

**AND THE PEOPLE CAME...**

- Week of November 13, 2022 -

Sunday Morning Service	-----	29
Sunday Evening Service	-----	26
Wednesday Eve., 11/16/22 Service	-----	19

**AND THE PEOPLE GAVE...**

- Week of November 13, 2022 -

<u>Undesignated</u> Tithes & Offerings	-----	\$ 1,967.75
<b>TOTAL RECEIVED FOR WEEK OF 11/13/22:</b>	<b>\$</b>	<b>1,967.75</b>

- Week of November 6, 2022 -

<u>Undesignated</u> Tithes & Offerings	-----	\$ 2,230.31
<b>TOTAL RECEIVED FOR WEEK OF 11/06/22:</b>	<b>\$</b>	<b>2,230.31</b>

- Week of October 30, 2022 -

<u>Undesignated</u> Tithes & Offerings	-----	\$ 1,423.81
<b>TOTAL RECEIVED FOR WEEK OF 10/30/22:</b>	<b>\$</b>	<b>1,423.81</b>

- Week of October 23, 2022 -

<u>Undesignated</u> Tithes & Offerings	-----	\$ 1,228.10
Lighting for church street sign	-----	\$ 55.00
<b>TOTAL RECEIVED FOR WEEK OF 10/23/22:</b>	<b>\$</b>	<b>1,283.10</b>

- Week of October 16, 2022 -

<u>Undesignated</u> Tithes & Offerings	-----	\$ 910.00
Love Offering, Bro. Meier	-----	\$ 504.00
<b>TOTAL RECEIVED FOR WEEK OF 10/16/22:</b>	<b>\$</b>	<b>1,414.00</b>

Average amount of Undesignated Offerings needed for church operating expenses EACH WEEK, as a minimum = \$ 1,400.00



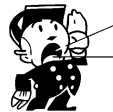
**LISTEN TO -**



ABIDINGRADIO.COM

**WHAT IT MEANS TO BE SAVED**

1. Admit that you are a sinner.
2. Admit that God says all sins must be paid for.
3. Accept the fact that Christ took upon Himself the suffering necessary to pay for all your sins.
4. You must change your mind about sin and sinning (God calls this repentance).
5. By an act of your will, accept by faith the Lord Jesus Christ, Who can save you from the penalty of sin. Then, tell God about this in a simple prayer. Believe that God keeps His promise to save you, and thank Him for His salvation.



**THANK YOU For Your Continued Faithfulness In Giving!**

During the early part this pandemic, we were unable to meet in the church-house. But - that did not mean that the expenses of having a church-house were suspended. We still had bills to pay - electricity, gas, water, trash pickup, phone, internet, facility insurance, copier lease, office supplies, etc., and, praise the Lord, His people kept praying, watching online, & supporting their church with their giving.

Sadly, some people only give when they are in attendance at church - sort of like paying for "services rendered" - but the truth is that they are robbing **THEMSELVES** of God's blessings when they withhold their tithes and offerings and only give when they are here (see Malachi 3:10). Thankfully, most of our people have remained faithful, in so many ways, during this crisis, including financially.

**WE HAVE 3 WAYS YOU CAN GIVE:**

1. **By mail** - 23 East Wells Blvd., Sapulpa, OK 74066
2. **Drop it off** - call the Church Office to arrange it. 224-1924
3. **Online** - Go to the link below and give electronically:

<https://tithe.ly/give?c=433047>

**WE ARE GLAD WE CAN NOW GATHER TOGETHER TO PRAISE GOD & STUDY HIS WORD TOGETHER IN THE CHURCH-HOUSE! YOUR FAITHFUL AND GENEROUS GIFTS WILL HELP US KEEP UP WITH THE BILLS AND CONTINUE OUR RENEWED OUTREACH EFFORTS!**

**Church Directory**

Todd W. White	-----	Pastor
Lois Mae Floyd	-----	Pianist/ Organist
Mickie Shatwell	-----	Evening Pianist
Derek Quinnelly	-----	Greeter
Larry & Mary Byars	-----	Outreach
Bertha Segebarrt	-----	Custodian
GinaMarie Shufelt	-----	Flowers
Seth White	-----	Sound/Video

REMINDER

AMERICA'S CHRISTIAN HERITAGE WEEK

*"...to keep our families secure, communities safe, and America free..."*

*"The religion which has introduced civil liberty is the religion of Christ and His Apostles. . . This is genuine Christianity and to this we owe our free constitutions of government."*

*- Noah Webster, History of the United States, 1832, public school textbook*



The Pilgrims left Plymouth, England, on September 6, 1620. Their destination? **The New World.**

Although filled with uncertainty and peril, it offered both civil and religious liberty.

For over two months, the 102 passengers braved the harsh elements of a vast storm-tossed sea. Finally, with firm purpose and a reliance on Divine Providence, the cry of "Land!" was heard.

Arriving in Massachusetts in late November, the Pilgrims sought a suitable landing place. On December 11, just before disembarking at Plymouth Rock, they signed the **"Mayflower Compact"** - America's first document of civil government and the first to introduce self-government.

After a prayer service, the Pilgrims began building hasty shelters. However, unprepared for the starvation and sickness of a harsh New England winter, nearly half died before spring. Yet, persevering in prayer, and assisted by helpful Indians, they reaped a bountiful harvest the following summer.

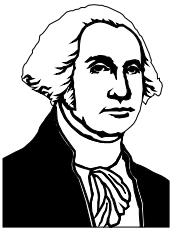
The grateful Pilgrims then declared a three-day feast, starting on December 13, 1621, to thank God and to reading as found celebrate with their Indian friends. While this was not the first Thanksgiving in America (thanksgiving services were held in Virginia as early as 1607), it was America's first Thanksgiving Festival.

Pilgrim Edward Winslow described the Pilgrims' Thanksgiving in these words:

*"Our harvest being gotten in, our Governor sent four men on fowling [bird hunting] so that we might, after a special manner, rejoice together after we had gathered the fruit of our labors. They four in one day killed as much fowl as... served the company almost a week... Many of the Indians [came] amongst us and... their greatest King, Massasoit, with some ninety men, whom for three days we entertained and feasted; and they went out and killed five deer, which they brought... And although it be not always so plentiful as it was at this time with us, yet BY THE GOODNESS OF GOD WE ARE... FAR FROM WANT."*

In 1789, following a proclamation issued by President George Washington, America celebrated its first **Day of Thanksgiving to God** under its new constitution. That same year, the Protestant Episcopal Church, of which

*(continued inside)*



President Washington was a member, announced that the first Thursday in November would become its regular day for giving thanks, "unless another day be appointed by the civil authorities." Yet, despite these early national proclamations, official Thanksgiving observances usually occurred only at the State level.

Much of the credit for the adoption of a later ANNUAL national Thanksgiving Day may be attributed to Mrs. Sarah Joseph Hale, the editor of *Godey's Lady's Book*. For thirty years, she promoted the idea of a national **Thanksgiving Day**, contacting President after President until President Abraham Lincoln responded in 1863 by setting aside the last Thursday of November as a national **Day of Thanksgiving**. Over the next seventy-five years, Presidents followed Lincoln's precedent, annually declaring a national Thanksgiving Day. Then, in 1941, Congress permanently established the last Thursday of each November as a national holiday.

Lincoln's original 1863 **Thanksgiving Proclamation** came - spiritually speaking - at a pivotal point in his life. During the first week of July of that year, the *Battle of Gettysburg* occurred, resulting in the loss of some 60,000 American lives. Four months later in November, Lincoln delivered his famous "*Gettysburg Address*."



It was while Lincoln was walking among the thousands of graves there at Gettysburg that he committed his life to Christ. As he explained to a friend:

***"When I left Springfield [to assume the Presidency] I asked the people to pray for me. I was not a Christian. When I buried my son, the severest trial of my life, I was not a Christian. But when I went to Gettysburg and saw the graves of thousands of our soldiers, I then and there consecrated myself to Christ."***

As Americans celebrate Thanksgiving each year, we hope they will retain the original gratefulness to God displayed by the Pilgrims and many other founding fathers, and remember that it is to those early and courageous Pilgrims that they owe not only the traditional Thanksgiving holiday but also the concepts of self-government, the "hard-work" ethic, self-reliant communities, and devout religious faith.

Are YOU thankful to God?

- David Barton, WallBuilders Ministries



***'NONDENOMINATIONAL' IS NOW THE LARGEST SEGMENT OF AMERICAN PROTESTANTS***

Call it the rise of the **nons**. Not the "**nones**," who have

commanded attention for years, as the number of Americans who don't identify with a specific religious tradition has grown from just 5 percent during the Cold War to around 30 percent today. This is the **nons** - nondenominational Christians, people who shake off organizational affiliations, disassociate from tradition, and free themselves from established church brands.

The number of nondenominational churches has surged by about 9,000 congregations over the course of a decade, according to new decennial data released by the US Religion Census. Little noticed, they have been quietly remaking the religious landscape.

There are now five times more nondenominational churches than there are Presbyterian Church (USA) congregations. There are six times more nondenominational churches than there are Episcopal. And there are 3.4 million more people in nondenominational churches than there are in Southern Baptist ones.

If "nondenominational" were a denomination, it would be the largest Protestant one, claiming more than 13 percent of churchgoers in America.

"The two biggest stories in American religion are the nones and the nons," said Ryan Burge, professor of political science at Eastern Illinois University and an expert in religious demographic data. "We are in a transitional period for Protestant denominations."

Nondenominational Christians don't show up in the polls that sample and survey American religion, because people don't think of "nondenominational" as an identity. They are more likely just to say "Christian," or perhaps "Protestant." If prompted, they might specify whether or not they think of themselves as evangelical or born again. But few if any say "nondenominational."

The US Religion Census catches the growing number of nondenominational Christians, however, because it is an actual census, with teams of people counting congregations and collecting reports of the number of people attending particular churches. Since the National Council of Churches started the project in 1952 and the Association of Statisticians of American Religious Bodies revived it in 1990, the decennial tally has become the most official count of religious groups in America.

In 2010, the US Religious Census identified 35,496 independent congregations without any formal denominational affiliation. The lead researcher, Scott Thumma, told CT there were almost certainly more than that, but it was the most precise count anyone had done to that point.

Using the same method in 2020, the US Religious Census team found 44,319 nondenominational congregations, with an estimated 21 million adherents. That makes nondenominational Christians the first or second largest group of Protestants in America, depending on how one counts. The Southern Baptists have about 7,000 more churches, but 3.4 million fewer people.

The next largest Protestant group, the United Methodists, can only claim about half the number of people as Southern Baptists,

and the denomination has lost a number of congregations in an ongoing church split since the Religion Census tallied at total of 30,051 in 2020.

Thumma, one of a few experts and close observers who have noted the nondenominational growth over the past decade, said he thinks there are several factors driving what he describes as "individualism at the congregational level."

It's an expression of "organizational individualism that parallels personal individualism," he said, and allows churches to slip out from under the burden of some cultural baggage.

"It is an evangelistic advantage," Thumma said. "A potential attendee at a nondenominational church doesn't have cultural expectations of what they might find inside the way they do if the brand is Episcopalian or Assemblies of God or Southern Baptist. Rather, the visitor has to experience the worship firsthand."

That may be especially helpful for evangelicals who are concerned the term **evangelical** has become toxic.

"Whether this is due to ties with Christian nationalist rhetoric or [former president Donald] Trump and the Republican party, I'm hearing folks all over trying to find more suitable language to describe themselves than evangelical," Thumma said. "As if the brand is tarnished beyond a repolishing."

The growth of the nons has also been supported by an ecosystem of publishers and parachurch organizations that produce nondenominational religious content. Historically, denominations supplied churches with music, Sunday School curricula, and Bible study curricula. They also arranged mission and service trips. But that has changed, and congregations are more likely now to shop around.

Today even some denominational churches end up being "functionally nondenominational," Thumma said, "defecting in place or quiet quitting ... and crafting their own local brand."

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## NEWS OF INTEREST TO CHRISTIANS

**BOY WINS MISS AMERICA REGIONAL COMPETITION** - A boy claiming to be transgender won the 2022 regional Miss America competition in Derry, New Hampshire. The Miss Greater Derry pageant winner is qualified to enter the Miss New Hampshire contest, which is the state level competition for the national Miss America pageant.

Brian (which he pronounces *Bree-Ann*) Nguyen, who not only is not a "miss" but is also obese, announced on Instagram, "My Social Impact Initiative is #QueensAre Everywhere. This is a media movement that helps the next generation develop self-confidence, realize their potential, and become the leaders of their destiny. ... I am ecstatic to be the FIRST transgender woman to be a Miss America local titleholder, and I hope to make everyone proud and become the first to walk the Miss America stage."

The Miss America pageants aren't modest by biblical standards and we aren't defending them, but that isn't the point.

The point is that Miss America is for "misses" not "misters." The trans movement is brazen rebellion to the Creator who made mankind "male and female," and they need to be told that it won't turn out well for them if they do not repent and turn to Jesus Christ for miraculous, transformative, undeserved salvation.

On a practical level, who in their right mind would chose an obese boy over a bunch of pretty girls in a beauty contest? What did the poor girls think when they so stupidly lost their chance to win a scholarship and progress to the Miss New Hampshire pageant? They should speak out.

In 2021, a "transgender" male named Kataluna Enriquez won the Miss Nevada USA pageant. On a better note, in February this year, a federal judge ruled that the Miss United States of America pageant can maintain their rule that contestants "be natural born female[s]." The operators of this pageant had enough sense to reject a male who tried to enter the contest, and he lost his lawsuit. **Everyone needs to speak out against this insanity.**

**INSTAGRAM BANS PRO-LIFE STUDENT GROUP** - In October 2022, Instagram banned Students for Life at Auburn University for posting a simple announcement that "March for Life Sign-ups Are Live." "We were banned permanently for a regular post promoting the March for Life," Samuel Hass, a board member of Students for Life at Auburn University, told Young America's Foundation. "This is a scary reminder how much power these corporations wield over our lives," he continued. ... Unfortunately, these unilateral decisions by big tech companies have become increasingly common.

Young America's Foundation's official account has been suspended by TikTok on multiple occasions simply for posting content that falls out of step with the Left's gender ideology. This routine censorship of ideas that leftist corporations determine to be objectionable goes directly against the principle of the First Amendment, and must be stopped" ("Pro-life Student Group Permanently Banned, Young America's Foundation, Oct. 14, 2022).

