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

May 2019

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## From the Pastor's Desk



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

What a week! As I prepared to write this column the beginning of last week, I had no idea what would lay ahead. I knew that Jay Innerst was not doing well with his battle with health problems. I visited with him Monday afternoon and got home just before three o'clock. As I walked in the house Jeri asked me if I heard the news. I replied "no" what is happening. Well, he didn't need to say what because I saw on the television scenes from the tragic fire at Notre Dame Cathedral. I had never been there in person, but you didn't need to have seen it up close and personal to feel a great sense of loss. And, of course, as network television tends to do, the coverage went on and on. But, there was one image that was telecast that jumped out to me. It was the vision of the glowing cross in the background of charred pews and with smoke from embers wafting in the foreground. When I saw that, I was very moved because the message I received was that no matter how dark our days may be; no matter how tragic the events of our lives may get; no matter what,... we are assured that God is with us ALWAYS— in the good and the bad times as evidenced with the vision of that cross!

About 9:15 that evening I got a call informing me that Jay had passed. As I visited with the family that evening, of course there was sadness and some tears as we would expect. But, because Jay had suffered for a long time with his ongoing health problems, there was also a relief that he would no longer suffer. I reflected on the visits I had shared with Jay and Carolyn and the family over the past years and one thing that connected in my mind is that as Jay faced one thing after another with his health and as he had repeatedly been hospitalized, I feel he saw the glow of the cross of Jesus in his darkest times. He always had a positive attitude and that beloved smile on his face. I only knew Jay for a short time, but he touched my life in such a way that I will cherish forever having known him!

Then, included in this past week was Maundy Thursday and our worship service. This is always a very moving service for me because I realize that Jesus knew how that day would end. He knew that he would be punished. He knew that he would die. I (unfortunately) can somewhat identify with what Judas did since he was more concerned about the things of this world rather than what Jesus showed him and taught him. I will admit, there are times in my life when I find myself in the shoes of Judas and when I put my trust in things rather than in my Lord, I can say that I too betray Jesus. And over the years I have repeatedly said that I fully identify with Peter in that I have my times of great faith when I figuratively say "Even if I must die with you, I will not deny you!"

But, I also have times when I put self before serving my Lord that I figuratively say, "I do not know him!" I usually end up wiping tears during the Maundy Thursday/Good Friday worship times.

And then, Sunday morning when we proclaim - "HE IS RISEN!!!" - the "unexpected" twist to the story. What a joy it is to know in my heart that (here comes another earworm) - "I serve a risen Savior, he's in the world today." It is because - "HE LIVES" and "HE LIVES WITHIN MY HEART!!!"

In the remembrance of the joy of Easter worship is also the hurt of the news of bombings in Sri Lanka. Once again we are brought face to face with the ways of the world in which we live. So many people live by the philosophy of "an eye for an eye,... etc." But, let us live our lives loving one another as Jesus directed us. And, instead of getting even for wrongs done, let us try to forgive. Let us keep in the forefront of our thoughts - WWJD..... What Would Jesus Do? That thought will give our lives a deeper meaning than we could ever imagine!

And, not to slight the beautiful mothers and mother figures of our faith family.... HAPPY MOTHER'S DAY!

God Bless you ALL!

With love - Pastor Lou Ann



## SPECIAL SERVICES in MAY

May 5 - Easter 3

Gospel: John 21:1-19 Sermon: "Famine to Feast"

May 12- Easter 4

Gospel: John 10:22-30

Sermon: "God and Jesus Are One"

May 19– Easter 5 - Graduate Recognition

Gospel: John 13:31-35

Sermon: "A New Commandment"

May 26 - Easter 6 - Memorial Day Observance

Gospel: John 14:23-29

Sermon: "Home With the Father"

## **MERCY ME STUDY**

What are the messages that Bart Millard's band, Mercy Me ("I Can Only Imagine") are conveying? What do the lyrics mean? This writer has been obsessed with their songs since attending the Mercy Me concert in 2018 in York and has a desire to share thoughts, insights and experiences with others. Together we will have fun listening to the music, discovering how the lyrics are connected to Scripture, and how the lyrics speak to us about our life's journey. Featured songs will include: "I Can Only Imagine" "Greater" "Flawless" "Even If" "Lifer" "Shake" "Grace Got You" . . .

If this sounds fun and you have a desire to listen to and explore the messages behind Mercy Me songs, then please join us each Sunday morning from April 28-May 26, 10:30-11:30. Bring your knitting! Bring your friends! Bring your children! There will be coffee, tea and snacks and maybe even some dancing—as the Spirit moves you! **ALL AGES ARE WELCOME!** 

Any questions, call Ginny Weber at (717) 246-9027.

## **SCHEDULE OF DUTIES for MAY**

#### **GREETERS:**

May 5 - Nancy Taylor

May 12 - Steph Frey & Randi John

May 19 - Carl & Sharon Criswell

May 26 - To be announced

#### **GIFT COLLECTORS:**

May 5 - David & Susan McDowell

May 12 - Annie Cowher

May 19 - Rod & Linda Eichelberger

May 26 - Matt & Randi John

#### LAY READERS:

May 5 - Hannah Marshall

May 12 - Janie Montgomery

May 19 - Tim Sleeth

May 26 - Joel Frey

#### **ACOLYTES:**

May 5 - David & Susan McDowell

May 12 - Barb Adams

May 19 - Nelson & Marti Leader

May 26 - Greg & Sonja Ness

#### **COFFEE SOCIAL HOSTS:**

May 5 - To be announced

May 12 - To be announced

May 19 - To be announced

May 26 - To be announced

#### **SOUND SYSTEM OPERATORS:**

May 5 -

May 12 - Ed Adams

May 19 - Eli Matthews

May 26 - Greg Ness

#### **LIGHTING OPERATORS:**

May 5 - Joel Frey

May 12 - Greg Ness

May 19 - Greg Ness

May 26 - Sterling Boyd

### **CAMERA OPERATORS:**

May 5 - Greg Ness

May 12 - John Sterling

May 19 - Greg Ness

May 26 -

#### **VIDEO OPERATORS:**

May 5 - Sydney Brown

May 12 - Jeri Jones

May 19 - Judy Bishop

May 26 - Nelson Leader

**ALTAR GUILD:** Jean McDowell & Barb Adams **DEADLINE FOR JUNE NEWSLETTER:** May 15

## MAY BIRTHDAYS



## May God Bless You On Your Birthday!

- 3. Brenda Kerchner 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**
- **Brad Leader** 17.
- 18. **Douglas Leader**
- 19. Freda Berry
- 20. Lonnie Barnhart
- 24. **Jovce 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 - 11 years

May 9 - Tim and Donna Sleeth - 10 years

May 10 - Bob and Wanda Strickler - 44 years

May 10 - Michael and Heather Matthews - 22 years

May 12 - Greg and Connie Hays - 18 years

May 13 - Matthew and Randi John - 13 years

May 22 - Brad and Michele Leader - 20 years

### FINANCIAL REPORT

### Undesignated General Fund

Red Brick Chapel

Cemetery

Month-2019	Income	Expense	Income	Expense	Income	Expense
January	\$10,497.09	\$9,547.51	\$0.41	\$304.33	\$923.15	\$1,053.87
February	\$9,667.09	\$9,824.01	\$0.36	\$483.40	\$241.82	\$1,553.75
March	\$8,387.08	\$12,838.53	\$0.40	\$453.34	\$0.01	\$1,243.18
April						
May						
June						
July						
August						
September						
October						
November						
December						
Total	\$28,551.26	\$32,210.05	\$1.17	\$1,241.07	\$1,164.98	\$3,850.80

Balance of Undesignated General Fund @ April 1, 2019

(\$4,127.91)

Balance of Red Brick Chapel Fund @ April 1, 2019

(Includes \$48,630.76 Endowment)

\$71,731.43

Balance of Cemetery Fund @ April 1, 2019 (Includes \$778,817.87 CD's, Trusts, UCC Foundation-in April transferred \$9000 from the UCC Foundation to BB & T Bank)

\$788,215.88

## Financial Assistance Given through Hand of Hope Fund - 2019

				_			-	
	#		Total		Monthly		Available	
	<b>Families</b>		\$\$\$	D	onations	В	alance	
Beginning						\$	253.90	
January				\$	78.55	\$	332.45	
February	1	\$	25.00	\$	70.20	\$	377.65	
March	1	\$	25.00	\$	62.75	\$	415.40	
April								
May								
June								
July								
August								
September								
October								
November								
December								

## REMEMBER OUR SHUT-INS

Freda Berry

The Haven at Springwood 2321 Freedom Way York, PA 17402 717-718-3615

Doris Harper

Arlington Court, Room 121 **Senior Commons** @ Powder Mill 1775 Powder Mill Rd York, PA 17403

**Emerson Knaper** 855 New School Lane Dallastown, PA 17313

717-244-5003



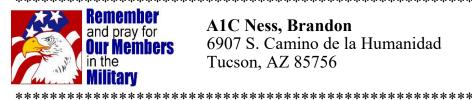
Peggy Luckenbaugh

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

> **Jovce Shenberger** 2105 Knob Hill Road Apartment 213 York, PA 17403

> > 717-845-3162 Linda Trone

Room 700 Colonial Manor Nursing Home 970 Colonial Avenue York, PA 17403



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

## **DALLASTOWN ELEMENTARY FOOD** BACKPACK PROJECT

The Dallastown-Yoe Ministerium continues working with the Dallastown schools to prepare backpacks to send home with needy students each Friday. These backpacks contain food items that can be eaten at home over the weekend. They are currently in need of the following items: Regular sized (12 oz) boxes of cereal, boxed mac and cheese, applesauce cups, cracker packs, and peanut butter. Donations may be placed in the designated shopping carts in the Gathering Room.

> ... to everyone who helped prepare the chicken barbeque on April 13 and to all those who bought chicken dinners. Also to those who made and bought desserts to help raise money for the Faith Kidz.

.. to **Barb Marshall** for organizing the All Church Easter Party and to everyone who helped with it and donated food. Special thanks to Joel Frey for making the bacon. Many thanks also to **Diana Myers** for keeping the children occupied with crafts and the **Bunny Helpers** for hiding the eggs.

- . . . to everyone who wore their "Easter bonnets" on Easter morning. It helped to make our worship service more colorful.
- ... to the Men's Group, Sisters of Service, Faith Kidz, Fun Team and several individuals who donated hams on our "Ham It Up" Sunday. Altogether we donated 47 hams to the York Food Bank.

## MEN'S GROUP

Blymire's on Tuesday, May 14, at 7:00 PM at the church. Bring a friend to the meeting. As always we have an open discussion on joys and concerns. Those attending the meeting please bring information on potential guest speakers for future meetings. Come join us for a time of sharing. REMEMBER ALL MEN ARE WELCOME.

Our Women's Book Club will hold their next meetings on Tuesday, May 14, and Tuesday, May 28, at 10:00 AM in the Gathering Room. And . . . just like the Book Club in Mary Ann Shaffer's novel, The Guernsey Literary and Potato Peel Pie



Guernsey Literary and Potato Peel Pie Society, we are reading our own book choices and discussing them with the group. New members are always welcome.



You are invited to join us here at the church on Saturday, May 18, at 6:30 PM for a variety of desserts, followed by a showing of the movie *Mary Poppins Returns*. Popcorn will also be available during the movie. Invite your friends and family for a fun night out. If you plan to attend, please sign up on the sheet in the Gathering Room so we know how much food to prepare.

## NATIONAL DAY OF PRAYER SERVICE

You are invited to join with other churches in the Dallastown/Yoe Ministerium for a Community National Day of Prayer Service to be held at St. Paul's UCC, 205 West Main St, Dallastown, on Thursday, May 2, at 6:30 PM.

### SISTERS OF SERVICE

We will be holding our next meeting on Monday, May 20, at 6:30 PM at the church. Donna Hartley will lead the devotions and Linda Eichelberger will provide refreshments.

PLEASE JOIN US!





Faith Kidz will be meeting at 6:30 PM on May 8 and May 22. We will celebrate this last meeting of the year with a pizza party.

#### **BOOK FAIR**

From May 1-May 12, we will be selling all books for \$1.00 a bag. If you had your eye on some books and haven't yet purchased them, now is the time. After May 12, the remainder of the books will be donated to the Kaltreider Benfer Library in Red Lion and to Emmanuel's Closet



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

Name	
Phone Number	
Number of Dinners	x \$8.00 =

## EMMANUEL'S CLOSET May 2019



### **Easter Project**

We would like to thank everyone who gave donations for our extra Easter holiday food

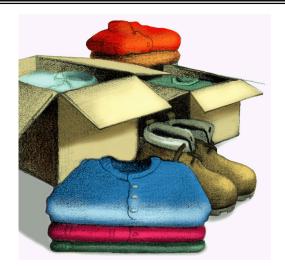
bags. They were given out on April 6 and April 13.

## **Cartridge Recycling**

Don't forget to bring in your empty printer cartridges and place them in the box above the coat rack in the hallway. Thank you for your support of this project which will not only raise money for those in need, but also help to keep our planet "green."

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

Icing
Canned fruit
Tuna Helper
Canned sweet potatoes
Bagged macaroni
Canned carrots
Hot cocoa
Instant vanilla/chocolate pudding
Shampoo
Children's Books



### **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

Paper Towels
Dish Washing Liquid
Laundry Detergent
All-Purpose Cleaners
Children's books/toys
Small household items

## Please, NO Expired Food Items

We are now accepting spring and summer clothing. They should be clean, in good repair and unstained.



THANKS FOR CARING!



## THE MEANEST MOTHER IN THE WORLD

We had the meanest mother in the whole world! While other kids ate candy for breakfast, we had to have cereal, eggs, and toast. When others

had a Pepsi and a Twinkie for lunch, we had to eat sandwiches And you can guess our mother fixed us a dinner that was different than other kids had too.

Mother insisted on knowing where we were at all times. You would think we were convicts in a prison. She had to know who our friends were, and what we were doing with them. She insisted that if we said we would be gone for an hour, we would be gone for an hour or less. We were ashamed to admit it, but she had the nerve to break the child Labor Laws by making us work. We had to wash the dishes, make the beds, learn to cook, vacuum the floor, do laundry, and all sorts of cruel jobs. I think she would lay awake at night thinking of more things for us to do.

She always insisted on us telling the truth the whole truth, and nothing but the truth. By the time we were teenagers, she could read our minds, and life was really tough. She wouldn't let our friends just honk the horn when they drove up. They had to come up to the door so she could meet them. While everyone else could date when they were 12 or 13, we had to wait until we were 16. Because of our mother we missed out on lots of things other kids experienced. None of us have ever been caught shoplifting, vandalizing others property, or ever arrested for any crime. It was all her fault. We never got drunk, took up smoking, stayed out all night, or a million other things other kids did. Sundays were reserved for church, and we never missed once. We knew better than to ask to spend the night with a friend on Saturdays. Now that we have left home, we are all Godfearing, educated, honest adults. We are doing our best to be mean parents just like our mom was. The world just doesn't have enough mean moms anymore. Steve Heese

"An ounce of mother is worth a ton of priest."

## Healing Hearts Inspirations

May 2019



#### THE 23RD PSALM MOM

My mom is my shepherd; I shall not want. She makes me lie down under cool, downy comforts. She watches me play beside still waters. She restores my soul.

She leads me in paths of respect, responsibility, and goodness, for I am her namesake!

Yea, even though I walk past monsters in the dark, I will not be scared, because my mom is always near me. Her hands and her voice, they comfort me.

Mama sets the table and cheerfully calls me to dinner even in front of big, mean bullies.

She anoints my skinned knees and broken heart with kisses. She smiles and throws me a towel when my cup runneth over.

Surely God's peace, power, and mercy shall uphold me all the days of my life, for my Mother taught me to dwell in the house of God forever.

Unknown



"Motherhood is full of frustrations and challenges... but eventually they move out." - Unknown
The mother of three notoriously unruly youngsters was asked whether or not she'd have children if she had it to do over again. "Yes," she replied. "But not the same ones." - David Finkelstein

A little boy forgot his lines in a Sunday school presentation. His mother was in the front row to prompt him. She gestured and formed the words silently with her lips, but it did not help. Her son's memory was blank. Finally, she leaned forward and whispered the cue, "I am the light of the world." The child beamed and with great feeling and a loud clear voice said, "My mother is the light of the world." - Bits and Pieces, August, 1989

A teacher gave her class of second graders a lesson on the magnet and what it does. The next day in a written test, she included this question: "My full name has six letters. The first one is M. I pick up things. What am I?" When the test papers were turned in, the teacher was astonished to find that almost 50 percent of the students answered the question with the word Mother. - Unknown

Magic exists. Who can doubt it, when there are rainbows and wildflowers, the music of the wind and the silence of the stars? Anyone who has loved has been touched by magic. It is such a simple and such an extraordinary part of the lives we live.

Nora Roberts







#### GOD MADE ONE VERSION OF YOU

Da Vinci painted one Mona Lisa. Beethoven composed one Fifth Symphony. And God made one version of you! God custom-designed you for a one-of-a-kind assignment—"to each according to each one's unique ability"

(Matthew 25:15).

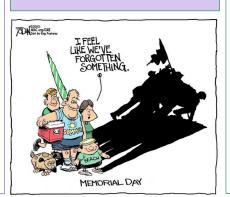
"The Spirit has given each of us a special way of serving others" (1 Corinthians 12:7). Did the apostle Paul say, The Spirit has given some of us?...or a few of us? No! "The Spirit has given each of us a special way of serving others."

You don't have to do everything! You are not God's solution to society, but you are a solution in society. Don't worry about the skills you don't have. Don't covet the strengths others do have. Just extract your uniqueness—to God's glory!

Normal day, let me be aware of the treasure you are. Let me learn from you, love you, bless you before you depart. Let me not pass you by in quest of some rare and perfect tomorrow. Let me hold you while I may, for it may not always be so. One day I shall dig my nails into the earth, or bury my face into the pillow, or stretch myself taut, or raise my hands to the sky and want, more than all the world, your return.

Mary Jean Iron

I bet you could do something for someone today, who'd remember it for the rest of their life.



#### FREEDOM IN AMERICA

Freedom in America Isn't really free; We often pay a price To keep our liberty.

Remember those we loved, Who fought for us, and died; And those we never knew For whom others mourned and cried.

At home our "war" for freedom
Is sadly overdue;
We've let corruption stage
A sad and grievous coup.

No longer can we brush off Dishonesty and greed, Lust for wealth and power; We can't, we won't concede.

Complacency is weakness Patriots can't afford; We have to act on wrongs That cannot be ignored.

We must give up some time, Spent on other pleasures, To restore America's freedom, To keep America's treasures.

Freedom in America
Isn't really free
It's up to American patriots;
It's up to you and me.

Joanna Fuchs

In this noisy, restless, bewildering age, there is a great need for quietness of spirit. Even in our communion with God we are so busy presenting our problems, asking for help, seeking relief that we leave no moments of silence to listen for God's answers. By practice we can learn to submerge our spirits beneath the turbulent surface waves of life and reach that depth of our being where all is still, where no storms can reach us. Here only can we forget the material world and its demands on us.

Alice Hegan Rice

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

WHAT A GREAT TIME WE HAD AT THE EASTER PARTY!!! Most people don't know this, but Mire, myself and all our little ones enjoyed dumpster diving to get some of the food that was shared during the Brunch! YUM! YUM! YUM! You people are THEE best cooks ever!!! And, I heard many people comment as they came into church that morning that the smell of bacon cooking made their mouth water.... except for Barb Marshall. Many THANKS to everyone who shared in the brunch on Palm Sunday. THANK YOU to DIANA MYERS for preparing a craft for the children while the eggs

were hidden.... in the church because of the drizzly weather! But the kiddos had a great time! I think the Bunny Helpers had as much fun hiding the eggs. And, I gained a new understanding of personality traits.... The adults hunting their eggs were more fierce than the children! But, as I said.... A great time was had by all. THANK YOU to everyone who donated candy; who helped fill the eggs; and to BARB MARSHALL for all she did!

I will share with you too that my tummy feels so yummy!!! I had one of the chicken dinners from the Bar-B-Q.....W - O - W!!! They are THEE best in the area!!! I heard that the dinners were sold out by 11:30. I can understand because Mire and I were so ready for the bar-b-q to happen again. I heard the men talking about the work they are going to do on the pit on the 27th. I would offer to help, but being as small as I am, I can't lift any blocks or do heavy lifting. So, I will simply say... THANK YOU MEN'S GROUP!!!

I also have enjoyed having the book nook in the Sunday School room. I frequently explored the offerings back there. I did hear at S.O.S. this month that you will be able to buy a bag of books for one dollar. WOO-HOO!!!! I am going to stock up! I will admit that if you get some books that have little mice paw prints on some of the pages, I was munching some candy and didn't realize my teeny-toes were messy. OOPS - my bad!

May's humor: Question: What goes Ha, Ha, Ha, PLOP?
Answer: Someone who laughs his head off!

Bible humor: A father was reading Bible stories to his young son. He read, "The man named Lot was warned to take his wife and flee out of the city, but his wife looked back and was turned to salt."

His son asked, "What happened to the flea?"

With our love,

Your faith-friends, BLY and MIRE and family!



P.S. - HAPPY MOTHER'S DAY and HAPPY MOTHER "FIGURE" DAY!!!

LOVE YOU ALL!!!

From the Church

Mouse

# HEART-SHAPED breakfast

Treat Mom with this yummy, beautiful yogurt parfait.

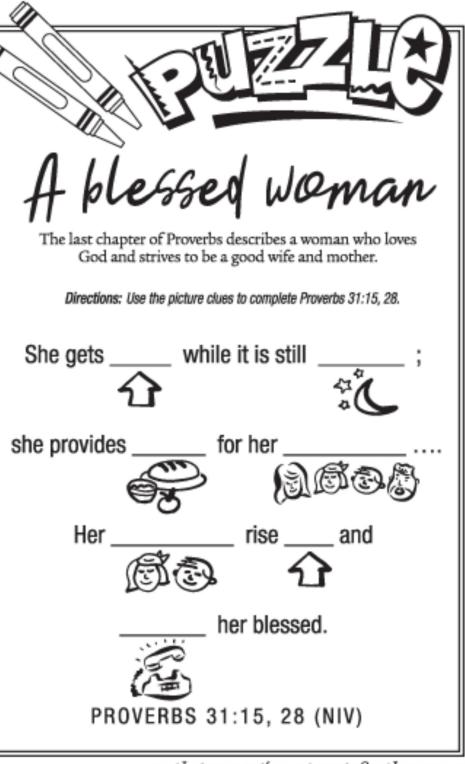


#### What you need:

- Large heart-shaped cookie cutter
- Greek yogurt (any flavor)
- Toppings (mini chocolate chips, granola, shredded coconut, chia seeds, oats, slivered almonds, blueberries, sliced strawberries, raspberries, bananas)
- 2 teaspoons maple syrup

#### What you do:

- Place cookie cutter on a plate. Spoon in yogurt, spreading it to the edges of the cookie cutter.
- Add toppings, making a nice design. Remove cookie cutter.
- Drizzle syrup around the edge of the plate.
- Serve to your mom on Mother's Day!



Answer: up, night, food, family, children, up, call