



Dear TVC Family,

Can you believe that we are only 21 days away from Thanksgiving? For me, Thanksgiving is always a special time of year because it challenges me to remember God's goodness despite the obstacles that life throws at me. I'm sure you have your own way of relating to the holiday season that is upon us. But here are two things I am sure of concerning you: **God has been good to you and life has thrown you some surprises.** I know it is hard to focus on God's goodness when you are walking through great pressure, anxiety, and stress. But it is good for you both spiritually and practically.

This is why the Bible teaches us to do the following in 1 Thessalonians 5:18, *Give Thanks in all circumstances.* And that is why this week we are starting a series called **"Thanksgiving"**. Because when we live thankful lives, we live lives focused on Jesus...not what is causing us disappointment and frustration.

Here at TVC, as we close out 2023 and head into 2024, we are going to do the following to focus our attention on Jesus this holiday season.

1. A special Teaching Series in December called **"Playlist"**, during this season we will take a scriptural look at some of the popular songs on Christmas Playlists and see how they point to the hope Jesus brings.
2. On *December 17th*, we are going to do a special event at all campuses, that we are calling the **Christmas Experience**. This event will be filled with special music, videos, and a few other surprises. I hope you will invite your neighbors and friends.
3. On **Christmas Eve**, we are going to hold heartwarming and hope-filled *Christmas Services*.
4. Lastly, we will receive a special **Christmas Offering**, which is about giving our best to God because he gave his best to us.

As a church, our vision for 2024 will be to **TRANSFORM OUR COMMUNITIES AND WORLD WITH HOPE**. The Christmas Offering is how we will follow God's example of generosity and fund outreach in our community. We will use it to spread hope to our neighbors by funding outreach programs and creating events that are designed to invite people into the church, and ultimately into a relationship with our Savior.

One specific way we are going to dispense hope to our community and world is through our annual **LOVE WEEK: February 11-18**. During LOVE WEEK this past year, we did things like paying off all the school lunch debt in Hastings, Delton, and Middleville. We also hosted a Daddy-Daughter Dance and provided a free movie night for the community at the local Hastings theatre. This year we are going to do some similar things, but also are planning to go above and beyond to provide opportunities for life transformation.

How it works:

Since Jesus is the reason for the season, I'm asking you to give Him your best gift this Christmas. Jen and I are going to give a gift to Jesus equal to or greater than the amount we will spend on each other.

Enclosed is an envelope for this year's Christmas Offering. Every dollar received will be used to spread hope through our community and the world in 2024. **Please pray with me for God to do something special through TVC with this offering, and then bring your gift to church on Dec. 17th, or mail it in using this envelope provided.**

Blessings,

Pastor Keith