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From the Pastor's Desk



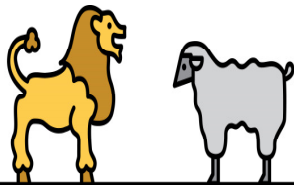
Greetings to you and peace from God our Father, and our Lord Jesus Christ.

Last month I shared with you about the pain I am having. Well, I now have an identification of the cause. My Cervical Disc 7 is bulging and pressing on the nerve. And, along with the disc problem, I have found out the pain in my right knee is Arthritis. PLEASE, keep me in prayer!!! I have definitely adapted my life to coping with the pain. Like right now, I am typing only with my right hand and my left arm is raised in order to lessen the pressure on the nerve. I either have the left arm up over my head or, like now, the left hand is gripping my right shoulder. The best relief for the pain is when I lay down and keep the left shoulder flat on the bed or floor or wherever I am laying. This definitely is an experience I do NOT want to repeat!!!

The power of prayer is something I think we can all identify with. I have shared some of my experiences of health problems or life situations changing after being in prayer and placing it in God's hands. I also have heard many others' stories of how prayer was answered in their life. And, I can't describe in words how amazing it has been to walk along with others whose loved ones or who they themselves have experienced a miracle of healing. Oh my!!! It not only is amazing to see the joy on their faces and hear the praise of God in their voices but to share in that experience is truly a huge blessing of ministry.

We are now a couple of weeks into the 2021 season of Lent and this definitely is different than the worship tradition of even last year. I heard that a number of churches totally cancelled Ash Wednesday service. Many offered on-line or video worship. Or, instead of In Person worship they offered drive-through Imposition of Ashes. With our service, I met people in the Gathering Room and placed the mark of the cross on them because we did not want to have people filing down the aisle during the service. We also had Communion in the pews instead of our traditional Altar Communion. Worship for Ash Wednesday was not our traditional order of worship, and every Sunday our worship traditions have also changed. We minimize movement in the services and maintain social distancing and wear masks whenever we are in close proximity to other people. New Traditions are becoming our normal. And, this is a good thing!

Certainly there will be people who feel a bit out of sorts because we never did it this way before. But, as with many of our daily habits and patterns, we had to adapt to a new normal. It may be uncomfortable. It may be unnerving. But, we have to do what we have



MARCH

to do for the health and safety of ourselves and others. Changes may meet with some “grumbling” from us because our traditional has been altered, but God is not one to hang onto tradition. God could not care less if “we’ve never done it this way” or not. God is only concerned about where our hearts are focused. God wants us to be concerned about our relationship with Him rather than the security of patterns in worship and in life.

Lent is a season of looking at our life and how devoted we are to God and God’s will for our life. So, if we look at our life and see that we are holding on too deeply to whatever, let us pray to God for the strength of spirit to be willing to let it go. Nothing but God should be first in our hearts or in our life. Faithful people often give up something for Lent. Even though we are part-way through Lent 2021, we can still search our hearts and lives to determine whatever it is we place before God. We still should search, pray about, and try to give up whatever it is we value more than God. May we all be diligent on our Lenten journey!

God Bless us ALL! God guide us all!!!

With love - Pastor Lou Ann



SPECIAL SERVICES in MARCH

March 7- Lent 3

Gospel: John 2:13-22

Sermon: “The Temple of God”

March 14 - Lent 4

Gospel: John 3:14-21

Sermon: “Come to the Light!”

March 21 - Lent 5

Gospel: John 12:20-33

Sermon: “Love God More Than Human Glory”

March 28- Palm Sunday

Gospel: Mark 11:1-11

Sermon: “The Lord Needs Us!”



If you don’t want to be late for church on Sunday, March 14, remember to turn your clocks ahead by one hour before going to bed on Saturday, March 13. Daylight saving time begins at 2:00 AM that Sunday.

MARCH
BIRTHDAYS



2. Sarah Smith
Lexus Luckenbaugh
9. Madison Leader
10. Patrick Michaels
12. Joel Frey
13. Gary Matthews
16. Lillie Eberly
19. Nicki Barley
20. Erin Michaels
22. Joyce Raver
24. David Morton
Jamison Rost
28. Maya Ness
Peter Busch
29. Wayne Althoff
31. Marshall Geesey

May God Bless You
On Your
Birthday

CELEBRATING MARCH ANNIVERSARIES

March 29 - Terry and Frances Doll - 57 years

FINANCIAL REPORT

Undesignated General Fund

Red Brick Chapel

Cemetery

Month-2021	Income	Expense	Income	Expense	Income	Expense
January	\$8,700.59	\$8,680.74	\$0.47	\$269.88	\$1,645.35	\$1,826.80
February						
March						
April						
May						
June						
July						
August						
September						
October						
November						
December						
Total	\$8,700.59	\$8,680.74	\$0.47	\$269.88	\$1,645.35	\$1,826.80

Balance of Undesignated General Fund @ February 1, 2021

\$110.42

Balance of Red Brick Chapel Fund @ February 1, 2021

(Includes \$60,284.28 Endowment)

\$78,622.68

Balance of Cemetery Fund @ February 1, 2021

(Includes \$877,559.49 CD's, Trusts, UCC Foundation. Transferred \$15,000 from Foundation to People's Bank in January)

\$897,770.07

Financial Assistance Given through Hand of Hope Fund - 2021

	#	Total	Monthly	Available
	Families	\$\$\$	Donations	Balance
Beginning				\$ 651.73
January	1	\$ 50.00	\$ 21.47	\$ 623.29
February				
March				
April				
May				
June				
July				
August				
September				
October				
November				
December				
Total	1	\$ 50.00	\$ 21.47	

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



Book Sale

Because we were shut down for several weeks, we have decided to extend our book sale until further notice. You can continue to donate or purchase books at any time. New items have been coming in quite often, so even if you already browsed the selection, keep checking for new additions. Prices are:

VHS tapes 4/\$1.00, DVD's & CD's -2/\$1.00

Hardback books-\$1.00, Paperback books-\$.50.

GIFT CARDS: 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. 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 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 or check out the website www.glscrip.com.



On Saturday, April 10, 11:00 AM-1:00 PM, the Men's Group will be holding their first chicken BBQ of the season. You will get a 1/2 chicken, baked potato, applesauce, and roll and butter all for \$9.00. If you would like to place an order, please call the church office at 244-0655. Other BBQ's will be held on the 2nd Saturday of each month thru October. Last year the dinners sold out fast, so if you want to be sure to get one, it is best to pre-order.

SPONSORS

If you would like to become a sponsor for the Bulletin and/or Altar Flowers in memory of a loved one or in honor of an occasion, please fill in your information in the book located on the podium in the Gathering Room. The cost of sponsoring the bulletins for a week is \$10.00. Altar flowers are now \$25.00 for a half set and \$35.00 for a full set. You may place your payment in an envelope marked "Altar Flowers" or "Bulletin" in the offering plate or mail to the church office.

EMMANUEL'S CLOSET

March 2021



Easter Project

For Easter we are planning to give out grocery gift cards for our families to use to purchase meat and other perishable items for their holiday dinner. **We are also asking for donations of jelly beans, peeps, or other Easter candy to go along with the cards.** Please bring these donations to the church no later than Sunday, March 14, to allow time to sort and shop for anything that is not donated. They will be given out on March 20 and March 27. Thank you.

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

Hot cocoa/Tea/Coffee
Brownie/Cake mix
Tomato/Spaghetti sauce
Dinner kits (Taco, pizza, etc.)
Chicken helper/canned chicken
Canned chili w/meat
Spam
Beef stew
Sauerkraut
Beets
Carrots
Mixed veggies
Fruit
Pancake mix/Syrup

***THANKS FOR
CARING!***

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.





MARCH
2021



Anger is a punishment we give ourselves
for somebody else's mistake.

Gautama Buddha



STOP PUSHING SO HARD

Give yourself a moment, right now, to pause. Take a breath.
How does your body feel? Are your shoulders up at your ears?
Is your jaw clenched? Is your stomach uneasy?
Take another breath and let any of those places
where you feel tension relax.

What if you just got to be wherever you are today?
What if you didn't have to be better, or change, or fix anything?
What if you could simply relax into who you are,
at this moment in time, and stop pushing so hard?
How does that feel to you?

I'll share that when I offer those moments to myself,
my body feels relief. It feels loose and grounded and clear.
Grounded clarity sure sounds like a good place to be; and when
you're ready, it's the best place to take action from.
The world can feel like it's moving at a zillion miles an hour and
you can't keep up; but you should keep up, and what about
XYZ things to do, and this to know, and, and, and...

You can choose to stop pushing so hard, even for a moment,
and still move forward. You can stop pushing so hard and still
make decisions. *What if the decisions you make from this place
are better than those made from the place of tension?*

Give yourself these moments of rest and acceptance.
Yes, because they'll help you move forward and make
decisions from a good place, AND more importantly, because
you deserve them. You don't have to push so hard.

Lara Heacock

A SILENCED BOAST

A Hanoverian countess was known for her
disbelief in God and her conviction that no one
could call life from a tomb. Before her death,
she ensured that her tomb would be a mockery
to belief in the resurrection. It was sealed with
a slab of granite. Blocks of stone were placed
around her tomb. Heavy iron clamps fastened
the blocks together and to the granite slab.

The inscription read:

*This burial place,
purchased to all eternity,
must never be opened.*

However, a small birch tree had other
plans. Over the years it forced its way until the
iron clamps popped loose, and the granite lid
was raised. Now the stone cover rests against
the trunk of the birch. Its boastful epitaph has
been permanently silenced by the work of a
determined tree...or a powerful God.

Max Lucado

The world would be happier if people
had the same capacity to be silent
that they have to speak.

Baruch Spinoza

ARE YOU TURNING WINE INTO WATER?

I've never met a new parent who isn't positive their baby is the cutest on the planet earth. Even the so-so ones
in their minds could rival George Clooney. Even the things that drives everyone else nuts they find worthy of
celebrating. Parents see an emerging personality when the rest of us hear a scream. Every giggle, every curve of the
mouth, every grip of the finger. We see squirming behaviors, they see Einstein in a diaper. Parents know something
about their babies that some of us forget about ourselves. Parents are certain that their kid is a miracle.

We come across people at all different stages of life, and sometimes we decide that someone is ordinary based on
what we observe. All that happened is this: we've missed their quiet moments of courage, their tender moments
of inexplicable compassion, their sleepless nights filled with despair. We've caught them in chapter 7 of a book with
22 chapters, and we evaluate the whole book without knowing how it began and where it will end.

Jesus worked countless miracles while He was here on earth. He brought people to life and brought life to
groups of people. Just like the time he turned water into wine when a celebration jumped the tracks Jesus was
always in the business of restoration. Nothing he touched remained ordinary, and His fingerprints are
on every person who shows up on the scene.

Look closely at yourself. Think about some of the people you work with or live with. Look closely at them too.
Every time we miss the miracle in ourselves or the people around us, every time we see people as ordinary,
we turn the wine back into water.

Bob Goff



On May 25, 1979, Denis Waitley was desperately trying to catch a flight from Chicago to Los Angeles for a speaking engagement. There are easier airports to run through than O'Hare! When he arrived at his gate, they had just closed the Jetway. Denis begged them to let him on that airplane. No luck!

Out of breath and out of patience, Denis made his way to the ticket counter to register a complaint and rebook his travel. While he was waiting in line, an announcement came over the airport intercom. AA Flight 191 to Los Angeles had crashed upon takeoff. All 258 passengers, as well as 13 crew members, died in the crash. It was the deadliest aviation accident in United States history.

That near-death experience had a life-altering impact on Denis Waitley. Had he been on time, it would have been the last day of his life. Needless to say, he never registered his complaint. In fact, he never returned his ticket for Flight 191. He took his paper ticket and put it in a visible place in his office.

On difficult days, the days when Denis Waitley felt like throwing in the towel, all it took was one glance at that ticket to regain perspective. Denis Waitley's ticket for Flight 191 is what I would call a life symbol—a symbol from the past that gives meaning to the present and functions as a compass for the future. What are the symbols from your past, painful and joyful, that make each day more meaningful?

My life symbols include an oxygen mask from one of my asthma-related hospitalizations; the graduate assessment that showed a low aptitude for writing; a brick from the crack house that is now Ebenezers Coffeehouse; and my grandfather's well-worn, well-read, well-lived Bible that is almost a century old. In one sense, those life symbols are worthless. Anybody want an old oxygen mask? I didn't think so! But to me, they're priceless! Why? They represent top-of-the-Empire-State-Building and bottom-of-the-Grand-Canyon moments. They taught me lessons I can't afford to forget. They represent minutes that turned into moments that I will remember forever.

But trust me—this is more than a walk down memory lane. Life symbols are the key to getting where God wants us to go. They're the key to becoming who God wants us to be. They're the key to unleashing the power of twenty-four hours.

Remember David versus Goliath? After defeating Goliath, David took Goliath's armor and parked it in his tent. (See [1 Samuel 17:54](#).) We read right past this detail, but it's a big deal. And I mean that literally. Goliath's armor weighed 125 pounds. I'm not sure David weighed much more than that. Why would he go to all the trouble of undressing Goliath and putting his armor in his tent? If Saul's armor didn't fit him, Goliath's armor would have fit him even worse! If you can't wear it, why save it?

Like Denis Waitley's ticket to Flight 191, Goliath's armor functioned as a life symbol. When David got discouraged, one glance at Goliath's armor reminded him that he was nobody's underdog. That armor fueled holy confidence for the rest of his life. I bet David marked his calendar, celebrating it as Giant Day ever after. Putting Goliath's armor in his tent was a stroke of genius. We might want to follow suit—pun intended.

According to developmental psychologists, if an object is removed from a baby's field of view, it's as if that object ceases to exist. That's why peekaboo is so much fun with young children! They have not developed the understanding of object permanence. Simply put, *out of sight, out of mind*. We never really outgrow this tendency, do we? This is why we build memorials and celebrate holidays.

We have a tendency to remember what we should forget and forget what we should remember. The way we overcome spiritual amnesia is by building altars. What do we put on them? Life symbols. *Those life symbols don't just point back to the past; they point to the future.* Our future-tense faith is a function of God's past-tense faithfulness.

Mark Batterson



The Finnish call **March**, "maaliskuu," which comes from "maallinen kuu," and means "earthy month." The name comes from the hope that earth or dirt will actually be visible under the snow during this time of year.

RHYTHMS OF LIFE

In lieu of Women's Sunday, I will be sharing seven 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)

The Fabric of Life Article # 4

Thread by thread, the weaving of fabric tells a story of rhythm. A story about two separate threads—the warp and the weft—that come together to make something beautiful. --A story that might just mirror our own.

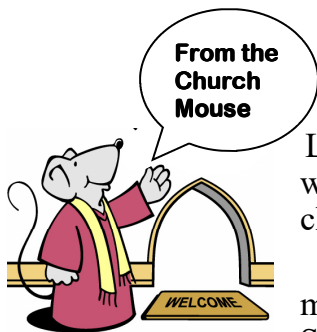
The warp, threads held tightly in place by the loom, stand strong during the weaving process. They make way for the steady rhythm of the weft to be woven up and down, up and down. Without the softness of the weft, the warp is just thread pulled tight. Without the warp's strength and foundation, the weft would flounder. It takes both parts to make a whole.

What if, for the moment, we pause to see the fabric of our lives this way. And to see how all of us, with our distinctly unique threads, have the potential to come together. That when we engage with each other—when we help each other and serve each other, whether with conversation and small kindnesses or a bold deed that requires more sacrifice on our part—we are the weft to another's warp.

In the ebb and flow of relationships, there can be times when we are the strong foundation, then other times when perhaps we need another's support to lean on or wrap ourselves around.

But no matter what part we play, the rhythm of our interactions, both small and great, creates a tapestry that is unlike any other. And this we know for sure: We are stronger when we stand together.





Revelations for MARCH from “Bly Mire” Mouse

HEY THERE!!!!!! Does anyone read my message???? I had asked for Valentine’s ideas but I heard nothing. (sigh)... I know if anyone did tell Pastor Lou Ann your ideas she would certainly pass the message on to me. Or, if you want to send anything directly to me, just address it to Bly Church Mouse at the church’s address.

Last month I asked if anyone was tired of hearing about COVID, but, this month I will ask....how many of you are tired of snow????? Feb 17th Joel and Steph ventured on their way to Marathon, and I just about had my bags packed in order to stow along with them. But, they are staying down in the Keys for five or six weeks and I figured that would be too long a time to let Mire here with the little ones. So, as much as it pained me to forego the trip, I stayed here. Now, since they left we have had two snowsAND I SURE HOPE WE HAVE NOOOO MORE!!!!!! I know we are still in the season of Winter, but I have said to Mother Nature....ENOUGH IS ENOUGH!!!!

It has been a few years since we have had snow laying on the ground for more than a week or two. And, back in those days I really enjoyed the snow with the little ones. We would get out sleds and head up the hill beside the church. Boy, did we have fun!!!! But, if the track for sledding got icy, we had problems with trying to steer away from the church building. That challenge made it all the more fun for me!

That brings to mind something that Pastor Curt talked about in the Sunday School lesson this past week. He is teaching a course by Bob Goff called “Dream Big” and it challenges us to think about things we fear and that hold us back in life. I reflected on my fear of Amusement Park rides. I am fine with trains, merry-go-rounds, etc., but when it comes to roller coasters and flume rides..... NO THANK YOU!!!! Years ago I would stand and watch the riders on Splash Mountain in the Magic Kingdom at Disneyworld. For years I watched and watched and watched. But then, as we planned our trip I said to Mire: “This year I am going to ride Splash Mountain!” She said she would believe it when she sees it. Well, we both rode it and when we were walking out the queue, I said.... ”Is that all there is to it???? Why was I so afraid??? If I had not overcome my fear, I would never have seen the “Song of the South” dioramas throughout the ride because now they have changed it to another focus. So, the next trip to Magic Kingdom I will ride it again to see the changes. I am glad I overcame that fear. Now, the other Magic Kingdom ride I fear is Space Mountain and I will admit, overcoming that fear is going to take a lot more talking to myself!!!

How about you? Do you have any suggestions on how I could overcome my fear of that ride? I won’t guarantee that your ideas will help. All I can say is that I will think about it. I know I have a good bit of time before even facing this challenge because I won’t travel long distance while we are still battling COVID. So I continue to pray that all of us can stay healthy!!!

March’s humor:

Can February March?

No. But, April May!

Q: Why can't a bicycle stand on its own?

A: Because it's two-tired.

Q: What happens to nitrogen when the sun rises?

A: It becomes daytrogen.

Q: Where did Noah keep his bees?

A: In the Ark Hives!

With our Love, BLY and MIRE



FOR THE BIRDS

Display this recycled craft to care for feathered friends.



What you need:

- Peanut butter or vegetable shortening
- Plastic knife
- Empty toilet paper tube
- Bird seed
- A plate
- String

What you do:

1. Spread peanut butter or vegetable shortening on the tube, covering the entire outside surface.
2. Pour bird seed on a plate and roll the tube in the seeds.
3. Thread string through the tube and tie it to make a loop.
4. Hang the bird feeder outside. When seeds are eaten, coat the roll again.



BIRDS IN THE WORD

The Bible mentions many kinds of birds. How many have you seen?

Directions: Unscramble the bird names, using the Bible references and pictures as clues. Then insert the final unscrambled bird name to complete the passage below.



VIDEO

— — — — (Genesis 8:8)



LWO

— — — — (Psalm 102:6)



GEELA

— — — — (Isaiah 40:31)



TOKRS

— — — — (Jeremiah 8:7)



APROSWRS

— — — — —

“Are not five — — — — — sold for two pennies? Yet not one of them is forgotten by God. ... Don’t be afraid; you are worth more than many — — — — —.”

LUKE 12:6-7, NIV

Answer: dove, owl, eagle, stork, sparrow