Joe Burch
Chairman, Deacons Ministry

Chantelle Scott
Chairman, Trustee Ministry

A Thanksgiving Message to the First African Baptist Church of Darby Township

Joy First African Family,



There is something important I want to acknowledge as we approach this day. I do not celebrate Thanksgiving Day in its general American sense, nor do I embrace the traditional narrative that has been used to explain its origins. The history of this day is far more complicated and painful than the familiar story often suggests. We cannot ignore the displacement, suffering, and violence inflicted upon Indigenous peoples whose lands were stolen, whose communities were destroyed, and whose lives were forever changed through colonization. We must be willing to remember that history honestly and acknowledge the voices and experiences that have too often been excluded from the national narrative.

However, I do believe in giving thanks. While I may not celebrate Thanksgiving Day as America traditionally observes it, I welcome the opportunity to turn my heart toward God and simply say, “Thank you.” For us, as Christians, Thanksgiving is not about celebrating a romanticized version of history. It is an opportunity to pause, turn our hearts toward God, and simply say, “Thank you.” We thank God for all God has done, for the prayers God has answered, for the doors God has opened, and even for the doors God has closed. We give thanks for the things God said yes to and the things God said no to, trusting that God’s wisdom and love have been present through it all.

It is my joy to share this year’s Thanksgiving with you, my new family, the wonderful people of the First African Baptist Church of Darby Township. These first few weeks together have been a tremendous blessing. You have welcomed me with such warmth, kindness, and affirmation, and I want you to know how genuinely grateful I am. Your hospitality has meant the world to me, and I thank God for the opportunity to serve and journey alongside you. I am excited about what God can do in and through us as we move forward together into the Next Wave of Glory.

So, this Thanksgiving, wherever you find yourself and whatever circumstances you may be facing, may you find a reason to give thanks. May you remember that you are held by God’s grace, and that even when life does not unfold as we hoped, God’s presence remains faithful. May the peace of God flood your soul, may the love of God fill your heart, and may the grace of God sustain you in every season.

Happy Day of Thanks to you and your loved ones. I am grateful to God for you, and I am grateful that our paths have come together in this season of ministry.

With a grateful heart,
The Reverend Dr. Wayne E. Croft, Sr.
Interim Pastor