



St. Paul's News



Pastor's Corner . . . By Pastor Dave Heckler

Now that it's solidly autumn and we live in the shadows of Halloween, the scary movies are coming out again. One of the newer ones is called "Countdown"; it posits a smartphone app that tells you exactly, to the second, how much longer you have to live before you die. Of course, when the pretty blonde teenager downloads the app and finds she has less than three days to live, that's when the action (and the fright) ramps up. Can you change your fate if it's already been predetermined and calculated to the second? Can you avert your impending death—and if you can't, how then do you live?

In my devotional journeys through the Daily Lectionary, I've spent much of the past few weeks in 2 Kings and Jeremiah as they chronicle the fall of Jerusalem. It's a tragic tale in so many ways. Generations of prosperous but spiritually adulterous royal reigns capped by the bloody 55-year reign of Manasseh had finally brought God's covenantal patience with Israel and Judah to its limits and paved the way for Jerusalem's destruction. Even when Manasseh's grandson Josiah rediscovers the Book of the Law in the back closet of the Temple and commences one of the most thorough religious and cultural reformations in history, it's not enough to save the people; and by the time Jerusalem's coming to its (for then) last days, Josiah's son Zedekiah is left on the throne feeling powerless to do much of anything except let political nature take its course. Jeremiah continues to call the people to repentance, and urges Zedekiah to surrender to the Babylonian emperor Nebuchadnezzar so that the whole people might be spared; but Zedekiah can't bring himself to either surrender or repent, and Jeremiah can't do anything but tell the people the tragedy's coming, prepare them for life in exile (which wouldn't mean absence from God), and remind them that the tragedy wouldn't be the end of their story with God. Both Zedekiah and Jeremiah knew that "death" was coming to Jerusalem—but they differed completely in how they should live before they died...

I've heard it suggested several times over the past few months that St Paul's has probably ten more years of life in store before we have to pack it in. I know where folks are getting those figures (age and population demographics, attendance trends, finances, the demise of several congregations around us, etc.), and I understand where they're coming from (though I hardly consider such a demise inevitable)—but to me, whether you agree with the proposition or not, it begs the question: If "nothing lasts forever", if sometime within our current generation, St Paul's Church is likely to close, **how then shall we live now?** Should we simply resign ourselves to becoming "ashes to ashes, dust to dust"—or should we get ready to "go to seed" and prepare and equip ourselves, together and apart, to be the greatest blessing to the wider Church and community that we can possibly be, both now and in the future?

If we take the latter tack (and I pray we will), it raises some basic questions: What's our legacy of faith here at St Paul's—the central truths on which we've staked our individual lives and our life together? What do we want our unique legacy to be when we're gone? How (specifically) do we plan to pass that legacy of faith and discipleship to those within and beyond our walls? (Hint: I suspect it's going to take more than the traditional Sunday School and confirmation...) What knowledge, skills, devotional practices, organizational principles, and community "best practices" do we need to build, strengthen, and reinforce so that they can go with us to bless others? How do we ensure that our witness to Christ Jesus and service in His name continue to bless our Haycock Township community after St Paul's is past and gone? How do we ensure that what we've built here is cared for after we're gone—and in what new shape might the Body of Christ emerge here in Haycock?

Maybe these seem like macabre and depressing questions; after all, we're not dead yet (and Lord willing, we won't be for a long time). But as many people who've lived with terminal illness can testify, even the time of dying can be redeemed—and often, the lessons learned and passed on during what seems to be terminal illness end up being precisely the things that give a person an entirely new lease on life. I believe that if we dare to wrestle with these questions and establish some answers to them now (within the next three to five years), we'll find ourselves to be not in our dying days, but instead the catalysts of a renaissance of Christian discipleship here in Haycock Township and throughout our region. We'll rediscover the truth of those wonderful Susan Palo Cherwien lines with which I closed last month's Pastor's Corner: "When autumn cools and youth is cold, when limbs their heavy harvest hold, then through us, warm, the Christ will move with gifts of beauty, wisdom, love..."

Yours in Christ Jesus our Lord,

Pr. Dave



Special Congregational Meetings Nov. 10 and 17

During the month of November, we'll be holding **two special congregational meetings**— both of which we're hoping will be relatively short and straightforward. Here are the details:

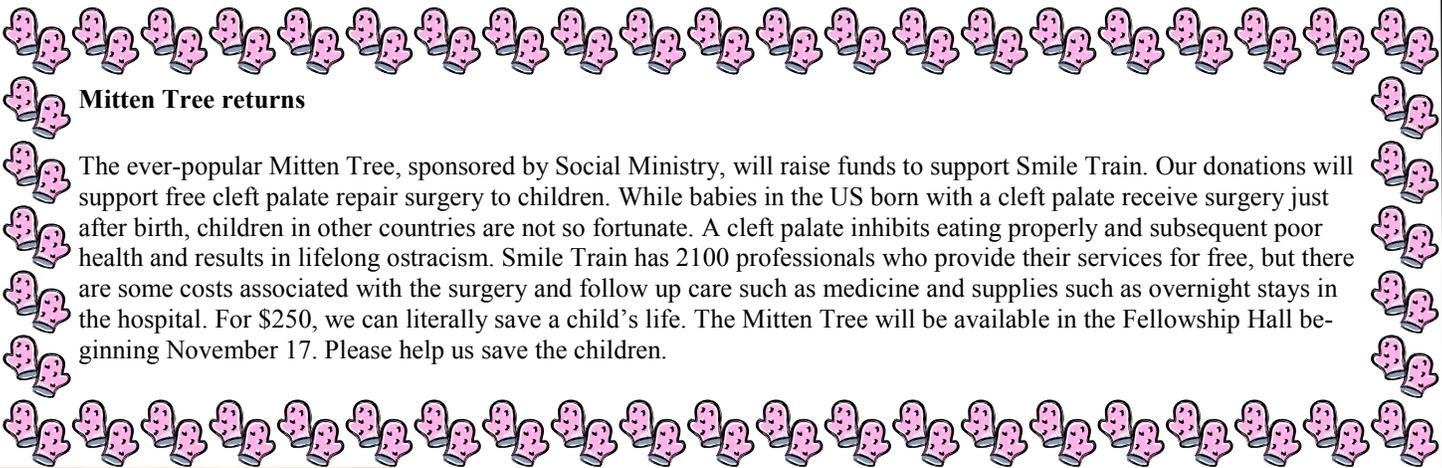
- ◇ On **November 10 following worship**, we'll have a brief congregational meeting to approve the repair of our driveway and handicapped parking spaces by the side entrance to the church (at a cost of \$14,300) and a capital campaign to reimburse our Vanguard funds for the cost of the project.
- ◇ Then on **November 17 following worship**, we'll hold our annual **Congregational Budget Meeting** to review and approve our 2020 ministry budget. (Copies of the budget will be available by Nov. 10 for your review prior to the meeting.)

Please mark your calendars and plan on joining us for these important meetings.

Grandfamilies Group at St Paul's: We typically think of "family" in terms of mother, father, and children— but families of different forms have always existed. Between the economic demands that both parents work outside the home and the scourges of addiction, domestic abuse, and other challenges, more and more grandparents find themselves becoming the primary caregivers to their grandchildren, forming "grandfamilies" with unique challenges and joys.

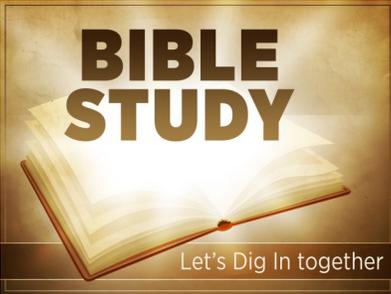


To help grandfamilies meet those unique challenges, we're starting a **Grandfamilies Support Group** for our Upper Bucks area. Our next **Grandfamilies Group Meeting** will be on **Nov. 20 @ 1:30 PM** here at St Paul's. For the time being, we'll try to meet once a month around this same time period as we establish ourselves more solidly. If you're interested in coming, please let Pr Dave know at 570.470.0716 or prdaveheckler@gmail.com.



Mitten Tree returns

The ever-popular Mitten Tree, sponsored by Social Ministry, will raise funds to support Smile Train. Our donations will support free cleft palate repair surgery to children. While babies in the US born with a cleft palate receive surgery just after birth, children in other countries are not so fortunate. A cleft palate inhibits eating properly and subsequent poor health and results in lifelong ostracism. Smile Train has 2100 professionals who provide their services for free, but there are some costs associated with the surgery and follow up care such as medicine and supplies such as overnight stays in the hospital. For \$250, we can literally save a child's life. The Mitten Tree will be available in the Fellowship Hall beginning November 17. Please help us save the children.

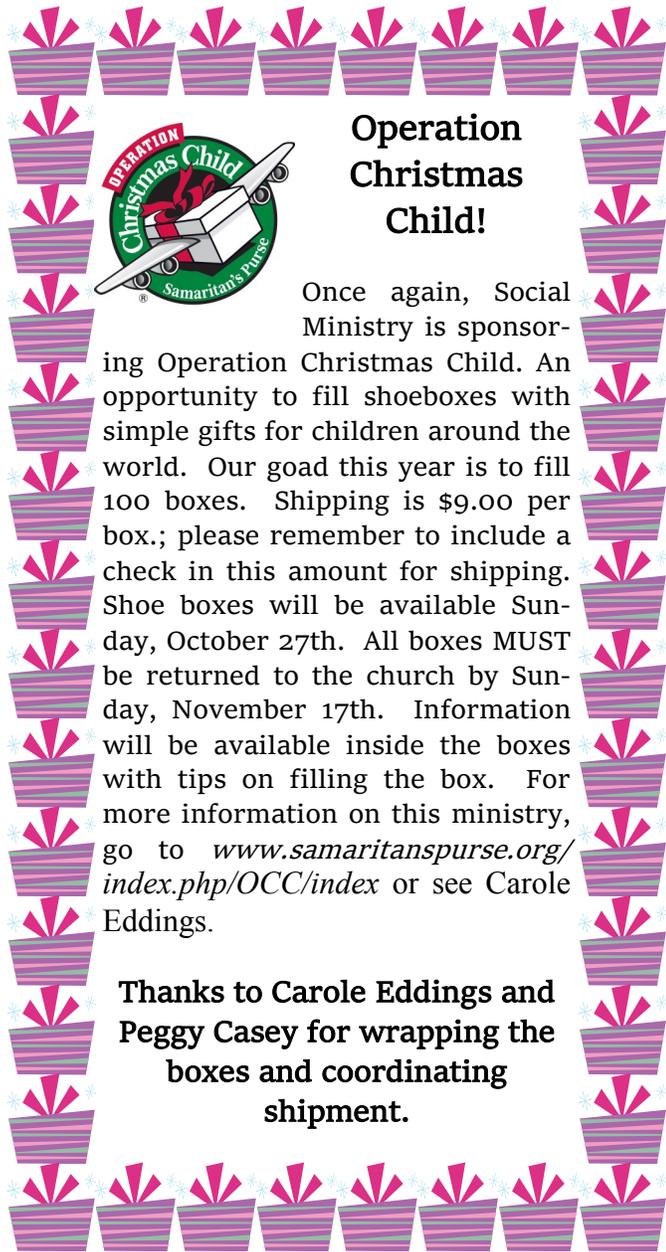


Thursday Morning (and Even Wednesday Noon) Bible Study News

Come join us **Thursday Morning Bible Study** from **10:00-12:00 PM** in the parish house. We're "**Living with the Lectionary**", digging into the Scripture readings for the upcoming week to discover the treasures that await us come Sunday.

In addition, Pr Dave's started a weekday **Bible Study** at Christ UCC in Trumbauersville. This month, we'll be meeting on **Wednesday, November 27 @ 12:00 PM** in the church office., bringing our lunch with us as well as our Bibles and digging into what God's still saying to us through the Scriptures.

You don't have to be a biblical "expert" to get a lot out of this study— so come on out in the broad daylight and invite your friends to join you!



Operation Christmas Child!

Once again, Social Ministry is sponsoring Operation Christmas Child. An opportunity to fill shoeboxes with simple gifts for children around the world. Our goal this year is to fill 100 boxes. Shipping is \$9.00 per box.; please remember to include a check in this amount for shipping. Shoe boxes will be available Sunday, October 27th. All boxes MUST be returned to the church by Sunday, November 17th. Information will be available inside the boxes with tips on filling the box. For more information on this ministry, go to www.samaritanspurse.org/index.php/OCC/index or see Carole Eddings.

Thanks to Carole Eddings and Peggy Casey for wrapping the boxes and coordinating shipment.

November's Noisy Offering

In November, our noisy offering will take place on November 24th. This month's offering will be going towards Casa Guadalupe. Collect your spare change and bring it with you on November 24th. Thank you for all your contributions!



Casa Guadalupe, as described on their website <http://casalv.org/> is a non-profit, community based organization established in 1969 to meet the needs of primarily the Latino residents of the Lehigh Valley. It offers services for children, youth, adults, and elderly residents in the areas of health, education, and social services. Casa works in partnership with other organizations in the community to promote economic empowerment, social mobility, and civic participation of all residents of the Lehigh Valley.

2020 Bulletin and Flower Sponsors Needed.

Bulletin (\$20.00) and altar flowers (\$42.00) sponsors are needed for the upcoming year. Flower sponsorships may be shared by two people to help alleviate the expense. If you're interested, please contact Linda Hertzog at 610-395-1114.



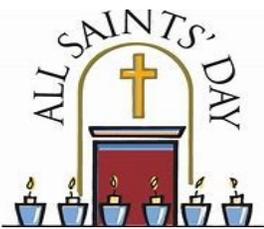
The Annual Report Deadline will be Sunday, December 29th. Want to get a head start before the holidays? Feel free to submit your year end report to the office at any time. December 29th will be here before you know it!

"Loaves and Fishes" in Quakertown

On the first Thursday of each month @ 6:00 PM (doors open 5:30 PM) at the Yerger Building at Trinity Lutheran Church, Quakertown, our Quakertown Ministerium hosts a free community dinner known as "Loaves and Fishes". Different churches provide and serve the meal each month, but the meal's always at Trinity. For more information, contact Pr. Carolann Hopcke at 215.536.3193.



Happy Thanksgiving!



Worship in November: "For All the Saints!"

November's the time of year when the Church remembers all those who've entered into the fullness of eternal life and begins looking forward to the consummation of history in the return of Christ Jesus. Here at St Paul's, we're celebrating the time in some neat ways:

- ✠ Throughout the month of November, we'll be using the classic **LBW Setting 2** as our base liturgy, singing "This is the Feast of Victory!" with gusto and chanting the Kyrie and Proper Prefaces joyfully, rejoicing in the beauty of the Lord's holiness. (And indeed, with only one "non-Communion" Sunday this month, we'll be sharing the Feast of God's victory most bountifully!)
- ✠ **November 3 is the Feast of All Saints**, when we remember our brothers and sisters who've died over the past year. We'll light the Paschal Candle in remembrance of Jesus' resurrection shared with them, and light votive candles in their individual remembrance. (Please call in the names of loved ones you want to remember on that day to Alicia at 215.536.5789 or stpaulsqtown@gmail.com by October 28.)
- ✠ On **November 10**, we'll be marking **Veterans Day** weekend in grand style! For one thing, we'll be welcoming Luca Barndt into God's family (and recognizing Gianna Barndt's new name as well) through the sacrament of **Holy Baptism**. But we'll also be remembering and rejoicing in those who serve our nation in the armed forces—and remembering the 22 veterans who take their own lives every day to end the pain of PTSD, moral injury, and deep woundedness of soul—by hanging dog tags from a "**Witting Tree**" in our front yard. It'll be a rich and powerful service on all accounts—don't miss it!
- ✠ And on **November 24**, we'll celebrate **Christ the King Sunday**, the last Sunday of the Church year, with a service that ponders what sort of King we have in Jesus, and of what sort of Kingdom we're citizens...

It's a month full of special worship events—and certainly full of the presence, peace, and power of our Lord Jesus Christ giving Himself to us and for us in Word and Sacrament. So mark your calendars, invite your friends to join you, and come and share in an exciting month of worship here at St Paul's!



"Storied Supper" November 20

Throughout the ages, people have gathered around tables filled with food to eat, to share stories, to encourage one another, and to discover anew how their lives fit into the greater Story that shapes their identity and gives purpose and meaning to their lives. Our weekly gatherings around God's Word and sacraments are a grand outgrowth of such meals. But in today's busy and hectic world, sometimes we long for something simpler...

On **November 20 @ 6:00 PM**, you're invited to come on out to St Paul's fellowship hall for another "**Storied Supper**". (Some people call it "**Dinner Church**".) We'll gather together to share a simple meal, to hear and tell stories, to tell and reflect upon a story from the Scriptures that shapes our own, to pray for one another, and to share together the simple meal that makes us together the body of Christ. Don't worry about getting dressed up or about whether you'll know the liturgy—just come as you are. If you're interested, contact Pr Dave.



**Like Us on Facebook
(and Otherwise Online)!**

Did you know that St Paul's maintains an active church website, as well as several Facebook pages? Check out our online presence at the following sites:

- ⇒ **Our Facebook page:** www.facebook.com/pages/St-Pauls-Evangelical-Lutheran-Church-of-Applebachsville
- ⇒ **Our WEBSITE:** www.stpaulsqtown.org
- ⇒ **Our Joyful Noise Facebook page:** www.facebook.com/joyfulnoiseatstpauls
- ⇒ Daily Bible readings and commemorations: www.satucket.com/lectionary
- ⇒ Daily Morning and Evening Prayer liturgies: <https://dailyoffice.wordpress.com/>
- ⇒ **Our e-mail address:** stpaulsqtown@gmail.com



Happy Birthday

- | | |
|--------------------------|-----------------------|
| 11/1 Henry DePue | 11/15 Peter Flood |
| 11/1 Melanie Johnson | 11/17 Joe Brown |
| 11/2 Alyssa Barndt | 11/19 Gordon Bryan |
| 11/3 Sarah Hunsberger | 11/23 Imogene Croman |
| 11/3 Jessica Morgan | 11/23 Winnie Knapp |
| 11/4 William Barndt, Sr. | 11/23 Mervyn Brumbach |
| 11/4 John Hunsberger | 11/24 Joshua Roehner |
| 11/12 Michael Fisher | 11/26 Aubrey Diehl |
| | 11/29 Stefanie Bauman |



**Christmas is coming;
shopping at Amazon.com
raises money for St. Paul's!**

Help support St. Paul's every time you shop at Amazon by bookmarking this link and using it when you shop at Amazon: <http://smile.amazon.com/ch/23-6272047>. You will see an amazon log -in screen which states on the left .5% of all eligible purchases will be given to Saint Paul's Lutheran Church of Applebachsville. Sign in with your account/password and continue with your purchase and check out. The total donation by Amazon for all eligible purchases will be credited to the church's bank account on a quarterly basis. Once you register St. Paul's as your preferred charity, it becomes a part of your Amazon account and all future purchases will automatically be credited to the church. Any questions regarding this program can be directed to the Finance Committee or just use the information tabs on the Amazon site.



Scout Troop 007 Coming to St Paul's in 2020

On January 1, 2020, St Paul's will become the official chartering sponsor of Scouts BSA Troop 007. This Scout troop, which combines a small troop of predominantly Eagle and Life Scouts from St Matthew's, Keller's Church and a number of Haycock Township families from Troop 55 in Quakertown, will be the first Scout troop predominantly from Haycock Township in many years and a welcome addition, not only to the ministries of St Paul's, but also to the Applebachsville community. The new troop will be led by Scoutmaster Bob Kennedy, Assistant Scoutmasters John Hunsberger, Eric Babb, Eberhard Durr, Tim Grey, and Phil Hall, Committee Chair Rich Beaumont, and a new troop committee, as well as such senior Scouts as Austin Hunsberger (who's working on his Eagle Scout project). Troop 007 will be meeting at St Paul's on **Thursday evenings from 7:00-8:30 PM**; indeed, they've already been meeting here at St Paul's for the past month. (And the new troop will likely also be drawing from a Cub Scout pack meeting at Quakertown Christian School.) Welcome, Troop 007! (And if you can't remember their unit number, just think of Bond... James Bond...)

Baptismal Anniversaries!



We rejoice to celebrate people's biological birthdays all the time, and rightly. But as wonderful as receiving the gift of life in this world is, receiving the gift of new and eternal life in Christ Jesus in our Baptism is even more wonderful (and best of all, it never grows old!). Why shouldn't we celebrate the anniversary of our new birth in Christ even more gladly?

**Happy Baptismal Birthday!
Ray Constable, Laura Ulrich**



“Fall Back” One Hour for November 3

Daylight Savings Time ends at 2:00 AM on November 3. **Make sure to make your clocks “fall back” one hour (if they don’t already do so automatically) before you go to bed Saturday evening, Nov. 2,** so you can be here at St Paul’s lifting your voices in praise with all the saints on Sunday morning.



Advocates for the Homeless of Upper Bucks [AHUB] Code Blue News

As the non-profit ministry called **Advocates for the Homeless of Upper Bucks (AHUB)**, our Code Blue sheltering ministry provides emergency shelter for homeless people when nighttime temperatures and/or wind chills reach dangerous levels— in our case, 26 degrees or below.

Last winter, we provided such shelter on 98 nights; and we anticipate that this winter, we’ll be sheltering even more of our neighbors in need at the Masonic Lodge building in downtown

Quakertown. The sheltering ministry of Upper Bucks Code Blue requires volunteers sharing their time, organizational skills, relational skills, and of course, food and supplies to make this shelter available for folks in need.

- ✦ If you’re interested in **volunteering with our Code Blue sheltering ministry**— and we really need overnight shift (8:00 PM-2:30 AM or 2:30-7:00 AM) volunteers— we have AHUB volunteer applications available in the fellowship hall. (We’re asking all volunteers to complete a volunteer application.) And we’ll probably be doing another **Volunteer Training Workshop** in December or January...
- ✦ On **November 2** from **9:00 AM-12:00 NN**, we’ll be holding a **Workday at the Lodge** to continue preparing the space for sheltering folks. We’ll be putting up curtains, reinforcing our bunk beds, and sealing the windows to keep out drafts, among other things. If you’d like to help with this effort, please contact Les Rice at leslinrice@yahoo.com or 215.536.5166. For more information on any of these opportunities, please see Pr Dave.



Youth & families, please join us on December 15 at 6pm for cocoa, cookies and caroling in the fellowship hall. We will be sharing this event with our sister church St. John's and hope to see you all there. We will need donations of home baked goodies to share for the event. Please contact Karen by email or at 267-718-8830 (cell phone/text) to bake or RSVP for this event. Thanks!

Joyful Noise & Thank You Note

Dear Congregation of St. Paul’s,

On behalf of the all volunteer staff at the Quakertown Food Pantry. I want to thank you for your generous donation of \$3,802.21 in September. We have put your contribution to good use.

For over 30 years, the Quakertown Food Pantry has taken care of community members who need our services. In fact, this past month, we provided food for over 450 children and over 240 families. As you can see, your donations support our mission to replenish our shelves and provide food for those in need.

Thanks for helping us provide this kind of support to our local communities. **We couldn’t do it without you.**

With gratitude,
Melissa Nevill
Quakertown Food Pantry Representative



Sunday, November 17, 2019
Noon to 3:00PM

The Empty Bowl Project

to support the homeless and hungry



\$20 (\$15 children) for a bottomless bowl of soup, bread, a beverage, dessert, and a pre-made or paint your own bowl to take home as tangible reminder of the food insecurity in our midst.

Tickets for food only are \$10 each and \$5 for children 10 years of age and younger.

Proceeds of sales will go to Pennridge FISH, Advocates for the Homeless of Upper Bucks, and the Keystone Opportunity Center

Bowls to paint provided by:



(215) 257-2632
stardustceramics@aol.com

St. Andrew's Lutheran Church
20 Dill Ave
Perkasie, PA 18944
(215) 257-6184
www.standrewsperkasie.org



Poinsettia Sponsor Form

Help beautify the sanctuary for Christmas this year by sponsoring a Poinsettia.
The cost per Poinsettia is \$7.25.

Name: _____ Envelope #: _____

of plants: _____ x \$7.25/plant = total cost \$ _____

Will you be taking your Poinsettia home? _____ Yes _____ No

Dedication: "Given to the Glory of God . . .

In Memory of _____"

In Honor of _____"

Place the order form and money in a sealed envelope (with your weekly giving envelope number on the outside) and place in the offering plate by December 8th.

Sharing God's Love in Joyful Service!

St. Paul's Ev. Lutheran Church
837 Old Bethlehem Road
Quakertown, PA 18951

The St. Paul's News

St. Paul's Evangelical Lutheran Church
of Applebachsville

837 Old Bethlehem Road
Quakertown, PA 18951

Pastor David Heckler

Church: 215-536-5789
stpaulsqtown@gmail.com www.stpaulsqtown.org

Each Member of the Congregation, Ministers

Happy Thanksgiving!

