



The Mission Briefing November 2023



I was reading a Francis Chan book this week called *Letters to the Church*. In it, he was talking about the way we structure the church and listing all the things we do that are so important to what it means to be the church. He makes an interesting argument I would like to share. When it comes to being the church, he thinks *Less is More*. As the church, we don't need large auditoriums or big budgets or a specialized few doing all the work. He claims it is better to be small and worship together with a Bible, a cup, and some bread. His point was for readers to evaluate how they worship and do ministry but I couldn't help but feel the Spirit applying these lessons to how we do the holiday seasons as well. We

are entering the time of plenty and abundance. It's truly is a wonderful time! The food, the activities, the gatherings will be starting really soon for all of us, and that can be such a good thing...until it isn't. Sometimes we are most spiritually depleted after the holidays. If you want to enter the holidays and finish the holidays spiritually full, I just have two suggestions to give you in this time of celebration and abundance. Keep it Simple and Make Room. By doing these two things, I hope and pray the Spirit leads you into drawing near to the Jesus as we remember all He has done, is doing, and will do for us.

Keep it Simple

This might be the hardest suggestion for you. It seems antithetical to this time of year but as much as you can keep it simple. Think and remind yourself: *Less is More*. If you have less and try to do less, you will enjoy what you have and what you do more. Less activity will allow you to be present instead of trying to enjoy one thing while prepping or anticipating the next thing. Don't be afraid to say "No" to invitations, demands, and purchases. Obviously, do not pull out of everything the holidays have to offer but be selective and intentional about everything. Prioritize! Taking some of the clutter out of our lives is liberating. If we are overscheduled and over-committed it can feel suffocating and stressful. That's not what the holidays are about. You can declutter your holiday season by planning and prioritizing your holiday observances, firming up the most important parts in family traditions, and doing some reflection regarding how to make the most of your celebrations of the Lord. Take a few minutes soon to ask yourself a few important questions about each element of your celebrations.

1. Is God in this? Will it draw me and/or my family closer to the Lord? Will it keep Him the center?
2. Does it bring or express joy? Find a celebration that fills your heart with thanksgiving and worship.
3. Is this the best use of time and money? Prioritize and drop off the lesser activities or purchases.

There may be holiday obligations you have to complete. Try to limit these but when you do them, don't treat them as obligations. *Put your heart into them*. Look for God, bring joy to others, and be generous. The problem might not be the obligation but the attitude you bring to it. If it is good and necessary, don't just go through the motions, but make it fruitful.

Make Room

Second, make room for God. If you are too busy to pray, read your Bible, and reflect on the goodness of God, you are too busy! As the holidays add more to our lives, it is more necessary to declutter. Thanksgiving is about being thankful for all that God has given. We do not want to be too busy making pies or traveling to neglect the time we need to feel thankful. We need time to decompress and think about the blessings Christ has brought into our lives. We want to take a few things out so we can increase our prayer time. It's so important to create some margin. During this time make a list of all the things you are thankful for, read over it regularly, spend time with Jesus nurturing a heart of thanksgiving. When Thanksgiving is over, make room for Jesus this Advent season too. Pick up a special discipline (Simplicity, maybe) that helps you focus on Jesus even more. I'm going to read *Making Room in Advent: 25 Devotions for a Season of Wonder* by Bette Dickinson. As we get busy, it's natural to shorten our time with Jesus. Remember you only have 24 hours in a day, something is going to give. Don't let it be Jesus and the spiritual blessings that await you in Him. Give Him plenty of room this season. It may be the most important thing you do.

In Christ,

Pastor Kyle



**Operation Christmas Child
Packing Party
Friday, Nov. 17th Noon-3:00
Lunch Will Be Served
Join Us, You'll Be Glad You Did!
Call Donna Hofmann for Details
435-259-4505**





Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1. Men's Prayer Breakfast 6am Moab Diner Awana	2.	3.	4. Awana Breakfast
5. Time Changes Communion Day of Prayer	6.	7. Lady's Prayer Breakfast 6am Moab Diner	8. Men's Prayer Breakfast 6am Moab Diner Awana	9. Lady's Prayer Luncheon 12:00-Church	10.	11.
12.	13. <i>CE Board 5:30pm</i>	14. Lady's Prayer Breakfast 6am Moab Diner 6:00 Budget Workshop	15. Men's Prayer Breakfast 6am Moab Diner Awana	16.	17. Packing Party for Operation Christmas Child with Lunch 12:00-3:00	18.
19.	20. <i>Diaconate Meeting 6:30pm</i>	21. Lady's Prayer Breakfast 6am Moab Diner	22. Men's Prayer Breakfast 6am Moab Diner Awana	23. Happy Thanksgiv- ing	24.	25.
26.	27.	28. Lady's Prayer Breakfast 6am Moab Diner 5:30 Trustees 6:30 General Board	29. Men's Prayer Breakfast 6am Moab Diner Awana	30.		

NOVEMBER BIRTHDAYS

Mark Curnutte	11/01	Peggy Taylor	11/10	Arlene Barnum	11/21
Keith Hughes	11/01	Paul Drake	11/11	Joel Tuhy	11/21
Gary Jacobson	11/06	John Smith	11/13	Gayle Weisbecker	11/25
Bryson Parriott	11/06	Shawn Welch	11/18	Shirley Fredriksen	11/28
David Pals	11/10	Bill Mannel	11/20	Sharilynn Tsosie	11/30

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October Fund Report

Total Income- \$ 21,091.92

Online Giving- \$ 9,480.80

Expenses- \$ 20,433.49

Budget Needed \$259.369.00

Budget/year \$282,950.00

Average Worship Attendance 100



In this sorrowful time, we would
like to extend to you our
heartfelt condolences...
May our Lord comfort you
and your loved ones...

**TOM & LINDA WARREN
IN THE LOSS OF TOM'S
BROTHER BILL**