



First United Methodist Church
504 Jackson St.
Reynoldsville, PA 15851
Phone: 814-653-8593
Fax: 814-653-8283
www.FUMCreynoldsville.org

Thanksgiving 2018

For you know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ,
that though he was rich, yet for your sakes he became poor,
so that by his poverty you might become rich.
- 2 Corinthians 8:9

I've had an earworm the last few days. You know what an earworm is, right? It's when you have a song playing over and over and over again in your mind – and you can't get that song to stop playing! The song has a very simple title, "Give Thanks," with two basic and simple stanzas repeated a number of times:

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

And now let the weak say, "I am strong"
Let the poor say, "I am rich"
"Because of what the Lord has done for us"

Give thanks
We give thanks to You

The story behind this well-known praise song is perhaps even more inspirational than the lyrics:

In 1978, a young seminary graduate named Henry Smith was struggling to find work and coming to terms with a degenerative eye condition that would eventually leave him legally blind. Despite those hardships, Henry found hope in 2 Corinthians 8:9 and penned "Give Thanks," one of the most beloved songs of our time. And now let the weak say, 'I am strong'; Let the poor say, 'I am rich' because of what the Lord has done.

Years later, a young worship leader named Don Moen would record Henry's song, helping to carry it around the world. Today, you can hum "Give Thanks" at almost any church in the world, no matter the country or the language, and someone will recognize this simple song of thanksgiving and trust.

The lyrics, the story, and the words of the apostle Paul to the Corinthians all call me to a deeper consideration of the gracious gift of God encountered again and again and again in my life. Won't you join me in giving thanks for all that God has done, is doing, and will do in your life as well?

We will gather as a community to Give Thanks at St. Mary's Church on Main Street at 7:00 PM on Tuesday, November 20. Come, give thanks, and rejoice!

By His Grace,

Pastor Tom

PS – Please remember that on the First Sunday in Advent, Sunday, December 2nd, there will be a one week change in our Sunday morning schedule as we celebrate “One Faith, One Hope, One Church Worship” at 9:30 AM *followed* by Sunday School at 10:45 AM! There will be NO 8:15 service that day.