



THE CANAAN MESSENGER

ISSUE #9 | NOVEMBER 2025

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Rev. Dr. Derick Brennan
SENIOR PASTOR

George R. Waters
CHAIRMAN,
DEACON MINISTRY

William A. Jones
CHAIRMAN,
TRUSTEE MINISTRY

From the Pastor's Desk

Thanks Living

1 Thessalonians 5:16-18
"Rejoice evermore. Pray without ceasing. In everything give thanks: for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus concerning you."

Family, as we enter this season, my heart is drawn not just to *Thanksgiving*—but to *Thanks Living*.

In Paul's first letter to the church at Thessalonica—a bustling city in ancient Macedonia (modern-day Greece) and a major hub on the Roman trade route—he writes to a young congregation born in hardship. This church, founded during Paul's second missionary journey (Acts 17, around 50–54 A.D.), was facing persecution, false teaching, and social pressure. Yet, instead of retreating, Paul encourages them to stand firm in joy, prayer, and gratitude.

Many of us today can relate. Some are navigating economic uncertainty, family tension, health struggles, grief over loved ones, or even ministry weariness. Paul's timeless words remind us that the Christian life is not about *feeling thankful once a year*—it's about *living thankfully every day*.

Here is Paul's **3-ingredient recipe for Thanks Living**:

Rejoice Evermore (v.16)
Rejoicing was the heartbeat of early Christianity—it baffled unbelievers and bound the church together. True rejoicing isn't about happiness; it's about holiness.

Happiness depends on what happens, but joy depends on choice. Even when broke, lonely, or sick, we can still choose joy.
Remember: Joy is a choice, and the choice is to rejoice!
(*Philippians 4:4 – "Rejoice in the Lord always; again I say, rejoice."*)

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Ministry Spotlight

VETERANS MINISTRY

Ministry Leadership
Servant Leader: Sis. Vanessa Bonneau
Secretary: Sis. Tanya Green
Treasurer: Sis. Catharine Williams, PhD
Ministry Deacon: Deacon Derek Paige

The Veterans Ministry was formed in 2024, from the vision of Vanessa Bonneau, to be a source of camaraderie, education, and support to the veterans of Canaan Baptist Church, as well as for veterans in the broader community.

The ministry aims to address members' spiritual needs and concerns that may arise during illness, hospitalization, and other challenging experiences, as well as to celebrate accomplishments.

The ministry meets monthly to discuss progress, ongoing needs, and ways to proceed to make the ministry a success.

For additional information and to learn of our upcoming activities, please contact one of the officers.

Pray Without Ceasing (v.17)

D.L. Moody once said, “God is not bothered by our constant coming and asking. The way to trouble God is not to come at all.” Prayer is the ongoing conversation of a grateful heart. It’s how we talk and listen to God.

Philadelphia Eagles Quarterback Jalen Hurts has an audio receiver in his helmet to receive instructions from his coaches. Believers must learn how to listen to the right voice—the Spirit’s voice guiding us through every play of life. Don’t just talk to God—tune in to Him.

In Every Thing Give Thanks (v.18)

The Greek word *eucharisteo* (from which we get “Eucharist”) means “to give thanks.” Paul doesn’t say give thanks *for* everything, but *in* everything. Gratitude is not denial—it is declaration. It says, “God is good, no matter what I’m going through.”

Our thanksgiving should be both **authentic** and **automatic**—flowing from a heart that recognizes God’s faithfulness.

- Thank God for what He **has done**.
- Thank God for what He **is doing**.
- Thank God for what He **will do**.

This is the will of God for us—not just to give thanks, but to live thanks.

So, as we journey together, may we be believers who model Thanks Living—rejoicing always, praying continually, and giving thanks in all things.

Because when we live in gratitude, we don’t just remember what God has done—we reveal Who He is.

Grace and Peace,
Pastor Derick Brennan

IN ALL
Things
GIVE
Thanks



America250PA's Semiquincentennial Scholarship Program application is now open!

In commemoration of America’s 250th anniversary and to honor the legacy of PA’s commitment to education, America250PA will award \$250,000 in scholarships to deserving PA students attending PA colleges and universities in the 2026/27 academic school year.

High school seniors may be eligible for one of 25 scholarships for up to \$10,000 which will be awarded throughout America250PA’s six designated regions. Scholarships will be awarded in 2026 for the 2026/2027 academic year.

Visit america250pa.org and click on the Program, Projects, & Events tab for more information and to apply.

Pastor's 19th Anniversary Service



19 Years
of Service & Love



Election Day is Tuesday, November 4th

Reminders:

- Polls open at 7am and close at 8pm
- Request a provisional ballot if your name is not on your polling location's roster.
- If you are in line before the polls close, you are allowed to cast your vote.
- Contact your county election officials if you experience issues at the polls.
- Every election is important!



Registration: November 3 - November 10

To register please call the Caanan Family Life Center at (267) 270-4520 or email cfamilylifecenter@gmail.com. Be prepared to provide the recipient's name, address (including zip code), and telephone number. If the recipient is unable to pick up their basket, please provide proxy name and telephone number.

Pickup: Saturday, November 22, 11:00 AM to 1:00 PM
Canaan Baptist Church (Classroom 1)



SAVE THE DATE!!

ANNUAL CHRISTMAS PARTY
SUNDAY, DECEMBER 21



TRIBES OF ASHER AND DAN

Tribe Deacon: Deacon Eric Lacy

Tribe Leader: (Asher) Sis. Barbara Taylor
(Dan) Sis. Edith Jones

Tribe Minister: Rev. Jessica Frieson

Tribe Meeting: Every 1st Sat, 1:00pm on Zoom 2

Proverbs 19:17 "Whoever is kind to the poor lends to the LORD, and he will reward them for what they have done."

The tribes of Asher and Dan are committed to helping all missions and projects associated with Canaan Baptist Church and the Sheepfold Ministry. Our tribes are joining with the Tribe of Zebulun to begin a Nursing Home Drive. The drive will give incontinent supplies to Stapley and Maplewood nursing facilities. We have supported the following efforts: African Project for men's briefs, Angel Tree Christmas Drive, Eye Glass Collection Program, Sheepfold Annual Christmas party, donated to Family Life's 2025 Food Drive, and assisted with Vacation Bible School and our annual Thursday Night Revival.

CONTACT US!

215-848-6311

INFO@CANAANBAPTIST.ORG
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Church Calendar

SUNDAY SERVICES

- 2nd Sunday - **Youth Sunday**
- 3rd Sunday - **Teen Outreach @ McDonalds**
- 4th Sunday - **Holy Communion**
- **Sunday School** - 8:15am every Sunday

BIBLE STUDY

- **Pastor's Bible Study** - Tuesdays 6:45pm (Zoom 1)
- **Weekly In-Person Men's Bible Study** - Sundays 8:00am (Lower Dining Room)
- **Weekly In-Person Women's Bible Study** - Sundays 8:00am (Multipurpose Room)
- **Weekly Mature Adults Bible Study** - Thursdays 10:30am - 12pm (Lower Dining Room)
- **Monthly Women's Bible Study** - Last Wednesday of the month 10-11:30am (Lower Dining Room)

NEW DISCIPLESHIP CLASSES

- **In-Person Session** - Sundays 8:00am
- **Virtual Session** - Mondays 7:00pm (Zoom 1)

PRAYER ROOM

- Open on Sundays from 8:30-9:15am & 10:45-11:15am

NOON DAY PRAYER*

- **In-Person** - Tues/Thurs/Fri 12:00pm (Chapel)
- **Virtual** - Wed. 12:00pm (Zoom 1)

* Structured Prayer - Wks. 1, 2 & 4

* Open Prayer - Wks. 3 & 5

Weekly Activities

- **Christian Legal Clinic** - Every 2nd Thursday (by appt. only)
- **Exercise Class** - Tuesdays @ 11am / Wednesdays & Thursdays @ 7:15pm
- **12 Steps Recovery Program** - Wednesdays @ 7pm

Upcoming Events

11/2 Leadership Sunday

Rev. Nick Christian, Preacher

11/4 ELECTION DAY | GO VOTE

11/11 Veterans Day

Honoring all that have served & are serving

11/16 Missions Sunday

Rev. Stephen Dangerfield, Preacher

11/26 Germantown Area Pre-Thanksgiving Service | 7:00 PM

11/30 Advent at Canaan Begins