



Nov. 4, 2017

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

Thanksgiving Greetings!

I wanted to take a moment to send you a note during this special time of the year to let you know that I am thankful for you, the members and friends of Trinity United Methodist Church. When writing to the Thessalonian Church, Paul said these words: “We always thank God for all of you, mentioning you in our prayers.” (1 Thessalonians 1:2) I also thank God for all of you. Paul also said to give thanks in all circumstances. As we enter this holiday season, let us give thanks for all the ways God has blessed us.

It is the tradition of the church to receive an annual Thanksgiving offering. Each year we choose a couple different organizations or causes to support through this offering. This year our Thanksgiving offering will be gifted to Lydia’s House and Passages. Lydia's House is a ministry of the Richland County Ministerial Association. Lydia’s House operates three different shelters, providing housing, food, and help for children and families. The Lydia’s House board also administers the Youth Initiative program at the Middle School, where the Rev. Tom Coleman serves as a mentor and advocate for students, and provides education opportunities to students for learning life skills. The name Lydia’s House is taken from Acts 16 where Lydia becomes a follower of Christ and her first act as a Christian is to open her house for hospitality “If you have judged me to be faithful to the Lord, come and stay at my home (Acts 16:15.)

Passages is a private, non-profit organization here in Richland Center with the mission of supporting those individuals affected by domestic violence and sexual assault. Passages has a 20 bed Shelter for individuals needing emergency safety housing. Passages also operates a 16-unit housing complex for families coming through the shelter or for families with low income. Passages offers options for counseling in the areas of Medical and legal advocacy, sexual assault services and youth services.

God loves a cheerful giver. This year, please consider giving to our annual Thanksgiving offering as a way to show your thanks to God for His provision and blessing throughout the year. If you do, others will be blessed so that they can also be a blessing (Genesis 12:2). May God continue to bless you in your life and ministry to our Lord and Savior, Jesus.

In Christ’s service,

Rev. G. Wiley Gladney