



Prayer of Thanksgiving: that we have a perfect, eternal High Priest representing all of us at the heavenly headquarters. **"1 ¶ Now the point in what we are saying is this: we have such a high priest, one who is seated at the right hand of the throne of the Majesty in heaven, 2 a minister in the holy places, in the true tent that the Lord set up, not man."** (Heb 8:1-2 ESV)

Please do not forget to pray for all the shut-ins and isolated brothers and sisters in our congregations Mrs. Jack and Clem Campbell (Fredericton) and John Steffes (Caribou, Me), Mr. Ross Bathurst, Phil Ward (Saint John) and others.

Open Hand Food Bank – Moncton - is in need of grocery plastic bags to give out food to those in need. If you are interested in donating your unused grocery bags, you can bring them to church and someone will collect them and bring them over. Those who want to bring food to give to the **Open Food Bank** may do so by bringing to church and giving it to **Michael M.** of the Moncton congregation.

ACTIVITIES FOR THE MONTH OF May 2018

Times of worship services: **Moncton** – 10:30 AM every Sunday.

In Saint John, worship services will be May 13 and 27 at 2:30 PM

Communion- on the second and fourth Sunday of the month.

Address: Moncton—70 King St. —Sage building;

Saint John—50 Newport Cres., Portland United church.

Discipleship group Moncton— May 23 in the home of Mr. and Mrs. Vautour. **Topics: Galatians 5** – Presenter- Mr. Cormier

Event today: May 6 – potluck at the Vautours – after services;

Potluck in Saint John after services May 27

Please pray also for all those affected by the recent and on-going flooding in parts New Brunswick as well as in part of the British Columbia. We also need to pray for our brothers and sisters touched by very inclement weather in such places as part of the USA, part of Africa, including Kenya and other adjacent countries, etc..

Pray that we will see the good works that God has prepared for us in advance so that we can enthusiastically participate in the on-going work He is doing now on this earth in bringing people in relationship with him in Jesus by the Holy Spirit.

Please pray, as per Jesus instructions, the disciples prayer, "Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name.

¹⁰ **Your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven" (Matt 6:9-10)** as our world is suffering so much and in need of complete restoration by the King of kings, Jesus. As we are his royal priesthood, let us proclaim the excellencies of him who called us out of darkness into his marvelous light, as we are instructed in 1 Peter 2.

Pray for the world and for all people: we live in a world that does not know the way to peace. Important to pray as we are instructed by the apostle Paul — **"1 ¶ First of all, then, I urge that supplications, prayers, intercessions, and thanksgivings be made for all people, 2 for kings and all who are in high positions, that we may lead a peaceful and quiet life, godly and dignified in every way. 3 This is good, and it is pleasing in the sight of God our Savior," (1Ti 2:1-3 ESV)**

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HONORING OUR MOTHERS

Posted by GCI Weekly Update on May 9, 2018 under [From the President](#) |

Dear Brothers and Sisters,



Joseph and Tammy
Tkach

In a recent online search, I learned that 54 countries, including the United States, celebrate Mother's Day on the second Sunday in May (May 13, this year). Other countries celebrate something similar on other days of the year. For example, the UK celebrates "Mothering Sunday" on the fourth Sunday during Lent. The roots of that celebration are the tradition of visiting one's "mother church" (where you were baptized). As time progressed, the day became a time to give honor to one's birth mother. While I believe it's appropriate to take a day each year to give honor to our human mothers, I also think (in the spirit of what Jesus said in [Matthew 12:46-50](#)) that it is good and right that we give honor to our spiritual mother, the church.

Honoring our mother, the church

Though some Christians ignore and even dishonor the church, Scripture teaches us to give her the highest honor. Protestant reformer and theologian John Calvin did just that, teaching that the church is necessary for the spiritual growth and well-being of all believers:



John Calvin (public
domain via Wikimedia
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Let us learn even from the simple title "mother," how useful, indeed how necessary, it is that we should know her.... I shall start, then, with the church, into whose bosom God is pleased to gather his sons, not only that they may be nourished by her help and ministry as long as they are infants and children, but also that they may be guided by her motherly care until they mature and at last reach the goal of faith... so that, for those to whom he is Father the church may also be Mother. And this was so not only under the law but also after Christ's coming, as Paul testifies when he teaches that we are the children of the new and heavenly Jerusalem ([Galatians 4:26](#)). (*Institutes of the Christian Religion*, 4.1.1)

In a couple of books on evangelical theology, [Sung Wook Chung](#) (Professor at Denver Seminary) notes that Calvin identified six functions of the church as our mother:

- Conception: God's people are conceived in the womb of the church through the power of the Spirit and the Word.
- Birth: God's people receive life (regeneration) by the Spirit within the context of the church.
- Spiritual nourishment: The church "nourishes us at her breast" (*Inst.* 4.1.4).
- Care and guidance: The church takes care of us throughout our lives, offering direction and counsel.
- Forgiveness and salvation: We cannot hope for either forgiveness or salvation "away from her bosom" (*Inst.* 4.1.4). As bearer of the gospel and as led by the Spirit, the church is God's agent of forgiveness and salvation in the world.
- Cultivation of godliness and piety: In the fellowship of the church we are shepherded by and for good works.

The apostle Paul, whom God used to establish the church among the gentiles, compared his ministry to that of a nursing mother caring for her children ([1 Thess. 2:7](#)). He also compared Christ's relationship with his church to a husband's relationship with his wife ([Eph. 5:25-32](#)). Closely aligned (though not perfectly parallel), Jesus, the head of the church, compared himself to a mother hen gathering her chicks under her wings to provide protection ([Luke 13:34](#)). Down through the ages, teachers of the church, including Calvin, added these biblical images and metaphors up, and recognized how fitting it is to identify the church's ministry as spiritual "mothering."

Happy Mother's Day!

As Mother's Day draws near here in the U.S., I am remembering my baptism and the care I have received from my spiritual mother, the church, and the good works of my human mother who nurtured me in the ways of God. Happy Mother's Day to all of you reading this who are human mothers, and also to our spiritual mother the church.

—Joseph Tkach

PS: In the *We're Often Asked* section of the GCI website, we addresses the importance of our mother, the church (also referred to in Scripture as "the body of Christ"):

God calls sinners into the fellowship of the saints, which is the body of Christ. Regardless of denomination or choice of Christian congregation, the spiritual nurture of fellow Christians is essential for a faithful life in Christ. It is from Christ that "the whole body [is] joined and held together by every supporting ligament... as each part does its work" ([Eph. 4:16](#)). Speaking of the importance of the church in the lives of Christians, Paul wrote: "It was [Christ] who gave some to be apostles, some to be prophets, some to be evangelists, and some to be pastors and teachers, to prepare God's people for works of service, so that the body of Christ may be built up until we all reach unity in the faith and in the knowledge of the Son of God and become mature, attaining to the whole measure of the fullness of Christ" ([Eph. 4:11-13](#)).

Year to day giving in NB

Church	2017-04-30	2018-04-30	Comparison to last year	Comparison to last year
Moncton	\$ 40.00	\$ 3,749.88	\$3,709.88	9274.7%
Saint John	\$ 77.00	\$ 730.00	\$ 653.00	848.1%
Total	\$ 117.00	\$ 4,479.88	\$ 4,362.88	3729.0%
	Year to date 2017	Year to date 2018		Comparison to previous year
Moncton	\$ 5,436.96	\$ 6,699.79	\$ 1,262.83	23.2%
Saint John	\$ 1,420.00	\$ 1,840.00	\$ 420.00	29.6%
Total	\$ 6,856.96	\$ 8,539.79	\$ 1,682.83	24.5%

PS. The percentages for April because they include giving in both March and April.

Thank you very much for your generous giving to this part of the body of Jesus, GCI being a part of the universal church of Jesus of which He is the head.. ***“6 ¶ The point is this: whoever sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and whoever sows bountifully will also reap bountifully. 7 Each one must give as he has made up his mind, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver. 8 And God is able to make all grace abound to you, so that having all sufficiency in all things at all times, you may abound in every good work.” (2Co 9:6–8 ESV)***

WHAT WE BELIEVE

<https://resources.gci.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/05/We Believe Adult Edition.pdf>

1 What is a “sacrament”?

It is a special act of Christian worship, instituted by Christ, which uses a visible sign to proclaim and receive the promise of the gospel for the forgiveness of sins and eternal life. A sacrament is received in faith, trusting in God to minister to us by the Holy Spirit through it. By God’s grace, the sacrament seals God’s promise to believers and is a special means to convey to us what is promised by the sign. In baptism, the sign is that of water; in the Lord’s Supper, the sign is that of bread and wine. (Mark 1:9-11; 14:22-25; John 6:53; 1 Cor. 10:16; 11:25; 2 Cor. 1:22)

8.2 Why do we participate in the sacraments of baptism and the Lord’s Supper?

We baptize because Jesus Christ was baptized for us and commanded us to baptize. We share in his baptism by being baptized in his name. Our baptism bears witness to Jesus’ baptism for us, and expresses our faith in his baptism for us. Our partaking of the Lord’s Supper bears witness to the communion he has set out for us at his Table and expresses our faith that his self-offering has restored our communion with him and with the Father in the Spirit. In the Lord’s Supper we receive from him what he has to give us, namely himself. We receive from him his body broken for us, and his life-blood poured out for us. Through the two sacraments, we bear witness not so much to our faith, but to who Jesus Christ is and what he has done for us through his baptism and self-sacrifice.

8.3 What is the relationship between the word of promise and the sacramental sign?

Take away the word of promise, and the water of baptism is merely water, and the bread and wine of the Lord’s Supper are merely bread and wine. The elements have no natural power in themselves to convey the blessings of God. But consecrated by the Spirit and Word of promise, the elements become visible words of God that we receive in action. In this way the elements, by grace, convey to receptive faith what they promise—the presence of our Lord Jesus Christ. The sacraments are thus visible words that uniquely assure and confirm that no matter how greatly we may have sinned, Christ died for us and comes to live in us and with us by his Spirit. They are specially appointed means that God has provided for us to receive the transforming, healing, reconciling grace of God. (Luke 24:30-31; 1 Cor. 10:16; Matt. 28:20; Col. 1:27)

8.4 What is the main difference between baptism and the Lord’s Supper?

While baptism is received only once, the Lord’s Supper is received again and again. Being unrepeatable, baptism indicates not only that Christ died for our sins once and for all, but that by grace we are also united with him once and for all

through faith. Being repeatable, the Lord's Supper indicates that as we turn unfilled to him again and again, our Lord continually meets us in the power of the Holy Spirit to fill us—to renew and deepen our faith. (Acts 2:41; John 6:33, 51, 56; 1 Cor. 11:26)

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