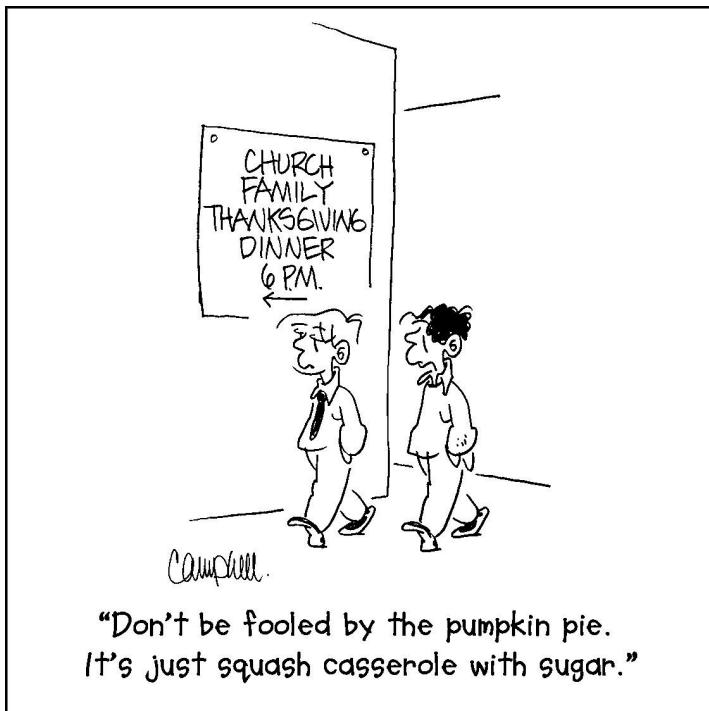


# Sunday November 18 through Sunday November 25

- Pastor Robert shows us how our expressed views can change our neighbors reality.
- The Joy of Intercession group will be meeting again this Monday at 6:30 pm.
- Pastor Robert will be at The Ugly Mug on Tuesday to continue the prayer study group.
- Katie's Pop Up Bakery will have goodies for sale starting at 2 pm on Tuesday.
- Prayer team will be meeting at 6 pm on Wednesday and the Choir will continue working on the Messiah Cantata.
- **Happy Thanksgiving.** May your day be full of joy and blessings too abundant to count.
- Next Sunday, Pastor Robert prepares us for the Season of Advent.
- UMYF will be canceled for Sunday evening.



## This WEEK at Trinity

OFFICE: (276) 523-0789  
trinityumc.bsg@gmail.com

### Sunday November 18

10:00 am—10:45 am Sunday School  
11:00 am—12:00 pm Morning Worship  
5:00 pm—UMYF

### Monday November 19

6:30 pm—Parsonage group  
7:00 pm—Boy Scouts

### Tuesday November 20

11:00 am—Study Group at Ugly Mug  
2:00 pm—Katie Shupe's Pop Up Bakery  
7:00 pm—Girl Scouts

### Wednesday November 21

6:00 pm—Prayer Team  
7:00 pm—Choir Practice

### Thursday November 22

**Happy Thanksgiving**

### Friday November 23

9:00 am—MEOC in Fellowship Hall

### Saturday November 24

No Scheduled Activities

### Sunday November 25

10:00 am—10:45 am Sunday School  
11:00 am—12:00 pm Morning Worship  
5:00 pm—UMYF canceled

**Faith is Like a Great Vision of Hope**  
**Genesis 16:1-6**

“Do not be afraid, Abram.  
I am your shield,<sup>u</sup>  
your very great reward.<sup>u</sup>”

God promised to make Abram a Great Nation. Abram was childless. It's hard to envision enough descendants to be a Great Nation when you are old and your spouse is barren. As the angel told the Virgin Mary, “Nothing is impossible with God.” Faith gives us eyes to see that ‘nothing is impossible with God.’

Faith counts God's abundance. Fear counts scarcity.

God directed Abrams eyes toward abundance. God invited Abram to lay beneath the night sky and count the stars. God knew Abram didn't have the Hubble telescope. Astronomers know that Hubble opens their field of vision to only a fraction of the abundance of stars God hung in the night sky.

Fear focuses on scarcity. Faith focuses on abundance!

Abram's fear rises out of God's word and his neighbor's interpretation. God said, “be fruitful and multiply.” His neighbors whisper, “What did Sarai and Abram do that God would curse them?” It's hard to hear God's Promise when listening to our neighbors. Abram had as hard a time being a blessing to all the families of the earth, as you and I do with “Love your neighbor as yourself.”

Wedged between these two commands, we find a lot of cursing taking place. How do “Pro Life and “Pro Choice” people bless and love one another? When the child was born, we called her “a bundle of joy.” A few years, later the jury sentenced her to death? Was she deafened to God's Word by the confusions of her neighbor's interpretation? What happened to cause the most powerful nation on earth to become polarized and divided? What did God have in sight when He said, “I will make you a Great Nation?’ Was Jesus looking through the “shield” we call the cross when he said, “Love your neighbor as yourself?’

Fear focuses on scarcity. Faith focuses on abundance.

“How will I get my next fix?” Some people get their fix from control, power, possessions, drugs, or youthfulness... Religious people have long tried to fix their neighbor by placing burdens on them too heavy to carry. It is hard to hear God whispering “love your neighbor” while the neighbor cries “Fix this or fix that.” With the same mouth we say “Jesus redeemed me from all sin” and “I hope I am good enough to get into heaven.” Only a sinner or Satan sees scarcity in God's Grace. **(When Jesus says, “Go and sin no more,” does He mean go love yourself so you can love your neighbor? Is he telling us to turn from fear of sin and death to faith in love?)**

Fear focuses on scarcity. Faith focuses on abundance.

Fear focuses on sin and death (scarcity). Faith focuses on the abundance of Jesus' mercy, grace, and love. Faith opens the eyes of the soul to see this ‘great reward.’ The Great Reward is in your fear. Fear is like the dark night sky where God hung an infinite number of stars.

Jesus loved his neighbor as his self. With his great mercy, he wrapped himself in our sin. With his grace, he wrapped himself in our death. With His love, he stepped out of the grave clothes wearing “the light of life.” (John 1) Neighbor, Jesus, the bright and shining star, shines in the darkness of your fear. “Do not be afraid. I am your shield. Your Great Reward.”

One in Christ,  
Robert