

## **IN THIS ISSUE**

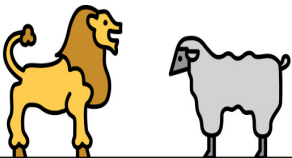
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## *From the Pastor's Desk*



I write this column just days after another shocking event involving our schools and mass killing. We can all agree that this kind of event is happening far too often! And we certainly keep in our hearts and our prayers the families of the seventeen people who died because of the evil choice of one young man to take up a gun and shoot at random. Of course, immediately we hear the call for stricter gun control. But no matter what controls were in place, this young man would have been able to purchase a weapon because he was not on anyone's list. We find out that he had been reported, but the authorities let him slip between the cracks. We heard that in January officials were informed that he posted on social media that he was going to be a mass school shooter.... and nothing was done. I felt from the moment I heard of this event and heard more details about the perpetrator that there must have been something to set him off. We immediately heard he was expelled from school. Was there any follow up with him to explore why and if we could help him work through his issues? We later heard that his mother had died in November — and no one thought this would make him angry enough to do something so drastic? We also found out his father is deceased—now, a nineteen year old is an orphan. And no one tried to talk with him about anger issues?

I certainly agree that the automatic weapons that are so easily attained these days have no place in society. The armed forces may need them to be able to fully defend our nation, but to have them available on our streets is not necessary. But whether it is an automatic rifle or a hand gun, the weapon is not able to kill on its own. Just like an automobile is a necessary item in our society and by itself, it is not able to kill. But when a driver chooses to drive on a sidewalk or a walking path, there will be death. When drivers choose to look at texts on the phone and takes their attention away from the traffic around them, there will be accidents and maybe death. The vehicle does not kill by itself—it is the choices the drivers make that can result in death. Likewise, the gun does not get up on it's own and fire at will resulting in death or injury. It is the choice of a human being to take that gun and shoot at people that results in loss of life. So, I feel that if we had better counseling available in our schools. If we had more teachers able and willing to listen to troubled students, if we had more adults who were able to nurture young people who are carrying anger in their hearts and minds, maybe we would be able to diffuse someone before they choose to take a gun and kill.



# MARCH

Since this latest incident, I have seen any number of posts on facebook that emphasize people's opinions about a number of our social issues. These posts range from totally reversing the second amendment and taking away all guns to posts where God is asked why he lets things like this happen in our schools and God's reply is — "I am not allowed in school." Whatever we may think is the answer, one thing is for certain—we need to do something! We need to get back to honoring God—whatever name we give the God we serve. We need to introduce God to many of our nation who never heard of him or were never introduced to a life of faith. We need to PRAY for God to guide us to being the nation our founding fathers had envisioned. Prayer may be a simple answer, but for anyone who is witness to the power of prayer, it is far better than any laws or background checks! LET US PRAY!!!!

God Bless! With love, Pastor Lou Ann



### **SPECIAL SERVICES in MARCH**

#### **March 4 - Lent 3 - Women's Sunday**

Gospel: John 2:13-22

Sermon: "The Temple of God"

Special Music: "Precious Jesus" Althoff

duet with Marti Leader and Pastor Lou Ann

#### **March 11 - Lent 4**

Gospel: John 3:14-21

Sermon: "Come to the Light"

#### **March 18 - Lent 5**

Gospel: John 12:20-33

Sermon: "Serving to the End"

#### **March 25 - Palm Sunday**

Gospel: Mark 11:1-11

Sermon: "Hosanna in the Highest!"

#### **March 29 - Maundy Thursday**

Gospel: John 13:1-17, 31b-35

Sermon: "Serve in the Manor of the Lord"



If you don't want to be late for church on Sunday, March 11, remember to turn your clocks ahead by one hour before going to bed on Saturday, March 10. Daylight saving time begins at 2:00 AM that Sunday.

## **SCHEDULE OF DUTIES for MARCH**

### **GREETERS:**

March 4 - Nancy Taylor

March 11 - Ida Michael

March 18 - Randi John

March 25 - Joel Frey

### **GIFT COLLECTORS:**

March 4 - Women of the Church

March 11 - Ed & Barb Adams

March 18 - John & Kathi Sterling

March 25 - David & Susan McDowell

### **LAY READERS:**

March 4 - Linda Rost

March 11 - Marti Leader

March 18 - Janie Montgomery

March 25 - Barb Adams

### **ACOLYTES:**

March 4 - Sharon Criswell

March 11 - Nelson & Marti Leader

March 18 - Greg & Sonja Ness

March 25 - Heather Matthews

### **COFFEE SOCIAL HOSTS:**

March 4 - To be announced

March 11 - To be announced

March 18 - To be announced

March 25 - To be announced

### **SOUND SYSTEM OPERATORS:**

March 4 - Terry Doll

March 11 - Ed Adams

March 18 - Chase Matthews

March 25 - Wyatt Myers

### **LIGHTING OPERATORS:**

March 4 - Joel Frey

March 11 - Greg Ness

March 18 - Greg Ness

March 25 - Sterling Boyd

### **CAMERA OPERATORS:**

March 4 - Greg Ness

March 11 - John Sterling

March 18 - Todd Miller

March 25 - Terry Doll

### **VIDEO OPERATORS:**

March 4 - Sydney Brown

March 11 - Jeri Jones

March 18 - Judy Bishop

March 25 - Nelson Leader

**ALTAR GUILD:** Jean McDowell & Barb Adams

**DEADLINE FOR APRIL NEWSLETTER:** March 15

**MARCH**  
**BIRTHDAYS**



2. Sarah Smith  
Lexus Luckenbaugh
3. Helen Myers
9. Madison Leader
10. Patrick Michaels
12. Joel Frey
13. Gary Matthews
16. Lillie Eberly
19. Nicki Barley
20. Erin Michaels
22. Joyce Raver
24. David Morton  
Jamison Rost
28. Maya Ness  
Peter Busch
29. Wayne Althoff
31. Marshall Geesey

*May God Bless You*  
*On Your*  
*Birthday*

**CELEBRATING MARCH ANNIVERSARIES**

March 29 - Terry and Frances Doll - 54 years

# FINANCIAL REPORT

## Undesignated General Fund

## Red Brick Chapel

## Cemetery

Month-2018	Income	Expense	Income	Expense	Income	Expense
January	\$10,386.24	\$12,278.60	\$3.48	\$549.36	\$698.29	\$770.40
February						
March						
April						
May						
June						
July						
August						
September						
October						
November						
December						
<b>Total</b>	\$10,386.24	\$12,278.60	\$3.48	\$549.36	\$698.29	\$770.40

Balance of Undesignated General Fund @ February 1, 2018

\$8,964.35

Balance of Red Brick Chapel Fund @ February 1, 2018

(Includes \$48,674.30 Endowment)

\$75,716.07

Balance of Cemetery Fund @ February 1, 2018

(Includes \$778,902.89 CD's, Trusts, UCC Foundation))

\$781,690.89

### Financial Assistance Given through Hand of Hope Fund - 2018

	#	Total	Monthly	Available
	Families	\$\$\$	Donations	Balance
Beginning				\$ 376.57
January	2	\$ 175.00	\$ 62.55	\$ 264.12
February				
March				
April				
May				
June				
July				
August				
September				
October				
November				
December				
<b>Total</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>\$ 175.00</b>	<b>\$ 62.55</b>	

## **REMEMBER OUR SHUT-INS**

**Freda Berry**  
The Haven at Springwood  
2321 Freedom Way  
York, PA 17402  
717-718-3615



**Peggy Luckenbaugh**  
Room 704B  
Colonial Manor Nursing Home  
970 Colonial Avenue  
York, PA 17403

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**Remember  
and pray for  
Our Members  
in the  
Military**

**A1C Ness, Brandon**  
98950 East Harmony Lane  
Tucson, AZ 85748

\*\*\*\*\*



### ***HOMEWOOD HOMES NEEDS YOU***



If you can do simple sewing, Homewood Homes needs you! The skilled care facility needs soaker pads and laundry bags for the residents. The directions for each are on the bulletin board in the main hallway. There is a box of material located in the fellowship hall— flannel for the soaker pads and cotton for the laundry bags. Any questions, please see Steph Frey. Thank you for supporting this project.

### **TOILETRIES COLLECTION**

We are once again collecting toiletries for Helping Hands to give out. You may put your donations in the boxes under the coat rack in the hallway. Please try to keep items gender neutral. We will also be giving out bags to children, so kids' items are needed as well. Thank you.



### ***WOMEN'S EVENT***

You are invited to join us on Saturday, March 10, when our church becomes a Seaside Escape for women of all ages. Women will bask in God's presence, experience the life-changing power of God's love, and explore the stories of Sarah and Hagar. SeaSide Escape uses the imagery of the beach to create a peaceful, relaxing retreat for women. You can almost hear the gentle waves and smell the salty air refreshing women and helping them to reconnect with God and each other. Our time together will include worship, Bible study sessions, crafts, and more. All women are invited—bring your moms, sisters, daughters, friends, or neighbors!

The cost for this event is only \$10 per person and includes snacks, lunch and all materials. Times are 9:00 AM-4:00 PM, with registration beginning at 8:00 AM. If you plan to attend, please sign up on the sheet on the bulletin board. Deadline to register is Sunday, February 28.



### ***DALLASTOWN ELEMENTARY FOOD BACKPACK PROJECT***

The Dallastown-Yoe Ministerium has begun working with the Dallastown schools to prepare backpacks to send home with needy students each Friday. These backpacks contain food items that can be eaten at home over the weekend. They are currently in need of the following items: Regular sized (12 oz) boxes of cereal, boxed mac and cheese, applesauce cups, cracker packs, and peanut butter. Donations may be placed in the designated box in the Gathering Room.





## ***MEN'S GROUP***



Join the men of Blymire's on Tuesday, March 13, at 7:00 PM at the Church. Bring a friend to the meeting. As always we have an open discussion on joys and concerns. Those attending the meeting please bring information on potential guest speakers for future meetings. Come join us for a time of sharing. **REMEMBER ALL MEN ARE WELCOME.**



Faith Kidz will be meeting at 6:30 PM every Wednesday in March. We will do doing lessons and Easter activities.

## ***BOOK SALE***

Our annual Book Fair has now begun. Check out the tables in the Gathering Room to see if there is anything that you would like to purchase. New items will be put out as they are received, so keep checking each week. In addition to books, we are also collecting DVD's and CD's. **PLEASE** do not donate magazines or musty-smelling books. Thank you.



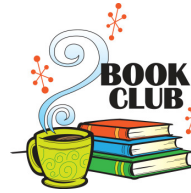
## ***HARTMAN CENTER RETREAT***

You are invited to join our retreat April 6, 7 and 8. We will have a wonderful time connecting with the Lord. We will have worship time, crafts, free time. We will be playing bingo, so we will need prizes for adults and children.

Each family will have their own bedroom. You will need to bring your own bedclothes and towels and any snacks to share with each other. Nelson Leader will be making our wonderful meals this year. Sign up sheet is on the bulletin board. Any questions contact Nelson Leader or Diana Myers.

## ***SISTERS OF SERVICE***

Sisters of Service (SOS) will be holding their next meeting on Monday, March 19, at 6:30 PM at the church. Heather Matthews will lead the devotions and Linda Flinchbaugh will provide refreshments.



Our Women's Book Club will hold their next meetings on Tuesday, March 13, and Tuesday, March 27, at 10:00 AM in the Gathering Room. We will choose our next book at the March 13th meeting. New members are always welcome to join.

## ***EASTER PARTY***

Our annual church Easter Party and Egg Hunt will be held on Sunday, March 25, at 11:30 AM.



Following Sunday School, we will begin our activities with a Covered Dish Luncheon. Please bring your favorite dish to share. You know we **ALWAYS** have awesome food! We also plan to have some activities for all to enjoy until it is time for the main attraction. . . An egg hunt for **ALL** ages! From toddler to adult, the Easter Bunny will have treats for all!

There is a sign up sheet so we will have an idea of how many people will be in attendance. Invite children from your family, your friends, your neighbors to join us—the more, the merrier!!

We need donations of items to fill the eggs. There is a box in the Gathering Room to collect candy. Please make sure the candy is individually wrapped to put inside the eggs. Volunteers are also needed to make this a successful event. See Barb Marshall if you would like to help

## ***EASTER BREAKFAST***

We are once again planning a breakfast here at the church on Easter morning, April 1. Further information will be provided in the near future. If you would like to help prepare and serve, please contact Barb Marshall.

# **EMMANUEL'S CLOSET**

*March 2018*



## **Easter Project**

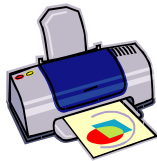
This year's Easter food distribution will be held on March 17 and March 24. Since gift cards were such a help last year, we would like to continue to give each family a gift card in varying amounts, depending upon family size, to purchase meat for their Easter dinner. We will also include regular grocery items along with the gift card. Donations of food items to make a dinner would be appreciated. Please bring your donations in no later than March 10 to allow ample time to sort and purchase necessary additional supplies if needed. Thank you.

## **Socks and Underwear Project**

We are doing a collection for our socks and underwear give-out for ages nb-17 years. The following items are needed: Diapers-sizes 2-6; Pullups-sizes 2-6; Wipes-individual packs; Socks-any size packs from toddler on up (please no individual pairs since we are trying to give similar items to each child); Underwear-any size from toddler on up; Gift cards in amounts of \$5.00 or \$10.00. Of course, monetary donations are always welcome too. The deadline for any donations is Sunday, April 22. The give-out will take place on May 19. Thank you for your support of this project.

## **Cartridge Recycling**

Don't forget to bring in your empty printer cartridges and place them in the box in the Emmanuel's Closet bin in the Gathering Room. Thank you for your support of this project which will not only raise money for those in need, but also help to keep our planet "green."

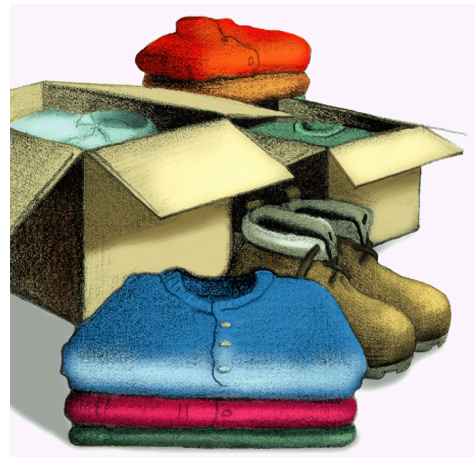


## **E.C. Continuing Needs**

Juice  
Cereal  
Peanut Butter/Jelly  
Spaghetti Sauce  
Boxed Dry Pastas  
Helper Meals  
Dessert Items  
Condiment Items  
Canned Tuna/Meats  
Canned Broth  
Canned Fruit/Vegetables  
Coffee/Tea  
Deodorant, Soap, Shampoo  
Toothpaste, Toothbrushes  
Toilet Paper, Tissues, Paper Towels  
Dish Washing Liquid  
Laundry Detergent  
All-Purpose Cleaners  
Baby food, formula, diapers, etc.  
Children's books/toys  
Small household items

## **Please, NO Expired Food Items**

We are now collecting spring and summer clothing. They should be clean, in good repair and unstained.



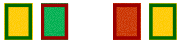
***THANKS FOR CARING!***





## Healing Hearts Inspirations

March 2018



The shadows of this world will say  
There's no hope why try anyway?  
But every kindness large or slight  
Shifts the balance toward the light.

Carrie Newcomer

### ENCOURAGING WORDS

You have the power to change someone's life simply by the words that you speak. Proverbs says, "Death and life are in the power of the tongue" (Proverbs 18:21 NKJV). That's why Paul urges you and me to be careful. "When you talk, do not say harmful things, but say what people need—words that will help others become stronger" (Ephesians 4:29).

Your words are to their soul what a vitamin is to their body. If you had food and saw someone starving, would you not share it? If you had water and saw someone dying of thirst, would you not give it? Of course you would. Then won't you do the same for their hearts? Your words are food and water. Do not withhold encouragement from the discouraged. Speak words that make people stronger. Believe in them as God has believed in you.

Max Lucado

### SMILING IS INFECTIOUS

Smiling is infectious,  
you catch it like the flu,  
When someone smiled at me today,  
I started smiling too.

I passed around the corner  
and someone saw my grin.  
When he smiled I realized  
I'd passed it on to him.

I thought about that smile,  
then I realized its worth.  
A single smile, just like mine  
could travel round the earth.

So, if you feel a smile begin,  
don't leave it undetected.  
Let's start an epidemic quick,  
and get the world infected!

Author Unknown

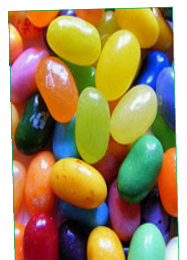
### JELLY BEAN PRAYER

Little jelly beans tell a story true.  
A tale of Father's love for you.  
GREEN is for the waving palms.  
YELLOW is for the sun above.  
BROWN is for the soft earth where they sat  
hearing of HIS love.  
A SPECKLED bean for fish and sand.  
RED for precious wine.  
BLACK is for sin He washed away  
from your soul and mine.  
PURPLE's for the sadness of HIS family  
and HIS friends  
WHITE is for the glory of the day HE rose again.  
Now that you've heard the story,  
You know what each color means.  
The story of our Father's love told by jelly beans.  
So every morning take a bean  
They're really very yummy.  
Something for the soul, you see and something for  
the tummy.

Author Unknown

"Stop trying to be what others want you to be, do not swim against the tide.  
Be you, and only you. Sometimes you waste your time trying to fulfill the expectations of  
others, wanting to be who they want or expect you to be, just to please them. Such a thing  
is an exhausting and meaningless way of living your life on Earth. Be yourself, flow with life!

11:11 Progress Council





## THE CROSS

Can you turn any direction without seeing one? Perched atop a chapel. Carved into a graveyard headstone. Engraved in a ring or suspended on a chain. The cross is the universal symbol of Christianity. An odd choice, don't you think? Strange that a tool of torture would come to embody a movement of hope. The symbols of other faiths are more upbeat: the six-pointed star of David, the crescent moon of Islam, a lotus blossom for Buddhism. Yet a cross for Christianity? An instrument of execution?

Would you wear a tiny electric chair around your neck? Suspend a gold-plated hangman's noose on the wall? Would you print a picture of a firing squad on a business card? Yet we do so with the cross. Many even make the sign of the cross as they pray. Would we make the sign of, say, a guillotine? Instead of the triangular touch on the forehead and shoulders, how about a karate chop on the palm? Doesn't quite have the same feel, does it?

Why is the cross the symbol of our faith? To find the answer look no farther than the cross itself. Its design couldn't be simpler. One beam horizontal—the other vertical. One reaches out—like God's love. The other reaches up—as does God's holiness. One represents the width of his love; the other reflects the height of his holiness. The cross is the intersection. The cross is where God forgave his children without lowering his standards.

Max Lucado

Every person has their own unique way of worship and there is not a uniform method to turn your attention toward your Father. Today many still think of our Father as a jealous God or a king demanding the adulation of His subjects.

Those who have taken the time to get to know God better have discovered in Him their Creator Father. Know that God never demands anything, because this would imply the abolition of free will. Our Father **desires** the love of His children, as long as this love is sincere, spontaneous and natural. A human father would never be content with reverence and fear from his children. A human father would desire a **relationship** with his children, filled with trust, respect and above all, real love. If a human father can expect and deserves this superior kind of relationship with his children, how could our celestial Father expect and deserve any less?

A human mother enjoys when her children come visit her on mother's day. This is a very special occasion for mothers because it represents an opportunity to spend some time with their children, talk to them, know about their lives and enjoy each other's company. Imagine a mother's disappointment if her children came on mother's day just to honor her, perform some ceremonies, offer some gifts and then just leave without allowing even a couple of minutes just to talk.

Songs, praise and other practices, are not something bad, but they should never replace the personal time each person should dedicate to cultivate the connection with their Father — to establish a relationship of friendship and authentic love with the Creator.

11:11 Progress Group

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GOOD THING I FOUND YOU GIDEON ... IT SEEMS SOMEONE HAS BEEN HIDING ALL YOUR BIBLES IN HOTEL ROOMS

## IRISH BLESSING

May you always have work for your hands to do.  
May your pockets hold always a coin or two.  
May the sun shine bright on your windowpane.  
May the rainbow be certain to follow each rain.  
May the hand of a friend always be near you.  
And May God fill your heart with gladness  
to cheer you. .





## Revelations for MARCH from “Bly Mire” Mouse

BLY’S HEALING HUMOR — This one is appropriate for this month— This year the first Sunday of March is MILITARY DAY..... Why? Because it is MARCH FOURTH!!!! Get it??? Hee-hee!

With the weather we have had this winter, I (and I think quite a number of our faith family) are ready to go to the beach! Some people have literally gone there—KATHY and JOHN STERLING have been posting beautiful pictures from their trip to Florida. Yeah, rub it in! LOL. Well, the rest of us might not be able to GO to the beach just yet, but ladies will have an opportunity to experience the beach on Saturday, March 10. Our Women’s Event is “SEASIDE ESCAPE”! It sure sounds like a good event! Unfortunately, I can’t go because it is only for the ladies. So, Mire can participate and tell me all about it. Of course, since I am so small in stature, I can sneak around all the stations and not be noticed! SPOILER— a male will be at the Women’s Event! HA!

I do have to try to sneak in on the Seaside Escape because the other retreats that are being planned are far away from the church. April 6, 7, and 8 is the FAMILY RETREAT at Hartman Center. The only way that I would be able to be there is if I sneak along in someone’s luggage. Or, maybe I can hide in the box of stuff Pastor Lou Ann will take for the theme.... I heard her talking about “fruit loops” and I know my kids love that cereal so I really am psyched about being there. She is planning sessions on the fruit of the Spirit, but I think we need grapes, apples, oranges, etc. That is the fruit we should have! I have never tasted gentleness, joy, peace (well maybe a piece of pear—hee-hee!) And then, the first weekend of May, the ladies again get an event to themselves. They have Beach weekend at Rehoboth beach, not just a Seaside Escape at the church. —How do they rate????? All of the events we have coming up sound great!!!

Of course, we are well aware that we are in Lent now and Easter will be April 1. It may be April Fool’s day on the calendar and we know many people will be playing April Fool’s jokes all day. But, nonetheless, we are sincere in hoping that you and all your loved ones have a blessed and Happy Easter! Because Jesus lives, we can rest assured that nothing that Satan tries will ever again keep us in the bonds of sin and death! Because He lives, we are guaranteed that if Jesus is our Savior, we will live with him in the eternal kingdom! Praise God. So, truly, HAPPY EASTER EVERYONE!!!!

With our love!

Your faith-friends, BLY and MIRE and family!



# FRUIT LADYBUGS

Get creative in the kitchen with this sweet springtime snack.


## What you need:

- Strawberries (washed)
- Knife
- Plate or wax paper
- ½ cup melted chocolate chips
- Zippered baggie
- Scissors
- Blueberries (washed)
- Adult help



## What you do:

1. De-stem the strawberries. Cut in half and then cut a small V atop each half to make the ladybug body. Set them on a plate or wax paper.
2. Place the melted chocolate in a baggie and cut off the tip of a bottom corner.
3. Pipe a dividing line and "spots" on each strawberry. Also use the chocolate to attach a blueberry "head" by the V shape.
4. Pipe chocolate antennae and legs onto ladybugs.
5. Let harden. Enjoy!



## Spring's Beauty

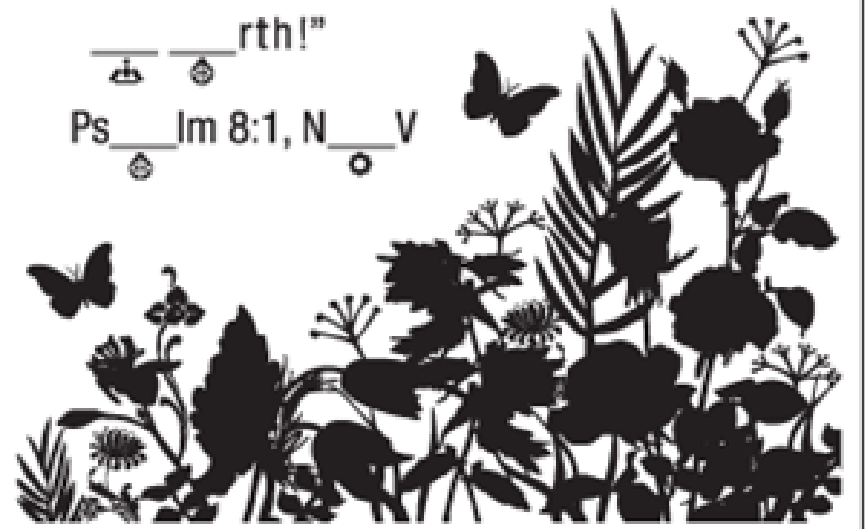
During springtime, the beauty of God's creation emerges in many ways.

*Directions: Use the vowel code below to complete Psalm 8:1, NIV.*

A = E = I = O = U =

"L\_\_RD, \_\_r L\_\_rd, h\_\_w  
m\_\_j\_\_st\_\_c \_\_s y\_\_r  
n\_\_m\_\_n\_\_ll th\_\_  
\_\_rth!"

Ps\_\_lm 8:1, N\_\_V



Answer: "LORD, our Lord, how majestic is your name in all the earth!"  
 Psalm 8:1, NIV