

2016 Thanksgiving Newsletter

Thanksgiving Day: Better to Give Than Receive
Rev: Joshua Bickerdt

Hello, and Happy Thanksgiving! I hope everyone is enjoying their holiday, getting ready to be around loved ones and eat an amount of food that is simply ridiculous.

Thanksgiving is one of my favorite holidays. I love the food, the fellowship, the Parade, the football, and how everything seems a little better. Of course, this is the calm before the holiday shopping storm, but for some folks even that is a beloved tradition. Maybe my years in retail color my view of it.

The spirit of Thanksgiving for many is about charity, and about counting one's blessings. We stop for a moment to think about all that we have, and what we are thankful for.

I think that we should always take some time to count our blessings. I know there are many times when worrying about our personal troubles, or about the future, what we do not yet have can be almost overwhelming. Take a deep breath, and look around at your present, and look at what you do indeed have. You may find more good around you than you think.

As for charity, helping others I think is one of the greatest tasks God gave to us. While taking the time during the holiday is absolutely commendable, we should try to remember to love our neighbors and offer a helping hand all year round. I will be the first to say that life happens, that we all carry our own burdens and self-care is just as important as caring for others. I think however, that we can afford to try to do what we can, however big or small.

This holiday for some is very different. It stands as a day of mourning. It is a reminder of our bloody past. We must not forget what happened to the native population of this country, and strive to do better: for them, for ourselves, for the future of us all.

It is better to give than to receive. It is better to love than to hate. It is better to understand than to judge. During this holiday of giving thanks, let us count our blessings, love our neighbors as well as our families, and let us all come together to make things better under the light and love of God.

I hope you all have a wonderful holiday, and remember to Keep the Faith, and Keep smiling!

Quotes from friends of the S.O.U.L Clinic of Kentuckiana Inc. of what they are thankful for this year.

"I'm thankful for great friends and family and lots more of great times." – Crystal B.

"I'm thankful for my family and friends." – Henry B.

"My son, my career, family, roof over our heads and that 2016 is almost over." – Brandi B.

“My little family.” – David W.

“Thankful for my wonderful mother and my sweet pets.” – Alonzo W.

“I am thankful for having hope today! I pray daily for guidance to be a more loving person. I am grateful for those who are in my life now. They bless me and I hope I can be a blessing to them. I try not to be overwhelmed—it helps me not become depressed. I am grateful for my son and daughter as well as my brother and my precious yet trifling little companion Duke!” – Yolonda Clay

“I want to thank The SOUL Clinic for showing me a path that I could take to do some good in the world.”
– Joshua B.

“I am thankful for my mother, who was almost taken earlier this year. By the grace of God, she's made a full recovery!” – Allen E.

“I am thankful for my life and great friends at the soul clinic that has transform my life into what it is now.” - Jay D.

Black Friday. Cyber Monday.

#GIVINGTUESDAY™

November 29, 2016

As we have completed Black Friday and with Cyber Monday just around the corner lets plan on Giving Tuesday to do something special for our fellow man by doing something as simple as taking out the trash for our neighbor, raking the leaves in the neighbor's yard, taking them a pie, reading them a scripture or helping them with a small task they have need of. Let's make this day of service a day to be remembered and another day to be thankful for in the service of the Lord.

“May we ever watch over one another, assisting in times of need. Let us not be critical and judgmental, but let us be tolerant ever emulating the saviors example of loving kindness.” – Thomas S. Monson