

## ANNOUNCEMENTS



### DISCOVERY CLASS

NOV 3RD | CHURCHWIDE

Discovery class is our 1-hour class introducing anyone to Currey Creek's philosophy of ministry and how to quickly get connected into one of our ministries. If you are looking for an introduction to Currey Creek, this class is for you. Please register at [curreycreek.com/discovery](http://curreycreek.com/discovery).

### BAPTISM SUNDAY

NOV 17TH | CHURCHWIDE

Baptism Sunday will be on November 17th. If you have an interest in getting baptized, please call the church office at (830)755-8806 to set up an appointment with a pastor.

### CREEK KIDS TOY DRIVE

UNTIL SUNDAY, NOV 17TH

Last year, Creek Kids teamed up with HCDBM to provide over 250 Christmas gifts for children in our surrounding areas. Let's be a blessing again! Please come by the Creek Kids table through November 17 and select one or multiple children to bless this Christmas!

### DRIVE-IN-MOVIE NIGHT

DEC 6TH | CREEK KIDS

Join us for an awesome night of family fun! Bring your lawn chairs, quilts and kids in pj's to our back parking lot on Friday, December 6th at 6:30 p.m. We will be watching a family friendly movie and serving popcorn and hot chocolate! We will have a donation box for you to be able to give a pair of new children's pajamas to the Vault Fostering Community. Let's help them give new pj's to families who need them for their newly placed foster children.

### FOSTER ADOPTION PARENT NIGHT OUT

DEC 14TH | 4PM-7PM

Currey Creek is hosting their fourth Foster Adoption Parent Night Out on December 14th from 4-7pm. Volunteers are needed to make this a successful event. We need adults and teens 15 years and up to help with this event. Please contact Kendall at [kellis@curreycreek.com](mailto:kellis@curreycreek.com) to volunteer!

### ROOTED BIBLE STUDY

SUN 6:30PM-8PM | HIGH SCHOOL

Rooted is an opportunity for our high school students to hang out, connect with other students, and grow in their knowledge of God's Word and obedience to Jesus together. Come, bring your Bible, and join us on Sunday nights from 6:30pm to 8:00pm in the Student Building as we study the book of James!

### SAVE THE DATE

HIGH SCHOOL WINTER RETREAT

Our High School Winter Retreat "Breakaway," will be on February 15-17th. More information to come soon!

### FLASH SALE

MIDDLE & HIGH SCHOOL CAMPS

Our 1-day sale for both High School Breakaway and Middle School Camp Winiwaca will begin on November 21st at 6am until midnight! Mark your calendar to get the lowest price! Visit our website [curreycreek.com/studentevents](http://curreycreek.com/studentevents) for event dates and pricing. To donate to our student scholarship fund, email [students@curreycreek.com](mailto:students@curreycreek.com).

### CREEK + CARE

PRAYER AND CARE

It is a privilege to walk alongside each other and lift one another up. We would love to know how to pray for you or help in any way. Please be sure to email us at [care@curreycreek.com](mailto:care@curreycreek.com) or stop by the Connections Desk if you have a prayer request, know of anyone that would like to be visited in the hospital, might need a meal or help with simple tasks around their home.

### THANKSGIVING BREAK

NOV 24TH | CHURCHWIDE

Creek Kids and Upstre(am) will not meet on Sunday, November 24th. We hope you enjoy your Thanksgiving break!

### CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICES

DEC 24TH | 3PM 4:30PM 6PM

Our Christmas Eve Services will be at 3:00, 4:30 and 6:00pm on December 24th. We look forward to celebrating the birth of our Savior with you!







# a season of gratitude

*Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly, teaching and admonishing one another in all wisdom, singing psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, with thankfulness in your hearts to God. And whatever you do, in word or deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him. -Colossians 3:16-17*

When the days begin to shorten and the weather begins to cool (slightly), we know that the fall season is upon us. Once the adventure of summer has passed and the routine of work and school has set in, it is easy to get lost in the busyness of everyday life only to look up and realize that Christmas is over and you weren't as purposeful or intentional as you desired. Then you realize that an entire year has come and gone with little implementation of the positive changes you so wholeheartedly resolved to do last New Year. Your prayer life didn't improve. You did not treat your office as a mission field. You did not share your faith as much as you planned. Whether these examples apply specifically to you or not, we all have areas of our lives we wish we would fully devote to the Lord. So, how can this year be different? How do we break the cycle of being busy all the time and getting very little accomplished for the Kingdom of God?

It begins with thanksgiving. Not the American holiday characterized by bulging belt buckles and copious amounts of football, but the Biblical notion of mankind's response to the goodness of God. Scripture is filled with instances of men and women in relationship with God, thanking him for who he is and what he has done. At the heart of our passage in Colossians, Paul is urging us to make thankfulness a perpetual condition of our hearts. A heart of thankfulness remembers exactly who God is and the good gifts he graciously bestows upon us. A continually thankful heart is a solid foundation upon which our acts of love, service, teaching, and worship can be built upon with lasting effect.

Seasons throughout the year help us focus in on God's activity among us and tune our hearts to his. There is a season for penitence and self-reflection leading up to the celebration of Easter. There is a season of anticipation and preparation as we celebrate the birth of our Savior and look for his coming again. Make this fall an intentional season of gratitude, where you commit to spending meaningful time thanking God for his work in your life. When we purposefully spend time meditating on who God is- his majesty, his sovereignty, his love, his patience, his faithfulness- we will begin to see things as he sees them. When we set aside time both personally and corporately to declare our heartfelt thanks to God for the gift of his one and only Son, for salvation kept for us in heaven, and for life abundant as we walk according to the Spirit, it will give us a fresh perspective through which we view our world and fill our calendars. If we are about the business of gratitude, not only for a day around a banquet meal but for an entire season, we will find that the only suitable way to truly give God thanks for all of his love towards us is by giving Him our very whole beings. A life laid down is a response appropriate to the value of the gift we have received in Christ Jesus. Let us give thanks!

Bret Williams | Student Pastor

Church Family,

*"Enchantment in life can never be realized in some thing: it must ultimately culminate in a person."*  
– Ravi Zacharias from Recapture the Wonder

Deuteronomy 6 is a powerful chapter that speaks to gratitude. God has delivered his people out of Egyptian slavery and provided for them for 40 years in the wilderness. They are on the cusp of entering the promised land in which they will have cities and houses they did not build. They will enjoy the benefits of both vineyards and fields that they did not plant or cultivate. The Israelites were about to inherit much for which they had not toiled. On top of this they were already wealthy from the plunder that the Egyptians gave them as they exited Egypt. God had provided for them materially in so many ways that one would think their hearts would be engendered to the Lord. Yet, knowing the human heart, God warns them not to forget him when they participate in all this abundance.

If you are familiar with the story of Israel in the Old Testament, you will know that despite God sending messengers to the people and despite God rescuing them from their captors, they became attached to the things that were provided rather than to the one doing the providing! Ingratitude had done its work in the hearts of Israel. Sounds like America. What was set aside as a day to remember the benefits and abundance we have received from the hand of God has been largely replaced with football and gastronomic indulgence. We have become more enthralled by the benefit than the benefactor.

God, ever faithful to his word, in spite of the ingratitude of his people, gave more. He gave the ultimate in Jesus to bring us to himself! Have we understood the gift? The gift has immense value for it is not a 'thing' but rather a person, God incarnate. Once we realize this, once God has revealed himself to us in Christ, gratitude should fill the heart. Once gratitude fills the heart, it is prepared to experience the enchantment of wonder as it relates to God. May our hearts be full of gratitude this Thanksgiving so that we may truly experience the wonder of his advent!

In Christ,

*John D. Free*  
Senior Pastor | Currey Creek Church

