

"With Thankful Hearts"

Thursday, November 11



"Falling Leaves"

Rejoice in the Lord always. I will say it again: Rejoice! Let your gentleness be evident to all. The Lord is near. Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus. Philippians 4: 4-7

Why are we reluctant to give thanks? Because we assess what's happening and we are anxious about the outcome. And anxious about what will be added to our task list. So giving thanks for what is in front of us eludes our thoughts.

As this picture was taken, the beautiful red leaves were fluttering down to the ground. A neat person would think, "now I need to get out there and rake those leaves because it looks messy." A gardener would think, "if I don't rake those leaves, it will harm the grass for the next season." An ecologist would think, "if I rake the leaves and mulch them, I can use them in my compost." And all of these good folks would get anxious as the leaves keep falling off of multiple trees in a season where they are already overwhelmed with many other tasks.

Of course, this is a metaphor for all the things that make us anxious for a variety of reasons. But what the Philippians passage is reminding us is that we rejoice in the Lord always...not because of the things that make us anxious, but because God is with us, listening, loving and lifting us up in the midst of our anxiety.