News from the Brick
Nettle Creek Church of the Brethren
5352 N. Brick Church Road
Hagerstown, IN 47346

Established 1820

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Sunday School: 9:00 a.m.
Worship: 10:00 a.m.

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Continuing the Work of Jesus. Peacefully. Simply. Together.

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Carol's Comments **"Be Ever Thankful"**

Psalm 106:1 Praise the Lord! O give thanks to the Lord, for he is good; for his steadfast love endures forever. NRSV

It is that time of year again, when we contemplate the things for which we are truly thankful. I think we have all had times in our lives when we really felt so blessed that we exuberated thanks to God. It's too bad that often thanksgiving is put on the back burner until the holiday rolls around each year. Then we make our Thanksgiving lists.

We never know when the surprises and challenges in our lives are causes for thanksgiving and being truly grateful until we ponder the past. Over the past year I had the opportunity to offer our home to an acquaintance who needed temporary living space…someone I knew, but not very well. I had never given that sort of hospitality to **anyone** before. So this was indeed a new experience for me, and I was a little apprehensive. But God's timing was so right for both of us. Over time the acquaintance became a friend. I think about the growing that we each have experienced. I value the depth of that friendship. I have been truly blessed by this experience and getting to know this person whom was only an acquaintance before. This was certainly a gift to me. I am indeed thankful that I moved out of my comfort zone and extended the hand of hospitality. A friendship that might never have happened…an understanding and acceptance on both our parts…an opening ourselves to dialogue…was God's movement for both of us.

What about you? Can you recall situations, persons, circumstances, or issues that have come to you and for which turned into blessings and filled you with gratitude? We truly have much for which to give thanks and praise God: the beauty of creation, our families, neighbors, church, medical technology, and God's presence. You may be able to add other things. When we can thank God for the challenges of life, then we know we are resting in the arms of a comforting God, for *his steadfast love endures forever.*

In our hymnal supplement there is a song, *In the Lord I'll Be Ever Thankful.* The text and music are by Jacques Berthier. It is the text and music of Taizé. The words are:

In the Lord I'll be ever thankful,
In the Lord I will rejoice!
Look to God, do not be afraid;
Lift up your voices, the Lord is near;
Lift up your voices, the Lord is near.

I invite you to meditate upon these words. Be ever thankful. Rejoice in the Lord. Look to God. Don't be afraid. Lift up your voices. Indeed…the Lord is near. Let's not wait until Thanksgiving to be ever thankful. Let's look **each day** and see the steadfastness of the Lord. And **be ever thankful!**

In Christ,

Pastor Carol M. Pfeiffer

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An open home, an open heart, here grows a bountiful harvest. **Judy Hand**