# News, Notes and Revelations from St. John's Blymire's United Church of Christ

October 2021

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# From the Pastor's Desk



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

Oh My!!! The Delta variant is really reeking havoc in our area!!! I certainly hope and pray that no one else comes down with it! Those who have it definitely have a difficult time with the symptoms. I definitely hope not, but I will not be surprised if we again get to something like a stay-at-home directive. I just hope that soon we will overcome this epidemic and we will go through each day with a peaceful, healthy life.

The fact that the Delta Variant is so rampant is casting a slight shadow on the sessions HUGS are offering in October and November. We will have to bide our time and see if people will come out or not to the sessions we will offer. We definitely understand if they do not want to come out to meet with new people.

I also want to emphasize that the sessions we are planning to introduce Blymire's church to community people is just one phase of our hopes and plans to grow our faith family. We have also been talking about the inactive members and how in the near future we will be doing whatever we can to contact them and see what might entice them to return to worship and fellowship with us.

There has also been a number of our faith family who are going through some pretty intense things in their lives. Mostly dealing with health issues but also some with grief over a loved one's passing; some with financial worries; some with recovery from surgery or facing surgery soon. It goes without saying that these faith family members, as well as many we are not aware of, are facing some tough obstacles in their life.

As happens so many times with a devotional reading, the message for a particular day just hits a home run for me to focus on faith in my daily dealings. I am writing this column on September 21 and the reading from Sarah Young's "Jesus Daily" devotion is as follows:

"Wait quietly in My Presence while My thoughts form silently in the depth of your being. Do not try to rush this process, because hurry keeps your heart earthbound. I am the Creator of the universe, yet I choose to make My humble home in your heart. It is there where you know Me most intimately; it is there where I speak to you in holy whispers. Ask My Spirit to quiet your mind so that you can hear My still, small voice within you. I am speaking to you continually; words of Life....Peace....Love. Tune your heart to receive these messages of abundant blessing. Lay your requests before Me and wait in expectation."

My prayer is that no matter what anyone of us may be facing right now, may we hear that still, small voice of God. I pray that in whatever we may be facing, may we in meditation look around us wherever we are and may we see God standing with us, walking with us, filling us with His peace — the peace which passes ALL understanding!!!

GOD BLESS in whatever way you need!!!

With love, Pastor Lou Ann



## **SPECIAL SERVICES in OCTOBER**

### Oct. 3 - Pentecost 19 - World Wide Communion Sunday

Gospel: Mark 10:2-16

Sermon: "Relationships in Jesus' Way"

#### Oct. 10 - Pentecost 20

Gospel: Mark 10:17-31

Sermon: "Who Can Be Saved?"

#### Oct. 17 - Pentecost 21

Gospel: Mark 10:35-45

Sermon: "Think Hard Before You Ask"

#### Oct. 24 - Pentecost 22

Gospel: Mark 10:46-52

Sermon: "Take Heart . . . Get Up"

#### Oct. 31 - Pentecost 23 - Heritage Sunday

Gospel: Mark 12:24-34

Sermon: "Love God. Love Neighbor!"

### **Heritage Sunday**

On Sunday, October 31, we will be celebrating our church's heritage and honoring those who have been members of our congregation for 50 or more years. We will also remember those who are no longer with us. We would like to put up a display on our bulletin board and are gathering pictures of deceased members of our congregation. If you have you any that you would like to display, please bring them in. Along with the picture, include their dates of birth and death.

Thank you.



### **Red Brick Church Will Have New Windows Installed**

The decision to replace the windows in the Red Brick Church comes because of evaluation of the windows by the Trustees and the Red Brick church committee. The evaluation found that we need to replace the windows.

The window design is a Low E double-hung window with a grid and insect screens. The cost for the windows and installation is \$16,600. Installation will occur late October or early November.

Anyone wishing to contribute for the new windows may do so by directing the funds to the church office labeled "RBC Window Fund".

# <u>OCTOBER</u> BIRTHDAYS



May God Bless You on Your Birthday!

- Kayla Roelke
   Michael Matthews
   Annie Cowher
- 2. Adin Luckenbaugh
- 3. Timothy Luckenbaugh
- 4. Ethan John
- 8. Tarrence Ness Barb Adams Bronley Free
- 9. Kari March
- 10. Lucy Smith
- 12. Mary Innerst
- 17. Paul Leiphart
- 21. Shayne Boyd
- 22. Mike N. Knaub Calvin Leader
- 23. Diana Myers
  Marjorie Stringer
- 24. Lori Roelke Zane Pope Brian Bosley
- 26. Amber Roelke
- 27. Brenda Miller
- 31. Macklin Woerner Jaron Picking

## **CELEBRATING OCTOBER ANNIVERSARIES**

Oct. 8 - Todd and Lisa Miller - 28 years
Oct. 18 - Ronald and Madeline Heindel - 64 years
Oct. 19 - Frank & Sally Bosley - 58 years
Oct. 23 - Jeffrey and Lynz Leader - 17 years
Oct. 26 - John and Kathi Sterling - 8 years

#### FINANCIAL REPORT

#### **Undesignated General Fund**

Red Brick Chapel

Cemetery

Month-2021	Income	Expense	Income	Expense	Income	Expense
January	\$8,700.59	\$8,680.74	\$0.47	\$269.88	\$1,645.35	\$1,826.80
February	\$7,297.86	\$10,776.85	\$0.48	\$311.54	\$0.35	\$10,906.97
March	\$12,966.59	\$15,290.39	\$0.41	\$514.91	\$500.20	\$3,166.46
April	\$10,456.00	\$11,584.36	\$0.43	\$225.92	\$0.18	\$2,351.48
May	\$9,569.61	\$9,490.24	\$0.43	\$141.68	\$100.11	\$2,187.50
June	\$10,829.82	\$12,779.61	\$1,400.98	\$350.47	\$1,400.60	\$3,278.75
July	\$7,781.00	\$9,790.40	\$0.45	\$115.23	\$907.02	\$2,255.92
August	\$11,713.61	\$9,064.23	\$0.49	\$125.12	\$0.23	\$2,535.19
September						
October						
November						
December						
Total	\$79,315.08	\$87,456.82	\$1,404.14	\$2,054.75	\$4,554.04	\$28,509.07

Balance of Undesignated General Fund @ September 1, 2021

\$3,948.83

Balance of Red Brick Chapel Fund @ September 1, 2021

(Includes \$64,666.22 Endowment)

\$82,623.42

Balance of Cemetery Fund @ September 1, 2021

(Includes \$913,786.86 CD's, Trusts, UCC Foundation. Transferred \$15,000 in January and \$10,000 in June from Foundation to People's Bank )

\$920,223.86

Financial Assistance Given through Hand of Hope Fund - 2021

						•	
	#		Total	Monthly		Available	
	Families		\$\$\$	Donations		Balance	
Beginning						\$	651.73
January	1	\$	50.00	\$	21.47	\$	623.29
February							
March	2	\$	136.75	\$	79.00	\$	565.45
April	1	\$	79.00	\$	45.00	\$	531.45
May	1	\$	25.00	\$	52.89	\$	559.34
June	1	\$	50.00	\$	27.00	\$	536.34
July	1	\$	233.00	\$	83.00	\$	386.34
August	2	\$	502.00	\$	371.40	\$	255.74
September							
October							
November							
December							

**Total** 9 \$ 1,075.75 \$ 829.76

# REMEMBER OUR SHUT-INS and those in need of PRAYER

Peggy Luckenbaugh

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

**Linda Trone** 

Room 604 Colonial Manor Nursing Home 970 Colonial Avenue York, PA 17403



Carolyn Innerst
Room 123
Senior Commons@Powder
Mill
1775 Powder Mill Road
York, PA 17403

Dolores Barley
Jeanette Black
Ron & Maddie Heindel
Marti Leader
Cindie McKinsey
John Montgomery
Todd & Melody Myers
Ginny Weber
Friends battling cancer
Covid 19 patients

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*



A1C Ness, Brandon 6907 S. Camino de la Humanidad Tucson, AZ 85756

CONCERTSERIES

Last year we had to cancel our concert series because of the pandemic, but we have started back up again this year and so far all of the concerts have been well received. They will be held on Sunday afternoons from 2:00-4:00 PM (unless otherwise noted). In case of inclement weather, they will be moved indoors to the church. There is no admission charge, but a free will offering will be taken. Snacks will be available for purchase. Bring your own lawn chairs or blankets or sit at one of our picnic tables. Below is a list of the remaining concerts for this year.

## **SEPTEMBER 26 - FIRST CAPITAL BRASS (Brass ensemble)**

# **OCTOBER 2 - DOCKENSPIELERS (German band)**

This concert will be held in the pavilion on Saturday night from 4:00-7:00 PM. In case of inclement weather, it will be moved indoors. German food (brats and sauerkraut, German potato salad, pretzels, etc.) will be available for purchase beginning at 4:00 PM, with the band playing from 5:00-7:00 PM.

**OCTOBER 10 - THEN SINGS MY SOUL (Billy Graham music-indoors)** 

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

We invite you to join the men of Blymire on Tuesday, October 12, at

7:00 PM at the church. Bring a friend to the meeting. As always we have an open discussion on joys and concerns. Come join us for a time of sharing. REMEMBER ALL MEN ARE WELCOME.



Our choir is now back singing anthems during the worship service on Sunday mornings and practicing each Wednesday evening at 7:00 PM/ Anyone who enjoys singing praises to our Lord is invited to join us.

#### **CRAFTERNOONERS**

Our next "Crafternooners" meeting will be held on Sunday, October 24, from 1:00-4:00 PM. Bring any craft project that you would like to work on, or if you

are not crafty, bring games to share with others for an afternoon of fellowship and fun. Please join us and bring a friend if you like.



Our last chicken barbecue of the season will be held on Saturday, October 9, from 11:00 AM-1:00 PM, You will get a 1/2 chicken, baked potato, applesauce and roll and butter all for \$9.00. 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. We sold out almost every month this year, so to be sure to get a dinner, please pre-order.

Name		
Phone Number		
Number of Dinners	x \$9.00 =	

#### SISTERS OF SERVICE

Please join the SOS on Monday, October 25, at 6:30 PM. The main topic of discussion will be the bazaar, which will take place on November 13. See article below for more details.

The decision has been made to discontinue the annual December Cookie Walk.



Our 2021 bazaar will be held on Saturday, November 13, from 10:00 AM-2:00 PM. We will be selling crafts, plants, jewelry, books, baked goods, and serving lunch.

We are hoping for lots of plants, but we know sometimes containers are hard to find. If you have flowerpots, mugs, cups and saucers, candle holders, or anything else appropriate to hold plants, please bring them to the church and put them on the table marked "Plant Holders." No Styrofoam, please!

All baked goods will be greatly appreciated. Everyone looks forward to our fresh baked items.

The Men's Group will be making lunch. There will be NO breakfast. More information to follow.

Please work on those crafts! When finished, we are asking you to price your crafts and place them on the designated craft table.

We appreciate any help you can give us to make this bazaar a success.

SOS (Sisters of Service)

Historically Book Clubs began as reading circles when women, excluded from universities and other intellectual endeavors, formed these circles to delve into who they were and what they



wanted to do. Discussions went beyond their books into social concerns. As time progressed, Book Clubs became a safe place where women found support through difficult times. Our Women's Book Club gives women a chance share the book they're reading and to receive needed support from friends. Come join us. We meet every second and fourth Tuesday at 11:00. We have changed the venue to Lions Pride Restaurant. If you need a lift or have questions, let Ginny Weber know.

Sometimes your joy is the source of your smile, but sometimes your smile can be the source of your joy

**Thich Nhat Hanh** 



Become a possibilitarian.

No matter how dark things seem to be or actually

are, raise your sights and see possibilities-always see them, for they're always there.

**Norman Vincent Peale** 

"Do not be dismayed by the brokenness of the world. All things break. And all things can be mended.

Not with time, as they say, but with intention. So go. Love intentionally, extravagantly, unconditionally.

The broken world waits in darkness for the light that is you."

#### L.R. Knost

#### **ANGEL WHISPERS**

When my daughter was about 5 years old, we went for a walk at a local nature preserve. It was autumn and the air was dry. The leaves had changed colors, and were just beginning to drift down to the forest floor. I remember I was a bit preoccupied that day, my little girl chattered in a running commentary about the trail and bugs, tying her shoes and what she'd had for breakfast. Suddenly, mid way up the trail, she stopped and with great knowing said "Mommie, stop, listen." We stopped and stood

there together in the autumn light, listening to the sounds a forest makes. She breathed in true wide-eyed wonder, "Listen, there are angels whispering." I stopped and heard the creek of shifting trees, the rustle of the leaves above and around me, heard the trilling of birds and crickets. She looked at me with such earnestness, "Do you hear them?" I nodded and said, "Yes honey I do." We stood there for a very long time (at least for a five-year-old) listening and holding hands. I remember that moment often. It comes to me when I walk switch back trails, or hear the leaves rustling, or when I catch myself and come back from being overly preoccupied.

The Shakers used to make simple and elegant chairs. They were built to be useful, but lovingly crafted with the assumption that at any time an angel might decide to sit and take a rest there. I like the thought that some wondrous or luminous thing might come and visit when we least expect. There is something that drifts along on its own wings, in its own eternal time. I sense it when the wind rustles the leaves.

And sometimes I give a little nod when I walk by an empty

chair.



#### **THE CHRISTMAS CACTUS**

My mother-in-law passed away in December. It was hard on all of us. My kids, especially my son Keith adored their Grandma. Her sister, unable to attend the funeral, had sent our family a Christmas cactus. "May this plant bloom as beautiful as your mother," her note read. Four years passed. The Christmas cactus bloomed bright pink flowers every December like clockwork. Keith got engaged. His wedding was in October. "I wish Grandma could be here, "he told me as the big day approached. So did I. The morning of the wedding, I passed by the Christmas cactus, then turned around. Were my eyes playing tricks on me? The cactus had bloomedtwo months early! And the flowers weren't their usual pink but a pale peach, the same peach color as the bridesmaids' dresses.

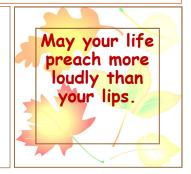
JoAnn Finley Black

Being called different is like being called limited edition. Meaning you're something people don't see that often. Remember that.

If you could trade some of the happiest days of your life for not having to experience some of the saddest, would you?

Jesus never said anything about tough love.
He didn't tell us to push people away so they'd know the pain of loss of community.
God told us to welcome people into His love.
People don't grow where they are merely informed; they grow where they are accepted. Don't cut people off from the source of love when they lose their way.
Draw them in close and breath life back into them.

**Bob Goff** 



Oh, boy--does this one hit home. In my lifetime people have come in and out of my life constantly, and so rarely have I told them how much I care for them and appreciate them. Many of them I'll never see again, and thus I'll never have the chance to tell them what they've meant to me. Many of them I still see regularly, yet I don't tell them how much I care for them. And this even though I know how much it means to me to hear the same thing from other people. If it means a lot to me to hear it from others, then wouldn't it mean a lot to others to hear it from me?

My major problem is that I've spent my whole life thinking that others aren't really affected by what I think or say to them. In short, I think that they don't really care if I love them or not--they can get along just fine in life without ever knowing that I do love them. As a boy and a young man, I shied away from sharing such feelings because I was sure that they just didn't matter. As a man, that thought is so deeply ingrained in me that I have a hard time fighting my way past it and telling people that I love them while they're here with me.

It really is a tragedy that we don't spend more time sharing such feelings with others. While I'm sure there are some people who would feel awkward if I told them, as long as I'm sincere and I tell them with no expectations of anything in return, most people would appreciate being told how much they mean to me.

And telling people that we love them can help us to contribute in a very real and very positive way to the world in which we live, for the more people there are in the world who feel loved, the more people there will be in the world who are able to share love with others.

Tom Walsh





There is a pinch of pessimism in our culture now. Counter it with small acts of optimism. Pick up a piece of litter that isn't yours. Show some extra grace on the freeway. Give to your food bank. Smile at a child who is in your way. Help someone you know. Help someone you don't know. The accumulation of small, optimistic acts produces quality in our culture and in your life. Our culture resonates in tense times to individual acts of grace.

Jennifer James

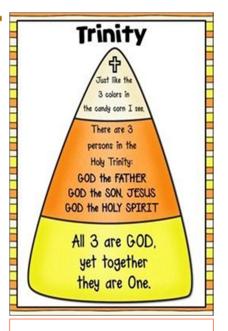
May you grow still enough to hear the small noises earth makes in preparing for the long sleep of winter, so that you yourself may grow calm and grounded deep within.

May you grow still enough to hear the trickling of water seeping into the ground, so that your soul may be softened and healed, and guided in its flow.

May you grow still enough to hear the splintering of starlight in the winter sky and the roar at earth's fiery core.

May you grow still enough to hear the stir of a single snowflake in the air, so that your inner silence may turn into hushed expectation.

**Brother David Steindl-Rast** 



Sit quietly with Me, letting all your fears and worries bubble up to the surface of your consciousness.

There, in the Light of My Presence, the bubbles pop and disappear. However, some fears surface over and over again, especially fear of the future. You tend to project yourself mentally into the next day, week, month, year, decade; and you visualize yourself coping badly in those times. What you are seeing is a false image, because it doesn't include Me. Those gloomy times that you imagine will not come to pass, since My Presence will be with you at all times. When a future-oriented worry assails you, capture it and disarm it by suffusing the Light of My Presence into that mental image. Say to yourself, "Jesus will be with me then and there. With His help, I can cope!" Then, come home to the present moment, where you can enjoy Peace in My Presence.

> Sarah Young From Jesus Calling

PRAYER FOR THE SEA-

# EMMANUEL'S CLOSET October 2021

#### **Christmas Project**

Because it worked out well last year, we have decided to continue the practice of giving \$50 in gift cards to each eligible child or teen rather than buying them specific



gifts. In order to do this we are asking for cash donations in any amount to help purchase the cards. We would also like to give each child a fleece throw blanket as an extra Christmas gift. We welcome any donations of these blankets, as well as rolls of wrapping paper. If you plan to donate blankets or wrapping paper, please bring them in to the church no later than Sunday, November 21, so we have time to buy more if we don't receive enough in donations. All of the above items will be given out to the parents on December 11 and December 18.



#### **Holiday Meals**

For both their Thanksgiving and Christmas meals, we will be giving each family gift cards to grocery stores to purchase meat

and other perishable food items. The amount of the card will be dependent on the size of the family. For Christmas each family will also receive a special treat of cookies or popcorn.

The Thanksgiving gift cards will be given out on November 13 and November 20. The Christmas gift cards and treats will be given out on December 11 and December 18. Monetary donations to purchase these items would be greatly appreciated. Thank you for your generosity in helping to make the holidays a bit brighter for these families.



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

Juice Cereal/Oatmeal Peanut Butter/Jelly Pancake Mix Spaghetti Sauce **Boxed Dry Pastas** Helper Meals **Dessert Items Condiment Items** Canned Tuna/Meats Canned Fruit/Vegetables Soap Shampoo Toilet Paper Paper Towels Dish Washing Liquid

Please, NO Expired Food Items

Laundry Detergent All-Purpose Cleaners

# Below is a list of items that we are especially in need of right now:

Drink mixes (any kind)
Rice
Tuna, chicken or hamburger helper
Sloppy Joe mix
Mashed/scalloped potatoes
Gravy (packets or canned)
Stuffing mix
Soup
Pancake syrup
Jelly

THANKS FOR CARING!

### **Revelations for OCTOBER from "Bly Mire" Mouse**

Oh the crisp, cool air of Autumn. I will say that Fall and Spring are my favorite times of the year! I am not a happy camper with the high temps and humidity of Summer and I am getting less enchanted with the cold and snow of winter!!! It sure sounds like I am heading down the road to be a "snow-bird." I think I could handle being in the South in winter, but as hot as this past Summer was, I may have to go to the tundra in order to be comfortable. As they say, since I mind the heat and humidity here on earth, I better make sure I won't be with Satan in eternity!

To change the focus: I am SO thrilled with all the activity here at Blymire's! With the onset of September, Adult Choir has resumed; Faith Formation classes (Sunday School) are in full swing; Bible Study has been going strong; Men's group and S.O.S. are meeting again.... Things seem to be back to normal! ALMOST!!!!! I have heard different people saying that loved ones are positive with COVID. A couple of them are in the hospital. So, PLEASE,...everybody.....DO WHAT YOU NEED TO DO TO KEEP YOURSELF HEALTHY AND FREE OF COVID!!! I know whenever I am out in public places I refrain from touching surfaces as much as I can. If I am going through a door that I can push open, I use my forearm to open it. If there is a handle that I have to grab to pull the door open I either pull my sleeve over my fingers or I have a tissue in my hand and use that to contact the handle. Then I throw the tissue away. If I need to use an elevator, I push the call button with my elbow and then the floor number in the same way. I also make sure to not hold on to the stability bars in an elevator. Plus when I am using the stair case, I do not slide my hand along the railing that others would touch. I try to keep my possible contact of COVID to zero! So, I hope you all are able to stay safe.

I also hope that sometime soon, COVID will be eradicated and we won't hear reports on the nightly news. We won't have to be concerned about possibly picking up the virus! We PRAY this will soon be!!!

Along with all the church meetings and activities, I am hearing the need for prayers for our faith family. Certainly we keep JOHN and JANIE MONTGOMERY in prayer; GINNY WEBER!!! BETH MARCH!!! CHARLIE DIEHL!!! ED ADAMS!!! MARTI LEADER!!! BRENDA MILLER!!! Each of these loved ones are going through difficult times. Some had surgery or will be having surgery; some in the hospital; some with ongoing medical problems; some with Cancer diagnosis; some with grief. God knows the needs they all have but keep them all (and others) in prayer!

Oh...and THANK YOU to all for your prayers for the HUGS Team. They are planning and working hard to find ways to attract new people to our faith family. They say "THANK YOU" to everyone who gave names and contact information and all who gave out the post cards. We will see on October 10 and 24 if we are able to attract new people. KEEP PRAYING!!! And, keep praying for the sessions in November as well. That is a good thought.... KEEP PRAYING!!!

#### **October humor:**

I always forget that holiday that comes at the end of October. Then the doorbell rings... Witch reminds me

A soldier comes up and asks me what today's date is. I say "October fourth". He says 10-4

God Bless!

From the

Church Mouse

Love, Bly and Mire



# FULL OF TALENT

In Matthew 25:14-30, the master rewards servants who use their gifts instead of hiding them.
What talents has God given you?

#### What you need:

- Construction paper (2 sheets)
- Pencil
- Scissors
- Glue
- · Gold crayon or pen
- Black pen



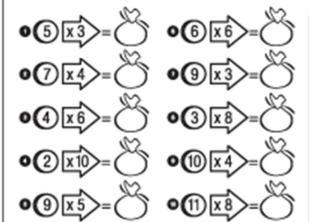
- Fold one sheet of paper in half lengthwise. Trace your hand and lower arm so your arm touches the folded edge. Cut out the arm and hand, keeping the folded edge uncut.
- Glue the folded hand to the other sheet of paper.
- In gold, draw five coins in the hand. In black, write the skills and gifts God has given you.
- Open the fold and draw 10 gold coins in the two open hands. In black, write how you can use your skills and gifts to help others and honor God.



# MASTER MULTIPLICATION

Jesus tells a parable about faithful servants who multiply their master's money. How does the master respond?

Directions: Solve the math problems. Find the letters that match the answers and write them in order to complete Matthew 25:21, NIV.



KEY		
A = 28	J = 50	S = 88
B = 35	K = 21	T = 45
C = 14	L = 63	U = 64
D = 25	M = 15	V = 32
E = 33	N = 24	W = 80
F = 72	0 = 77	X = 56
G = 40	P = 54	Y = 20
H = 36	Q = 9	Z = 48
I = 27	R = 16	

"His master replied, 'Well done, good and faithful servant!

You have been faithful with a few things;

Come and share your master's happiness!""

MATTHEW 25:21, NIV