Monthly Newsletter of
South Point Community
October 2026 ~ Volume 102

The Connection

A Word from Pastor Dave

Did you know October is National Pizza Month? While the world loves inventing special days to celebrate, Pastor Dave reminds us why God declares *every* day a cause for rejoicing.

"This is the day the Lord has made; We will rejoice and be glad in it."
~ Psalm 118:24

Flip to Page 2 to see how we can cultivate deeper gratitude this season.

SAVE THE DATE

Oct 8th ~ Women's Fall Worship & Craft Night 6:30 pm

Oct 23-25th ~ Men's Retreat at Camp Crossroads

Oct 29th ~ Open Worship Night 7 pm

Nov 7th ~ Harvest Party & Campfire 4-7:30 pm

This Month at a Glance

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A Word from Pastor Dave cont…

Psalms 118:1-6, 8-9, 24, 28-29, NKJV

"Oh, give thanks to the Lord, for He is good! For His mercy endures forever. Let Israel now say, "His mercy endures forever." Let the house of Aaron now say, "His mercy endures forever." Let those who fear the Lord now say, "His mercy endures forever." I called on the Lord in distress; The Lord answered me and set me in a broad place. The Lord is on my side; I will not fear. What can man do to me?

It is better to trust in the Lord than to put confidence in man. It is better to trust in the Lord than to put confidence in princes.

This is the day the Lord has made; We will rejoice and be glad in it.

You are my God, and I will praise You; You are my God, I will exalt You. Oh, give thanks to the Lord, for He is good! For His mercy endures forever."

Besides our traditional Turkey Day on October 12th, October has a number of special days connected with it: International Coffee Day on October 1st, National Taco Day on October 4th; which is also the Feast of St Francis of Assisi; World Mental Health Day on October 10th, Shea's 30th Birthday on October 28th, Halloween on October 31st and there's more. For example, apparently the entire month is National Pizza month. Now how great is that? The declaration of special days throughout the year is a fascinating study. Whether it's the Province of Alberta inventing Family Day in 1990; so that the month of February includes the statutory holiday; or the Orthodox Church debating the date of Christ's death and resurrection with the Pope there is no end to the festivities and to the fuss.

Yet the Bible with its own list of festive days goes at least one step further declaring that every day is a gift. "Oh, give thanks to the Lord, for He is good! … This is the day the Lord has made; we will rejoice and be glad in it." (vv. 1 & 24) In a total of 29 quick verses Psalm 118 declares a lot of positive things. Scholars call it a Psalm of Thanksgiving. Yet the context of the Psalm actually relates to a time when the author was hard pressed on every side. Have you ever noticed how very thankful we can be when we experience a small measure of relief from an ongoing burden? Yet in the midst of ongoing abundance our gratitude is so so. I'm not saying that's the way it should be. I'm aware of Apostle Paul's instruction to give thanks in all circumstances (1 Thessalonians 5:18). However, I'm also aware that when I've shared this verse in the past, typically I've given the example of Paul singing in the prison with Silas (Acts 16). Why would I give a negative example when obviously giving thanks in all circumstances presumes we should give thanks in the good times as well? Over the years that is something I've come to appreciate about our North American tradition of Thanksgiving. Not only do I find myself less likely to grumble but I'm also encouraged to take a broader view of the practice of gratitude and thanksgiving.

Fun Facts & Tips



- *Did you know:* Coffee "beans" are actually the pits (seeds) found inside bright red fruit called coffee cherries.



- Did you know: National Taco Day was permanently moved to the **first Tuesday of October,** so it always lands on "Taco Tuesday!



- *Mental Health Tip:* Taking just 15 minutes a day to pray or meditate can significantly lower stress levels.



- *Pizza Fact:* Americans eat approximately **3 billion pizzas** per year. That's a lot of dough!

Prayer Corner

God, you have been so good to us.
We take for granted the way you shepherd us lighting our path through life.
But we do want to thank you for calling Dave to become a Pastor, calling him to take the leadership position here at South Point was your plan from long ago.
You knew what was best for him and his family, what we all needed to thrive.
Now forever "on call" as our shepherd, leading us by example, feeding us the truth, guarding us, and so many in the community; through time spent in counsel and in prayer.
We thank you for Charmaine, her support behind Dave's ministry as he runs here and there answering endless calls.
We want to thank you for all our other "pastors" you've gifted our small congregation with.
Tracy, Larry, Dawne and Ken.
We pray that you continue to work in and through them to be a reflection of you. That they lean on one another for the wisdom you pour in and through them. We pray that you would even use us to encourage and sharpen them in return for all they do for us and the community.
Would you remind them to rest? Take them aside to a place of refuge, a place where you will tend to their wounds and tired souls. A place where our good shepherd would lighten the heavy load they often carry. A place where you restore and remind them, they are loved and appreciated not only by you but by all of us you have called.



By Wendy

October Birthdays

10th	Joni	21st	Ariel
12th	Karen	25th	Cyrus
18th	Emma	28th	Shea



October Dates

- 1st **Men's Genesis Bible Study 2:30 pm**
- 1st **Catalyst Meeting 7 pm**
- 4th **Worship Service 10:30am**
- 6th **Celebrate Recovery 7 pm**
- 7th **Prayer at Rosewood Erie Glen 10:30 am**
- 8th **Men's Genesis Bible Study 2:30 pm**
- 8th **Women's Fall Worship & Craft Night 6:30 pm**
- 11th **Worship & Communion Service 10:30am**
- 12th **Happy Thanksgiving**
- 13th **Celebrate Recovery 7 pm**
- 14th **Prayer at Church 10:30 am**
- 14th **CR Leader's Meeting 6:30 pm**
- 15th **Men's Genesis Bible Study 2:30 pm**
- 17th **Pastoral Team Meeting 9:00 am**
- 18th **Worship, Info meeting & Potluck 10:30am**
- 20th **Celebrate Recovery 7 pm**
- 21st **Prayer at Church 10:30 am**
- 23-25th **Men's Retreat at Camp Crossroads**
- 25th **Worship Service 10:30am**
- 27th **Celebrate Recovery Monthly Meal 6 pm**
- 28th **Prayer at Church 10:30 am**
- 29th **Men's Genesis Bible Study 2:30 pm**
- 29th **Open Worship Night 7 pm**
- 30th **My Father's House Spanish Prayer Service 9 pm**

November 7th **Harvest Party & Campfire 4-7:30 pm**

Barnabas Notes



What side of the bed did you get up on this morning? What happened to you, did you bump your head? Who spit in your coffee / beer? Did you fall out of bed this morning? These are all phrases that we may have thought or said to people in our lives that are having a bad day. They are miserable, unhappy with life, and have a "Grrrrrrrr-attitude". We have all experienced this kind of person, and hey, it's most likely happened to us as well.

So, what does it take to change our attitude from Grrrrrrrr-attitude to Gratitude? What does Gratitude really mean? Gratitude, which rhymes with attitude, comes from the Latin word gratus, which means "thankful, pleasing." When you feel gratitude, you're pleased by what someone did for you and, also pleased by the results. You're not anxious about having to pay back for what you received.

There are many examples in our lives of someone doing something to please us that we are thankful for. A kind word from a friend, a prayer when it's needed, an ear to listen, a freshly baked apple pie, a dozen cookies, driving someone to an appointment, and the list goes on and on.

We can never "pay back" for what Jesus did for us on the cross. He took all of the sins that we have and ever will commit with him to the cross and paid the ultimate price, the one that we could never pay. In John 10:10b "I have come that they may have life and have it to the full." To a believer, this in itself, is everything we need to change our attitude from a Grrrrrrrr-attitude to an attitude of Gratitude.

My reminder to you in this letter is that God will richly bless you with all joy and peace when we bless Him with an attitude of Gratitude.

Give thanks with a grateful heart
Give thanks to the Holy One
Give thanks because He's given Jesus Christ, His Son

I wrote the above article in September 2020 for the October newsletter. A lot of water has gone under the bridge since then. People have come and gone. Some have come and stayed. Some have gone home to be with our Lord. There have been baptisms, weddings, births, funerals, potlucks, campfires, and when someone's birthday falls on a Sunday, we sing Happy Birthday. Through it all God's goodness has never changed.

God's love for his people has become more and more clear through our church family. How do I know? By listening to people who visit say things like, "I feel so welcome here, you're like one big happy family". And, "It was like the pastor was talking just to me". Or how about, "Your church is so friendly," Our church family tends to linger and mingle after the service has concluded. And did you know that 80% of our congregation is involved in our church programs in some way. (Normally it's the other way around). I Am so grateful for the pastoral and administrative people and their leadership.

We have been able to share God's love and generosity with an attitude of thankfulness. Our pastor preaches his messages from the Bible. And as we all know God's Word will not return to him void. "For as the rain and the snow come down from heaven and do not return there but water the earth, making it bring forth and sprout, giving seed to the sower and bread to the eater, so shall my word be that goes out from my mouth; it shall not return to me empty, but will accomplish that which I purpose, and shall succeed in the thing for which I sent it."
Isaiah 55: 10-11.

Gratitude: It is not just saying "thank you", but an active response of trust, obedience, and worship toward God. May God continue to bless us as we worship Him.

~ Barnabas

Ministry Highlight



Our Church has many different ministries that reach people in various ways. Recently, I experienced the power of South Point's prayer and care team as my family went through the extremely exhausting and difficult experience of my mother's heart failure. Right from the beginning of when she entered the hospital (3 months ago) we had church friends praying and supporting us. Dave was by our side the night she got flown to London hospital. The prayer team was notified, and we received phone calls and letters. I could feel the presence of the Holy Spirit surrounding us as prayers were lifted to God on our behalf. Several times I was able to experience a "calm within the raging storm" that I knew was not from me. We spent 10 weeks in 4 hospitals and finally the last 2 weeks in the Leamington hospice. Several times we received meals for our family and people visited my mom in Leamington. Tracy asked my mom (Rita) if she would like some hymns sung. On a Saturday night with only a few hours lead time, a group of people from our church came to hospice, crowded the room and sang several hymns to my dying mother. I was brought to tears. It was beautiful. On the day my mom died, several people from our church came and formed an honour guard while my mom was taken out. Other people and staff in hospice witnessed the singing and the honour guard. My sister commented on how lucky we were to have such a group of supportive people.





This is one of the hardest experiences I have had to go through, but mom knew she was being prayed for and had peace. I cannot thank the prayer and care team enough for what they did for us. The interesting part is that I always knew it existed I just hadn't experienced it that personally. To think that they do this constantly year after year behind the scenes for others is so impressive! Thank you, God, for the loving support of that ministry. May God continue to bless them; give them the energy they require to sustain this ministry and to see the effects of what they do!

RECIPE

From the kitchen of: Rita Lepp

Chocolate Chip Cookies

Preheat oven at 375°

Sift *(onto wax paper)*:

- 1 cup sifted all purpose flour
- ½ tsp. baking soda
- ½ tsp. salt

Mix well (into 3 qt. bowl):

- ¼ cup sugar
- ½ cup firmly packed brown sugar
- ½ cup shortening
- 1 tsp. vanilla

Beat in:

- 1 well beaten egg

Mix in dry ingredients

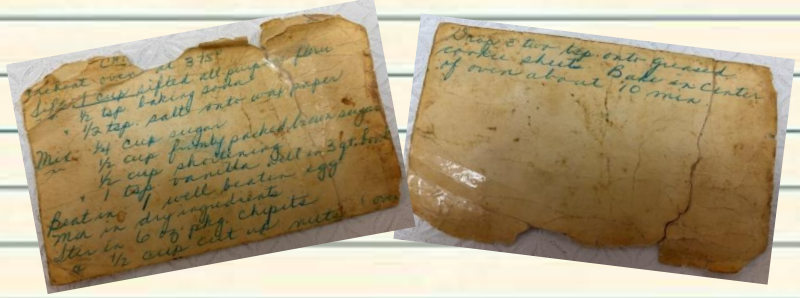
Stir in:

- 6 oz. pkg. Chipits
- ½ cup cut up nuts

Using two teaspoons, drop onto greased cookie sheets.

Bake in center of oven about **10 min.**





Reflections on Gratitude

~ By J'Aime



Quick: think of the one meal you grew up with that, as an adult, you'd never actively choose to eat again. For the longest time, my answer would have been "hamburger gravy over brown rice with grape Kool-Aid and Jello pie."

I grew up relatively poor. Food security wasn't great, and my mother Jacquie did the bulk of our food shopping on the local Air Force base. My father Jim had retired from the US Army, so we had special ID cards that allowed us onto the base to shop at the commissary. It was cheaper than the local grocery store, but you had to buy a lot of things in bulk. This included ground beef, the primary ingredient in hamburger gravy.

It would have never crossed my mind to intentionally make hamburger gravy until Maria cooked up a Scottish version of the dish in my kitchen and Autumn enjoyed it. To me, that meal was a representation of the childhood that I wanted to distance myself from. For Maria, it was a chance to show off the part of her Scottish heritage that we don't often see. For Autumn, it was protein that she would eat without begging for chicken nuggets afterwards.

Nowadays, hamburger gravy is a staple in my house. Quick, easy to make, stores well and leftovers can easily be repurposed into other meals. When I make it I find myself thinking back to when I was that little kid, dreading dinner time. And, if I'm honest, there are days I find myself embarrassed by the sheer lack of gratitude I would show.

Little Kid J'Aime didn't understand what was flawed or broken in her home, nor did she comprehend how or why her parents behaved as they did. Adult J'Aime, armed with God's grace and 25 years of life experience, has a better grasp on things now. Hamburger gravy was miserable, but I am thankful to Jacquie for doing what she could with the resources she had to keep me fed.

We're coming up on Thanksgiving (the first of two in my home) and I cannot help but be humbled by the blessings that surround me. So many things to give thanks for but so little time to do it properly, or with the gravity that a true thank you often deserves. The enormity of the good things is astounding, but with all the good comes bad. Life is messy, nothing is perfect and the struggles and trials that come along are quick to sour us to the realization that thankfulness, practiced as we are called to do so, means that we should be giving thanks in all things. (1 Thessalonians 5:18)

If I were to start listing names and things I needed to express gratitude for... well, this newsletter would turn into a novel rivaling War and Peace in size. Let's not do that. Instead, I would urge everyone to take some time and think carefully about gratitude, and the many blessings in your life. What are you thankful for? How is that gratitude shown? And please, allow me to take a moment and express my continued gratitude to the SPCC congregation. It is truly a privilege and a blessing to be plugged into such a dynamic group of folks.





Random Thoughts from The Road

Gratitude is the feeling of appreciation or thankfulness for the good things in life."

"Gratitude in the Bible is a deep heart posture that recognizes God as the source of all goodness, demanding a lifestyle of continuous thanksgiving regardless of life's circumstances."

Some bible verses on thanks and gratitude.

1 Thessalonians 5:16-18: "Rejoice always, pray continually, give thanks in all circumstances; for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus."

Psalm 107:1: "Give thanks to the Lord, for he is good; his love endures forever."

Philippians 4:6-7: "Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God."

Colossians 3:17: "And whatever you do, whether in word or deed, do it all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through Him."

Psalm 9:1: "I will give thanks to you, Lord, with all my heart; I will tell of all your wonderful deeds."

What have you given thanks for lately? What brings your heart joy? The phrase "where your treasure is, there your heart will be also" is a famous Bible verse from Matthew 6:21 in the New Testament. However, is that enough in the eyes of The Lord? Does the wealth of the world please you. Will it sustain you? Mind you, God doesn't want paupers! God wants you to prosper.

Let's take a look at some of my life for example. What is important to me. Well, I can tell you that it isn't what was important 20 years ago, or 10 years ago. In our youth, we chase all the things that we think we are supposed to. Things we think will bring us joy. As someone who did all this and more, achieved the status and the accolades of the world. The company, the toys, the prestige that goes with it all. Was I thankful? Yes! Did it bring me happiness? Yes! Was it enough? Not really! Was there a price to it all? Boy, was there!

As someone who got so busy making a living, that I forgot to live. I forgot why and who I was doing it for. I lost me! I was still "thankful", and that made it okay, I thought.

Then, something began to change. My priorities started to shift. And strangely enough, I was more thankful for that! I had allowed my chase to almost destroy me! I became so busy that I almost lost everything I had built up. I was thankful for the correction, even though it was painful. I went merrily along on my altered path thankful and happy. I was not using my gifts the way God had designed. Therefore, God changed me again! He put me in the hospital, and with wise council, I changed again. This time however, God had almost stripped everything away. He took the toys, the business, and even my marriage. I was reminded that God is in control! And that I am valuable enough for Him to care about. That was the biggest lesson for me.

I had somehow lost me in the process. I didn't matter! Or so I thought. There were people at this church that reminded me of that. That is what I am most thankful for! A loving church family that is comfortable enough to address the tough things when they are needed. They did it lovingly but firmly. And I listened and am still listening.

So, back to the theme at hand. What am I thankful for?

I am thankful for the love and support of my family. I am thankful for a place to live, yes, it is different than it was. I am thankful that I found a job that I am comfortable with. I am thankful that I am able to greet at the door every Sunday. To see people actually happy to see me. They tell me that they look forward to the interaction. I am thankful that I can openly worship God. And I am thankful that I get to teach God's Word to a Sunday school class. That one still amazes me weekly. I find myself as hungry for God's word as they are. I am thankful that I get to put these ramblings down here for others to read and glean what God would have them from it. Most of all, I am thankful that God chose me, saved me, and uses me daily even if it is to only pray for someone. ~ Amen!

SPCC Family ~ October Word Search

N P A S T O R A P P R E C I A T I O N F
O S T S E V R A H Z L B L E S S I N G T
I P A O C A E V A D R O T S A P N B M A
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A C T C T Z T C T E O N P P A A I R U O
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A P E P P E R O N I L B B L E S A N G S
P M N G R A T I T U D E C O M F U N I T

Spiritual & Personal Well-being

- GRATITUDE
- BLESSING
- PRAYER
- READ BIBLE
- WELLNESS
- MENTAL HEALTH

Church Leadership & Community

- PASTOR APPRECIATION
- PASTOR DAVE
- PASTORAL TEAM
- TRACY
- SPCC
- COMMUNITY

October Events & Autumn Season

- TACO TUESDAY
- PIZZA
- PEPPERONI
- MOZZARELLA
- CRUST
- THANKSGIVING
- HARVEST
- PUMPKIN
- SPICE
- APPLE
- FALL
- OCTOBER
- COFFEE

Click here to play this month's Word Search online!

