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## From the Pastor's Keyboard



Dear friends in this wonderful family of faith,

As I have talked with folks the last couple of months, it seems many of us are going through challenging times where we would like our health to be better, where things are not going as we would like, or where we feel or seem alone.

The prayer of Jesus in John 17 comes to mind when I think of what so many of us are going through. Jesus prayed: **"I ask not only on behalf of these, but also on behalf of those who will believe in Me through their word, that they may all be one. As You, Father, are in Me and I am in You, may they also be in us, so that the world may believe that You have sent Me."** John 17:20-21.

Oswald Chambers astutely says that we are where we are because Jesus has prayed this prayer. Are we helping God answer that prayer, or do we have some other goal in our life? Since we became followers of Christ (some of us recently and others of us for years), we cannot be as independent as we were before.

God reveals in John 17 that God's purpose is not just to answer our prayers (although God certainly does that), but that through prayer we might come to discern God's mind. Yet there is one prayer which God must answer, and that is this prayer of Jesus – **"...that they may be one, as we are one."** – John 17:22. Are we as close to Jesus as that?

God is not concerned about *our* plans, Chambers goes on to say. God doesn't ask, "Do you want to go through this loss of a loved one, this difficulty, or this defeat?" No, God allows these things for God's own purposes. The things we are going through are either making us sweeter, better, and nobler women and men, or they are making us more critical and fault-finding, and more insistent on our own way. The things that happen either make us evil, or they make us more saintly, depending entirely on our relationship with God and its level of intimacy. If we will pray, regarding our own lives, **"Your will be done"** (Matthew 26:42), then we will be encouraged and comforted by John 17, knowing that our God is working according to God's own wisdom, accomplishing what is best. When we understand God's purpose, we will not become small-minded and cynical. Jesus prayed nothing less for us than absolute oneness with Himself, just as He was one with the Father. Some of us are near, and some of us are far, from this oneness. Yet God will not leave us alone until we *are* one with God – because Jesus prayed, "...that they may *all* be one..."

May we as a church continue to experience and to pray for that oneness with God – and with each other! Let us continue to pray for, respect each other, encourage and support each other, challenge and comfort one another as needed, walk with each other on our Christian journeys, and reach out and welcome others into our fellowship as Jesus continues to invite all to become *one* with Him!

These summer months see some of our regular activities go on hiatus, such as choir, bell ringers, Bible study, Messy Church, and Sunday School. Yet summer also brings us different opportunities to worship, fellowship, and serve – such as our outdoor concerts, special music during worship, outdoor worship, continued hymn sings, FUN events, and gearing up for the fall with our regular activities and new endeavors such as partnering more with the Dallastown Area School District. Our commitment to Jesus is year-round – as is our church life!

Once again, I as your interim pastor, and Cindy Innerst-Axe, as our Lay Minister, continue to be excited about serving you and partnering with you on our individual spiritual journeys and on our spiritual journey as a congregation. And once again, we ask that you continue to help us all discern the answer to the questions we have been looking at the last few months: **Who are we as St. John's Blymire's United Church of Christ? Who are our neighbors? Who is God calling us to become as we journey into God's future? What is our unique niche here in Dallastown?**

See you around this month of June! God bless, Pastor Rick

### ***Holy humor:***

George was having trouble with a toothache, so he decided to visit the dentist.

"What do you charge for extracting a tooth?" George asked.

"One hundred dollars," replied the dentist.

"One hundred dollars for only two minutes' work?" exclaimed George.

"Well," replied the dentist, "if you wish, I can extract it very slowly."

Cheerful people, doctors say, resist disease better than the glum ones. In other words, the surly bird catches the germ!

*The excerpts above was taken from The Best of the Good Clean Jokes, compiled by Bob Phillips, Harvest House Publishers, 1989.*



**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 2024**

**JUNE 2 - FIRST CAPITAL BRASS**

**(Brass ensemble)**

**JULY 28 - JC FISHER BAND**

**(Rock, country, blues, soul, folk, and combinations of various styles. The band puts together danceable sets of songs that people can sing along with.)**

**AUGUST 4 - SPRING GARDEN BAND**

**(Traditional band music)**

**If you have any questions, please call the church office at (717) 244-0655.**

## **MONTH OF SUNDAYS WORSHIP SERVICES-JUNE 2024**

### **JUNE 2, 2024 – SECOND SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST- MUSIC SUNDAY**

Scripture: Mark 2:23 – 3:6

Centering Scripture: 2 Corinthians 4:6

Music Sunday – music by our choir and bell ringers

2:00 – 4:00 PM – Outdoor Concert – First Capital Brass

### **JUNE 9, 2024 – THIRD SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST**

Scripture: Philippians 2:1-11, Mark 9:33-37

Message: “I’m Not Superman!” - Pastor Curt Weber preaching

6:00-8:00 PM—Hymn Sing

### **JUNE 16, 2024 – FOURTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST– FATHER’S DAY OUTDOOR WORSHIP IN THE PAVILION, WEATHER PERMITTING**

Message Scripture: Mark 4:26-34

Centering Scripture: 2 Corinthians 5:18-19

Message: “The Parable of a Growing Church”

Theme: Stories can change our perspectives. A story that focuses on Christian identity, transcendence, and community will help us set aside the benchmarks of the material world and put our trust in the work of God’s Kingdom.

### **JUNE 23, 2024 – FIFTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST**

Message Scripture: Mark 4:35-41

Centering Scripture: Psalm 9:9-10

Message: Keith G. Dyke, Supervisor of Auxiliary Services, Dallastown Area

School District, preaching

Following worship, in the Gathering Place, informal conversation with Mr. Dyke about how we can continue and offer more support of DASD’s students and staff.

### **JUNE 30, 2024 – SIXTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST**

Scripture: TBA

Message: TBA - Cindy Innerst-Axe preaching



June 9 - New Life for Girls

June 16 - Lou Ann Jones

June 23 - Tim & Gwen Pritchard, Tina Shaw

June 30 - Sunny Side Gang

July 7 - Mandi Streavig & Brenda Kemper

July 14 - Rita Persing

July 21 - TBA

July 28 - Mandi Streavig

August 4 - Ray Watkins

August 11 - Troy Winemiller

August 18 - Dennis Kohler

August 25 - Geraldine “Deanie” King

September 1 - TBA

**JUNE**  
**BIRTHDAYS**



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

1. Debbie Boyd
2. Jenna Woerner
3. Michael Barley
9. Matthew Boyd  
Chase Morton  
Sandy Brown  
Wanda Gobat
10. David Cress
13. Aria Shane  
Joseph Klyeman
14. Gaeton Contino
15. Richard Forbes
18. Mike Axe
19. Elsie Ewell
20. Ida Michael
22. Sharon Criswell  
Gunther Knickel
23. Ashlyn Innerst
24. Wyatt Myers
25. Sandy Innerst
26. Carol Gingerich  
Jeremiah Rayhart

**CELEBRATING JUNE ANNIVERSARIES**

June 3 - Keith & Beth Markey - 52 years  
June 5 - Kimberly & Tracey Dilling - 11 years  
June 13 - Patrick and Erin Michaels - 15 years  
June 18 - Doug & Linda King - 59 years  
June 19 - David and Maranda Morton - 25 years  
June 20 - Carl and Sharon Criswell - 54 years  
June 22 - Tarrence and Sandra Ness - 28 years  
June 25 - Sterling and Debra Boyd - 18 years  
June 28 - James and Jean McDowell - 55 years

# FINANCIAL REPORT

Undesignated General Fund

Red Brick Chapel

Cemetery

Month-2024	Income	Expense	Income	Expense	Income	Expense
January	\$10,102.00	\$9,943.43	\$600.89	\$319.65	\$784.93	\$0.00
February	\$7,747.00	\$10,447.49	\$1,200.83	\$318.91	\$1,652.89	\$500.00
March	\$8,402.00	\$10,244.71	\$0.91	\$556.38	\$26.59	\$792.24
April	\$13,187.00	\$11,317.37	\$0.81	\$258.87	\$2.74	\$3,187.50
May						
June						
July						
August						
September						
October						
November						
December						
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$39,438.00</b>	<b>\$41,953.00</b>	<b>\$1,803.44</b>	<b>\$1,453.81</b>	<b>\$2,465.15</b>	<b>\$4,479.74</b>

Balance of Undesignated General Fund @ May 1, 2024

\$4,802.57

Balance of Red Brick Chapel Fund @ May 1, 2024  
(Includes \$60,949.81 Endowment)

\$66,173.21

Balance of Cemetery Fund @ May 1, 2024  
(Includes \$894,537.17 CD's, Trusts, UCC Foundation)

\$900,759.88

## Financial Assistance Given through Hand of Hope Fund - 2024

	#	Total	Monthly	Available
	Families	\$\$\$	Donations	Balance
Beginning				\$ 956.17
January	1	\$25.00	\$ 48.00	\$ 979.17
February	1	\$50.00	\$ 192.00	\$ 1121.17
March			\$ 93.00	\$ 1214.17
April	3	\$420.00	\$ 404.00	\$ 1198.17
May				
June				
July				
August				
September				
October				
November				
December				
<b>Total</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>\$495.00</b>	<b>\$ 737.00</b>	



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

**Terry & Fran Doll**

Room 346

Residence @ Fitz Farm

2200 Springwood Rd.

York, PA 17403

Terry's cell (717) 968-2454

Fran's cell (717) 968-8754

**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

Keeping in our prayers

**Cindie McKinsey**

**Friends battling cancer**

**Covid 19 patients**

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

**AIC Ness, Brandon**

6907 S. Camino de la Humanidad

Tucson, AZ 85756

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Meet Our  
Graduates

### **Dover Area High School**

**Autumn Smith**, daughter of Chad and Julie Smith and granddaughter of Rod and Linda Eichelberger, will receive her high school diploma on June 2. Autumn was a member of Student council and vice president of marketing for Dover DECA. She participated in track and field, football cheer and competition cheerleading. Autumn will be continuing her education in Tampa Florida to pursue a career in real estate.

### **Spring Grove Area High School**

**Haley Hake**, daughter of Travis and Krista Hake and granddaughter of Mike Axe and Cindy Innerst-Axe, will receive her high school diploma on May 31. She will be attending Stevenson University where she plans to major in accounting.

### **York County School of Technology**

**Shaye Keeney**, niece of Holly Gingerich, received her high school diploma on May 23. She studied Cosmetology, has her license, and is now working at Luna Nails in Dover.

### **NASCAR Technical Institute**

**Elijah Matthews**, son of Mike and Heather Matthews and grandson of Greg and Sonja Ness, earned his Associate Degree in Auto Technology in October 2023. He was valedictorian of his class, student of the course, and on the Director's list. He is now working at Thornton Dodge and continuing his education towards becoming a Master Tech.

**We congratulate these graduates upon the completion of their studies and wish them well as they begin the next phase of their lives.**



## **EMMANUEL'S CLOSET**

We are now getting settled in our new home here at Blymire's Church. Past clients are coming back and we are registering some new ones. Due to space limitations we are no longer giving out clothing or household goods. If you would like to donate any nonperishable food, toiletries or cleaning products, please put them in the marked bins in the Gathering Room. Right now we are especially in need of **juice, cereal, tea, frosting (we have lots of cake mix) and toilet paper**. Thank you for supporting this ministry.



## MEN'S GROUP

Our Men's Group will be taking a break for the summer. See you all in September.



Our next chicken BBQ will be held on Saturday, June 8, 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 at (717) 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 October.

We welcome donations of homemade goodies for our bake sale table. Please put individual portions in baggies or plastic wrap. Thank you.

There will also be a plant sale this month similar to the one in May, so if you didn't have an opportunity to buy your plants then or want to buy more, check it out.



W.O.W (women's discussion and support group) has begun meeting again at 11:00 AM in the Gathering Room on the 4th Saturday of each month. Our next meeting will be June 22. Our time together will include informal discussions of things we've read, heard about, or have questions about. We will also share joys and concerns. Lunch afterwards is optional. Everyone is welcome. Questions, text or call Ginny (202) 549-4358.

## B - I - N - G - O

The staff at Homewood at Plum Creek heartily says "Thank You" for bingo prize donations- the residents thank you too! The months of June, July and August are "relax and break" months- that means Homewood does not need Bingo prizes! The Director's office is full- I have seen it!!! So.... relax, kick your shoes off, set a spell, have a cool drink- in other words- ENJOY yourself!!!! The FUN team thanks you also!

## WHAT IS MESSY CHURCH?



It's church, but not as you know it! Messy Church is a form of family church for children and adults. It involves creativity, celebration and hospitality! It's church for people of any age and at all stages of their faith journey. If traditional church is no longer a part of your life, come try out Messy Church!

Our next Messy Church gathering will be held from 6:00-8:00 PM on Friday, June 21. As always, a meal will be provided. PLEASE INVITE YOUR FAMILY AND FRIENDS.



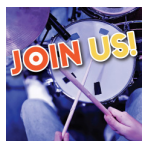
## CARD and GAME CLUB



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 meet the second Wednesday of each month starting at 11:00 AM and playing until people are ready to stop. Our next gathering will be held on June 12.

## GUIDED MEDITATION AND DRUM CIRCLE

Meditation and Music are very good ways to deepen your personal spiritual practice. Relax, let go of worldly thoughts, and sink into your soul. You are invited to join us on Saturday, June 15, at 10:00AM for Guided Meditation, followed by Drum Circle, with a variety of instruments available. We have moved the meeting place from the church to the home of Cindy Innerst-Axe, 2285 Swamp Road, Dallastown. Questions, call Cindy (717) 855-6330.



On Sunday, June 9, from 6:00-8:00 PM, please join us for an old-fashioned Hymn Sing, followed by strawberries and ice cream. The public is invited and there is no charge.

Other Hymn Sings will be held on August 11 and October 13, so mark your calendars.



If you haven't been in the Book Room lately, check it out. New titles are coming in on a regular basis and you never know what interesting things you may find. In addition to hundreds of books, there are also games, DVD's, and puzzles.



June 2024

You look in the mirror and sometimes see a mess of a human being. But you don't see the lives you've touched, or the people you've helped. You don't see all the love you've given freely, or the extraordinary memories you've made. You are a book of beautiful moments and feelings.

tinybuddha.com

A smart person knows what to say. A wise person knows whether or not to say it.

THOUGHTS OF WONDER

## GOD IS OUR COMFORTING FATHER GOD

My child's feelings are hurt. I tell her she's special.

My child is injured. I do whatever it takes to make her feel better. My child is scared.

I won't go to sleep until she is secure.

Moments of comfort from a parent come naturally, willingly and joyfully. So why am I so reluctant to let my heavenly Father do the same for me? Why do I think He wouldn't want to hear about my problems? Why do I think

He's too busy for me?

When I am criticized, injured, or afraid, there is a Father who is ready to comfort me. The same goes for you, my friend. There is a Father who will hold us until we are better, help us until we can live with the hurt, and who won't go to sleep when we're afraid of the dark. Ever! And that's enough.

Max Lucado

## WHAT IS A DAD?

A dad is someone who listens,  
suggests and defends

A dad can be one of your very best friends;

He's proud of your triumphs,  
but when things go wrong,

A dad can be patient and helpful and strong.

In all that you do, a dad's love plays a part  
There's always a place of him deep in your heart  
And each year that passes,  
you're even more glad,  
More grateful and proud  
to call him your dad!



When life gives you melons, you might be dyslexic!

HAPPY  
*Father's Day*

shutterstock.com - 5757824292



"I believe that what we become depends on what our fathers teach us at odd moments, when they aren't trying to teach us. We are formed by little scraps of wisdom."

Umberto Eco

Trouble getting out of bed in the morning? This is for you...

## EVERYDAY THANKSGIVING

Even though I clutch my blanket and growl when the alarm rings. Thank you, Lord, that I can hear.

There are many who are deaf.

Even though I keep my eyes closed against the morning light as long as possible. Thank you, Lord, that I can see. Many are blind.

Even though I huddle in my bed and put off rising. Thank you, Lord, that I have the strength to rise. There are many who are bedridden.

Even though the first hour of my day is hectic, when socks are lost, toast is burned, tempers are short, and my children are so loud. Thank you, Lord, for my family. There are many who are lonely.

Even though our breakfast table never looks like the picture in magazines and the menu is at times unbalanced. Thank you, Lord, for the food we have. There are many who are hungry.

Even though the routine of my job often is monotonous. Thank you, Lord, for the opportunity to work. There are many who have no job.

So even though I grumble and bemoan my fate from day to day and wish my circumstances were not so modest. Thank you, Lord, for life.

Ann Landers



## IT'S COMPLICATED

*"The slaves said to [the householder], 'Do you want us to go and gather the weeds?' But he replied, 'No; for in gathering the weeds you would uproot the wheat along with them. Let them grow together until the harvest.'"*

Matthew 13:28-30 (NRSV, abridged)

I know someone who responds to every tummy ache, horrendous headline, flat tire, financial disaster, and family tragedy with the same preternatural equanimity. This too shall pass. All will be well. Everything happens for a reason.

It's as if they have no emotional nerve endings. Even God gets angry, for Pete's sake. Even Jesus wept.

I'm tempted to suggest therapy, but then I consider my own habitual reactions to life's slings and arrows. Sputtering apoplexy, stomping about, blue streaks, middle fingers, catastrophizing, emotional nerve endings smoking hot.

The world is poop. People suck. Always have, always will. My acquaintance is an off-the-charts Pollyanna.

I'm a veritable doom machine. She's in major denial. So am I. We both could use therapy.

Or conversion. Because human experience is, to put it mildly, complicated. It tells us contradictory truths.

People are glorious and good. People are rotten and nasty. Everything will be okay. Nothing ever will.

Calm confidence is a rational response to tragedy and pain. Rage is, too. For every downside, there's an up.

For every up, a down.

Life is a mysterious admixture of sorrow and joy, upset and serenity, evil and holiness, love and hate, Pollyannas and doom machines, wheat and weeds. The mature person holds it all as one, without rushing to reduce it, simplify it, or judge it. The faithful person makes meaning of it without forcing it to make sense. The holy person lives into the whole mystery as she finds it and leaves the sorting to God.

***Prayer:** I wish life were simpler, O God, but it's not. Grant me grace to handle complexity and wisdom to leave the sorting to you.*

Mary Luti

Hate has talked so loudly for so long.

Greed has talked so loudly for so long.



Love has got to stop whispering!

Liars have talked so loudly for so long.

Marianne Williamson

## THE ABSOLUTE TRUTH

"Some people believe they have the absolute truth — that they know what is and what is not. They do not realize that the truth in which they believe is determined solely by their own beliefs, because of their particular experiences, because of what they have been taught, personally, and what they have seen and learned on their path through life.

"However, a person born on the other side of the world in a completely different environment, who was taught different things and who has lived through other experiences, has very different beliefs to those of the first person, and may even be totally opposed in his or her beliefs. And yet, this person also believes to have the absolute truth.

"It seems confusing, but it is not. Please do not get confused. The only absolute truth is Love, the Love that comes from the Father and flows through Jesus. And it is an unconditional love. Open your mind and heart to realize that what you believe by your personal learning and experience is limited. Open your heart to radiate a Love that can go beyond your limiting beliefs, a Love like the one Jesus taught: a compassionate Love without judgment, without territory, without borders, a Love that envelops everything and everyone, without distinction, without labels.

"That, dear ones, is indeed the Absolute Truth!

Unattributed

# FAMILY FEAST



Serve protein-packed waffles for a family breakfast on **FATHER'S DAY** or any special occasion.

## What you need:

- Adult help
- Waffle maker
- Blender
- 1 cup old-fashioned oats
- 1 cup cottage cheese
- 6 eggs
- Cooking spray
- Diced strawberries
- Powdered sugar



## What you do:

1. With adult help, preheat the waffle maker.
2. In the blender, add oats and cottage cheese. Crack eggs in a separate bowl, then add to the blender. Pulse to combine the mixture. Then blend on medium speed for 10 seconds.
3. Coat the waffle maker with cooking spray. Spoon about 1/3 cup batter onto the iron and close.
4. Carefully remove the waffle when it's golden brown. Repeat with remaining batter.
5. Top with strawberries and powdered sugar. Makes about 6 waffles.



# PUZZLE



## FOLLOWING OUR FATHER'S WILL

Jesus always did his Father's will. What does our heavenly Father desire of us?

*Directions: Using the coordinates, circle the corresponding words. Then add those to the blanks below to complete John 6:40, NIV.*

### Coordinates

T3, R1, F6, E2, T1, H5, A6, R4, F5, T5, H3, F2, A4, E6

	F	A	T	H	E	R
1	Father	them	the	believe	that	who
2	have	will	if	heart	to	live
3	perish	whoever	everyone	shall	shall	give
4	God	eternal	send	into	Him	believes
5	in	come	him	Son	rest	with
6	looks	and	forever	Where	life	hope

"For my Father's will is that \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

and I will raise them up at the last day." *John 6:40, NIV*

Answer: everyone who looks to the Son and believes in him shall have eternal life