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From the Pastor's Desk



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

May... my goodness, how fast these first few months of 2022 have flown by! Of course, right now I am on a "high" from the celebration of Easter. Our worship service was very moving for me, even though I was battling a cold. I definitely thank Cindy Innerst-Axe, Marti Leader and Nelson Leader for helping to serve communion because with my cold, I did not want to get in close contact with anyone for fear of passing the cold on to them. What heightened the joy of Easter worship was the music! Brenda's Reflective Interlude, the choir anthem, and, the fact that I didn't sing out in the hymns like I usually do, I was truly able to hear the awesome voices of the congregation singing out their praise of God! I also commented on the beauty of the cross of flowers. It was breath-taking! I also thank Joel Frey for placing the flower cross in the Chancel at the beginning of worship and also taking it outside for all to see who came into our building. The flowers were finally removed on Wednesday but a number of people saw the beauty we had enjoyed! And, this joyful service followed what for me was one of the most moving Maundy Thursday services I led. The entire Holy Week worship was outstanding this year!

I have wondered why this seemed to be the most meaningful Easter season for me. Perhaps I have said that every year because I know most every Easter Sunday service I have wiped tears from my eyes. But this year, as we all know, there is a "shadow" hanging around. This was the last Holy Week where I will be the worship leader. Jeri even asked me after the Maundy Thursday service how it felt since it was my last. I simply said it felt like all other Maundy Thursday services because it has always been a service of contemplation. It has always for me been a service where I come face to face with how I am like Peter and often deny my Lord. I come face to face with the struggle Jesus had in asking to let this cup pass him by, but immediately saying "Not my will..." I have those struggles in my life. I have my times of denying my Lord. This is often the process of thoughts after Maundy Thursday. And then the joy of Easter when the reality of the empty tomb is brought into focus for us! But the Sundays following Easter also bring a joy to my heart because Jesus reverses the three denials of Peter when He asks Peter three times..."Do you love me?" And Peter's shortcomings are erased. This year the choir is singing "We have seen the risen Lord" the Sunday after Easter and it totally brings home the meaning of Easter!

But, the celebration of Easter did have a shadow hanging over it. That shadow is my upcoming retirement. Knowing this was probably the last Easter season I would plan and lead caused a bit of sadness for me.

I also am very aware that as the last five Sunday services come and go, there will be times when I will get choked up. I am already thinking about the changes that will soon be my reality. I will have to separate myself from the Blymire's faith family in order for them to adjust to the fact that I am not the serving Pastor any longer. For the time being, members of Blymire's Faith Family will be leading the worship services until an Interim Minister is contracted.

I also am very aware of the fact that this is the final Pastor's Desk message I will prepare for any newsletter. I will say that I praise God for the seven plus years that I have shared with Blymire's church because this has been a total blessing for me. I have loved the music! I have loved the programming! I LOVE the people!!! You truly are a Faith Family and the service you all give to God is commendable!!! I will miss being a part of this fellowship for a little bit of time. But, I will be a part of the congregation in the near future. THANK YOU ALL for the love you have given me! THANK YOU for sharing the journey of faith with me. THANK YOU for being who you are!!! And, my endless thanks to God for combining my faith journey with the beautiful people of Blymire's U.C.C.!!!!

With love, Pastor Lou Ann and, remember, we may be physically separated but we are always joined in our hearts!!!

I LOVE YOU ALL!!!



SPECIAL SERVICES in MAY

May 1 - Easter 3

Gospel: John 21:1-19

Sermon: "Peter Forgiven and Commissioned"

May 8 - Easter 4—Mother's Day

Gospel: John 10:22-30

Sermon: "How Long Will You Keep Us in Suspense?"

May 15 - Easter 5

Gospel: John 13:31-35

Sermon: "A New Commandment—LOVE!!!"

May 22 - Easter 6

Gospel: John 14:23-28

Sermon: "That You May Believe"

May 29 - Easter 7

Gospel: John 17:20-26

Sermon: "One in the Spirit, One in the Lord"

UKRAINE AID

Mission Central would like to thank everyone for their overwhelming response to their appeal for aid to Ukraine. They have currently suspended their collection of supplies to be sent there. Everything that had been collected here at our church as of April 17 was taken to Mission Central and will be sent to Ukraine in the next few weeks. If you have already bought items and have not yet brought them in to church, Mission Central will still take them and either send them to Ukraine later or use them in response to other disasters throughout the world. They are still accepting monetary donations for Ukraine if you wish to help in that way. Once again, thank you so much for your generosity!

MAY BIRTHDAYS



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

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

CELEBRATING MAY ANNIVERSARIES

- May 4 - Scott and Sarah Smith - 14 years
- May 9 - Tim and Donna Sleeth - 13 years
- May 10 - Bob and Wanda Strickler - 47 years
- May 10 - Michael and Heather Matthews - 25 years
- May 12 - Greg and Connie Hays - 21 years
- May 13 - Matthew and Randi John - 16 years
- May 22 - Brad and Michele Leader - 23 years

FINANCIAL REPORT

Undesignated General Fund

Red Brick Chapel

Cemetery

Month-2022	Income	Expense	Income	Expense	Income	Expense
January	\$9,995.00	\$10,580.71	\$0.46	\$254.37	\$915.03	\$0.00
February	\$8,570.74	\$11,555.09	\$1,000.48	\$390.39	\$0.23	\$294.90
March	\$96,036.48	\$15,958.44	\$0.41	\$563.73	\$0.19	\$845.18
April						
May						
June						
July						
August						
September						
October						
November						
December						
Total	\$114,602.22	\$38,094.24	\$1,001.35	\$1,208.49	\$915.45	\$1,140.08

Balance of Undesignated General Fund @ April, 2022

\$79,266.05

Balance of Red Brick Chapel Fund @ April 1, 2022
(Includes \$61,957.19 Endowment)

\$79,931.60

Balance of Cemetery Fund @ April 1, 2022
(Includes \$876,203.37 CD's, Trusts, UCC Foundation)

\$883,856.14

Financial Assistance Given through Hand of Hope Fund - 2022

	#	Total	Monthly	Available
	Families	\$\$\$	Donations	Balance
Beginning				\$ 162.74
January			\$ 80.00	\$ 242.74
February	1	\$ 25.00	\$ 35.00	\$ 252.74
March	1	\$ 25.00	\$ 11.00	\$ 238.74
April				
May				
June				
July				
August				
September				
October				
November				
December				
Total	2	\$ 50.00	\$ 126.00	

REMEMBER OUR SHUT-INS and those in need of PRAYER

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



Keeping in our prayers
Dolores Barley
Jeanette Black
Cindie McKinsey
Todd & Melody Myers
Ginny Weber
Friends battling cancer
Covid 19 patients

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



Remember
and pray for
Our Members
in the
Military

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

LINCOLN FUNERAL TRAIN PRESENTATION and ICE CREAM SOCIAL

Mark Tuesday, May 10, at 7:00 PM on your calendar. Local Civil War historian and author Scott Mingus, Sr. will present "The Abraham Lincoln Funeral Train in Pennsylvania" here at our church. The program will be a part of an Ice Cream Social and everyone in attendance will enjoy Handel's Ice Cream. The program is sponsored by the Men's Group and is free, but registration is required. You may sign up on the sheet in the Gathering Room or call the church at 717-244-0655 to register. Scott will be selling some of his popular books.

CRAFTERNOONERS

Our next "Crafternooners" meeting will be held on Sunday, May 22, 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.



CARD and GAME CLUB



We have started a group to play card and board games here at the church. Everyone is welcome, and if you don't know how to play certain games, there will be someone who can teach you. You can bring lunch or order in.

We will meet the second Wednesday of each month starting at 11:00 AM and playing until people are ready to stop. Our next meeting will be on May 11. If you have any questions, please call Janie Montgomery or Diana Myers.



Our second chicken BBQ of the season will be held on Saturday, May 14, from 11:00 AM-1:00 PM. You will get a 1/2 chicken, baked potato, applesauce, roll and butter all for \$10.00. To place an order, please call the church office at 244-0655. We sold out early nearly every month last summer, so to be guaranteed a dinner, it is best to pre-order. Other BBQ's will be held on the 2nd Saturday of each month thru November.

We are also planning to set up a bake sale table and would welcome donations of home-made cookies, cupcakes, candy, etc. Please put individual portions in baggies or plastic wrap. They may be dropped off at the church the day before or the morning of the BBQ. Thank you.



**ST. JOHN'S BLYMIRE'S U.C.C.
1009 BLYMIRE ROAD,
DALLASTOWN, PA
PHONE: (717) 244-0655**

The public is invited to join us in the pavilion behind our church for an outdoor concert series featuring a variety of different types of music. The concerts will be held on Sunday afternoons from 2:00-4:00 PM. 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 concerts for 2022

JUNE 5 - SPRING GARDEN BAND
(Modern & traditional concert band music)

JULY 10 - FIRST CAPITAL BRASS (Brass ensemble)

AUGUST 14 - TIMELESS (50's and 60's rock and roll)

SEPTEMBER 18- BLUESTONE (Bluegrass)

OCTOBER 1 - DOCKENSPIELERS (German band)

This concert will be held in the pavilion on Saturday night from 5:00-7:00 PM. German food (hot dogs, sauerkraut, German potato salad, etc.) will be available for purchase.



SOUL FOOD

May 2022

Being a mother is discovering strengths you didn't know you had and dealing with fears you never knew existed.

Sherene Simon

"I was sitting at breakfast and across the restaurant were five elderly ladies. I don't know why, but it made me miss my mom hard. I felt a strong urge to pick up their check. I didn't know them and didn't want to bother them. I just did it. Then I was just going to leave because it's better to just do nice deeds without asking for acknowledgment. But something felt like I should tell them I missed my mom. They might like to hear that. So I walked over and said "you are five of the sweetest ladies I've ever seen. I lost my mom awhile back and something about seeing you made me miss her this morning, so I'm getting your check." The lady on the end popped up with arms wide open and said "COME HERE, I lost my son and really needed this." And then she gave me the mom hug I needed and I gave her the son hug she needed. We really are all so connected.

Andy Grammer



LOVE YOUR LIFE

The entire world exists whether I believe in it or not. I can say "I do not believe in oxygen", and yet it fills my lungs with life. I can say "I do not believe in gravity" and yet it holds me to the earth in an everlasting hug. I am saved by both oxygen and gravity, not because I believe in them, but because they simply are, one allowing me to breathe and be alive and the other allowing me to plant my feet on the earth and not float off into space.

Yes, I can often miss experiencing the incredible awe that life is: oxygen, molecules, sunsets, ostriches.... And never really live in the true wonder of my life. Turns out life goes on believing in beauty, and believing in me by gifting me with the sunrise each day, whether I notice or not.

There is nothing I can do to make God love me more or less. I am already saved by God's grace, love and mercy, because that's just who God is: Eternal Love. I think the question becomes, can I make the effort to notice and begin to participate more in this wonderful life. The only life I can "save" is my own, not in an "after death" context, but right here, right now, in this moment, in this sacred breath. These beautiful words of comfort and tenderness come from God, "I am right here,".... "Look up!" Seek this peace and love that is always descending on you like a dove. "You are my beloved, and in you I am well pleased"

Turns out what you believe is so important, but not for some sort of "end of life evacuation plan", but so that you can truly live and love your life right here, right now. You don't have to believe in oxygen in order for it to give you life. But if you begin to look with wonder upon the free gifts of life you're given each moment, allowing yourself to believe each breath is an, "I Love you" from God, your life will not be the same. Beloved, you will instead begin to allow God's love and tenderness to enhance your life, one moment at a time, one breath at a time. Then you can't help but live a life that preaches the "Good News": that we are all God's beloved children. God is longing for us to notice the gift of being loved and being alive!

Sheena Grund

THE BRACELET

I was sitting in my living room, stunned, after returning home from the doctor's.

I'd just learned that I was having a relapse of Lyme's disease. I wished I could call my mom. She'd always been able to reassure me. Mom had died from cancer 6 years ago and I missed her so much. I touched the gold heart bracelet I wore— Mom's, a treasure she'd had since childhood. She'd given it to me before she passed: I'd never seen another one like it. I didn't know how I would handle this relapse without my mom by my side.

Please, God, I thought, I just need a sign that I'll be okay. I decided to distract myself with a little online shopping. Using my phone, I navigated to my favorite website's home page. Suddenly, the picture glitched. What in the world? I'd never had problems with this phone. The website jumped to a new page. There on the page was a picture of Mom's gold heart bracelet! It was marked as "sold". When I tried to click on it, my screen blipped back to the home page. I searched all over the site for that bracelet and never found it again, but it didn't matter. I'd gotten the reassurance I needed.

Anastiscia Lang



To all of you mothers, stepmoms, grandmothers, godmothers, aunts, and mother figures

CELEBRATE, HONOR, REMEMBER



It was Memorial Day morning when I sipped my coffee and watched the internet load on my computer. My blood pressure spiked as I scanned the political headlines. I can't believe what is going on! For the next several minutes, I ranted and complained. Shaking my head, I clicked on a veteran's inspirational story. When I finished reading it, my thoughts swirled about the huge price he had paid for my freedom. My mind skipped through others who had willingly sacrificed: my father, a World War II veteran, who after his 17th birthday shipped off to the South Pacific and became disabled; my mother, who assembled submarine carburetors on an assembly line before she went to school to become a cadet nurse; my brother-in-law who was military and would go on hardship duties for a year at a time leaving his family behind, eventually becoming disabled himself. Then a foreign thought struck me. What price have I paid? My stomach turned as I remembered how much I complained. Other than voting, I hadn't done much. Why? I was too busy. Is busyness a reason to stand by?

What price am I willing to pay?

Taking out a sheet of paper, I started a list: I can: 1.) pray every day for our leaders; 2.) honor our veterans with a thank-you; 3.) pray for our servicemen and women; 4.) instead of complaining, help those who are working toward solutions; 5.) pray some more.

Lord please give me ideas of how I can help our nation remain the land of the free and the home of the brave. Amen

Rebecca Ondov

DO YOU KNOW YOUR HYMNS?

- Dentist's Hymn** Crown Him with Many Crowns
Weatherman's Hymn There Shall Be Showers of Blessings
Contractor's Hymn The Church's One Foundation
The Politician's Hymn Standing on the Promises!
Optometrist's Hymn Open My Eyes That I Might See
The IRS Agent's Hymn I Surrender All
The Gossip's Hymn Pass It On
The Electrician's Hymn Send The Light

Lots of people hate grocery shopping. I didn't used to be one of them. When my husband, Chuck, was alive, we went together every week, all through our marriage, and it was fun. This was the first time I'd been back since his death.

It was hard for me to face the store alone.

For 45 years, Chuck would pretend to look for something in a faraway aisle and come back with three yellow roses for me. His surprise never got old, and we felt like newlyweds each time. But there'd be no sweet surprises on this trip. Or anywhere else, for that matter.

I was standing at the meat counter trying to find a steak small enough for one when a woman came up beside me. "My husband loves T-bones, but at these prices, I just don't know if I should buy any," she said.

"My husband died eight days ago," I said. "Buy the steaks. Cherish every moment together." I smiled and hurried away before she could reply. What was I thinking to have admitted something so personal to a stranger?

A few minutes later, the woman came up to me holding 3 gorgeous, long-stemmed yellow roses. "These are for you," she said, placing them in my arms. "The cashier knows they're paid for." I wasn't facing things alone: Chuck was with me. Life and the grocery store still held sweet surprises after all.

THE VOICE

There is a voice inside you
That whispers all day long,
"I feel that this is right for me.
I know that this is wrong."
No teacher, preacher, parent, friend
Or wise man can decide
What's right for you— just listen to
The voice that speaks inside.

Shel Silverstein

A wise man fills his brain before
emptying his mouth.

African Proverb

DEAR GOD

Speak gently in my silence.
When the loud outer noise of
my surroundings and loud inner
noises of my fears keep pulling
me away from you, help me to
trust that you are still there even
when I am unable to hear you.

Henri Nouwen

**A grateful heart is a
magnet for miracles!**

EMMANUEL'S CLOSET

May 2022



Easter Project

We would like to thank everyone for the food and monetary donations to help with our Easter holiday project.

Each family was given a gift card to buy perishable food items for Easter dinner, chocolate bunnies and bunny graham crackers. The special gifts were given out to 42 families on April 2 and April 9.

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

Beverages (all types)

Manwich

Tuna Helper

Chicken Helper

Cereal

Icing

Cake Mix

Brownie Mix

Pancake Syrup

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

Laundry Detergent

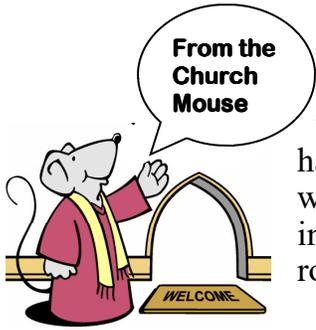
All-Purpose Cleaners

Please, NO Expired Food Items

Our clothing and household room will remain closed through 2022. Please do not put any of those items in the bin or bring them to Emmanuel's Closet. We hope to reopen in 2023.



***THANKS FOR
CARING!***



Revelations for MAY from “Bly Mire” Mouse

How have you liked (or not liked) this Spring? I have really enjoyed the warmer days, but my goodness, the WINDS and the CHILLY days we have had. BRRRRRR!!!! I often would get into bed on those windy nights and wonder if the roof was going to stay on our mouse house! Of course, being inside the church building, I felt assured that we were going to be fine. But the roaring of the wind had me concerned more than once.

But, there has been a number of things happening at the church that needed repair. JOEL, STERLING, GREG, and CHARLIE (maybe a couple of others I am not aware of) have been working overtime at the church. They did get the septic line fixed, so now we should not have any more back up with the toilets and sinks. It ended up there was blockage in the pipe and we needed to dig up part of the parking lot. (Hee-hee, I just thought about this.....I bet they were all FLUSHED when they got done with that job!!!!)

GREG, with helper CARL also has been working on getting the canvas sides to the Bar-B-Q pit ready before May 14th. This should help cut down on wind and the effect that has on the charcoal. And, DID YOU GET A CHICKEN DINNER IN APRIL???? My family all had one and we were SO happy that the men are back at it!

I wonder too if any of you are still in the heightened Spirit of Easter like I am. My gosh, the atmosphere of the worship service was AWESOME!!! Brenda played an AMAZING Reflective Interlude. The Adult Choir anthem with Brenda on the organ and Nelson playing the timpani along with the enthusiastic singing of the choir along with the verse with the congregation singing..... W! O! W! If there ever was a time that the church roof would be raised, Easter Sunday was it!!!

Now, there is another event coming soon that I term a bitter-sweet event. Most all of you know that Pastor Lou Ann is retiring July 1st. But, the month of June she will take as vacation so her last day as our Designated Pastor will be May 31st. At this point, the committee had interviewed one candidate for Interim Pastor and I hear they have another person they will meet with. But, when Pastor Lou Ann announced her retirement last September, I thought that date was a long way off. Now we are down to five weeks. (Sigh) I have really enjoyed the time with Pastor Lou Ann. There definitely was a lot of laughter throughout the church building! And, I really enjoyed the outdoor worship that she started with during the throes of the pandemic. I know Mire has kept busy too knitting scarves to give to the homeless Mice along with the scarves (and hats) that people from the church make for the York homeless community. These are just a couple of the things that Pastor Lou Ann brought to our faith family. I know that her time here has been loved by many people and the way she touched out faith family will be felt for a long time to come. And, if any of you are concerned that with her retirement we will not have Jeri doing the children's messages including his numerous jokes, REST ASSURED.... Jeri will be attending Blymire's and has been told he will be doing children's messages until further notice. (I know some of you have given him “Jeri Jokes” but, he is always in the market for new material. Maybe he will use some of these:

May humor:

Where was Solomon's Temple located?

On the side of his head.

Who was the fastest runner in the race?

Adam. He was first in the human race.

How do groups of angels greet each other?

Halo, halo, halo!

And now, (drum roll) a special joke for Bly and Mire.....

Who do mice pray to?

Cheesus

God Bless! Bly and Mire



P.S. Happy retirement Pastor Lou Ann!!!

Egg-cellent bouquet

Transform an egg carton into a Mother's Day keepsake.

What you need:

- Clean cardboard egg carton
- Scissors
- Acrylic paint and paintbrush
- Flat cardboard
- Photo, drawing or note
- Small pom-poms
- Hot glue
- Adult help

What you do:

1. Bend, stretch and cut the carton cups to make 3-D flower shapes. Also cut leaf shapes from the carton top.
2. Paint the flowers and leaves. Let dry.
3. Cut the flat cardboard to a size and shape you desire. Leave a border at least 2 inches larger than your photo, drawing or note.
4. With hot glue, attach the photo, drawing or note to the cardboard.
5. Arrange and glue flowers and leaves around the border. Attach pom-poms for more color and texture.
6. Present the gift to your mom or a special woman in your life.

PUZZLE



A VALUABLE *command*

God instructs children how to relate to their parents.

Directions: Arrange the words in alphabetical order. Then insert the circled letters in order to complete Exodus 20:12, NIV.



son	mother	father
daughter	honor	home
respect	family	obey
	love	

1. _ _ _ _ _ (C) _ _ _ (C)
2. (C) _ _ _ _ _ (C)
3. _ _ (C) _ _ (C) _ _
4. (C) _ _ _ _ _
5. _ _ _ _ (C) _ _
6. (C) _ _ (C) _ _
7. _ _ (C) _ _ (C) _ _
8. (C) _ _ _ (C)
9. (C) _ _ (C) _ _ _ _
10. _ _ _ (C)

_ _ono_ _ your _ _ather and _ _our mo_ _h_ _r,
so t_ _at y_ _u may _ _i_ _e l_ _ng in t_ _e land
the L_ _RD _ _ou_ _ God i_ _ givi_ _g you.

E X O D U S 2 0 : 1 2 , N I V

Answer: 1. daughter, 2. family, 3. father, 4. home, 5. honor, 6. love, 7. mother, 8. obey, 9. respect, 10. son; Honor your father and your mother, so that you may live long in the land the LORD your God is giving you.