



**Wade Allen**

Lead Pastor

**David McEuen**

Pastor of Family & Worship

**John O'Connor**

Pastor of Community Engagement

**Ron Fields**

Pastor of Senior Adults & Care Ministries

## So Many Reasons to be Thankful

**Wade Allen**

Lead Pastor

### SETTING ASIDE TIME TO BE THANKFUL

Mother's Day was first celebrated in 1907 in a small community in West Virginia. By 1914, the United States Congress recognized the second Sunday in May as a day to honor mothers.

The first day set aside to honor fathers was celebrated in Spokane, Washington. In 1910, Sonora Smart Dodd, a native Arkansan, led in the founding of this holiday each June but it did not have much initial success. In fact, it wasn't established as an official US holiday until 1972 under President Richard Nixon!

In our culture today, we have days set aside to honor just about anything you can imagine! In case you missed it, International Coffee Day was October 1, but you still have time to get ready for National Candy Day on November 4 and National Nachos Day on November 6!

In all seriousness, we should set aside times to be thankful for people and events that have

impacted our lives in significant ways! I look forward to the opportunity to sing patriotic songs for a group of senior citizens on November 8 in honor of Veteran's Day on November 11.

In that regard, I am really looking forward to our Grand Thanksgiving Dinner on Sunday night, November 19, at 6:00 PM. This is a time for our church family to gather together for some great food and opportunity to share God's blessings in our lives over the previous year. I hope you are making plans to attend!



### PASTOR APPRECIATION

I want to take this chance to thank you for taking the time to recognize our pastors this past month. We know that you appreciate us, but it is also a blessing to hear from you in a special way each October. Thank you for your expressions of love and your kind words. You may not know this, but I keep a file in my office that is filled with encouraging notes and cards. On those days when I might be wondering why I continue doing what I'm doing, I pull that file out and you remind me! Thank you for blessing me in that way!

# Thankful for Your Love

**Ron Fields**

Pastor of Senior Adults and Care Ministries

I know! I know! Pastor Appreciation Month has passed. I am a bit ambivalent here. I feel like my years behind me give me a little latitude to share this with you.

I appreciate being appreciated. Let me count the ways after 57 years as a pastor.

First, the folks that returned after the past week of ministry, especially the sermons, were an indication that I was appreciated. That was the validation I needed.

Second, the expressions of joy as we gathered each week gave proof that love was growing. My heart overflows as I observe brothers and sisters in Christ coming together in a local church greeting one another and exchanging praises and sorrows.

Third, there are the individuals who have expertise in areas I do not, who come alongside and offer assistance in technology, automotive, small engine repair, and even household repairs.

Fourth, those notes, cards, gifts which were given specifically to show appreciation.

And finally, those budgeted salary checks that came regularly. I felt they were more than adequate for my simple contribution.

I want to say thank you for every expression of appreciation. You have loved and blessed me and my family much more than I can express here. I say with Paul:

Philippians 4:1—"Therefore, my brethren dearly beloved and longed for, my joy and crown...stand fast in the Lord."

# Reasons for Thankfulness

**John O'Connor**

Pastor of Community Engagement

"Man shall not live by bread alone." Anyone who has spent a Thanksgiving with me, hopefully you have picked up on that I love going all out on this holiday. I love it. There is no forced implication to give a gift or buy chocolates or delivery flowers. This holiday truly celebrates the things that we are Thankful for. It also speaks to mine and Laura's love language. We love cooking for people. There is something special and unique about cooking food and sharing a meal together.

However, when Jesus was talking to Satan in the desert, He was referencing Deuteronomy 8:3 which does reference that we are to live by every word that comes from Lord. But the part that I have often overlooked, is that at that time this was said God was humbling Israel, teaching them through tough love. This teaching moment was to reset the priorities of the Israelites from food or material gain, but on the Words of God.

How often when we list the things we are thankful for, are they material gains. Things that we have been blessed with, the money, car, or maybe the home. If our thankfulness comes out of the way the Lord has shown us love and grace, it should help guide our actions to show love and grace to others. This Thanksgiving and Christmas, how can you live out the sentiment "not to live by bread alone"?

Deuteronomy 8:3—"And he humbled you and let you hunger and fed you with manna, which you did not know, nor did your fathers know, that he might make you know that man does not live by bread alone, but man lives by every word that comes from the mouth of the Lord."

# Thankful for Our Musicians

**David McEuen**

Pastor of Family and Worship

If you have been a part of our Sunday morning worship services the last couple months, you may have noticed some changes to our praise team. Beginning in September, we adopted a three month on, one month off rotation for each member of our Praise team. Though this leaves us with a smaller team from time to time, we believe there is great value in utilizing a rotation.

First, time off allows our praise team members to focus solely on being filled spiritually so that they can lead from a “full spiritual tank.” Those who lead also need to be ministered to. Without any time to rest, we run the risk of becoming over tired which can lead to bitterness or burnout. We don’t wish that for any of our team.

This rotation also provides the praise team an opportunity to remember what it is like to be

led in worship and sit with the conviction of the Holy Spirit during an invitation. When Bro. Wade begins praying at the end of his sermon, the praise team has to quickly shift from listening to the sermon to focus on musicality.



The final reason for this rotation is to cross-train musicians and equip additional musicians. There are a few musicians on our current praise team that play several instruments but have only been able to serve in one capacity. We want to invite them to utilize more of their talents for Christ, while at the same time inviting others to fill in the gaps.

God has blessed Temple with tremendous musical talent. Consequently, we have a responsibility to shepherd that talent well. With that in mind, we have begun this rotation of rest to honor our musicians and their call to serve God.

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*(Continued from “REASONS” on p. 1)*

## **BIG CHANGES IN THE ALLEN FAMILY**



As I sit and ponder all the things that I am thankful for, it only takes a moment for my mind to focus on the new daughter that I will be gaining this month! On November 11, Caleb will be getting married to a godly, young woman named Macy Jordan. We have been praying for her for decades! What a blessing it is to know that God has prepared her for our baby boy—and He has prepared Caleb for her. Thank you so much for blessing my kids with the wedding shower last month. There is never a doubt that we feel your love. Please know that you are greatly loved too!



- Nov 2-3**                    **BMA of AR Annual Meeting**  
CBC—Conway, AR
- Nov 5**                     **Daylight Savings Time Ends**  
Don't forget to "fall" back one hour!
- Nov 6**                     **Ladies Bible Study**  
6:30 PM
- Nov 14**                    **BMAO Mission Rally**  
ABS—6:30 PM
- Nov 18**                    **Church Work Day**  
8:00 AM - 12:00 NN
- Nov 19**                    **Church Thanksgiving Celebration**  
6:00 PM
- Nov 20**                    **Ladies Bible Study**  
6:30 PM
- Nov 23-24**                **OFFICE CLOSED - Thanksgiving**
- Nov 26**                    **Quarterly Business Meeting**  
5:00 PM
- Nov 28-30**                **Celebration 2023**  
Senior Adult Conference—Branson, MO
- Dec 2**                     **Ladies Christmas Party**  
Fellowship Hall, TBC
- Dec 2 & 3**                 **Singing Men of Arkansas Concerts**  
3:00 PM Saturday and Sunday
- Dec 3**                     **Christmas Caroling**  
5:00 PM
- Dec 7**                     **Christian Seniors**  
12:00 NN
- Dec 10**                    **Allen Studio Recital**  
3:00 PM
- Dec 10**                    **Observance of the Lord's Supper**  
5:00 PM
- Dec 24**                    **Christmas Eve Service**  
5:00 PM
- Dec 31**                    **New Year's Eve Party**



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