

MINISTER'S MESSAGE

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 11 2026

KNOX PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

"Thank you, Lord"

Based on Deuteronomy 8:7-18

My mother tells the story of her first Thanksgiving as a new bride. Having been married in the middle of the summer, Thanksgiving was the first opportunity for her to show her stuff on the dining room table: turkey, home made stuffing, and for dessert, gooseberry pie. Now for those of you who did not grow up in the eastern part of this great country of ours, gooseberries are a tart green fruit, somewhat reminiscent of a very sour current. Gooseberry anything requires a great deal of sugar to get past the tartness. And of course, as you can probably guess, sugar was the main ingredient of Mother's pie that she forgot.

So, as she sliced up her first dessert for her first Thanksgiving Dinner, she was met with rather sour faces, trying desperately to gracefully swallow an unsweetened gooseberry pie.

But that's part of what Thanksgiving is, isn't it. Gathering around a table, family or friends, or both,

sharing stories of Thanksgiving drama and fiascos over the years, the stories becoming more embellished as the years pass by.

But if we were to stop and reflect a bit, those stories tell us a lot about where we have come from, where we landed along the way, and where we are today: the struggles, the difficult decisions, the heartbreaks, the miracles, the opportunities, and the successes along the journey.

When we get to a comfortable place...

- In our home
- In our career
- In our community
- In our faith

We can forget...

- How we had to struggle in those early years
- How we cried tears when difficult decisions meant significant change
- How we dried our tears and found courage within that we did not know existed

when our dreams were shattered

And we can forget...

- Who it was who got us here
- Who it was that brought us here
- Who it was that has walked alongside us for all of it.

Yes, it was you, but it wasn't just you now, was it?

Moses cautioned the Chosen People...

Be careful that you do not forget the Lord your God, failing to observe his commands, his laws and his decrees that I am giving you this day. Otherwise, when you eat and are satisfied, when you build fine houses and settle down, and when your herds and flocks grow large and your silver and gold increase and all you have is multiplied, then your heart will become proud and you will forget the Lord your God... (v11-14)

Don't forget the God who was behind all the bounty you give thanks for today:

- A safe place to sleep, food to eat, and friends to share it with...
- Freedom, to live the way you want, worship the way you want, and voice your own opinions...
- Spiritual expression, faith traditions, the opportunity to give grace, and to receive grace...

So somewhere between the turkey and trimmings, the stories and the scripture, give pause and remember to thank the One who made it all happen.

“Don’t forget about Me,” He says.

So don’t forget this Thanksgiving.

Amen.