the Godhead bodily, Jesus Christ.

Submitting ourselves to God, trusting in his grace, and living a life of richness is what God had always intended.

"Charge them that are rich in this world, that they be not highminded, nor trust in uncertain riches, but in the living God, who giveth us richly all things to enjoy;" - 1 Timothy 6:17

Yet even in times of financial or physical crisis, ultimately a result of our own sin, we are still able to give thanks to God for his wisdom in salvation and provision of eternal life.

"In everything give thanks: for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus concerning you." - 1 Thessalonians 5:18

"And whatsoever ye do in word or deed, do all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God and the Father by him." - Colossians 3:17

As we live our life each day, choosing to be thankful honors God and is a form of worship:

"He who offers a sacrifice of thanksgiving honors Me." - Psalms 50:23

Let's deny ourselves the right to complain and grumble regardless of the circumstances we encounter each day; let's embrace the joy of thanksgiving with a grateful heart that honors and pleases God.

May your Thanksgiving holiday be a special time of refreshment filled with abundant blessings, with loved ones, good fellowship, and great food!
- Pastor Phil

Portions of the above article by Justin Johnson,
Grace Ambassadors
Last modified May 4, 2016 (with permission)

Hello sweet November!
Where did October go?
September was a wink;
and October a blink!
September was just here
It seems like a few days
ago . . .



And October is a blur - as if it didn't occur!

Soon it will be Thanksgiving with family and friends
But I'm already thinking - as Christmas descends!

Time to decorate and light my tree

Time to display my nativity!

Time to celebrate the infant Christ

His holiness and sinless life.

Glory in the cross that He bore for you and me

Died, buried, and risen again

All for you - for me - for eternity!

Hello November, can you please tell us

Where did October go?

Was September a wink and October a blink?

Thank you November! We hope you'll stay long.

Slow the year down, before it is gone!

Veterans Day - a Time of Refection and Hope . . .



On September 27, 1920, the poppy became the official flower of The American Legion family to memorialize the soldiers who fought and died and is the enduring symbol of remembrance of the First World War and strongly linked to Armistice Day, November 11th, now referred to as Veteran's Day.

The symbolism of the poppy flower started with a poem written by World War I brigade surgeon, Dr. John McCrae, who was struck by the sight of bright red blooms on broken, ravaged battlefield ground, McCrae wrote "In Flanders Field" which he channeled the voice of the fallen soldiers buried under those hardy poppies in 1915.

"In Flanders Fields" by John McCrae

In Flanders fields the poppies blow
Between the crosses, row on row,
That mark our place; and in the sky
The larks, still bravely singing, fly
Scarce heard amid the guns below.

We are the Dead. Short days ago
We lived, felt dawn, saw sunset glow,
Loved and were loved, and now we lie
In Flanders fields.

Take up our quarrel with the foe:
To you from failing hands we throw
The torch; be yours to hold it high.
If ye break faith with us who die
We shall not sleep, though poppies grow
In Flanders fields.

"Greater love hath no man than this, that a man lay down his life for his friends." - John 15:13



Each year, Avalon Grace Church supports and participates in Samaritan's Purse worldwide ministry, "Operation Christmas Child." It is wonderful to know that our small fellowship is a part of a greater worldwide ministry in bringing joy to children at Christmas with the good news of Jesus Christ! National Collection Week is November 13—20.

God is working in the lives of these little ones and we want to collect small toys or your monetary gifts to help fill shoeboxes for children needing hope by bringing the salvation message of Jesus and His love for them. With every shoebox that contains toys and practical gifts, we include the gospel message. Please see Janet McClellan with any questions you may have. Stay tuned for more information in January 2026 about how our church family participated in Operation Christmas Child ministry this year!



Avalon Grace Church contributed \$300.00 to Brazil's Project ABBA last Christmas! ABBA is a ministry of "Things to Come Mission" reaching children with the Gospel of Jesus Christ in Brazil. Michell and Joe Campos have been missionaries with "Things to Come Missions" in Brazil since 2002. Each year, our church family participates in providing poor and underprivileged children an opportunity to hear the Gospel and receive a few small Christmas gifts. Your

generosity makes that happen! Thank you so much for your generous gifts and prayers for the success of the outreach in reaching more souls for Christ and your support of this life-saving ministry.

Thank you for your support of both Operation Christmas Child and Abba! To God be the glory, Pastor Phil

Gather & Give Thanks



Dear Church Family and Friends,

This coming Thanksgiving celebration at Avalon Grace Church will be held again in Fellowship Hall for the fourth year in a row!

Thank you for the many hands who baked, roasted, basted, mixed, sliced, and prepared all the traditional side dishes to make last year's Thanksgiving so great! We all sat down to a fabulous Thanksgiving Turkey feast! And we look forward to doing it all over again this year!

Many hands make for lighter work for everyone, so this year, please plan to bring a side dish and/or dessert if at all possible and indicate your name, the food/dish/dessert you plan to bring on the sign-up sheet located on the table at the back of the church so that we can plan the menu ahead of time.

The McClellan family will provide the turkeys and beverages including coffee and tea.

We will be arranging and setting up tables, place-settings, etc. in Fellowship Hall on Wednesday morning, November 26th at 10:30 a.m. should anyone want to stop by and help prepare Fellowship Hall for a fabulous feast on Thanksgiving Day!

Thank you so much! We hope you are able to join us this year!

Sincerely, Janet McClellan

Yikes, can you believe it? It is that time of year already when the calendar falls back an hour and we need to re-set our clocks accordingly; so please remember to turn your clocks back one hour before going to bed on Saturday evening, November 1st.

Don't forget, because if you do, you may miss out on a delicious breakfast with scrambled eggs, sausage, and bacon to die for . . . with lots of fixings, orange juice, donuts and fruit . . . prepared by Jordan and Yvonne McClellan on Sunday, November 2nd at 9:45 AM - just for you!



For the Wise and Young at Heart . . .



"If you think Independence Day is America's defining holiday, think again. Thanksgiving deserves that title, hands-down." - Tony Snow

"I awoke this morning with devout thanksgiving for my friends, the old and the new."
- Ralph Waldo Emerson



Now thank we all our God,
With hearts and hands and voices;
Who wondrous things hath done,
In whom this world rejoices.
Who, from our mother's arms,
Hath led us on our way,
With countless gifts of love,
And still is ours today. - Martin Rinkart

"Enter His gates with thanksgiving and His courts with praise; give thanks to Him and praise His name." - Psalm 100:4

"On Thanksgiving Day, all over America, families sit down to dinner at the same moment - halftime."
- Author Unknown

"Honor to the soldier and sailor everywhere, who bravely bears his country's cause. Honor, also, to the citizen who cares for his brother in the field and serves, as he best can, the same cause."
- Abraham Lincoln



Count Your Blessings (Instead of Sheep)

~ Written by Irving Berlin

When I'm worried and I can't sleep
I count my blessings instead of sheep
And I fall asleep counting my blessings
When my bankroll is getting small
I think of when I had none at all
And I fall asleep counting my blessings

I think about a nursery and I picture curly heads
And one by one I count them
as they slumber in their beds.

If you're worried and you can't sleep
Just count your blessings instead of sheep
And you'll fall asleep counting your blessings.

I think about a nursery and I picture curly heads
And one by one I count them
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If you're worried and you can't sleep
Just count your blessings instead of sheep
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Please plan to join us on
Sunday, December 14, 2025, at 10:30 AM
For our Annual Christmas Program

When we set aside a brief time to read
the Scriptures that chronicle
Our Lord's incarnation and remember His Birth.
It will be a time of rejoicing, reflection, praise,
and song, as we celebrate and remember
the birth of our Savior,
The Lord Jesus Christ!



October Blessings and Mercies . . .

Pastor Appreciation Sunday - October 12, 2025

Our church family had a great time honoring our Pastor, Phil McClellan on the 12th day of October, 2025.

Brothers Jim Anderson and Richard Smith presented Pastor Phil with an "Appreciation "PASTOR" framed picture" and a special card with sentiments expressing tokens of our congregation's love and gratitude for the work Pastor Phil does for the LORD.

Also, Pastor could not do all that he does without the love, support and partnership without his beloved wife and partner, Janet and their family!

His dedication to teaching, sharing, edifying, and encouraging the saints as he studies the written Word of God and then shares his learning with us each Sunday morning as our Pastor is unmatched! Thank you Pastor Phil!

"And he gave some, apostles; and some, prophets; and some, evangelists; and some, pastors and teachers; For the perfecting of the saints, for the work of the ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ" Ephesians 4: 11-12

"Study to shew thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth."

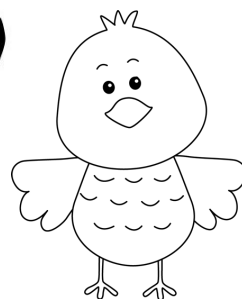
- 2 Timothy 2:15



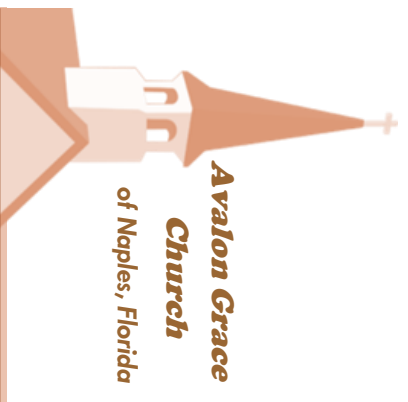
Coloring for Jesus



**THANK YOU
GOD**



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Avalon Grace
Church
of Naples, Florida

November 2025



SUN

MON

TUE

WED

THU

FRI

SAT

HAPPY
BIRTHDAY
TO YOU!



2nd Jeff Stahl

19th Jessica Stevens

20th Robert Scholz

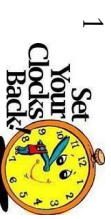
24th Ray Holsemback

28th Barbara Ramirez

COMING IN DECEMBER

7th 9:45 AM Sunday
Breakfast

14th 10:30 AM
Annual Christmas
Program and
Luncheon



2 9:45 Sunday 3 Breakfast 4 5 6 7 8

10:30 AM Sunday
Worship
10:45 AM Children's
Sunday School

9 10 11 12 13 14 15

10:30 AM Sunday
Worship
10:45 AM Children's
Sunday School



1 6 17 18 19 20 21 22

10:30 AM Sunday
Worship
The LORD's Supper
10:45 AM Children's
Sunday School

2 3 24 25 26 27 28 29

10:30 AM Sunday
Worship
10:45 AM Children's
Sunday School



3 0

10:30 AM Sunday
Worship
10:45 AM Children's
Sunday School