



# Koinonia *focus*

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER | MOORELAND FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH |  
NOVEMBER 2019

***"Good rule in life: I try hard not to offend; I try harder not to be offended."***

Texas Congressman Dan Crenshaw provided wise counsel that, if applied, could radically improve relationships. Crenshaw was the subject of some ill-advised humor on *Saturday Night Live*, and it lit up offense meters all across America. Comedian Pete Davidson made fun of Crenshaw's eye patch, which is worn over the eye he lost while serving as a Navy SEAL in Afghanistan. Rather than recoil against the distasteful humor with a demand for an apology and Davidson's immediate termination, Crenshaw responded via Twitter by stating, *"Good rule in life: I try hard not to offend; I try harder not to be offended."* In a follow-up editorial, Crenshaw wrote eloquently about the "phenomenon that has taken complete control of the national discourse: outrage culture. It seems like every not-so-carefully-worded public misstep must be punished to the fullest extent, replete with soapbox lectures and demands for apologies." He went on to say there's a big difference between finding something offensive and being outraged. He said, "I have been literally shot at before, and I wasn't outraged. Why start now?" In his editorial's closing paragraph, Crenshaw wrote, "When all else fails, try asking for forgiveness, or granting it." These thoughts and ideas could not only alter our culture, but they could also resolve some long-standing tension that so often surfaces among families during the holidays. *Twitter, 11/4/18; Houston Chronicle, 11/15/18, p.A15*

November is a time that reminds us to be grateful to God and show kindness and love toward one another. The apostle Paul begins and ends on this note, *Ephesians 4:1-3 (NLT2)* <sup>1</sup> *Therefore I, a prisoner for serving the Lord, beg you to lead a life worthy of your calling, for you have been called by God.* <sup>2</sup> *Always be humble and gentle. Be patient with each other, making allowance for each other's faults because of your love.* <sup>3</sup> *Make every effort to keep yourselves united in the Spirit, binding yourselves together with peace...* <sup>32</sup> *be kind to each other, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, just as God through Christ has forgiven you."*

*Pastor David*

# Giving Thanks

"As we express our gratitude, we must never forget that the highest appreciation is not to utter words, but to live by them." John Fitzgerald Kennedy  
Veterans, to you and your family, we give thanks for the freedoms we have due to the sacrifice you have made to your/our country for the betterment of all.

We will come together to offer thanks to the Father at the Men's Prayer Breakfast on November 9th at 7:00 a.m. Dad's, bring your son/son in law, Grandfather's, bring your son/grandson.

Supper of Thanks/prayer of praise for the Ladies will be on November 14 at 6:00 p.m. Ladies, bring a favorite salad and /or dessert for the supper and join us as we give thanks for the many blessings we enjoy.

Church family, we will have our annual Thanksgiving dinner following the morning worship service on November 10th. Bring a favorite holiday side dish, salad and/or dessert. A sign up sheet has been placed in Sunday School boxes to sign for an opportunity to serve. Invite a friend to join us that day for worship and fellowship.

Courage is fear that has said its prayers and decided to go forward anyway. ~ Joyce Meyer

*"Then you will call upon Me and go and pray to Me, and I will listen to you. And you will seek Me and find Me, when you search for Me with all your heart." Jeremiah 29:12-13*

# Operation Christmas Child

Since 1993, Samaritan's Purse has collected more than 168 million shoeboxes packed with toys and other fun items by people like you, and delivered them to boys and girls in need around the world in partnership with local churches.

We will be gathering up the shoeboxes you've packed for the Samaritan's Purse Operation Christmas Child on Sunday, November 3rd during the morning worship hour. Our goal is to have at least 50 shoeboxes to send to children around the globe!

# New Look for 2020

*"We are the servants of the God of heaven and earth, and we are rebuilding the temple that was built many years ago," Ezra 5:11* The long range building committee is actively looking at phase II of remodeling and updating our church buildings. The main building is the primary focus of this stage. The committee asks that you join with them in prayer seeking wisdom and direction as well as financial blessing to fund the task at hand. A better look at what's ahead will be presented at the business meeting in December.

# Sharing Thanks...

Each Thanksgiving, we lend a hand to our community to help meet the need for a nice Thanksgiving dinner for those who might not have one due to circumstances in their lives. A grocery basket has been set in the hallway with a listing of items we would like to give so that you may donate to help fill the baskets. We will meet Monday, November 25 at 9:00 a.m. to bag and deliver Thanksgiving baskets in conjunction with the Mooreland Ministerial Alliance. Let the office know if you are available to lend a helping hand that morning.

# Calling all Leadership

November 7th is an important day in our church life. It is on this day that we are asking all of the members of Church Council to come together to discuss and set a budget for all of the Committees and working members of the Church for the 2020 year. We will also work on setting calendar dates for the first 3 months of the new year. Our evening will begin at 6:00 with a light meal and the start up of the meeting beginning at 6:30. If you are in a leadership role, please make every effort to be at this meeting. If you are a member of a committee or a member of the church, please be in prayer for your committee and Church. We want to be diligent in taking care of the Lord's house and it's functions.

# FBC Mooreland Students

Technology is great at making life easier. Sometimes it is easy to condemn technology for hindering one's walk or as a reason for why one can be distracted from the Mission God has set before us. Technology itself isn't inherently good or bad— it's an enhancer, that takes preexisting practices and makes them more efficient and easier. Take your daily devotion time for example; many people struggle to consistently have a time with God. Consider using your phone's calendar to schedule and prioritize your time with God. Most adults use their phone calendar to schedule everything else in life; wouldn't it make sense to do the same with your daily devotional (especially if that is a struggle). God created humans with the capabilities of improving our world and technology is just another way that we do that. We should not be afraid to embrace technology as a gift to enrich our lives and enliven our faith in new ways.

## For Parents:



**Parent Cue**— Parent Cue realizes that parents have approximately 936 weeks from the time a child is born until they graduate and move on. Parent Cue helps parents to purposefully do something each week to move their child toward a deeper faith. The app allows parents to input the age of each child in the house and provides suggestions to help you start age appropriate spiritual conversations with your child. It freaks me out to see that I only have 825 weeks with Eli still in our house but it also allows me to tangibly see the task ahead of us as parents.



**dadawesome**— Dadawesome is a website and podcast dedicated to fathering well. The core verse behind dadawesome is Psalm 78:4 (NLT), "We will not hide these truths from our children; we will tell the next generation about the glorious deeds of the LORD, about his power and his mighty wonders." The core of this resource is bringing in older more experienced dads to tell some of their experiences in leading their household in a godly manner. This includes their failures and things they would change if they could go back in time. WEB: <https://dadawesome.org/listen/> Instagram: @dadawesome Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/dadawesomepodcast/> Twitter: <https://twitter.com/dadAWESOMEpod> Text: "dad" to 33222 to join dadawesome daily

## For Students:



**Campus Prayer**— Campus Prayer's goal is to claim your campus by encouraging and uniting students on your campus to pray on and for your campus. If your wanting to start a student led Christian organization on campus or you just want to spend your lunch praying once a week, this is a great app for you. The app provides a brief devotional and then helps guide you through prayer for your campus. Whether doing this as an individual, this is a great place to start claiming your campus for Christ.

## For Adults and Students:



**The Bible Memory App**— Most people would admit that we don't memorize scripture as much as we want or should. The Bible Memory app was recommended to me by another pastor a few months ago to elevate my personal bible memorization. The app offers auditory, visual and kinesthetic (some of these features only come in the PRO version) learning styles. Families or small groups can also join each other within the app to learn a verse together.



**The Pocket Prayer App (iphone only)**— This app was recommended to me approximately three years ago and it has revolutionized my prayer life. I was known for forgetting a prayer request, but with Pocket Prayer I can keep my prayer list, list updates to requests, mark answered prayers, mark that I've prayed for a request on my list and go back and view previously answered requests. This is not the only prayer app out there but it is one that works for me.



**GET A BIBLE APP**— This one should seem silly but if you haven't downloaded a bible app on your phone, you should. Find the one that works for you. YouVersion, Bible Gateway and Logos are fantastic apps with multiple translations available. All of these apps have devotionals available but You Version is unique in the fact that it has devotionals that were written by the leadership of The Baptist General Convention of Oklahoma. Devotionals are available for children, students, college students and adults so find the one that works best for you.

Obviously this is not an exhaustive list but it should get you started. Put technology to work to help you grow in your relationship with God. The above is a list of apps and other technologies that I have used personally. **All of the apps are free but may have available upgrades that cost for more features.**

-BRICE

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**Return Service Requested**

## ***Community Thanksgiving Service***

It's always such a blessing to worship with fellow Brothers and Sisters in Christ from all denominations and all ages! Our community will be joining together *here*, November 17 at 6:00. We will enjoy lots of music, have prayer, a message of thanks, & the Ministerial Alliance will report on the ministries they have done this year as well as giving the financial report. An offering will be received, which funds ministries of the Ministerial Alliance and is also used to purchase the turkeys for families in need of a Thanksgiving food basket given by the churches. As host church, our Hostess committee will be preparing sandwiches - please bring desserts and/or chips & dip, veggie tray or other finger foods to share with our community as we fellowship together following the service.