

Not your typical holiday

Several weeks ago, Penny and my sisters got together to plan for the holidays. My brother-in-law Randy works the river as a barge pilot, and his days off can be scarce at times. The girls came away settled on a one-day event scheduled for December 12. This year we celebrate Thanksmas (or is it Christgiving)? Some years this is how it goes. Usually, our immediate family gathers around a table every Thanksgiving, but this year is different, like so much about 2020.

Thursday was a quiet day at the parsonage. Samantha always wakes up starving, and Donovan will get up immediately for bacon and eggs. I cooked a big breakfast that we all enjoyed, helped to clean up, and then returned to my room to read a book I started the night before.

The TV droned away in our living room while Sam played her games on not one but two iPads. One would think that a child who hasn't looked up for an hour, virtually glued to a game, would not need the drone of the TV too. Not, Samantha. Turn it off or change the channel and the immediate response is always, "I was watching that!" Sequestered in his room, Donovan happily surfed the virtual world on his PS4.

We had prepped roast chicken and bone broth Wednesday evening, so most of my work in the kitchen was complete. Penny busied herself baking cornbread and magically turning it into some of the best dressing either of us can remember. She peeled apples and put together a stellar example of an all-American favorite, apple pie.

Somewhere during the day, an ambrosian combination of whole-berry cranberry sauce and mandarin oranges made its way into the fridge to marinate. It is one of the simplest recipes (two ingredients, stir and refrigerate), and unforgettable. I was called on later in the day to get the ham ready for the oven, which I happily accomplished. By four o'clock, breakfast was a distant memory, and I was starving.

Shortly before dinner, we broadcast a notification to our kids. When I entered the young man's room, I was surprised to hear my sister Loretta's voice. Donovan happily chattered while watching the screen. Loretta, my brother-in-law Doug, and Donovan were playing an online game together while talking on the phone.

When we gather around the table for a holiday, we have a family tradition that goes back as far as I can remember. Every person shares something that they are thankful for that year. Our kids shared that they were thankful for our little family. Ms. Penny added that she was grateful for our health. God's love for each of us and our church-family was my contribution. I said grace, and we enjoyed the meal lovingly prepared, a sign of God's blessings.

Thanksgiving 2020 is in the books at our house. The ham was delicious (thanks, Vic and Jill), the cranberry sauce is gone, and the dressing served twice so far. Penny's famous apple pie is still in the pie-keeper, and so long as I keep Little Debbie's in adequate supply, it will remain safe.

We need to remember our blessings. Yes, 2020 has presented more than its fair share of challenges. Together, with God's grace, we have faced the difficult moments and will continue to as the year winds down. We have found new ways to be in ministry to and with our neighbors. I am thankful to God for every one of you. You are and will continue to be a blessing to one another, our community, and God's world.

Do not worry about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. Philippians 4:6 Pastor Kenny

Calendar for the Week

4:00 p.m. Wednesday – WOW

5:00 p.m. Wednesday – Breakthrough Youth

8:45 a.m. Sunday - Lexa Worship Service – Masks required

10:00 a.m. Sunday - Drive In Worship Service

11:00 a.m. Sunday – Marvell Worship Service – Masks required

ATTENDANCE

Lexa Worship	4
Marvell Worship	66+
(Drive In – 28 In person – 30 Online - 8)	

If you would like to light the Advent candles one Sunday, let Barbie or Nina know.

FUND RAISER FOR STEPHANIE POWELL

We still have squash relish, pepper jelly & cowboy candy for sale with proceeds going to Stephanie Powell's medical bills. Stephanie will start chemo treatments Dec. 9 – 1 every 3 weeks for 6 weeks. About 2 weeks after chemo she will start 4 weeks of radiation – 5 days a week.

STEWARDSHIP REPORT

2020 Budget	\$184,576
Needed each week	3,550
Recieved this week	5,988.38
Capital Improvements	50
Roof	2,400
Angels	700
Ophelia Polk Moore Home Gifts	100
Poinsettias	15

This Sunday will be the Second Sunday of Advent - the Thompsons will light the candles.

WOW & youth will meet this week.