

## **IN THIS ISSUE**

- ✧ Pastor's Message
- ✧ Picnic Pictures
- ✧ September Services
- ✧ September Sunday School
- ✧ Bible Study
- ✧ Birthdays and Anniversaries
- ✧ Financial Report
- ✧ Shut-Ins & Military
- ✧ Church Directories
- ✧ Gift Cards
- ✧ Chicken BBQ
- ✧ Knitters/Crocheters
- ✧ Book Sale
- ✧ Our Ministries
- ✧ Men's Group
- ✧ Creative Crew
- ✧ Card & Game Club
- ✧ Meditation/Drum Circle
- ✧ Messy Church
- ✧ Chair Yoga
- ✧ W.O.W.
- ✧ Soul Food
- ✧ Just For Kids
- ✧ September Calendar

## *From the Pastor's Desk*



We had our first shared worship and luncheon with our partner church, Hayshire UCC... and what an amazing turnout! There were 85+ people in attendance! Cindy and I were overjoyed with the response from both churches. We heard tons, I mean, TONS of positive feedback from everyone and it sounds like both churches can't wait for our next gathering. It made my heart swell with joy to see both of my church families together in one space. The meeting of the in-laws was a hit!

Yes, the morning started out with a few showers, but that didn't dim the joy we shared. God dried up the rain and offered up a light breeze to make things comfortable under the pavilion at Rocky Ridge.

Worship was deep and meaningful: Pastor Cindy and I led worship, along with the help of liturgists from each church. Our theme for the day, "Many Members, One Body", was rooted in 1 Corinthians 12:12-26, exploring how each person's unique gifts are essential to the Body of Christ. Through an interactive message, "How Do I Connect? Where Do I Fit?", everyone was encouraged to reflect on how we can serve and support one another in our churches and communities.

It became abundantly clear that both churches love music. The sound of united voices lifted in song was a powerful expression of shared faith. The combined choir of Hayshire UCC and St. John's Blymire's UCC offered a lively rendition of "All Day Sunday Singing." Laine Knaub provided beautiful worship music throughout the service, and we sang beloved hymns including "Change My Heart, O God," "Here I Am, Lord," "God of Change and Glory," and closed with "Draw the Circle Wide." The outdoor worship space was made even more special with a beautifully decorated altar.

As we gathered around tables, laughter and conversation flowed easily, offering a chance to deepen friendships and make new connections. The kids enjoyed games and activities, adding energy and excitement to the afternoon.

It was a day that beautifully reflected what it means to be one body with many members—each bringing something unique, each vital to the whole. We give thanks for this shared ministry, and for the chance to worship, eat, and grow together in God's love. I cannot wait to see what good fun and trouble we get up to together next.

Blessings and love,  
Pastor Brenda

On the next page of this newsletter, you will find a few of the pictures that were taken at the picnic.









## **WORSHIP SERVICES FOR SEPTEMBER 2025**

### **SEPTEMBER 7, 2025 “A New Identity” COMMUNION**

Philemon 1:1-21 (no longer a slave, but more than a slave...a brother)  
Psalm 139:1-6,13-18

### **SEPTEMBER 14, 2025 – “Growing in God’s Love” - Cindy Innerst-Axe preaching** 1 Timothy 1:12-17, Luke 15:1-10

### **SEPTEMBER 21, 2025 – “Prayerful Living” - Cindy Innerst-Axe preaching** 1 Timothy 2:1-7, Luke 16:1-13

### **SEPTEMBER 28, 2025 – “Surprising Investment”** Jeremiah 32:1-3a,6-15, 1 Timothy 6:6-19



### **Sunday School Lessons in September**

If you're struggling to overcome the odds, if you've experienced great grief or loss in your life, or if it looks like you're about to lose a job or a promotion, let Lincoln's words forge a way out. If you struggle to be honest, loyal, or humble let Lincoln go to work on your character. If you give no time to God, struggle to find God's will. If you have no need of God's Word, let Lincoln stir your soul.

Did you know that Abraham Lincoln wrote and said more about religion and spirituality than any other president in American history? We will be reading the same devotions and scriptures Lincoln may have used during his own personal prayer and meditation time. Lincoln used terms like “Almighty” and “the Heavenly Father” when he spoke or wrote about God. He used the name of Jesus in both private and public conversation, and he was the only president to name the Holy Spirit in a proclamation.

It's true that Lincoln never applied for membership in any particular church or denomination, but that's not to say he didn't go to church. He was, in fact, a regular churchgoer. As a child, he was raised in church, and after marrying Mary Todd he took a pew at the First Presbyterian Church of Springfield, where he dutifully attended for more than ten years.

The basis of our Sunday school lessons taught by Pastor Curt during the month of September will be on the daily devotion book called Abraham Lincoln's Daily Treasure. Our lessons will include a selected topic, a scripture, and words spoken or actions taken by Abraham Lincoln based on the devotion theme. This book will help us answer the question “What would Lincoln do?” Leo Tolstoy called him “a Christ in miniature.” His strong faith and moral courage inspired a nation, and his timeless words of common sense continue to influence men and women today.

### **OUR WEEKLY BIBLE STUDY IS BACK!**

Please join Pastor Brenda and Pastor Cindy on THURSDAY mornings at 11:00am as we dive into the scripture being used to preach each week. Our first Bible Study will gather on Thursday, September 11th in the Gathering Room. See you then!



## **SEPTEMBER BIRTHDAYS**



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

- |     |                    |     |                     |
|-----|--------------------|-----|---------------------|
| 1.  | Brent Barley       | 23. | Tim Sleeth          |
|     | Kimberly Dilling   | 24. | Beth March          |
| 2.  | Connie Hays        | 25. | Andrew Mickey       |
| 3.  | Susan Knaub        | 26. | Michele Leader      |
|     | Linda Eichelberger | 27. | Shyanne Luckenbaugh |
| 4.  | Anjuli Shane       | 28. | Joan Henry          |
| 5.  | Debra Forbes       |     | Linda King          |
| 6.  | Beverly Troop      | 30. | Lou Ann Jones       |
| 10. | Eric John          |     | Aiden Bowen         |
|     | Orion Valentino-   |     |                     |
|     | Charlton           |     |                     |
|     | Timothy            |     |                     |
|     | Luckenbaugh Jr.    |     |                     |
| 12. | Joyce Horning      |     |                     |
| 14. | Sally Bosley       |     |                     |
|     | Braydon Picking    |     |                     |
| 16. | Mark Enders        |     |                     |
| 18. | Landon Contino     |     |                     |
| 22. | Meagan Bowen       |     |                     |
|     | Bodie Barley       |     |                     |

## **CELEBRATING SEPTEMBER ANNIVERSARIES**

Sept. 12 - Mark and Brenda Enders- 5 years  
Sept. 21 - Jaron and Caitlin Picking- 6 years  
Sept. 22 - Nicholas and Tina Innerst - 18 years  
Sept. 24 - Troy and Jane Picking - 31 years  
Sept. 26 - Mike and Cindy Axe - 27 years

# FINANCIAL REPORT

## Undesignated General Fund

## Red Brick Chapel

## Cemetery

Month-2024	Income	Expense	Income	Expense	Income	Expense
January	\$7,763.00	\$10,980.79	\$3001.83	\$384.30	\$1,127.63	\$0.00
February	\$8,040.00	\$10,783.87	\$2.33	\$492.68	\$257.54	\$427.22
March	\$11,744.00	\$16,632.22	\$2.00	\$686.27	\$305.15	\$3,448.68
April	\$8,612.00	\$8,434.27	\$2.09	\$280.34	\$4.98	\$2,252.05
May	\$11,583.00	\$13,079.42	\$1.97	\$268.26	\$255.40	\$3,012.96
June	\$11,541.00	\$13,404.75	\$2.09	\$403.49	\$203.12	\$3,144.49
July	\$9,360.00	\$11,104.65	\$1.71	\$194.15	\$12.63	\$2,497.50
August						
September						
October						
November						
December						
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$68,643.00</b>	<b>\$84,419.97</b>	<b>\$3014.02</b>	<b>\$2,709.49</b>	<b>\$2,166.45</b>	<b>\$14,782.90</b>

Balance of Undesignated General Fund @ August 1, 2025

(\$12,025.81)

Balance of Red Brick Chapel Fund @ August 1, 2025  
(Includes \$67,982.75 Endowment)

\$76,769.78

Balance of Cemetery Fund @ August 1, 2025  
(Includes \$959,954.40 CD's, Trusts, UCC Foundation)

\$966,096.97

## Financial Assistance Given through Hand of Hope Fund - 2025

	#	Total	Monthly	Available
	Families	\$\$\$	Donations	Balance
Beginning				\$ 542.38
January	4	\$ 225.00	\$ 81.00	\$ 398.38
February	3	\$ 175.00	\$ 87.00	\$ 310.38
March	2	\$ 100.00	\$ 110.00	\$ 320.38
April	4	\$ 200.00	\$ 92.92	\$ 213.30
May	2	\$ 75.00	\$ 84.21	\$ 222.51
June	2	\$ 225.00	\$ 143.19	\$ 140.70
July			\$ 91.81	\$ 232.51
August				
September				
October				
November				
December				
<b>Total</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>\$ 1000.00</b>	<b>\$ 690.13</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 710B  
York View Nursing Home  
970 Colonial Avenue  
York, PA 17403

\*\*\*\*\*



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

**Tech Sergeant Brandon Ness**  
221 E. Catalpa Ct.  
Derby, KS 67037

\*\*\*\*\*

### ***Church Directories***

The 2025 church directories are available on the Welcome Table in the Gathering Room. **Note: There was an error in the cell phone number for Barb Adams. The last digit should be a 5, not a 1.** It has been corrected in the directories still on the table, but if you have already picked yours up, please make the change in your copy.



Our next chicken BBQ will be held on Saturday, September 13, 11:00 AM-1:00 PM. Each dinner includes 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 usually sell out early, so to be guaranteed a dinner, it is best to pre-order. Our last BBQ of the season will be October 11.

We are also planning to set up a bake sale table and would welcome donations of homemade cookies, cupcakes, candy, rice krispie treats, 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.



Would you like to help your church without spending any extra money? You can do this by buying gift cards to use for everyday purchases or as gifts. For every card sold we earn a profit from 1½% all the way to 16%, depending on the merchant. To get your cards, just fill out an order form (available on the table in the Gathering Room) and attach a check or cash. Checks should be made payable to St. John's Blymire's UCC. You may drop the orders in the offering plate, place them on Wanda's desk in the office or mail them to the church. Payment must be included with your order. Orders will be sent to the Great Lakes Scrip Center each Monday morning. You may pick up your gift cards from Sandy Innerst at church the following Sunday. For more information about the program, you may call Wanda at the church office.

### ***KNITTERS/CROCHETERS***

Memorial White Rose Hospice is asking for donations of hand-made scarves and blankets. They are especially in need of items for men. If you would like to participate in this ongoing project, there is a box in the Gathering Room for you to put your donations.



If you haven't checked out the book room lately, stop on by and see what is new. We get donations of books and other items on a continuing basis. With fall coming, gather some reading material or puzzles to keep busy by the fire.



## Ministries in our Community and Around the World

In addition to using the blessings that God has given us to maintain the ongoing ministry at our church, we also have many opportunities to help others beyond our church walls. Below is a list of ministries that our church currently supports. There are baskets on the Welcome Table for you to donate to the funds below. If you would like credit for your donations, please use one of the provided envelopes with your name included. Thank you.

### ***Hand of Hope Fund***

This fund helps both church members and non-members with needs in times of emergency. So far this year we have helped 17 families, giving out \$1000 for food and gas.

### ***DASD Caring and Sharing Fund***

The Dallastown Area School District has a fund called the Caring and Sharing Fund which helps students and their families who have urgent needs for heat, food, clothing, housing (some students and their families are homeless or are living in crowded conditions with other families because of evictions), and other necessities which they are not able to obtain. We as a congregation have decided to contribute to that fund as this is a wonderful way for us to help those in need who are literally in our back yard. During the past year we have given monetary donations of over \$1200 to this cause.

Another way to help is by bringing good, gently used clothing to Community Aid, Queensgate Towne Center, 2001 Springwood Road, York. When you take clothing to Community Aid and mention the Dallastown Area School District, DASD receives a certain amount of money per pound of clothing. That money goes into the Caring and Sharing Fund. If you cannot take the clothing to Community Aid, you may bring the it to church and put it in the designated bin in the Gathering Room. Periodically that clothing will be taken to Community Aid.

### ***Emmanuel's Closet***

This ministry, which was actually started by members of our congregation, has been around for many years. It began as a food and clothing bank for needy families in the area and has had several homes, but is now housed in our church. Because of limited space at this location, the clothing portion has been discontinued. Our church, along with Bethlehem Life, Christ Lutheran, St. Joseph's Catholic, Yoe and Adamsville United Methodist churches, provides the volunteers to keep it running. Since Emmanuel's Closet does not receive any government funding, we rely on donations from the participating churches, individuals, community organizations, businesses, etc. to supply needs.

The Closet is open on the 1st and 3rd Saturdays of each month and serves residents of the Red Lion and Dallastown school districts. Here is a list of items that are currently needed the most: **Cereal, Canned fruit, Bisquick, Syrup, Peanut butter, jelly, Detergent, Cleaning supplies, Shampoo, Toothpaste, Soap, and Deodorant.** Of course, other non-perishable food items, as well as monetary gifts, are always welcome.

**Life Path Christian Ministries** has offered a way for us to dispose of items that we are no longer using and help the clients who come to Emmanuel's Closet at the same time. When you donate clothing, books, toys, household items, furniture, etc. at the Life Path Thrift Store at the Cape Horn shopping center, tell them you are donating for St. John's Blymire's UCC. They will keep track of what is donated and will in turn give us gift cards for the Emmanuel's Closet clients to use in their store. If you have a large amount of donations or pieces of furniture that you are unable to bring yourself, call the store at (717) 229-7300 and they will arrange to come to your house to pick up your items. We recently received \$150 in gift cards through this program.

### ***ASAPH Teaching Ministry***

ASAPH Teaching Ministry in Haiti was started 13 years ago by Andy Stump, a Dallastown native and member of Christ Lutheran Church. Blymire's has been supporting him since the ministry began. Andy visits our church and gives updates on ASAPH at least once or twice a year, most recently this summer. Check out the bulletin board in the hallway or the website: <https://www.asaphteachingministry.com> for more information about this ministry.

### ***AMATSIKO (Hope) 4 Uganda***

A few years ago the Men's Group invited Catherine Stoner to speak to them about a ministry that she was involved with in Uganda. Since that time the Men's Group has been sending yearly donations to them. During a worship service a few weeks ago, Catherine spoke to the congregation, gave an update on this ministry and invited everyone to help with its support. For more information, check out the website: <https://amatsiko4uganda.org>.





## **MEN'S GROUP**

The September 9th Men's Group meeting is open to all members of the church, friends and relatives. The meeting will begin at 7:00 PM. We will host Civil War historian and author Scott Mingus who will talk about the burning of the Wrightsville Bridge. Scott will also have books for sale before and after the program. Refreshments will follow the program.



We will hold our next meeting on Sunday, September 14, from 2:00-4:30 PM. Bring whatever craft project you are currently working on as you enjoy the company of other crafters.



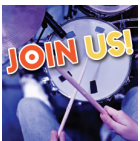
## **CARD and GAME CLUB**



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. September's meeting will be on the 10th.

If you have any questions, please call Janie Montgomery at (717) 891-3607 or Diana Myers at (717) 855-4752.



## **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 Saturday, September 20, at 10:00 AM, 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.

## **MESSY CHURCH**



What is Messy Church? It's church, but not as you know it! Messy Church is a form of Community Outreach for families, friends and neighbors. It involves creativity, celebration and hospitality! It's church for people of any age and at all stages of their faith journey. A meal will be provided. Our next Messy Church gathering will be held on Friday, September 19, 6:00-8:00 PM. The Messy Church team is asking for volunteers to help with crafts and other fun activities. Any questions, see Sharon Stein.



## **CHAIR YOGA**

Are you looking for some gentle, easy exercise? Come check out our Chair Yoga classes! These classes are especially good for beginners. No equipment is necessary. Yoga is one of the most highly recommended forms of exercise for seniors! You can come occasionally, one, two or three times a week. Just come and give it a try! It's easy! Men, this is not for women only! You don't have to be a church member to participate. All are welcome.

Classes are from 10:00-11:00AM Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays here at the church. There is a \$10 fee for each class. Hope to see you there!

## **Women of Wonder**



Who? What? Where? When? We are a group of women who just enjoy each other's company, conversation and compassion...while sharing a message of God's love to each other, our church family, and our community. We read scripture and share devotions. We offer advice, support, and sometimes a shoulder. We laugh together and find joy.

If this sounds like something you or a friend would like to do, please join us. Now that summer is over, we will be moving back to meeting at 11:00 AM on the 4th Saturday of each month. Our next gathering will be September 27. Lunch afterwards is optional. Everyone is welcome. Text or call Ginny (202) 549-4358 for more info.



Silence is not only golden.  
It is seldom misquoted.  
**Bob Monkhouse**



Great occasions for serving God come seldom,  
but little ones surround us daily.  
**St. Francis de Sales**



**September 2025**



"I think joy and sweetness and affection are a spiritual path. We're here to know God, to love and serve God, and to be blown away by the beauty and miracle of nature. You just have to get rid of so much baggage to be light enough to dance, to sing, to play. You don't have time to carry grudges; you don't have time to cling to the need to be right."

**Anne LaMotte**

We are not meant to shape ourselves alone. The Potter sees what we cannot—the beauty, strength, and purpose He is molding within us. With steady hands and infinite love, He works through every trial, every rough edge, and every moment we feel unformed or unworthy.

Even when we don't see the masterpiece He is creating, He never lets go. His hands are always there—guiding, refining, and shaping us into vessels of grace, made to reflect His divine love.

**Youngsung Kim**



"What's wrong, Bubba?" asked the pastor.  
"I need you to pray for my hearing," said Bubba.  
The pastor put his hands on Bubba's ears and prayed. When he was done, he asked,  
"So how's your hearing?"  
"I don't know," said Bubba.  
"It isn't until next Tuesday."



### **SOFT AND SHIELDED** Phiwa Langeni

*You hem me in, behind and before, and lay your hand upon me. - Psalm 139:5*

Armadillos look like tiny tanks, shuffling around in their own built-in armor. They aren't fast, flashy, or loud. They're not trying to prove anything. Just soft creatures wrapped in a hard shell, doing their own thing.

I wonder if God had a little fun making the armadillo. A creature that carries its own paradox, right out in the open. A divine wink, perhaps. A reminder that tenderness and toughness aren't opposites. They are companions.

Both are sacred. Both necessary.

We live in a world that often expects us to choose: be vulnerable or be strong. Be free or be resilient. Be accepted or be guarded.

But the armadillo says, both, please.

Maybe you've learned to build a shell. Maybe it was survival. Maybe it still is. That's not shameful. It's sacred. And still, underneath that armor, there is softness. Curiosity. Longing. Love. God knows all of it. The layers.

The reasons. The stories.

Psalm 139 says we are hemmed in. Not trapped, but held. Not armored, but embraced. Not hidden, but known. Surrounded by a God who sees through the shell and does not flinch at the soft parts.

You don't have to be all exterior. And you don't have to be all heart. You get to be both, wonderfully and beautifully. Like the armadillo, you get to move through this world as a living paradox: protected, beloved, and fully alive.

Wholeness doesn't ask you to choose. It welcomes you as you are.

Prayer

*God of softness and shield, thank you for making us whole, tender, strong, and cautious. Teach us when to curl in, and when to courageously move with grace through the world. Amen.*

Since there is only one of me, does that make me an endangered species or a limited edition?

## TEN THINGS JESUS DIDN'T SAY

"For God was so disgusted with the world and you that he gave his one and only Son."

"I have come to bring you a new religion."

"By this all men will know that you are my disciples, if you have correct theology."

"If anyone would come after me, let him disparage all other religions and their followers."

"You have heard it said, 'Love your neighbor,' which means the people with whom you attend church and who agree with your beliefs."

"In my Father's house there are a limited number of rooms. But no worries, there is plenty of room in Hell."

"The kingdom of God has come!... Well, not exactly. I mean, not completely. Let's face it, the really-real kingdom comes after we die. Hang in there. It won't be long."

"You are the light of the world... well... in a sinful-filthy-scum kind of way."

"Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you a checklist of things to do and not do in order to remain in God's favor."

"For God so loved the world... you know like theoretically... as in, God loves the big 'W'-world. But when it come to you specifically, there are quite a few things that would need to change for God to actually and specifically love... or even like... YOU."

Jim Palmer,



## MAKE YOURSELF AVAILABLE TO SHARE GOD'S LOVE

*"But you are a chosen people, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, God's special possession, that you may declare him who called you out of darkness into his wonderful light." 1 Peter 2:9*

It is good to have a strategy for loving people, whether they are doing great or are in distress.

I'm never quite sure what is going to happen when I pick up my phone, but it's always an invitation to step with God into a new opportunity to love.

One call I got was from a guy who found my number in the back of one of my books. "Hi. Bob?" I said hello and asked how I could be helpful. He replied, "I'm actually calling to help you." Terrific, I thought, I can always use a hand. I was about to say, "Come on over, and let's change the oil in my car." But then he continued, "That's right. You see, I'm Jesus and I have returned."

I pulled the phone away from my ear to check out the call ID, and it said the caller's name was Matt. I wasn't sure what to say about the news of his return. "Welcome back" "Give the Trinity a chest bump for me?"

This guy was sincere, but I'm guessing a little confused.

We are all priests; most of us are men and women of the cloth, without the cloth. We may not be the smartest person in the room and we may not have the perfect answers for everyone, but we can always be the most available.

Bob Goff



On our way to church,  
we asked our  
granddaughter  
why it is important  
to be quiet in church  
She said "Because  
people are sleeping."



Smiling is infectious, You catch it like the flu,  
When someone smiled at me today, I started smiling too.  
I passed around the corner, and someone saw my grin.  
When he smiled I realized, I'd passed it on to him.  
I thought about that smile, then I realized its worth.  
A single smile, just like mine could travel round the earth.  
So, if you feel a smile begin, don't leave it undetected.  
Let's start an epidemic quick, and get the world infected!



Create adorable sheep using graham crackers, marshmallows, and a little imagination!

#### What you need:

- Graham cracker squares
- White frosting or marshmallow fluff
- Mini marshmallows
- Large marshmallows
- Candy eyes or mini chocolate chips
- Black gel icing or mini Oreo cookie

#### What you do:

1. Spread white frosting or marshmallow fluff on each graham cracker square.
2. Stick mini marshmallows all over to make the sheep's wool.
3. Cut a large marshmallow in half and stick it near the top for the head.
4. Add candy eyes and a dot of black gel for the nose. Or use a mini Oreo cookie half for a more defined face.
5. Let kids decorate their sheep however they'd like!



#### Lesson tie-in

Use this treat to remind kids that Jesus is our Good Shepherd.

"I am the good shepherd: the good shepherd giveth his life for the sheep."

John 10:11, KJV

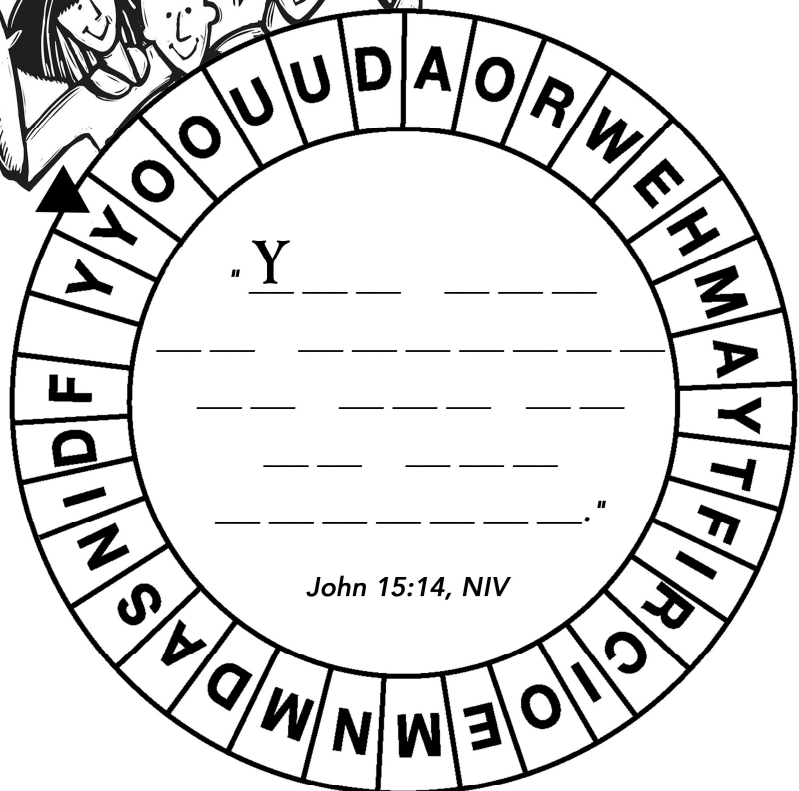


## WHO WERE JESUS' FRIENDS?

Jesus spent a lot of time with his friends. Whom did Jesus consider his friends?



Beginning at the arrow and moving clockwise, write every other letter on the spaces below.



Answer: "You are my friends if you do what I command." John 15:14, NIV