

Thanksgiving Sunday 2021
A Recipe for Life – Small Things
Scripture: 2 Corinthians 5:16 – 21

As I drove around the other day, I noticed flags and banners along the highway. Then all around a restaurant there were many more flags and banners proclaiming the restaurant was under new management. It had a fresh coat of paint on the building, a new sign, and a new name. The only thing that looked the same was the building's shape. The transforming of the physical appearance of the restaurant indicted a fresh start. The owners wanted diners to know there was a new reason to visit.

When we accept Christ as our Lord & Savior, we come under new management. Do we only apply a new fresh coat of paint on the outside or do we change inside when we accept Christ as our Lord? Do we put a cross around our neck but nothing has changed inside of us? Do we proclaim that we are new but yet we still do our old evil things?

If we accept Jesus Christ then we decide to walk in God's path. If we accept Jesus then we follow God's plan rather than our own. With such a major inner change, there should be a change in our actions, words, and deeds as well!

We have a new menu for our lives.

We are no longer 'stewing' in our troubles.

We are no longer 'waffling' in uncertainties; Instead, we display a 'sunny side up egg-ception'.

We hope and enjoy 'turnovers' of joy because of God's great gift of salvation.

Our Lord and Savior has an award-winning recipe for our lives.

On this Thanksgiving Sunday, with all these restaurant words in your head, may each of us seek the inner change that comes from the small things of life.

It has been a busy last couple of weeks as pastor with many responsibilities to complete. In the midst of life, I am reminded how precious the small things are. I am reminded how precious a phone call can be. How precious an email can be. How precious an encouraging letter can be. Or how precious a kind hug can be after a long day or week.

Isn't it true that the small things in life often turn out to be the big things? For example, the season of fall with the subtle color changes taking place can alter the overall effect of the world. Autumn is my favorite season because of the beauty of the fall colors and changes that are happening all about us.

We often wait for big changes to occur in our life. We wait for major life changing events to happen in our lives and we often ignore the small things. They seem insignificant, but it is the small things that make all the difference.

Like when you put a different shade on a lamp, it can make the lamp totally different. And so can the hands of the divine artist, Jesus Christ. Christ can change everything and you can become a divine artist with Christ inside of you.

With an encouraging word, you can make all the difference. With a note of congratulations, you can make all the difference. With an expression of thanks, you can lift the human spirit. All these things can make you the divine artist in Christ name.

What small things are you experiencing today? What small things are you doing to change someone's life today? You may never know when you change a life. It will probably be a small thing that changes everything!

Today on Thanksgiving Sunday we have some small things that can change each of us. What are these small things that you can experience today? What small things are here that can change your life today?

I am encouraging you to do some small act this week for Thanksgiving that could change someone life. Make a phone call to someone who you are thankful for in your life and share with them that fact. Send an email to someone who you are thankful for. Or put pen to paper and write a note and mail it to someone who you are thankful for. These small things can make a difference!

Let me share a phone call that I recently made – I called up a young girl named Melanie to sing Happy Birthday to. She was at the last church I served for 20 years. She is now ten years old so the last time I saw her, she was 5 years old. Her voice was totally different – five years ago she had a sweet little girl voice, but now her voice seemed so much older – a young lady! Last time I saw her, she was missing her two front teeth and she would have difficulty pronounce some words. I asked her if she remembered me, she said yes and shared that she enjoyed my phone calls on her birthday. Melanie told me my phone call was the highlight of her day! I asked her what she remembered about me. Melanie said it was all the times she would sit right beside me on the front alter steps of the church for a children’s message. I would often ask Melanie for help with the children’s message. Boy, did I have a smile on my face. Small things can make all the difference!

Want a recipe for life – seek out the small things to can bring joy to your life and the lives of others.

(In-person service)

For nineteen months and over fifty outside services, I have counted on the Johnston family to provide leadership and music for our parking lot services. Their contribution to our shared ministry has been a big thing even though they think it was a small thing, so I would like to honor them this morning in a small way –

Will Bill & Mary Johnston please come forward:

Bill, in the military they often give a person a pin when he achieves a certain rank. I have a faith pin for you. Mary would you please pin the faith pin on your husband.

Mary, for your wonderful playing from the porch of Campbell Hall and for playing in the Chapel, I have this flower arrangement for you. Bill, would you present these flowers to you wife.

And the congregation says ‘AMEN.’

(YouTube service)

To close this message, let us listen to a song sung by Emily Swett with Aimee Gusky accompanying – ‘What a Wonderful World’