

Reasons to give thanks

As we enter the Thanksgiving season there are many things to be thankful for. Now, don't misunderstand me, I believe we have much to be thankful for every day. Every day is a good day, and every day is a blessing. Psalm 136 is an interesting Psalm that gives great insight into what we need to acknowledge. As we read through the Psalm, we see that we should be thankful, and 26 times it tells us why. The psalmist says, "For His mercy endureth forever." You may be wondering why the Lord would repeat this statement 26 times. I guess the Lord knew we are hard of hearing and He wants it to really become engrained in us. We realize human mercy means to overlook sin, but Divine mercy is the righteous atonement that covers and washes away our sin.

As we dive in to the subject of thanksgiving, my prayer is that you are already a thankful person. But, if you are not, I pray that the Lord will speak to your heart. I want to share four thoughts today of reasons to give thanks:

1. We should give thanks because of God's goodness (verses 1, 26). We must acknowledge that our Heavenly Father is good to us all the time. He only wants the best for us, and He wants our best as well. Take a few minutes to stop and think about all that God does for us. I must confess that I have been blessed with good health. Oh, sure there are issues that I deal with from time to time, but He has sure given me a healthy body. I can't say that I have always taken care of it, but I am in really good health. I am thankful for the home the Lord has given us. We really have everything we need in our home. These days there are only the two of us, but we live in the biggest home we have ever owned. I am also thankful for my family. The Lord has

given us two sons who we are very proud of, and they have wonderful wives. The best thing about our family are the grandchildren. Nothing will ever take the place of our grandchildren.

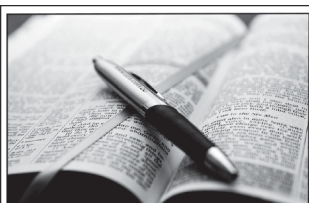
God's goodness has also provided me with a church family. I hope you have a church home because it is such a vital part of our lives. I need the people in the fellowship because they have so much to offer me as well as others. It is also because of God's goodness that I can claim His promises. Where would we be without His promises? We would be lost.

2. I am thankful because of God's uniqueness (verses 2, 3). There is no other god like Him. He spoke the words and the world came into existence. He breathed life into the dust of the earth and mankind was created. He also sent His only begotten Son to earth that He might live and die for us so that we might have an everlasting hope. Then His Son rose from the dead in order that we might have abundant life. There is no other god that has done what God Almighty has done.

3. I am thankful because of God's miracles (verse 4). The four Gospels give account of thirty-six recorded miracles of Jesus. He had the ability to give sight to the blind, cause the lame to walk, and even raise the dead.

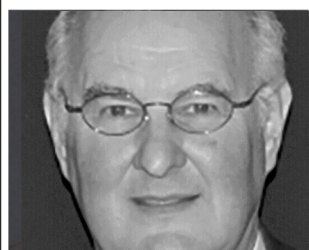
4. I am thankful because of God's creative work (verses 5-9, 25). He made the universe, the sun, moon, stars, and every living creature. He cares for all living things.

As you might see by now, we have lots to be thankful for on any given day. As we celebrate Thanksgiving Day, be sure and honor our Heavenly Father for all He has done for us, especially the table of food that we will eat.



JUST A THOUGHT

Rev. Tom Mansbarger



Tom Mansbarger is senior pastor of Grace Community Church. He offers free counseling. Reach him at 765. 517. 1187 or tom@graceccmarion.org.

Marion Council OKs measure to help downtown renovations

By Sean Douglas

At their most recent meeting on Tuesday evening, Resolution No. 15-2020 was passed with a unanimous 7-0 vote by the Marion Common Council, approving a new allocation area within the Marion Consolidated Economic Development Area and beginning the next phase of continued renovation in Marion's downtown area.

At the end of October, the Redevelopment Commission and the Plan Commission approved action to reduce an existing allocation area in downtown Marion. Essentially, a parcel where the Ridley Tower sits was removed, and a new parcel was designated as the new Ridley Tower allocation area. By doing this, the commissions were able to add other projects to the Economic Redevelopment Plan, including Marion Fire Station No. 1 and the 41 building, which is an old, defunct, former auto dealership north of the Courthouse Square.

"The entire purpose of going through this process of amending the plan to include the fire station project," Heather James, a partner with Ice Miller LLP out of Indianapolis, said.

On October 27, the Redevelopment Commission adopted their declaratory resolution, and a short time later, the Planning Commission met and adopted their plan commission order reflecting the changes that were made. Two weeks ago, at the last meeting, the council passed Resolution No. 14-2020, which approved the new plan commission.

The Redevelopment Commission held their public meeting earlier on Tuesday, in which they adopted a resolution confirming what they did in their declaratory resolution back at the end of October.

The final step to the process was the council passing Resolution No. 15-2020, which officially approved the new allocation



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area.

"The benefit is that it provides the redevelopment commission with the flexibility to, in the future, consider using funds that are generated by this parcel for the things that are in the economic redevelopment plan," James said. "The things we are adding to the economic development plan, again, are the remodeling, renovation, or rebuild of the existing fire station, the portion of the renovation of the Ridley Tower building that has not commenced yet, and the portion of the remodeling, renovation, and expansion of the 141 building that we discussed last time.

"This action in no way binds anybody to have to utilize the funds for any of those projects. It just provides the ability for funds to be used on those projects in the future."

The properties will be assessed every January 1 going forward, and any increase in real property assessed value on the parcel will be put into the allocation

fund.

"It elongates the life of the allocation area," James said. "It will provide the ability for the allocation area to go out as far as 25 years from the date that any obligations are issued payable from the TIFF generated from this allocation area."

The projects will commence as soon as they are funded. With the passing of Resolution No. 15-2020, funds will begin to be generated from the TIF, or tax increment financing, in 2022, and be fully funded by 2023, according to Miller.

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Indiana Quiz

Continued from Page 1.

Hoagy did not write "Back Home Again in Indiana." That classic came from another Hoosier songwriter, James F. Hanley, and lyricist Ballard MacDonald.