

# NEWSLETTER



## *“When Jesus Gave Thanks”*

*By Pastor Steve Gibson*

We are approaching the season when we are reminded about the value of giving thanks. At least ideally, the minds of many are led to consider reasons for giving thanks. I hope you are planning to spend some time especially this month in giving thanks to God for His amazing plan of salvation.

When Jesus lived on this earth, what happened when He gave thanks? Of course many of those instances are not recorded, but I would like to briefly review two passages in Mark and one in John that provide some insight into an answer to that question.

In Mark chapter 6, Jesus was sharing the good news with a large crowd of people. More than five thousand were in the congregation. Jesus hadn't necessarily invited them all over to His place, yet He felt a responsibility to feed the guests. After asking the disciples to have the people sit down, they were ready to eat. Where was the food? Physical nourishment?

Jesus lifted His eyes to heaven and gave thanks (v. 41). He didn't have any question where the food would come from. He did not give thanks in a general way to some beneficent being out there. He gave thanks to His Father, the Provider of all things, the One who lives in heaven.

After Jesus gave thanks, there was an abundant supply of bread and fish to satisfy all the picnickers. When they had finished, there were even a dozen baskets of leftovers for snacking on the way home.

In Mark 8, not so long after the experience in Mark 6, Jesus again was full of compassion for the people who had spent three days listening to His messages about the kingdom of God. They had used up their provisions and yet were reluctant to get on their way to find their next meal. So He asked the people to sit down. What must they have been thinking? Had some of them been in the crowd in Mark 6? The disciples seem to have forgotten about that incident, but Jesus again gave thanks and a multitude of over four thousand were fed adequately before seven baskets of leftovers were gathered up.

In John 11, Jesus was nearing the close of His earthly ministry. He went with friends to the cemetery at Bethany and asked to have the stone covering the burial chamber moved. He was already exercising faith in His Father's power to have even requested that the grave be opened. Then He did what He so often did; He lifted up His eyes and gave thanks (v. 41). He expressed faith that His Father had heard His prayer and then invited Lazarus to walk out of the dead chamber. What happened? Lazarus walked out (v.44).

When Jesus gave thanks, mighty events could occur; God could be glorified. What happens when you give thanks? Does it not open the door for God to work in a mighty way? Why not find out this month? This week? Today?

## November

**Memorial Service for Leroy Jones**  
November 22, 2020 @ 2 p.m.

**Church Work Bee**  
November 22nd 8-10 a.m.

**Sabbath School**  
**Adult** in person 10:15-11:15 a.m.  
**Adult** Via Zoom 8:45 a.m.  
**Primary and Junior** in person and Zoom  
from church 10:15-11:15 a.m.

**Church Service**  
In person and Live Stream  
11:30 a.m.

**Prayer Group**  
Wednesday's 7:30 p.m.  
Call 1-972-224-6616 Code: 278589

**Great Controversy Reading**  
Sabbath afternoon @ 3:30 p.m.  
Look for an email with Zoom information.

**Tithes & Offerings**  
Because of faithful giving we are meeting our budget and our tithing base is normal during this time. Below are a couple of ways you can give your offerings:

Mail to: **Cathy Fields**  
**P.O. Box 15332**  
**Scottsdale, AZ 85267**

Go to [www.desertcovesda.com](http://www.desertcovesda.com) and click on 'Online Giving' and follow the prompts to give that way.

**OR...**Bring it Sabbath mornings and there will be a box in the hallway to put it in before or after the service.

**Email:** [pastorstevegibson@hotmail.com](mailto:pastorstevegibson@hotmail.com) **Physical Address:** 12400 W Desert Cove Road, El Mirage, AZ 85335

**Mailing Address:** 13954 W. Waddell Road, Suite 103 #616, Surprise, AZ 85379 **Website:** [www.desertcovesda.com](http://www.desertcovesda.com)

## Upcoming Events & Announcements

### Sugar

Eating sugar gives your brain a huge surge of a feel-good chemical called dopamine, which explains why you're more likely to crave sugar. Americans eat 270 calories of sugar each day which is about 17 teaspoons a day, compared to the recommended limits of about 12 teaspoons per day or 200 calories. An excess of sugar can negatively affect the body in many ways. There are studies that indicate that Sugar is worse than having a cocaine addiction. Sugary drinks, candy, baked goods, and sweetened dairy are the main sources of added sugar. Breads, tomato sauce, and protein bars also have sugar, making it all too easy to end up with a high intake of sugar. There is also evidence that sugar can be linked to a greater risk of depression. Sugar can also lead to a greater accumulation of fat, which will turn into fatty liver disease, a contributor to diabetes, which raises one's risk for heart disease. Consuming too much added sugar can also raise blood pressure and increase chronic inflammation. Sugar can be found in nutritional labels as corn syrup, agave nectar, palm sugar, cane juice, or sucrose. To conclude, sugar is not a product that anyone should consume who is trying to live a healthy life.

**“It is not good to eat much honey: So for men to search their own glory is not glory.” Proverbs 25:27**

Blessings, Dr. Sylvia Hayashi—Health/Prayer Ministry Leader

### Memorial Service

There will be a memorial service for Leroy Jones on Sunday, November 22, 2020 at 2 p.m. It will be held at the Desert Cove SDA Church and is open to anyone who wishes to attend.

### Church Work Bees

We have started our church work bees up again and they will continue to be the fourth Sunday of each month unless otherwise noted. They will start at 8 a.m. Come on out and help keep our church looking awesome!

### Thanksgiving Baskets

We are starting to collect non-perishable food items for Thanksgiving baskets. We will be collecting items on November 7th and 14th at the church. Cathy will also be at the church Wednesday evening, November 11th, from 5-8 p.m. If you have food you want to bring but cannot bring it on one of those Sabbaths. If you know of a family who needs a Thanksgiving basket, please contact Pastor Steve or Randy Fields.

*Happy Thanksgiving*

### Vegan Double Layer Pumpkin Cheesecake

#### Whip together:

8 oz. vegan cream cheese  
3 T cornstarch

12 oz. vegan sour cream  
1 tsp lemon juice

1/2 cup granulated sugar  
1/2 tsp vanilla extract

#### Next add:

3/4 cup canned pumpkin puree  
3/4 tsp pumpkin pie spice

1 1/4 cup brown sugar, packed  
1/4 tsp ground cinnamon

2 T almond milk or other non-dairy milk  
1 pinch salt

1. Add vegan cream cheese, vegan sour cream, sugar, cornstarch, lemon juice and vanilla (I like to use a splash of almond extract also) to a medium sized mixing bowl and whip with mixer until completely smooth.
2. Add 1 heaping cup of cheesecake filling to the base of an extra large (10 inch) graham cracker crust. Spread out evenly.
3. Now add canned pumpkin puree, brown sugar, almond milk, pumpkin pie spice, cinnamon and salt to the remainder of the white cheesecake filling in your original mixing bowl.
4. Beat everything together until smooth. Then dollop pumpkin filling gently over the first white layer of cheesecake and spread out until smooth. Leave mounded slightly higher in the center to avoid cracking.
5. Bake at 350 degrees in center of the oven for 60 minutes or until the center seems mostly set. Allow to cool at room temperature for at least an hour before placing in the refrigerator. Chill for at least 4 hours or overnight to set completely. Serve cold.

*Recipe from [www.veganblueberry.com](http://www.veganblueberry.com)*