

# Valley Voice

*The Greater Buffalo Run Valley United Methodist Church  
Making Disciples of Jesus Christ for the Transformation of the World  
Pastor Calvin Miller Office Phone: 814-355-2208  
November 2018*

## Membership Vows

Growing up, your memberships spoke volumes about your character. Because of this, one of the first things I did upon returning from Operation Desert Storm was join the VFW, Veterans of Foreign Wars. My membership was a sign of being part of a group of people bonded together by military service in a combat theater of operations. That membership comes with a commitment to preserve and memorialize the past while moving into the future. Local Church membership comes with a similar commitment and is solemnized in our membership vow.

A few of the definitions of “vow” are solemn promise, oath, pledge, bond, covenant, commitment, and guarantee. No matter which one you use, they all imply the basic tenet of agreement that is held sacred. When something is sacred, we hold it near-and-dear to our hearts. God is counting on each one of us- each member of the Body of Christ- to commit to the Greater Buffalo Run Valley UMC today so that more brothers and sisters in Christ will be led to accept Christ in our community. To be the vibrant witness we need to be, we must understand what God is asking us to do.

Over the course of several weeks, October 28th through November 25th, I will be preaching a series of Messages on the 5 declarations made in our membership vow- the giving of our prayers, presence, gifts, service, and witness. God is counting on us to live into the Vision for our local church. God has already done God's part, now we must do our part.

I invite you to fully participate in this journey as you are able, contemplating God's Call on your life and your commitment to the Fruitfulness of the Greater Buffalo Run Valley UMC's mission and ministry. God has vowed to provide for us through God's Love and Grace; let's move forward in Jesus' Name, living into our vow and God's Vision, together!

Blessings and Wholeness,

*Pastor Calvin*

**Our Commitment to God...**  
**His Commitment to us...**



## Invitation to Participate in Newsletter Production

You may have noticed that there have been some changes in the newsletter recently. We have some new people working on different aspects of the publication and we're looking for others who want to help.

We've been working hard to maintain the quality this important ministry outreach has always reflected and to assure that it continues. We'd also like to hear from you, the reader, letting us know what you enjoy and what other items we could include to make it more appealing to you.

If you feel you are being led to join our staff, please contact Pastor Calvin, Melissa Ishler, Connie Peters or Gloria Lohr. I'm sure we have the perfect job for you!

### Greater Buffalo Run Valley United Methodist Church

*MAKING DISCIPLES OF JESUS CHRIST FOR  
THE TRANSFORMATION OF THE WORLD*

**Sunday Worship Schedule:  
9 a.m.**

**Buffalo Run UMC Location  
10:30 a.m.**

**Sunday School  
Buffalo Run UMC Location**

If you are in need of prayer or would like to have a pastoral visit, please contact  
**Pastor Calvin Miller**  
Office Phone: 355-2208  
Home Phone: 814-810-2106  
Email: [cmiller@susumc.org](mailto:cmiller@susumc.org)

Something to think about....

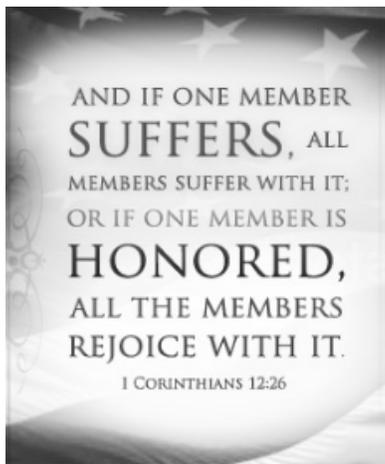
“Be an encourager. The world has plenty of critics already.”

--Dave Willis



**GIVE THANKS**

A Joyful 'toon by Mike Waters



## A Closer Look at Veteran's Day

By Cyndy Salzman

*"I thank my God every time I remember you." - Philippians 1:3*

It was the eleventh hour of the eleventh day in the eleventh month in 1918 when the world celebrated as a treaty was signed ending what was to be "the war to end all wars" - World War I. And one year later, on what came to be known as Armistice Day, Americans came together to remember and honor the sacrifices of the men and women who served during the war. Soldiers who survived the war marched in parades and were honored by speeches and ceremonies recognizing their contribution to peace throughout the world. Congress declared Armistice Day a national holiday in 1938. By this time, with unrest in much of the world, Americans realized World War I would not be the last war. After the Second World War, which was even bloodier than the first, Armistice Day continued to be observed. In 1954, Congress changed the name of the holiday to Veterans Day to include veterans of all United States wars. Today, Americans honor the service and sacrifice of our armed forces in the past as well as the present on Veterans Day. The official, national ceremony takes place at Arlington National Cemetery at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldiers. A color guard representing all the branches of the military executes "Present Arms" at the tomb, a Presidential

wreath is placed on the graves, and a bugler plays "taps."

In communities across the county, there are parades, ceremonies and speeches. At 11:00 in the morning, Americans are encouraged to observe a moment of silence to remember those who fought for freedom.

### **A Closer Look**

*Is life so dear, or peace so sweet, as to be purchased at the price of chains and slavery? Forbid it, Almighty God! I know not what course others may take; but as for me, give me liberty or give me death! ~~ Patrick Henry March 23, 1775*

I'll be honest with you - it is quite uncomfortable for me to take a closer look at Veterans Day. I am ashamed to admit that it wasn't until recently that I began to understand and appreciate the great freedom we enjoy as citizens of the United States. I am even more ashamed to admit that I had little appreciation for its cost.

I grew up in an era when military service was not valued by a very vocal segment of our nation - much less honored. As a child, I witnessed night after night of students and others protesting the controversial Vietnam War on the evening news. Veterans who had put their lives on the line in service to their country were not welcomed home as heroes - but as outcasts.

It was a time when I found it hard to imagine why anyone would voluntarily choose to enter the military. Looking back, the only word for our nation's treatment of our veterans during this period is - appalling.

### **Outside the Cocoon**

It wasn't until the terrorist attacks of September 11, 2001 that I began to peek outside of my comfortable cocoon in the United States at life



## The Power of Thanksgiving

***"I am the Light of the world. He who follows me shall not walk in darkness, but shall have the Light of life." John 8:12***

When we are followers of Jesus darkness should not characterize our lives. Oh, it will come to try to darken the doorway of our hearts but we can choose our response.

In one of the daily readings in "**Jesus Calling**" by *Sarah Young* she explains what happened when Eve turned her attention away from all the blessings she had, to focus on what she didn't have. "*That negative focus darkened her mind and she succumbed to temptation.*"

She left thankfulness behind! Thankfulness is so much more than "*having an attitude of gratitude*"! It is a protection from darkness. It is a discipline. It's actually a weapon in our spiritual warfare arsenal.

When you sense the shadow of darkness at the door of your heart by discouragement or dissatisfaction (*two of the biggest things that try to rob us of the Light of Jesus within us*) stop and send thanksgiving to the door.

Jesus says that when we follow Him we will not walk in darkness. Where are the shadows lurking that want to darken the door of your heart and mind and draw you away from the Light? Send Jesus to the door and rise up with thanksgiving in your heart. It's a discipline. It's a sacrifice. It's a weapon. Use it today!

By Gail Rodgers

in countries with little freedom. I saw the cruel treatment of women in many Middle Eastern countries as they were beaten for appearing on the street without male escorts - even if their only reason for venturing out was to purchase food for their children. I saw how girls in these countries are denied access to education and have no choice in their marriage partners. In Sudan, I learned of people - even children - tortured and murdered because they refuse to deny their faith in Jesus. In China, pregnant women are forced to abort their unborn children to comply with laws on family size. In Central American countries, those who publicly disagree with governmental policies often "mysteriously" disappear - never to be seen again. The list of human rights violations and atrocities outside of the United States is extensive. Yet, here I sit - in the wealthiest nation on the earth - free to attend the church of my choice, to own as many Bibles as I can afford, to choose my own husband (or choose not to marry), to vote for the leaders of my government and even write a letter to the editor of the newspaper when I disagree with the decisions they make. And why can I enjoy these freedoms? Because the men and women in our armed forces understand that freedom has a cost. And since the birth of our nation, brave men and women have stepped forward, weighed the cost and chosen to lay down their lives in service to their fellow countrymen. Thank you just isn't enough. We need to pass these truths on to future generations - and Veterans Day is a great place to start.

*"Greater love has no one than this, that he lay down his life for his friends." - John 15:13*