

Dear AUMC Family:

January 2023

Thank you! There are so many gifts that I am grateful for. First, I am thankful to God for placing me among two fantastic church families. So many individuals make “church” happen. Their efforts make my life so much simpler and richer. I hesitate to name names because someone is always left out, but I need to recognize a few individuals. Dorene and Carol keep the office running--the bulletins, newsletters, and emails flowing so that we can be up to date on events and activities. Cindy and Henry keep the church as clean as all the activities will allow, and often do extra work to prepare for and recover from special events. Cindy is also a great help to me, keeping me posted on community events and individuals, and helping with the worship service each week. The Trustees not only look out for the building, but also the parsonage, the Memorial Fund, and investments for when the roof, boiler, carpet, etc. need to be replaced. The building is 25 years old, you know. Ron keeps track of the sound system, edits the video, and posts it to YouTube, in addition to his overwhelming task as treasurer.

I am also deeply grateful for the kind words, cards, and gifts that came my way during Pastor Appreciation Month, my birthday, and then Christmas! Each year I am blown away by your encouragement and love. Thank you from the bottom of my heart.

Then there’s our missions. Chatter on the Ladder (Tuesday and Thursday morning coffee shop) contributed excess funds to the Lighthouse Christmas. Our missions fund also contributes to the Lighthouse Christmas, which helped 83 families this year. We added to the collection for Heifer International’s Water for Life well project to fund a total of 10 wells! We also helped a couple neighboring churches that were struggling to pay their Ministry Shares. The Ramp Guys have completed 655 ramps! Glenn and crew always have a waiting list, but it’s the shortest in recent memory.

I think we should make being thankful a year-round event. We are blessed. My mom learned from her sister (who passed in the 1950s from leukemia) that you don’t have to look very far to find someone worse off than you are. That’s still very true! It pays to be grateful. It improves the life of the person you thank, and it improves your own outlook on life. Again, I say, we have so much to be thankful for! We are blessed.

And don’t forget to **Bee A Disciple!**



Pastor Barre