

National Fellowship of Associate Members and Local Pastors (NFAMLP)
November 2025

Greetings to my co-laborers in Christ,

It is my honor to write this letter to you this month. I know that this is a busy season in the life of our churches with church/charge conference season being in full swing. Some of you have completed your responsibilities for this already and others are awaiting our assigned dates. Whether you enjoy administrative work or not, this too is part of the work of the pastor and the church and can be used in ways to give thanks to God for all God is doing through the churches.

November is often referred to as the season of Thanksgiving, in part because we here in the U.S. celebrate Thanksgiving during this month. As the Letter to the Philippians in chapter 4: 8-9 (NRSVue) says, Finally, brothers and sisters, whatever is true, whatever is honorable, whatever is just, whatever is pure, whatever is pleasing, whatever is commendable, if there is any excellence and if there is anything worthy of praise, think about these things.” Let us find the things to rejoice about in our congregations, our neighborhoods and communities. Let us find the good to lift up and give praise about, especially as the world seem to want to focus on all that is wrong.

It is so easy to get caught up in the negative and we need to take this time to remind us of and our congregations of the good and positive things happening. Rev. Fred Rogers on his television program used to tell his viewers that his mother always told him when scary things happened to “look for the helpers.” While many do not help for the acclaim or even want to be noticed, the world needs to hear about the ways people are making a difference in the world for good. As Christians, we are called to be those helpers in big ways and in small ways.

A few years ago, I was struggling to see the positive being bogged down with the constant changes that the Covid pandemic was bringing into my personal life, my pastoral life, and my Bivocational life working under a Department of Health and Human Services. I didn’t realize how much it was affecting me until my daughter said to me one day that everything and everyone I speak about I did so in a negative way. I didn’t realize how much the barrage of negative news, constant changes, and weariness was affecting me until she pointed it out. From that time on, I began to realize just how much we need to remember to “Rejoice in the Lord always and again I say rejoice.” (Philippians 4:4) is needed in our lives.

As pastors we carry heavy burdens and sometimes, we need to switch off the negative news on the television, from social media, from our troubles, and from our church troubles to remember to rejoice in the Lord always. Sometimes we need reminders of this from others, and I hope this a reminder to you as you read this to stop and smell the roses and find something good God is doing in your life or in the life of your congregation or community. May it give you a reason to smile and thank God for all the Lord has done, is doing, and has yet to do for us and through God’s people for the world.

May your season of Thanksgiving last more than the thirty days of November and become a year long or life long one of living joyfully everyday as we work to Love Boldly, Serve Joyfully, and Lead Courageously in the work to which we have been called.

On behalf of the NFAMLP Executive Team, we hope you have a blessed Thanksgiving.

Pastor Marikay Green
NFAMLP Executive Team Member

