



# Thoughts & Travels

Southwest Conference of the Bible Methodist Connection of Churches:

Serving Churches in:

**Arkansas**

**Colorado**

**Idaho**

**Kansas**

**Kentucky**

**Louisiana**

**Missouri**

**New Mexico**

**Oklahoma**

**Texas**

## Thoughts:

Reading Psalm 100 reminds us of the importance of public worship and the purposeful focus on joy, thankfulness and praise.

As we approach Thanksgiving Sunday and then next Thursday, Thanksgiving Day, please encourage your family and church to praise God regularly and thoughtfully. Too often, and I am guilty of this, consciously think of offering thanks at this time of year and then forget to focus later.

I like David's reminder in verse 4 to, "enter His gates with thanksgiving and His courts with praise." In other words, thank the Lord for the provisions, protections and blessings, but along with thanks praise Him for His beauty, holiness, mercy, grace, truth, justice and love. In other words thank the Lord for the product of His hand but also praise Him for who His person and His personal attention to us.

Remember, "The Lord is good: His mercy is everlasting. And His truth endures to all generations."

## Personal:

A week ago today, Melba and I flew from Indianapolis to Dallas. Arriving late in Dallas, because of flight delays, we spent the night in the city and then drove to Lake Charles, LA (Chuck and Janie Dodd's place) Friday. We attended revival at Westlake PNC Church, that evening. Rev. Hoard from UBC was holding a revival.



## Events:

### Time Change

- November 5

### Thanksgiving

- November 23

### Advent

- December 3 - 1st Sunday of Advent
- December 10 - 2nd Sunday of Advent
- December 17 - 3rd Sunday of Advent
- December 24- 4th Sunday of Advent

### Ministerial

- Dates: March 14-16, 2024
- Location: Prothro Center 269, Methodist Lane, Pottsboro, Texas 75076

Saturday afternoon we had the privilege of dinner with Don and Debbie Steele in DeRidder. They arranged for a night's stay for us in a very nice cabin. Sunday we worshipped with Steeles and the people of DeRidder in the morning, had a fellowship meal and then an afternoon service. Sunday evening we again attended service at Westlake.

Monday and Tuesday we spent time with Janie and Chuck. Wednesday we returned home for mid week service at Durant.

This Sunday, Thanksgiving Sunday, we plan to worship at Durant.

Monday we are scheduled fly to Greenville, SC for Thanksgiving with some of our children.

## Prayer:

- Pastor, during your Pastoral prayer, please lift Living Hope, Celina, Kansas and Pastors Todd and Zane Hurst, to the Lord. I would encourage you to mention the highlighted church during your pastoral prayer. It is a good time to remind your people of the other churches in the Conference.
- Pray for Connectional Leadership: Blake Jones (chairman), Jack Hooker (Vice-Chair) R.G. Hutchison (Missons Director), Chelle Durr (Treasurer), Michael Avery (Communications Director) and Bob Blankenship (Secretary).
- Pray for Missionaries: Brennan and Ivon Muir, Shirley Fogleman, Maricka Herrer and David Martinez.
- Pray for Troyers while they research a possible place of ministry.
- Pray for your Conference Leadership and Executive Committee.
- Pray for Conference Extension Chairman Aaron Johnson and the churches in Mena, AR, Millersburg, KY and Grants, NM.
- Pray for Whitehouse and Duncan as they search for pastor.

## Praise:

- Thank the Lord for helping pastors and churches focus on the Lord's kingdom and transformed lives.
- Thank the Lord for a productive Conference President's meeting and for the privilege of having Aaron and Melissa Johnson join the meeting.
- Praise the Lord for this season of the year.

### Conference Finances:

#### October 2023

|                     |              |
|---------------------|--------------|
| Operating Receipts: | \$7,657.91   |
| Operating Expenses: | \$15,1365.96 |
| Total               | \$7,478.77   |