



Carleton United Methodist Church
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*“And don’t forget to do good and to share with those in need.
These are the sacrifices that please God.”*
Hebrews 13:16 NLT

Dear Carleton Family,

Greetings to you in the name of our Lord, Jesus Christ!

I feel like we are being pushed ruthlessly by time to accept the new season of winter before we relish enough the dense and playfully glorious colors of leaves from the trees around us. I don’t want to rush into the new gifts of the coming season, but would like to linger a little longer in the blessings of the passing season that graced us.

As we look forward to having our family around the Thanksgiving dinner table, I remember a special Thanksgiving dinner I joined with my family 10 years ago. It was the first year of my cross-cultural appointment, and one of the church members invited my family to join their Thanksgiving dinner. When I was in Korean churches, we faithfully celebrated Korean Thanksgiving Day, which is called “Chuseok” (literally meaning “autumn evening”) or Hangawi (meaning “the great and bountiful middle of autumn”).

Out of gratitude and curiosity, my family and I participated in the “real” American-styled Thanksgiving dinner. When I say “real,” it means that we had a “really big turkey” served for the guests at the center of the dining table. My family were not the only guests. Two other church members joined the special feast. They have been invited to this Thanksgiving dinner for years because they used to spend the holiday alone. All the foods served to the guests were plentiful and delicious like ambrosia. The ambience of the dining table was full of warmth, gratefulness, and connectedness. We were a heavenly family, a celestial bond made manifest on earth.

A few years ago, the hosting family had to move to the Detroit area to be close to their son’s family. Every year, when the Thanksgiving season touches my heart, I am always reminded of the special day of welcoming, hospitality, and heavenly feast. The vivid picture of God’s boundless bounty from that day has been etched deeply and indelibly upon my heart.

I am immensely grateful that I can enjoy Hangawi (the abundance of God’s autumn) with my new church family here in Carleton UMC.

Blessings,

Pastor Jung Eun Yum

P.S. I look forward to worshipping our God of abundance together with you this coming Thanksgiving Sunday. Please come with your family, and let us prepare our hearts for a heavenly encounter in our worship and fellowship.