

Thankful

As our thoughts turn to Thanksgiving this year, it may be a struggle to think of things to be thankful for as the needs and uncertainties we face seem to loom so large. The desire for 'normal' may tempt us to make choices about the coming holidays that may say more about our longing for 'normal' than about our love of family, thankfulness, or the reasons for the season. We have and should focus our prayers on the needs around us. For so many, life itself hangs in the balance, be it due to COVID-19, violence, storm, flood, fire, hardship, or several of these together. The power in our collective prayers can make a difference that is very much needed. However, we must also not lose sight of the reasons for joy and thanksgiving. The power of joy and thankfulness is also a gift from God and sorely needed in these days. Taking the time this thanksgiving season to sit down and make a list of the things we have to be thankful for may be just as important as the measures we all must take to keep each other safe during this pandemic. Maybe putting in writing the ways each family member or friend has blessed us and sharing the list with them by mail, electronically, or by phone may be the best way to be together and express our love this year when physical gatherings could put those same loved ones at risk. Among the gifts we have from God is the knowledge that we have God's strong arms to lean on in times such as these, and that leaning on the Lord is our help, our strength, *and our joy!*

*What a fellowship, what a joy divine,
Leaning on the Everlasting Arms!
What a blessedness, what a peace is mine,
Leaning on the Everlasting Arms!*

*Leaning, leaning,
Safe and secure from all alarms;
Leaning, leaning,
Leaning on the Everlasting Arms.*

Words by: Elisha Albright Hoffman (1839-1929)

This week, pray for:

- the **COVID-19 pandemic**. Help all of us do all we can to keep each other as safe as we can. Pray for those working on a vaccine & on treatments for the virus. Remember those who are caring for the sick & the dying. As the situation in Ohio worsens, COVID is hitting closer to home for many.
- **Those in the world who have received Brethren Emergency Disaster Fund grants** to help with crippling needs:
 - **U.S. congregations** for COVID-19 relief
 - **Nigeria** facing COVUD-19 in addition to Boko Haram violence
 - **The Democratic Republic of Congo** for nutrition programs needed due to COVID-19's effects on the poor
 - **Beirut Lebanon** for people still recovering from the port explosion which devastated the city in August. Funds are helping families, & repairing hospitals which were damaged
 - **Venezuela** – for COVID-19 relief, food relief, & relief after severe flooding
- **those dealing with storms, fires, flooding, earthquakes, & other disasters**
 - Fires are growing worse & fire seasons longer around the world. Much of the western U.S. is still a tinderbox & continues to burn. Some are lightening fires; most have human causes.
 - The people of Central America including Nicaragua & Honduras who were already dealing with the devastation from hurricane Eta when Lota hit. The two made land fall only 15 miles apart. A third storm may also be on the way.
- **The people of the Tigray region of Ethiopia** where violence is approaching a civil war.

Take a Moment to Pray for Peace #119 November 18, 2020 Linda Fry, District Peace & Conciliation Advocate

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