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From the Pastor's Desk

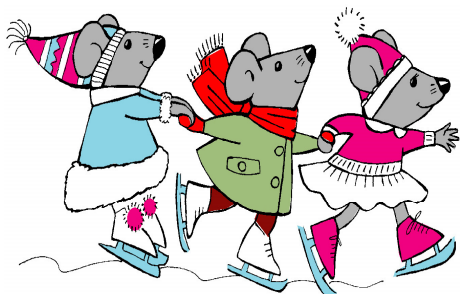


Greetings to you and peace from God our Father, and our Lord Jesus Christ.

HAPPY NEW YEAR!!! As you read this message, I don't know if our calendar has been changed already or not. But, even though we change from 2020 to 2021, we will still be facing the effects of the pandemic. It is hard to say how long through this year we will have to minimize our activities in order to avoid close social settings. I have heard some "experts" say that once we have enough people vaccinated, we will have COVID on the run. Some have offered their opinion that this could happen by late spring. Others have said that we will have this same effect of COVID through the end of 2021. Who do we believe? Most likely, we will believe any expert who will say what we want to hear but then, do we have the truth about the pandemic or not? A dilemma that we face with many of our life experiences is that we hear people offering information on both sides of any issue and both claim to be telling the truth. How do we know who to believe? I think this question is causing a number of us to just shake our heads as we struggle with determining what is true.

One thing we can be sure of is that the Word of God never changes. We affirm that Jesus taught us the truth about God's Word and he clarified for his people the ways in which the Word of God had been misconstrued over the years before he came to earth. Just as today we have people who give opposite opinions about many issues and situations we face, in Jesus' day, there also were people offering opposing opinions in regards to the coming of God's promised one, etc.

I have always been inclined to emphasize seeking God's direction whenever we face a situation in which we need to make a decision. When I need direction to face whatever the situation may be, in prayer I will ask God to guide me. I ask God to show me which way to go. I ask God to open my eyes (and my heart) to His way. I ask God to nudge me to the path which follows His Word. Now, I would hope that I could say I have always abided by understanding God's will and choosing that pathway in life, but I would not be totally truthful if I said that. Many times in my life, I have not listened to God and have not chosen to walk the path He has placed before me. And, I will admit that the many times I have put self before God has more often than not ended up that I got into disputes, or in trouble, or in deep anger. My life took on a very unsettling, dark, bitter tone. But, if I listened to God and chose to walk the path God has revealed to me my life was bright, beautiful, happy and peaceful.



January

So, as we look to begin a second year with the ravages of COVID 19 all around us, let us first of all pray to God that He is in control and hopefully many more people will call upon His name for guidance and resolution of this pandemic. And, no matter how many times we hear experts say the absolute opposite of what another expert says, let us ask God to reveal to us HIS truth! As we hear so many people say “follow the science” I say, first of all, seek God and follow God and He will reveal what is the truth to what we are being told.

I truly do wish all a HAPPY NEW YEAR filled with love, peace and health!!!

God Bless us ALL! God guide us all!!! With love - Pastor Lou Ann



SPECIAL SERVICES in JANUARY

January 3 - Epiphany Sunday

Gospel: Matthew 2:1-12

Sermon: "Follow the Light"

January 10 - Epiphany 1 - Baptism of Christ

Gospel: Mark 1:4-11

Sermon: "Two Types of Baptism"

January 17- Epiphany 2

Gospel: John 1:43-51

Sermon: "Come and See"

January 24 - Epiphany 3

Gospel: Mark 1:14-20

Sermon: "Following Jesus"

January 31 - Epiphany 4

Gospel: Mark 1:21-28

Sermon: "What Is This?"



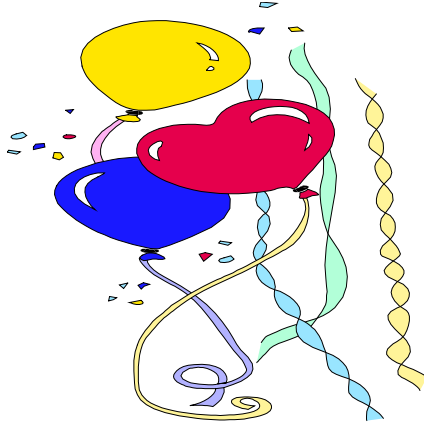
Our annual Town Meeting to discuss and approve the budget and members of the Coordinating Ministry Team for 2021 has been rescheduled from January 3 to January 17. It will be held immediately following the morning worship service.



Our offering envelopes for 2021 have arrived. Anyone who used envelopes last year will automatically be given them again this year. If you received envelopes for 2020, but don't wish to use them in 2021, please call the church office. Likewise, call the office if you did not use envelopes in 2020, but would like some for 2021.

Using offering envelopes helps to ensure the privacy of your donations and also makes it easier for us to keep track of what you have given for tax purposes. Envelopes may now be picked up from the Welcome Table in the Gathering Room. Thank you.

JANUARY
BIRTHDAYS



*May God
Bless You on
Your
Birthday!*

1. Jared Miller
Todd Miller
Derek Troop
2. Chet Wise
3. Keith Markey
Delores Noll
4. Tracey Dilling
John Sterling
7. Nicholas Innerst
Morgan Keller
8. Nancy Myers
9. Paige Barley
11. Damion Albright
Steven Knickel
12. Tina Leader
13. Hannah Leader
14. Benjamin Barley
John Herbst
16. Brooks Barley
18. Silvia Knickel
20. Rick Sipe
21. Ed Adams
Gwen Wise
26. Cindie McKinsey
Renne Myers

REMEMBER OUR SHUT-INS

Freda Berry
The Haven at Springwood
2321 Freedom Way
York, PA 17402

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



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

Keeping in our prayers
Dolores Barley
Nancy Taylor
Friends battling cancer
Covid 19 patients



Remember
and pray for
Our Members
in the
Military

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

2020 Church Improvements

2020 was a remarkably busy year for making improvements within our church despite the COVID-19 issue. Many thanks go out to all our members who contributed either by completing the task or making a financial contribution to aid in the upgrade of our facilities. Thanks to all.

Indoors

1. Installation of a new broader reaching fire/smoke alarm system throughout the church building.
2. CO2 detectors in kitchen area.
3. Began the conversion of fluorescent to LED lighting in the rear entrance hall.
4. Installed new more decorative LED lighting in Nursery and Ladies rest rooms.
5. Refinished windowsills in Gathering Room and installed new curtains.
6. Cleaned seat cushions in sanctuary and carpet throughout church.
7. Installed under cabinet lighting in Pastor's office.

Outdoors

1. Power washed, sealed east wall and windows of Christian Ed. wing.
2. Installed underground piping to channel roof runoff from Christian Ed. Wing.
3. Planted flowering and evergreen bushes along east and north sides of Christian Ed Wing.
4. Mulched beds with multicolored river pebble.
5. Painted column at rear entrance of church.
6. Installed underground drainage pipe at pavilion to prevent mud from washing onto pavilion floor.
7. Installed locking mailbox.

Red Brick Church

1. Installed drainage pit to receive and control roof runoff on south half of roof.

Your Trustees, *Joan, Charlie, and Joel*

FINANCIAL REPORT

Undesignated General Fund

Red Brick Chapel

Cemetery

Month-2020	Income	Expense	Income	Expense	Income	Expense
January	\$9,741.85	\$12,109.48	\$0.35	\$269.82	\$812.70	\$1,291.80
February	\$14,597.12	\$13,351.53	\$1.68	\$274.10	\$1,142.27	\$0.00
March	\$8,721.22	\$11,240.07	\$3.39	\$435.00	\$101.14	\$211.30
April	\$11,764.11	\$8,301.79	\$1.32	\$191.93	\$0.44	\$0.00
May	\$13,058.86	\$10,042.83	\$0.80	\$160.11	\$100.25	\$1,930.00
June	\$12,515.15	\$19,338.81	\$0.85	\$314.46	\$200.18	\$2,326.30
July	\$9,101.78	\$10,003.38	\$125.76	\$98.76	\$7.22	\$2,595.00
August	\$9,954.50	\$9,408.12	\$0.81	\$109.26	\$0.37	\$1,535.00
September	\$9,302.80	\$12,765.74	\$0.81	\$346.94	\$100.30	\$2,286.30
October	\$9,060.00	\$9,237.58	\$0.80	\$227.35	\$1,700.20	\$2,500.00
November	\$10,283.39	\$9,592.58	\$0.87	\$94.31	\$1,100.15	\$965.00
December						
Total	\$118,100.78	\$125,391.91	\$137.44	\$2,522.04	\$5,265.22	\$15,640.70

Balance of Undesignated General Fund @December 1, 2020 (\$1,891.63)

Balance of Red Brick Chapel Fund @ December 1, 2020
(Includes \$54,814.70 Endowment) \$73,213.84

Balance of Cemetery Fund @ December 1, 2020
(Includes \$833,695.45 CD's, Trusts, UCC Foundation) \$828,338.76

Financial Assistance Given through Hand of Hope Fund - 2020

	#	Total	Monthly	Available
	Families	\$\$\$	Donations	Balance
Beginning				\$ 437.45
January			\$ 69.87	\$ 507.32
February	1	\$ 25.00	\$ 86.47	\$ 568.79
March	2	\$ 75.00	\$ 70.00	\$ 563.79
April	3	\$ 175.00	\$ 90.00	\$ 478.79
May	2	\$ 1700.00	\$ 1900.00	\$ 678.79
June	2	\$ 310.75	\$ 725.00	\$ 1093.04
July	2	\$ 575.00	\$ 140.00	\$ 658.04
August			\$ 29.00	\$ 687.04
September	1	\$ 50.00	\$ 60.50	\$ 697.54
October	1	\$ 50.00	\$ 71.15	\$ 718.69
November	2	\$ 50.00	\$ 33.04	\$ 701.73
December				
Total	16	\$ 3010.75	\$ 3275.03	

In lieu of Women's Sunday, I will be sharing 7 short articles about Rhythms of Life, from the Fall 2020 Magnolia Magazine. The articles speak to the "unrhythmic" times we are facing now. Marti Leader gave me the "Rhythm" articles and asked if I could think of some way to share them with you. She said, "The articles seem so appropriate for us now. We need them." So... one article a week will appear in the church bulletin as an insert, as well as in the Newsletters. I hope you will read them during the quiet time in preparation for worship, or at home during your own quiet time. Thank you, Marti (Ginny Weber)

ARTICLE 2: Time For New Rhythms by Chip Gaines

I'm finding it strange to be talking about rhythm seeing as how, over these past few months, just about every ounce of rhythm that I've ever known has been disrupted.

A global pandemic swept over us, and life as we knew it was thrown completely off-kilter. I know its effects were and will be different for everyone—varying levels of difficulty and devastation. For some, "difficulty and devastation" is an understatement. But, I couldn't imagine us coming out on the other side and not being made stronger because of it, not taking better care of our communities because of it, not realizing what actually matters.

And then my eyes were opened yet again, to the racial injustices that *still* plague our country today. I've spent the past few months listening and trying to sort it all out--- overwhelmed at all the things I don't understand. Overwhelmed by how far we've still got to go. Overwhelmed by how far I've still got to go. I don't have answers. I'm still listening. All I know is this: I must do better. We must do better.

I don't have a quippy punch line or anything cute to say. I don't know what the rhythms of your life looked like before all of this or what they might look like now, but I hope that, as we work to create new ones, we prioritize the things of life that are good and beautiful. Because when everything changes and the world stops and we're forced to look at ourselves, we can't help but take stock of what actually matters, of the bits and pieces of our daily rhythms that are worth fighting for and so many that need to be forgotten. We see the importance of slowing down and taking care of ourselves and of our neighbors and the world around us.

I can't pretend to know how all of this will play out, but I do know this: When a rhythm is disrupted and displaced, another one fills its place. It's how the world works. This time, let's embrace the rhythms of understanding, the rhythms of justice, the rhythms of hope and the rhythms of love.

EMMANUEL'S CLOSET

January 2021



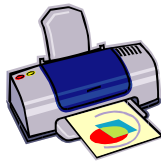
Christmas Project

We would again like to thank everyone who contributed money to buy gift cards for 80 children and teens at Emmanuel's Closet. This may have been the only gift some of those children received for Christmas. They were distributed on December 12th and 19th.

On those same days we gave out grocery gift cards for perishable food to 54 families to help provide them with a special Christmas dinner. Each family with children was also given a gingerbread house kit to put together and decorate as a family. Thank you to everyone who donated food or extra funds to help buy them.

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:

Dinner kits (pizza, taco, etc.)
Frosting (assorted flavors besides chocolate please)
Jelly, jam, preserves
Cereal
Gravy
Rice
Poptarts
Sloppy Joe mix
Stuffing
Soap
Shampoo
Toilet paper
Paper towels
Detergent
Cleaning supplies

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

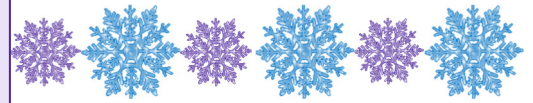
Our clothing and household room remains closed until further notice. Hopefully, we will be able to re-open again later in 2021.



THANKS FOR CARING!



January 2021



HAPPY NEW YEAR!

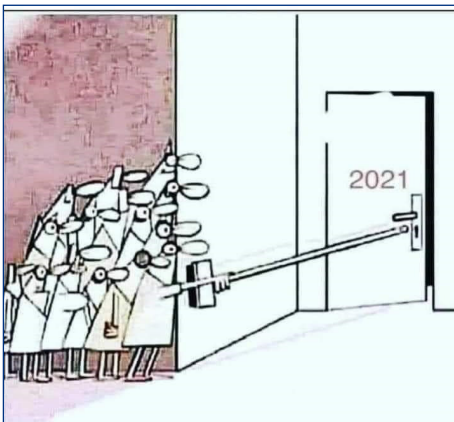
In an increasingly uncertain and uncomfortable world, it helps to know that there are still soft blankets and warm mugs and kind friends and good people—so many really good-hearted people who want the future to be better. If nothing else, take hope in that.

Nanea Hoffman

THE WORK OF CHRISTMAS

When the song of the angels
is stilled,
When the star in the sky is gone,
When the kings and princes
are home,
When the shepherds are back
with their flock,
The work of Christmas begins:
To find the lost,
To heal the broken,
To feed the hungry,
To release the prisoner,
To rebuild the nations,
To bring peace among people,
To make music in the heart.

Howard Thurman



EVENING PRAYER ON A SNOWY DAY

So busy are we about so many trivial things... Perhaps that's why you spent the late afternoon blanketing us with snow, slowing our steps, hitting our *pause* button and grinding us to a halt. I needed that, Lord. I needed to be inconvenienced, interrupted, slowed down- *stopped* -by the pure, soft beauty of your presence, settling gently, flake by flake; dressing me and my world in a garment of pure grace..



Let your snow fall upon my upturned face, Lord: as a child catches snow flakes on the tongue let me taste the sweetness of your advent...

Am I too old, Lord, for making angels in the snow?

Then send a snowy angel to make of me what you will...

Even as the snow chills my limbs let your touch melt my heart and draw me inside to where the fire of your love burns for me always, crackling, bright and warm... Remind me, Lord, of those who are burdened by the weather and empty my purse and pockets in support of those who serve and shelter them...

Later, Lord, the snow will slow and stop and our pace will quicken once again ... Even then, keep us mindful of these moments when the blanket of your presence stills and warms our hearts close to you.

Amen.

A NEW YEAR-A FRESH START We have the choice of how we're going to enter this year, how we're going to approach it, how we're going to act during it. The year will do its share--it has plenty to give us, plenty to make available to us, plenty of wonder and magic all around for each one of us. The question, I suppose, is whether or not we're going to take advantage of what the year has to offer.

This year, I'm going to have opportunities to talk to many extremely nice people, people who have interesting things to teach me if I'll take the chance to learn. I'm going to pass by some very beautiful trees and flowers, and I'll have the chance to see some beautiful landscapes. I'll also have the chance to see some fascinating architecture and some very unique buildings, not to mention the great books and pictures and pieces of art that are available to me whenever I want to look at them.

There's always a bit of magic waiting in every new year. It's kind of like the prizes in cereal boxes, though--if we don't look for them and seek them out, they stay there in the box, unused, unnoticed, unappreciated. What are you going to do with the magic that's in your new year?

Tom Walsh

WHERE LOVE FINDS US, IT WILL LEAD US

When my friend Alice started following Jesus, she had no idea the path would lead her to a position of leadership at a company with thousands of employees. But she took her faith into her leadership role, and now she tries to make all her employees feel loved and wanted at work. A lot of these people would never go to church, but they get to see Jesus every day because they see how Alice treats everyone around her. The same can be true for all of us, no matter what role we find ourselves in.

Following Jesus looks different for each of us. A lot of people think they'll have to move across the world to become a missionary or start homeschooling their kids if they get serious about following Jesus. But He didn't create us to fit into molds that would have us all turn out the same. He created us with special gifts and passions that are uniquely suited to meet different needs in the world. We don't need to compare different paths to decide which one's right, because God already said He wants us on the ones that lead to Him.

Don't let the path of other people's lives make you second-guess your own. There are millions of people, from all walks of life, who God wants to meet with His message of love. If you take Jesus to the people around you, and I take His love to the ones around me, we'll cover a lot more ground.

Bob Goff

MAY YOU HAVE AN INCREDIBLY AVERAGE DAY AND MAY YOU ABSOLUTELY LOVE IT IN IT'S AVERAGE'NESS!

In a culture obsessed with "more" and "bigger" and "better", I wish you an incredibly average day and I hope that you LOVE IT! Practice loving what you have, for this breath, this moment with your loved one, this moment at your job, this moment of seeing the colors of the sky and hearing the sounds of music where your body can't help but dance, where you use the can and everything comes out smoothly enough and you hear a joke that makes you laugh and you hug your child or snuggle your puppy..... that there is life; that there is love; that there is Grace. I wish you, the most incredibly average day, so much so that you'll forget the idea of "average" and simply live your day loving what you have, without the feeling that you "should be" doing more, making more, having more, being better than, but simply living being drawn into the moment and forward by love instead of driven by a culture of lack and fear....

Beloved, have an incredibly average day, and absolutely love it.... Dare I say that that there is the purpose of your day, noticing its exquisite beauty, being present and Loving. You are worthy. You live in the Greatness of what is, no price tag attached, one day, one moment at a time.

Sheena Grund



If you could erase all the mistakes of your past,
you would also erase
all of the wisdom of your present.
Remember the lesson,
not the disappointment.

Unknown



A PRAYER AS I PUT ON MY MASK

Creator,
as I prepare to go into the world,
help me to see the sacrament
in the wearing of this cloth -
let it be "an outward sign
of an inward grace" -
a tangible and visible way of living
love for my neighbours,
as I love myself.

Christ,
since my lips will be covered,
uncover my heart,
that people would see my smile
in the crinkles around my eyes.
Since my voice may be muffled,
help me to speak clearly,
not only with my words,
but with my actions.

Holy Spirit,
as the elastic touches my ears,
remind me to listen carefully -
and full of care -
to all those I meet.

May this simple piece of cloth be
shield and banner,
and each breath that it holds,
be filled with your love.

In your Name and
in that love,
I pray.

May it be so.

Richard Bott



Revelations for January from “Bly Mire” Mouse

HAPPY NEW YEAR!!!! And, I think I am in agreement with many of you humans that we hope and pray 2021 is a calm year compared to what we experienced in 2020. We will just have to wait and see.

As I reflect on 2020, which is what our television news shows often do, I think about what my church family experienced. We began the year with our normal activities, but that soon went out the window. We began hearing about COVID 19 in late January and by the middle of March, we were all in the throes of the Pandemic. Our Governor issued a stay at home mandate so our normal daily activities were eliminated from our lives. Worship was cancelled along with all church meetings. Pastor Lou Ann and Wanda changed office hours so they were in the office together only one day a week in order to minimize the opportunity that either one of them were COVID positive and spread it to the other. By the beginning of May, we began to have In Car worship. Pastor Lou Ann used her sound system so that people could be in their cars and hear the service. Jeri was the audio guy and played hymns and special music for our worship. By the end of May the FM radio transmitter Pastor Lou Ann ordered arrived and we began using that also. May and June we had In Car worship, but when it began to get too hot for people to remain in their cars, we moved into the Sanctuary for worship so that we could enjoy the air conditioning! But, understandably so, the attendance was a bit lower because people were not comfortable coming indoors. So, and I agreed with Pastor Lou Ann, since so many people said how much they enjoyed the outdoor worship, September we would move back to In Car worship and we kept that until it got too cold. But by the end of the year, with the spikes of COVID all around us, we were back to In Car and hoped that people were comfortable enough using their car heaters. Even our Christmas Eve service was In Car. So, 2020 definitely was a year that “by the seat of our pants” we adjusted to the conditions around us and made the best of what we had.

I heard Pastor Lou Ann talking with different people about the plans for 2021, and at this point our church will continue to offer In Car worship. We are looking into offering live streaming, but she said that will only be offered in addition to the radio transmission. I hope that all falls into place!!!

One thing I really missed was the music. I always enjoyed going into the Sanctuary when the choir was practicing and listening to them! And the music during Worship - WOW! Brenda is absolutely THE BEST ORGANIST EVER!!! Her abilities are beyond words!!! I have heard Pastor Lou Ann say that she and Brenda will be inside for our services and at this point, people will remain in their cars.

I have always been a mouse who believes in the power of prayer, so I join with a number of you who are praying that with the vaccines availability we can kick COVID in the butt and eliminate it from our vocabulary. I may be a dreamer, but I am hopeful!

Please, stay safe and stay healthy! Choose what is most comfortable and agreeable with your lifestyle and health, but don't disparage others who choose to get out and about. I truly hope that 2021 is a HAPP-IER New Year!

January's humor:

Q: What happened to the woman who stole a calendar on New Year's Day?

A: She got 12 months!

Q: What's the easiest way to keep your New Year's resolution to read more?

A: Put the subtitles on your TV.

With our Love,

BLY and MIRE



A COLORFUL body

Melt crayons to show how the body of Christ works together.



What you need:

- Crayons
- Metal baking sheet
- Adult help
- Metal gingerbread man cookie cutter

What you do:

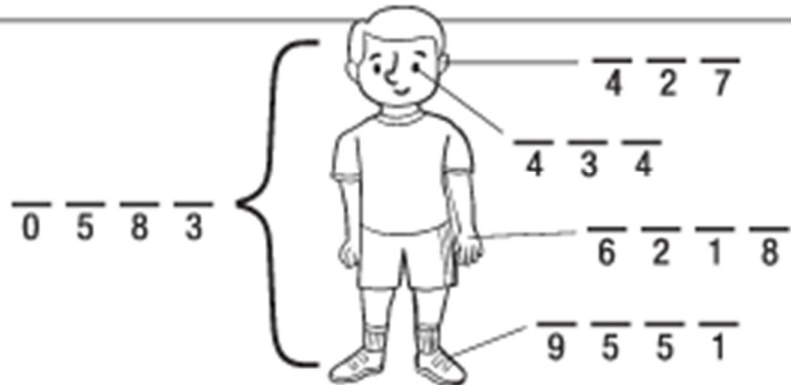
1. Remove labels and break crayons into 1-inch pieces.
2. Scatter pieces on the baking sheet, about two layers thick.
3. Bake for 10 minutes at 350 degrees until melted. Allow to cool 15 minutes.
4. When melted crayons are the consistency of playdough, press the cookie cutter through them (while still on pan).
5. Cool the pan in freezer for 15 minutes until crayons are hardened.
6. Remove from pan and break apart the shapes.



WORKING IN UNISON

Just as body parts work in unison, the church — the body of Christ — is to work together for God's purposes.

Directions: Fill in the letters for each body part. Add up each part's number total, and use those totals to complete the Bible passage.



Now if the 20 should say, "Because I am not a 17, I do not belong to the 18," ... And if the 13 should say, "Because I am not an 11, I do not belong to the 16," it would not for that reason stop being part of the 16. If the whole 16 were an 11, where would the sense of hearing be? If the whole 16 were an 13, where would the sense of smell be? ... As it is, there are many parts, but one 18.

1 CORINTHIANS 12:15-17, 20, NIV

Answer: body = 16, eye = 11, ear = 13, hand = 17, foot = 20