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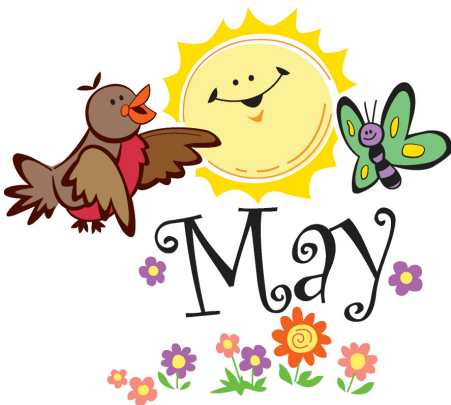
From the Pastor's Desk



Greetings to you and peace from God our Father, and our Lord Jesus Christ.

The month of May..... yet another beautiful time of the year! We are seeing the beauty of God's creation bursting forth all around us as Spring is progressing toward Summer. Generally every day I sit on the love seat and peek out our picture window to see the beauty of the Lilac bush at the end of our deck. When I take the birdseed out to restock our "Birdie Buffet" I will lean into the Lilac bloom and draw in the glorious aroma it gives off. I just love the scent of Lilac! And, while this beauty is so close to the house, just forty feet away is another example of the beauty of Spring. We have an ornamental Cherry Tree and right now it is shining with its pink blossoms. The beauty is great to behold with the eye. I just love this time of year because with everything blossoming and blooming, we are called to focus on the rebirth that Spring presents for us. And, we may say, it is good! Everything around us begins to break through the cold, hard packed surface from it's winter bed and now flowers and plants are showing their glory. I am amazed at how fast these plants "strut their stuff." Just yesterday as I pulled in our garage, I glanced out the window to look at the flower bed in front of our house. I had been out pulling weeds in this bed just a few days ago and looked with eager anticipation to see if the perennials I have planted there were breaking through. Indeed, the Hosta and the bleeding heart plants were showing signs of growth. But then, as I looked yesterday, the Hosta is already inches tall and the blades are opening wide to drink in the warmth of the sun. It is amazing to think about God's creation and to contemplate the beauty that we have surrounding us!!!

I am also reflecting on something we talked about in our Bible study just yesterday (Wed. April 19). We are studying Angels and our study yesterday led us to think about how in God's order, we as humans are lower than the angels. But, part of our study directed us to think about God's creation — not just here on earth, but throughout the universe. We were asked to consider what the Psalmist said — "What are human beings that you (God) are mindful of them, or mortals, that you care for them?" Well, definitely God has created everything that is, everything that we see, feel, hear,... EVERYTHING! And, not just what is around us here on earth but all that is in the universe. And, yet, we are so important to God.... He loves us—each one of us— so much that He sent his Son to give His life for us!!! How humbling and amazing it is to feel this love of God in our life!



With the celebration of Easter, the love of God is central in our lives. We affirm that Easter is not just food, candy, bunnies, family time, etc. Easter is the breaking of the bonds of sin for each and every one of us! Sin no longer has its hold on us because Jesus took the burden of our sins on his shoulder. He suffered the affliction and pain that should be ours. We are able to live assured that we will dwell in God's eternal realm because we know Jesus died for us. Truly, our God is an AWESOME God!!!! And, "Because He Lives, we can face tomorrow!" Let us make sure though that we do not take anything for granted! May we always be grateful to our loving God for ALL that He gives to us!

God Bless! With love, Pastor Lou Ann



SPECIAL SERVICES in MAY

May 4 - National Day of Prayer Service - 7:00 PM

Theme: "For Your Great Name's Sake!"

Held on the lawn of St. Paul's UCC

205 West Main St, Dallastown

Sponsored by the Dallastown/Yoe Ministerium

May 7 - Easter 4

Gospel: John 10:1-10

Sermon: NEW LIFE FOR GIRLS

May 14 - Easter 5

Gospel: John 14:1-14

Sermon: "Show Us the Father"

May 21- Easter 6 - Graduate Recognition

Gospel: John 14:15-21

Sermon: "the Spirit of Truth"

May 28 - Easter 7 - Memorial Day Observance

Gospel: John 17:1-11



Installation Service

The York Association of the Penn Central Conference United Church of Christ and the members of St. John's Blymire's United Church of Christ invite your participation in the Service of Installation of Designated Pastor, the Rev. Lou Ann Jones. The service will take place on Sunday, May 21, at 3:00 PM at the church. You are invited to stay for a light reception following the service. Please RSVP by May 14 if you plan to attend the reception.

SCHEDULE OF DUTIES for MAY

GREETERS:

May 7 - Nancy Taylor
May 14 - Linda Eichelberger
May 21 - Linda Flinchbaugh
May 28 - Diana Myers

GIFT COLLECTORS:

May 7 - David & Susan McDowell
May 14 - John & Kathi Sterling
May 21 - Brad & Michele Leader
May 28 - Beth March

LAY READERS:

May 7 - Tarry Ness
May 14 - Joel Frey
May 21 - Jenna Woerner
May 28 - Joan Mickey

ACOLYTES:

May 7 - Janie Montgomery
May 14 - Lynz & Alys Leader
May 21 - Ginny Weber
May 28 - Sonja Ness

COFFEE SOCIAL HOSTS:

May 7 - To be announced
May 14 - To be announced
May 21 - To be announced
May 28 - To be announced

SOUND SYSTEM OPERATORS:

May 7 - Terry Doll
May 14 - Ed Adams
May 21 - Chase Matthews
May 28 - Wyatt Myers

LIGHTING OPERATORS:

May 7 - Joel Frey
May 14 - Greg Ness
May 21 - Greg Ness
May 28 - Sterling Boyd

CAMERA OPERATORS:

May 7 - Greg Ness
May 14 - John Sterling
May 21 - Todd Miller
May 28 - Terry Doll

VIDEO OPERATORS:

May 7 - Sydney Brown
May 14 - Jeri Jones
May 21 - Judy Bishop
May 28 - Nelson Leader

ALTAR GUILD: Jean McDowell & Barb Adams

DEADLINE FOR JUNE NEWSLETTER: May 15

MAY BIRTHDAYS



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

- | | | | |
|-----|--------------------|-----|------------------|
| 3. | Brenda Kerchner | 28. | Braxton McKenzie |
| | Stella Holtzapple | 29. | Bernie Noll |
| 5. | Sonja Ness | 30. | Claire Barley |
| | Linda Flinchbaugh | | |
| 7. | Kathi Sterling | | |
| | Jason Marshall | | |
| 9. | Alexandra Humbert | | |
| 10. | Nelson Leader | | |
| 11. | Jane Picking | | |
| 12. | Zachery Tyler Ness | | |
| 14. | April Weber | | |
| 17. | Brad Leader | | |
| 18. | Douglas Leader | | |
| 19. | Freda Berry | | |
| 20. | Lonnie Barnhart | | |
| 21. | Martha Fischer | | |
| 24. | Joyce Platts | | |
| 25. | Martha Leader | | |
| 27. | Richard Nelson | | |

CELEBRATING MAY ANNIVERSARIES

- May 4 - Scott and Sarah Smith - 9 years
May 9 - Tim and Donna Sleeth - 8 years
May 10 - Bob and Wanda Strickler - 42 years
May 10 - Michael and Heather Matthews - 20 years
May 12 - Greg and Connie Hays - 16 years
May 13 - Matthew and Randi John - 11 years
May 22 - Brad and Michele Leader - 18 years

FINANCIAL REPORT

Undesignated General Fund

Red Brick Chapel

Cemetery

Month-2017	Income	Expense	Income	Expense	Income	Expense
January	\$13,069.96	\$14,011.17	\$503.43	\$181.75	\$354.55	\$850.00
February	\$10,907.93	\$5,404.56	\$3.09	\$211.14	\$0.29	\$0.00
March	\$11,915.46	\$13,831.65	\$1,153.48	\$423.97	\$0.32	\$251.56
April						
May						
June						
July						
August						
September						
October						
November						
December						
Total	\$35,893.35	\$33,247.38	\$1,660.00	\$816.86	\$355.16	\$1,101.56

Balance of Undesignated General Fund @ April 1, 2017

\$9,332.45

Balance of Red Brick Chapel Fund @ April 1, 2017

(Includes \$43,995.74 Endowment)

\$71,440.74

Balance of Cemetery Fund @ April 1, 2017

(Includes \$733,737.81 CD's, Trusts, UCC Foundation))

\$741,131.35

Financial Assistance Given through Hand of Hope Fund - 2017

	#	Total	Monthly	Available
	Families	\$\$\$	Donations	Balance
Beginning				\$ 397.38
January	1	\$ 50.00	\$ 84.27	\$ 431.65
February			\$ 116.61	\$ 548.26
March			\$ 71.58	\$ 619.84
April				
May				
June				
July				
August				
September				
October				
November				
December				
Total	1	\$ 50.00	\$ 272.46	

REMEMBER OUR SHUT-INS

Freda Berry
1240 South Pleasant Avenue
Dallastown, PA 17313
244-2282

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



Anita Spahr
36 West Main Street
Dallastown, PA 17313
244-7392

Dale Wise
Room 106A
Manorcare Kingston Court
2400 Kingston Court
York, PA 17402



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

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

GOT SHOES? HELP THE NITTANY GREYHOUNDS!

Nittany Greyhounds, a greyhound rescue group, is collecting used shoes to raise money for their organization. All shoes collected will be sent to individuals, families and communities in developing nations. Donated shoes are cleaned or repaired before being sent, or melted down if necessary to make a new pair of shoes. Donated shoes can be in any condition as long as they are in pairs. The shoes are collected after the drive and shipped overseas. They send the shoes to developing nations and help them start up their own businesses, such as recycling, shoe repair or selling the shoes. It helps us with greyhound adoption, and it provides economic sustainability for developing nations. Drop off shoes thru May 30, 2017. Thanks! Everyone wins!



**WE ASK THAT YOU PLEASE
MINIMIZE** the use of fragrances, perfumes, or colognes when you come to church. These strong odors are dangerous irritants that can trigger asthma attacks in some of our members. Thank you for your consideration.

Toiletries Collection

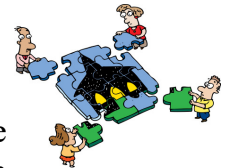
There are boxes under the coat racks to collect toiletries for Helping Hands. Please make sure items are gender neutral, for bags are just going to be handed to them. We will also be making up bags for children



TRUSTEE NEEDED

Joel Frey will be stepping down from his position as Trustee at their May meeting. We would like to thank Joel for his service these past years.

If anyone is interested in filling this position, please see Linda Eichelberger or Sterling Boyd. Thank you.





MEN'S GROUP



Join the men of Blymire on Tuesday, May 9, at 7:00 PM at the church. Bring a friend to the meeting. As always we have an open discussion on joys and concerns. We will be discussing potential guest speakers for future meetings. Come join us for a time of sharing. REMEMBER ALL MEN ARE WELCOME.



FAITH KIDZ will be meeting on Wednesday, May 3 and Wednesday, May 10. We will then be taking a break until the fall



CRAFTY CHICKS (and Roosters too)

On Sunday, June 25, Kim Dilling will be teaching a class on making Prayer Beads. **(NOTE THE DATE CHANGE DUE TO PASTOR LOU ANN'S INSTALLATION IN MAY)** Kim will supply all the materials that are needed. The class will begin at 2:00 PM and the cost is \$25.00. If you plan to attend, please sign up on the sheet on the bulletin board by May 21 to allow time to order the necessary supplies.

Below is a list of upcoming Crafty Chick classes. They will begin at 2:00 PM and the cost for each is \$25, except for the Bracelet Class. That will be by donation only to the church. Watch future bulletins and newsletters for more information, but mark your calendars now for any class that interests you.

August 20-Create a Craft - Fran Doll

September 24-Bracelets - Carol Barnhart

October 22-Basket - Melanie Alagood

November 12-Felted Turkey -Mary Jane Miller

S.O.S. (SISTERS OF SERVICE)



The SOS will hold their next meeting on Monday, May 15, at 6:30 PM at the church. Donna Hartley will lead devotions. Refreshments will be provided by Diana Myers and Ginny Weber.



TEENS will be meeting one of the Sundays in May, date still to be determined. Watch your bulletins for update.



Our Women's Book Club will hold their May meetings on Tuesday, May 9, and Tuesday, May 23, at 10:00 AM in the Gathering Room. We will continue to discuss The Orphan's Tale by Pam Jenoff. New members are always welcome to join.



On Saturday, May 13, 11:00 AM-1:00 PM, the Men's Group will be holding their second chicken BBQ of the season. You will get a 1/2 chicken, baked potato, and roll and butter all for \$8.00. If you would like to place an order, please fill out the slip below and turn it in to the church office or call 244-0655. Other BBQ's will be held on the 2nd Saturday of each month thru September.

Name _____

Phone Number _____

Number of Dinners _____ x \$8.00 = _____

EMMANUEL'S CLOSET

May 2017



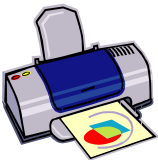
Easter Project

This year's Easter food distribution was held on April 1 and April 8. Approximately 50 families were given gift cards in varying amounts, depending upon family size, to purchase meat for their Easter dinner. Also included with the gift cards were regular grocery items to make a special dinner. Thank you to everyone who donated items for this project.

Socks and Underwear Give-out



We are once again planning to give out \$25 Walmart gift cards to be used by the clients to get socks, underwear, diapers and wipes for registered children up to 17 years of age. The cards will be distributed on May 20. If you would like to help with this project, you may donate a \$25 Walmart gift card or give a donation in any amount to help purchase the cards. Donations should be received by May 1. Thank you.



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**
May 2017

"A mother is a person who seeing there are only four pieces of pie for five people, promptly announces she never did care for pie."
Tenneva Jordan



GOD GETS INTO OUR LIVES

You have leaves to rake. A steering wheel to grip. A neighbors hand to shake.
Simply put, you have things to do.

So does God. Babies need hugs. Children need good night tucks. AIDS babies need home. Stressed-out executives need hope. God has work to do.
And he uses our hands to do it.

What the hand is to the glove, the spirit is to the Christian ... God gets into us. At times, imperceptibly. Other times, disruptively. God gets his fingers into our lives, inch by inch reclaiming the territory that is rightfully his.

Your tongue. He claims it for his message.
Your feet. He requisitions them for his purpose.
Your mind? He made it and intends to use it for his glory.
Your eyes, face and hands? Through them he will weep, smile and touch.

Max Lucado

If You're
feeling
blue —
try
painting
yourself a
different
color.

**Hannah
Cheatam**

"Coincidence is
when God
chooses to
remain
anonymous."

Unknown

If I had the power to turn back the clock,
Go back to that house at the end of the block-
The house that was "home" when I was a kid,
I know that I'd love it more now than I did.

If I could be back there at my mother's knee,
And hear once again all the things she told me,
I'd listen as I never listened before,
For she knew so well just what life had in store.

And all the advice that my dad used to give -
His voice I'll remember as long as I live;
But it didn't seem really important then;
What I'd give to live it all over again.

And what I would give for the chance I once had
To do so much more for my mother and dad;
To give them more joy and a little less pain;
A little more sunshine - a little less rain.

But the years roll on and we cannot go back,
Whether we were born in a mansion or shack;
But we can start right now - in the hour that's
here,
To do something more for the ones we hold dear.

And since time in its flight is traveling so fast,
Let's not spend it regretting that which is past;
But let's make tomorrow a happier day.

From now on, I am going
to grab the good times
with both arms. I am
going to walk outside and
feel the sun on my face
and learn to laugh, really
laugh again. Most of all,
I'm going to take the
love that comes my way
and hold on to it for dear
life. Sometimes we don't
need new scenery,
just new eyes.

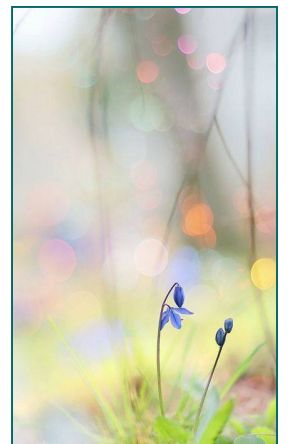
Dawn Miller

If you must look back, do
so forgivingly. If you
must look forward, do so
prayerfully.
However, the wisest
thing you can do is be
present in the present...
gratefully.

Maya Angelou

"Do not ask the
Lord to Guide
your Footsteps
if you are not
willing to move
your Feet "

Dale Partridge



A REMEDY FOR THE IF-ONLYS Barbara Johnson

Time-management experts report that throughout our lifetimes we spend five years waiting in line, and six months waiting at red lights. The average American spends six years eating, one year searching for belongings amid clutter, three years in meetings, eight months opening junk mail and four years doing housework. All this when what we really want is to spend time on is living happily ever after!

In our early years we hope and dream of what the future holds, Maybe we focus on the specific direction our gifts will take us and start moving ahead one step at a time. The rest of us meander a bit, backtrack and retrace our steps, take a detour or two, and try to follow the yellow brick road to our destiny. As different periods of our life come to a close many of us find ourselves saying, "If only I had... or If only they had..."

The Bible give us the remedy for all the "if onlys" of life. The prophet Isaiah wrote, "Forget the former things; do not dwell on the past (43:18). He knew God had something in mind, "See I am doing a new thing! Now it springs up" (43:19).

When you live in the present moment time stands still. Accept your circumstances and live them. If there is an experience ahead of you, have it! But if worries stand in your way, put them off until tomorrow. Give yourself a day off from worry. You deserve it. Some people live with a low-grade anxiety tugging at their spirit all day long. They go to sleep with it, wake up with it, carry it around at home, in town, to church and with friends. Heres' a remedy: Take the present moment and find something to laugh at. People who laugh, last.

Another happily-ever-after idea is to celebrate Christmas all year round. Doesn't everyone wish the contagious joy of the holidays would seep into summer? You'll find ways to make it happen if you pay attention to people. See what they're good at and give them a compliment. Pick up on their personal burdens and offer to carry one for a while. Keep smiles ready to hand out. Buy somebody a cup of coffee. Offer a ride, a world of encouragement, a prayer. Drop off a plate of cookies. Donate an hour to a good cause.

And what about those of us who'd like to turn back the clock? Well, we can only wind it up again. Someone said, "Anybody knows the secret of perpetual youth; Lie about your age." Somebody else said, "Middle age is that time of life when you bend over to pick something up and wonder what else you can do while you're down there." Sure, we'd like to be younger and stronger again, More resilient. But, remember Isaiah? He said to let the past lie. Look ahead. Remember this, " Don't look back. You're not going that way."

It is never too late to spend time on the important things. It is never too late to spend time on what makes you happy. There is always time to look around and see something beautiful. The secret to using time well is no secret at all. It is summed up in the slogan, *One day at a time*. This is not only the best we can do, but the careful design of a Creator who knew our needs and how to meet them. Some of us will need to adapt that slogan to: *One minute at a time*. That's okay. This minute is a gift.

AT YOUR SERVICE

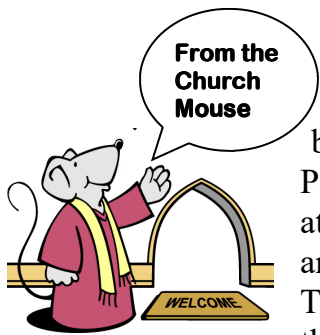
One Sunday morning the pastor noticed Johnny staring at a plaque mounted in the foyer. "Johnny, do you know why all those names are on there?, asked the pastor. "No I don't, sir." he replied. "These are all the people who have died in the service." Soberly, they stood there together. After awhile Johnny's voice broke the silence. "Which one sir, the 8:30 or the 10:30?"

Albert Schantz



CELEBRATE HONOR REMEMBER





Revelations for MAY from “Bly Mire” Mouse

How were your Easter celebrations? Mire and I had a great time! We built up to a joyous celebration of worship with all the Holy Week activities. Palm Sunday was very moving and what a great time we had with all the children attending the Easter Party! THANK YOU BARB MARSHALL for organizing another fantastic event!!!! And, the meal was AWESOME!!!! Our Maundy Thursday service was meaningful too. It is challenging to walk along with Jesus through the final moments of his earthly life! But then, on Easter Sunday, what a glorious surrounding we had worshipping in the pavilion for our Easter SONrise service!!!! (I will admit that I am borrowing the spelling of SONrise!) We were blessed with very warm weather that permitted us to worship outdoors this year and, in the middle of our service, the sun raised its beauty over the horizon and shone with glory! Kinda like you would envision the scene near the tomb! Our communion service was awesome too! The music was outstanding! And, how beautiful to share worship with our brothers and sisters on the day when Jesus broke the hold of sin over our lives!!!!!! PRAISE GOD!!!!!! I truly am one blessed mouse to have this family of faith around me!!!! Of course, later our mouse family enjoyed a time of good food and fun activities throughout the day!

And, HOW AWESOME IS THE KITCHEN!!!!!!!!!!!!!! Great job to all who helped in the renovations! The new stove was put to use to bake the potatoes for the Chicken Bar-b-que and they were perfect!!!!!! Are you as happy as I am that we are back into the schedule for the Bar-b-ques? My taste buds were on overdrive with that first bite! THANK YOU MEN’S GROUP — GREAT JOB!!!!

Of course, there was a lot of activity the day of the Bar-b-que too. I was kind of lost for a moment because when I stepped out of my mouse house I saw that I was at Cozy Mountain Lodge. I thought maybe I walked in my sleep, but then I realized it was the Women’s Retreat. They had a good time of sharing friendship and faith studying the book of Ruth. THANK YOU MARTI for gathering all the door prizes and THANK YOU to Michele, Rene, Lynz and Pastor Lou Ann for being our session leaders. So many pitched in to get the supplies and decorate the church!!!! WELL DONE GOOD AND FAITHFUL LADIES!!!!!! I guess now they will definitely need time for R & R at their Rehoboth Beach weekend. Just one thing though — BEHAVE YOURSELVES!!!!!!

I also want to share that if you have an opportunity to see “The Shack”, DO IT!!!! It is a good movie based on the book from about ten years ago. It is well done and challenges us to explore how we handle adversity in life and how we either blame God or turn to God for help. We hope to have an evening showing here after it is available in the stores. So, MOVIE NIGHT, (or, as I like to call it — “Food and Film Night”) here we come!

Well, with the beautiful weather we have been having, of course, the grass is growing, the flowers are blooming and, weeds are everywhere! So, yard work is calling my name. Gotta go for now.

See you next month! God Bless us all!

Your faith-friends, BLY and MIRE and family!





Make this craft to display a bit of springtime year-round!

What you need:

- An old shirt
- Tempura paint (brown, dark pink, light pink and white)
- Paintbrush
- Light blue or white construction paper
- A paper plate
- Q-tips
- Paper towels



What you do:

1. Roll up one sleeve and paint your arm and the palm of your hand brown.
2. Lengthwise on the paper, carefully place your painted arm and hand, with fingers spread apart. (This is the tree trunk and branches.)
3. Place the other paint colors on the plate.
4. Using Q-tips, place dots of paint (blossoms!) all over the branches.
5. When dry, display your tree — or give it as a Mother's Day gift.

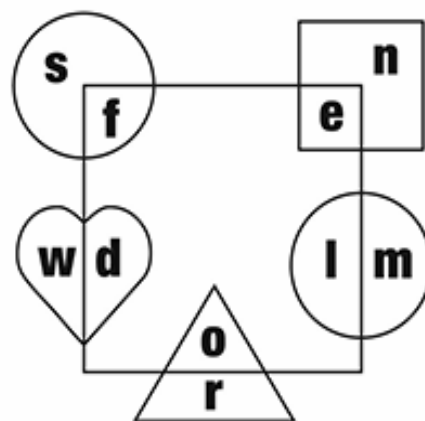


GOD CARES FOR YOU!

Jesus tells his followers not to worry about their daily needs. What example does he give of God's care for his creation?

Directions:

To complete Luke 12:27 (NIV), match the shapes under each blank with the letter shapes shown to the right.



"Consider how the wild



grow. They do not labor or spin.

Yet I tell you, not even



in all his splendor was



like one of these." Luke 12:27, NIV