Bly Lines

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

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

HAPPY MOTHER'S DAY!!! This is the month that we take at least one day to honor and thank our mothers for all that they do for us! For those of you whose mothers are still living, I kind of challenge you to take the opportunity to make this THE best Mother's Day ever because you may not have that opportunity to do so next year. My mother passed away ten years ago on September 15th so I have to say in my prayers how thankful I am for all she did. And, (you can probably guess where I am going with this thought...) we should not take just one day a year to recognize and thank our mother, our father or anyone important to us! We should make every day Mother's Day, Father's Day, Children's Day, Grandparent's Day, Christmas Day, Easter Day....etc! Every day should be Thanksgiving Day as we show our appreciation for God and for all those who are important in our life! Even with Memorial Day, we take an opportunity to thank all who gave their life for this great nation!!!

Now, since I highlighted the holidays we have in May, I thought about what else I could focus on for this message and after reading some devotionals for today I still did not have anything jump out. I looked to the left on my desk and saw copies of a prayer I handed out in Sunday School with the first session of "Words of Life: The Promise of the Ten Commandments Today." This is our study for the Adult class now and is written by Adam Hamilton. One thing that was emphasized in the first chapter is that God said to the Israelites (and to us)..... "I am YOUR God." In all the years that I have learned about and taught about the Ten Commandments, that emphasis never jumped out at me. But, how awesome is it to realize that God not only said that to the nation of Israel, but He says it to ME, to you, to everyone who will receive His message. How humbling it is to understand that God is MY God who, like He called Moses to lead the Israelites to freedom, will lead me to freedom from the burden of my sins. This is the salvation He gave us in Jesus Christ, our Lord!

I was only able to teach the first session before I had my bulging disc surgery, so I read the introduction and first chapter and gained a number of insights through Adam to which I will simply say, if you have the opportunity to purchase or borrow the text book for this series, DO SO!!! We also have the DVD for this series which you may borrow when we are finished with the study. In the first session, Adam takes us up on Mt. Sinai which we believe is where God spoke to the Israelites and also gave Moses the Ten Commandments. The scenery is absolutely beautiful!!! Adam stresses that it is best to be on top of Mt Sinai for the sunrise so they began their trek at 2:00 A.M. in order to see the sunrise. IT WAS WORTH IT!!!!! In the book, Adam shares with us the prayer he offered there. It incorporates all of the commandments, so, I share it with you as I also gave copies to each student:

Lord, help me not only to know your commandments but to live them. Help me to have no other gods before you; help me, that I might not worship anything but you. Help me to hallow your name and not profane it. May I be still, listen, and rest with you on the Sabbath. Make me a blessing to my [family]. Help me not to hate or hurt others. Help me to be faithful to my [spouse] in my thoughts, words, and deeds. Help me not to take what isn't mine or to speak falsely of others, and teach me to be content with what I have. In other words, O Lord, help me to love you with all my heart, soul, mind, and strength, and to love my neighbor as I love myself. As you inscribed the commands on stone tablets, I pray that you might inscribe your commands on my heart. Amen.

In the prayer, I did change the word "parents" to "family" and the word "wife" to "spouse" in order to make it more useable for those of us who no longer have parents or if we have a husband or significant other and not a wife. But, as I read this prayer, it not only spoke to me but it SHOUTED OUT that this is the way that I should begin everyday! I hope you find value in this prayer too! Feel free to join us for Sunday School for the remaining classes. We do social distance and most wear their mask throughout the sessions. We hope to see you there!

GOD BLESS!!! With love, Pastor Lou Ann





Sunday School Class

Our adult Sunday school class is currently studying "Words of Life: Jesus and the Promise of the Ten Commandments Today" by Adam Hamilton. This is a ten week study and will take us through to the Summer break. In "Words of Life," Adam brings modern eyes to the most important set of ethics in history. He considers the commandments in their historical context, considering the meaning of each commandment in Hebrew, unpacking how Jesus reinterpreted them, and showing how every "thou shalt not" was intended to point to a life-giving "thou shalt." He also explores how the latest research in science and psychology illuminates these commandments, rightly understood, as a way of ordering one's life beautifully in the present day. In a culture marked by workaholism, materialism, and social media driven envy, God has given us a time-tested path that leads to gratitude, confidence, and peace.

<u>MAY BIRTHDAYS</u>



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
- 15. Chuck Miller
- 17. Brad Leader
- 18. Douglas Leader
- 20. Lonnie Barnhart
- 24. Joyce Platts
- May God Bless You On Your Birthday!
- 25. Martha Leader
 27. Richard Nelson
- 28. Braxton McKenzie
- 29. Bernie Noll
- 30. Claire Barley



FINANCIAL REPORT

Undesignated General Fund

Red Brick Chapel

Cemetery

(\$5,692.37)

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	\$7,297.86	\$10,776.85	\$0.48	\$311.54	0.35	\$10,906.97
March	\$12,966.59	\$15,290.39	\$0.41	\$514.91	\$500.20	\$3,166.46
April						
Мау						
June						
July						
August						
September						
October						
November						
December						
Total	\$28,965.04	\$34,747.98	\$1.36	\$1096.33	\$2,145.90	\$15,900.23

Balance of Undesignated General Fund @ April 1, 2021

Balance of Red Brick Chapel Fund @ April 1, 2021 (Includes \$61,806.10 Endowment) \$79,318.94 Balance of Cemetery Fund @ April 1, 2021 (Includes \$893,768.72 CD's, Trusts, UCC Foundation. Transferred \$15,000 from Foundation to People's Bank in January) \$900,406.42

Financial Assistance Given through Hand of Hope Fund - 2021

	# Families		Total	Monthly Donations		Available	
			\$\$\$			Balance	
Beginning						\$	651.73
January	1	\$	50.00	\$	21.47	\$	623.29
February							
March	2	\$	136.75	\$	79.00	\$	565.45
April							
Мау							
June							
July							
August							
September							
October							
November							
December							

Total 3 \$ 186.75 \$ 100.47

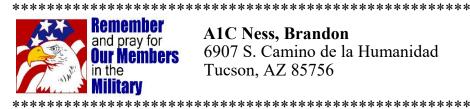
REMEMBER OUR SHUT-INS

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**



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

ERTSER

Last year we had to cancel our concert series because of the pandemic, but we are planning to start back up again this year. The concerts will be held on Sunday afternoons from 2:00-4:00 PM. In case of inclement weather, they will be moved indoors to the church. There is no admission charge, but a free will offering will be taken. Food will be available for purchase. Bring your own lawn chairs or blankets or sit at one of our picnic tables. Here is what we have scheduled so far:

JUNE 6 - HILLBILLY HEAVEN (Country)

June 27 - RED LION FELTON BAND (Marches/Concert band music)

July 11 - COUNTRY CORE (Country)

AUGUST 1 - SPRING GARDEN BAND (Modern & traditional concert band music)

August 22 - TIMELESS (50's and 60's rock and roll)

SEPTEMBER 5 - DOWN HOME COUNTRY SINGERS (Country)

SEPTEMBER 26 - FIRST CAPITAL BRASS (Brass ensemble)



Our Women's Book Club has started back up again. We meet on the second and fourth Tuesdays of each month at the Dallastown

Family Restaurant. We each choose our own books to read and discuss them with others while enjoying lunch and fellowship. New members are always welcome to join us. If you need books to read, check out the ongoing Book Sale.

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 as follows:

VHS tapes 4/\$1.00, DVD's & CD's -2/\$1.00, Hardback books-\$1.00, Paperback books-\$.50. At this time, we have an abundance of cookbooks and VHS tapes, so please, no more donations of those.



SISTERS OF SERVICE

The SOS will be holding their first meeting of the year on Monday, May 24, at 6:30 PM at the church. The main topic of discussion will be this year's bazaar.

Please mark your calendars and plan to attend. Any interested women are invited to join us.



MEN'S GROUP



We will hold our next meeting on Tuesday, May 11, at 7:00 PM at the church. All men are welcome to attend and also bring a friend.



As many of you may know, the Penn Central Conference has closed Hartman Center, so there will be no camping there this vear. The Conference has. however, partnered with the

Lutheran Camping Corp. of Central PA and through them are offering the opportunity to camp at Kirchenwald near Lebanon and Nawakwa outside Arendtsville. The are many types of camps available for all ages. There is even a special "elder camp" for those 55 and older, an adult craft camp, and family camp.

As in the past, our church will pay for half the cost of your camp. Also, as an incentive to try the camps, the Penn Central Conference will pay 50% of the remaining cost.

To find out more about the camps, pick up a brochure in the Gathering Room or go to the website LutheranCamping.org.



Our second chicken BBQ of the season will be held on Saturday, May 8, from 11:00 AM-1:00 PM. You will get a 1/2 chicken, baked potato, applesauce, roll and butter all for \$9.00. If you would like to place an order, please call the church office at 244-0655. We sold out early last month and nearly every month last summer, so to be guaranteed a dinner, it is best to pre-order. Other BBQ's will be held on the 2nd Saturday of each month thru October.

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

GOT ANY OLD SHOES CLUTTERING YOUR CLOSET?

Our church is partnering with Mission Central to collect shoes to send to developing nations to help people start their own businesses, such as recycling, J and the start their own businesses, such as recycling, J and the start their own businesses, such as recycling, J and the start their own businesses, such as recycling, J and the start the star shoe repair or selling the shoes This industry represents one of the most effective ways to lift many families out of poverty in devastated economies. Donated shoes can be in any condition as long as they are in pairs. Shoes may be dropped off in the special collection box in the Gathering Room now through May 23. Thanks!



<u>EMMANUEL'S CLOSET</u> May 2021



Easter Project

We would like to thank everyone for the Easter candy and also monetary donations to help with our Easter holiday

project. Each family was given a gift card to buy perishable food items for Easter dinner, various kinds of candy, and also a kit to decorate eggs as a family. The special gifts were given out to 43 families on March 20 and March 27

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

Lots of tomato products: Tomato sauce Diced tomatoes Crushed tomatoes Tomato paste Stewed tomatoes Spaghetti sauce Spaghetti noodles Tuna/Hamburger/Chicken Helper Pizza/Taco kits

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!



RHYTHMS OF LIFE

In lieu of Women's Sunday, I will be sharing seven short articles about Rhythms of Life from the Fall 2020 <u>Magnolia Magazine</u>. 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)

DANCING TO THE RHYTHM Article #6

Nature dances to a rhythm: In the way the sun rises and sets. In the birds' song at sunrise and in the crickets' chirp at sunset. In the way each season moves us along throughout the year...the annual cadence of a rainy April, giving way to a hot July, giving way to a crisp October, giving way to a cold January, and the thousands of little orchestras that follow the tempo of that grand symphony. The flowers move to the rhythm of the seasons: sprouting and budding and blooming and dying.

Humanity dances to a rhythm: in the holidays we celebrate and the order in which they come. Costumes and candy give way to turkey and football, which give way to carols and gifts wrapped under the tree. We find rhythm in our daily commute, in the voice of the radio DJ's morning report, in the stoplights and exits, in the pleasantries exchanged with the coffee shop barista. Rhythm comes with bodies that must be fed three times a day (give or take), with daily prayer and weekly meetings and monthly girls' nights and yearly Super Bowl games. We create bedtime rhythms: We bathe our kids, brush their teeth, read them a story, tuck them in, and sing a song.

There is peace in rhythm: There is security and predictability. Not a stagnant sort of predictability, just enough to make us feel like everything is going to be okay, just enough to give us something to look forward to. Because while there's a lot of rhythm, there's also a lot of chaos. There are unexpected bills to pay, relationships to maintain, natural disasters, an ongoing to-do list that will never be completely finished, flat tires, bad moods, burnt dinners. (sic.—the pandemic and all its adjustments)

BUT then there's the sun, rising again: And then there's our lungs, exhaling again. And then there's Thanksgiving, right around the corner. We'll take our afternoon coffee break. We'll say a prayer. We'll look up and see ducks flying south for the winter. We'll cross the next thing off our to-do list. We'll get a new winter coat. We'll plan a summer trip. We'll go for an evening walk.

And we'll tap our feet. We'll sway back and forth. We'll clap our hands. We'll lean into the rhythms of our lives because they give us a sense of place in our story, clueing us in to where we've been and where we might expect to go next, offering us familiarity in the midst of a chaotic world—like our lungs filling with air and then emptying themselves and filling up again, like the ocean tides and the morning cups of tea and the annual harvest festivals: We embrace the rhythm of the season, and we find peace in the way it moves us.

Magnolia Magazine 2020

LET GRACE BLOW YOUR HAIR BACK!

I love it when I'm driving down the road and see a big shaggy dog with his head out the window, tongue flapping in the wind. It seems so free to me, so unconcerned and pure. Maybe I love it so much because I used to do it as a kid. I would stick my head out the window as far as my seat belt would let me and squint my eyes as the wind roared past, pretending I was flying like Superman.

Looking back, what I loved most about it was the pure feeling of being completely enveloped by the world around me. I think God created the world with so much beauty to remind us about Himself. And He gave us the senses to take it all in. We'll never be able to wrap our minds around His extravagant love, so He gave us mountains and oceans and told us to go swim and jump and climb and, yes, put our heads out the window a couple of times. We'll never understand how grace holds us, so He gave us the wind and said to let it brush against our faces.

God is everywhere if we have the eyes to see Him. We feel His Spirit when we listen to a symphony and sense His kindness in the eyes of a newborn baby. Whenever the words we use to talk about God start to get jumbled, it's time to step outside the words and into His world. Let grace blow your hair back like your head's out the window!

Bob Goff



DANDELIONS

deserve a gold medal. One of the first links in that magical

chain of events bringing dinner to our tables, this sunny flower is one of the first spring foods for bees. If bees survive the winter, they look to dandelions and other wildflowers for their nutrition - so they can begin the work of pollinating our fruits and vegetables. As you know, the bees are in a pickle right now. Their population is dwindling. Let's not kill off anything that helps the bees.





REMEMBER THE FALLEN

Memorial Day, as Americans have come to know it, began in the years immediately following the Civil War. But until World War II, most people knew it as "Decoration Day." It was a day to decorate with flowers and flags the graves of fallen soldiers and remember those who had given, as Lincoln beautifully said, "the last full measure of devotion" to defend their nation. It was a day to remember what the honored dead had died to defend.

A century and a half has passed since Lee surrendered to Grant at Appomattox, effectively ending a national nightmare that filled over 625,000 American graves with dead soldiers. Since then, other international nightmares have ravaged the world and put more than 650,000 additional Americans into war graves in Europe, North Africa, the Pacific Rim, Asia, and the Middle East.

America without her soldiers would be like God without His angels.

Claudia Pemberton

Joy is what we are, not what we must get. Joy is the realization that all we want or need in life has been etched into our souls. Joy helps us see not what we are "going through," but what we are "growing to"-a greater sense of understanding, accomplishment, and enlightenment. Joy reveals to us the calm at the end of the storm, and the peace that surpasses the momentary happiness of pleasure. If we keep our minds centered on joy, joy becomes a state of mind.

Iyanla Vanzant

We are closer to God when we are asking questions than when we think we have the answers.

Abraham Joshua Heschel

You're so hard on yourself but remember everybody has a chapter they don't read out loud. Take a moment. Sit back. Marvel at your life: at the mistakes that gave you wisdom, at the suffering that gave you strength. Despite everything you still moved forward. Be proud of this. Continue to endure. Continue to persevere. And remember, no matter how dark it gets, the sun will rise again.

Unknown

So today I will swing my feet to the floor again, dedicate the day to Him, roll up my sleeves and joyfully be His worker bee, busily following up on the inspiration He has placed in my heart. Surrender to God. Dream big. Work diligently.



"Even though there are days I wish I could change some things that happened in the past, there's a reason the rear view mirror is so small and the windshield is so big. Where you're headed is much more important than what you've left behind."

Unknown



ANCESTRAL MATHEMATICS

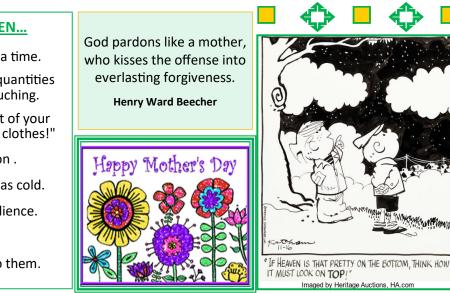
In order to be born, you needed:

2 parents 4 grandparents 8 great-grandparents 16 second great-grandparents 32 third great-grandparents 64 fourth great-grandparents 128 fifth great-grandparents 512 seventh great-grandparents 1,024 eighth great-grandparents 2,048 ninth great-grandparents

For you to be born today from 12 previous generations, you needed a total sum of 4,094 ancestors over the last 400 years.

Think for a moment – How many struggles? How many battles? How many difficulties? How much sadness? How much happiness? How many love stories? How many expressions of hope for the future? – did your ancestors have to undergo for you to exist in this present moment?

Mind boggling, isn't it?



Lisa Bowman

FEAR NOT THE CHICKENS

(Dedicated to a "bird-fearer" among us. You know who you are!)



As we enjoyed dinner on a friend's deck, another friend sitting next to me suddenly jumped up from her seat and nearly into my lap. "Sorry", she said. "birds are one of my biggest fears. I know it's irrational." I looked over her shoulder to see half a dozen chickens wandering the yard. I chuckled as our host shooed the birds toward their pen. They refused to go inside, instead huddling under a nearby tree. My friend sat on the edge of her seat all evening.

Just as my friend's irrational fear of chickens kept her from fully engaging in our evening together, fear keeps me from fully engaging in God's best. Irrational fears have robbed me of sleep and health. Fear of rejection has kept me from reaching out to new friends or strengthening connections in current relationships. Fear of failure has prevented me from trying new things or moving forward in a directive God has given me. I should be strong and courageous. He has an assignment for me, but He doesn't leave me alone to accomplish it. He will be with me until all the work of my life is finished. Our host that day understood our friend's fear and kept the chickens away. God sees our fear and will walk with us through it.

Amelia Rhodes

YOU KNOW YOU'RE A MOM WHEN...

You have time to shave only one leg at a time.

You've mastered the art of placing large quantities of food on a plate without anything touching.

You hear your mother's voice coming out of your mouth, when you say, "NOT in your good clothes!"

Grocery shopping alone is a vacation .

You know why Mama Bear's porridge was cold.

A trip to the bathroom includes an audience.

You fantasize about sleeping.

Instead of talking to adults, you spell to them.



Revelations for MAY from "Bly Mire" Mouse

Oh I am just so "SPRINGY".....I say that because with the season of Spring and all the beauty of trees and flowers blooming around us, it seems like I am walking with more "bounce" in my steps. I also think that as I am walking around and I encounter people I have more of a smile on my face than in the winter months. Well, this year with us still wearing masks, I know the people I encounter cannot see the smile of my mouth, but, I hope they can see the smile of my eyes! Sometime ago I talked about my "Happy eyes" and I can truly share with you that my "Happy Eyes" are on full time now! (I will confess there is some teariness with the Happy Eyes too)

that with allergies, there is some teariness with the Happy Eyes too.)

I will share that there are some major changes here at church since Pastor Lou Ann had her neck surgery. (I often heard her talk about a pain in the neck but I always thought she was talking about Jeri!) Now, since Pastor Lou Ann is recovering, she has not been in the office for her normal hours. It sure is quiet....don't tell her I said that! But with her not being able to lead worship for a few weeks, I had a surprise when Nelson led worship on April 18th. I heard that it was a surprise for Nelson also because Jeri was supposed to lead, but then he ended up in the hospital himself! I hadn't expected Jeri to preach, but I guess being married to a Pastor for 33 years, something does rub off. I heard Pastor Lou Ann some time ago tell the story of when Jeri filled in the day her oldest brother died on a Sunday morning in December of 2007. Apparently, Jeri said right away that he would lead worship for her. "What are you going to do for a sermon?" she asked him and he said he would get one off of the internet. Okay. The thing he did not count on was that because of an ice storm Saturday night, the satellite dish was iced over and the internet was not accessible. Jeri was up at the church and was on the phone with Pastor Lou Ann telling her he did not have a sermon. He was in the church office so she told him to stand where the chair is; look at the right hand corner of her desk and pick up the book on the top. Turn to the particular Sunday and there is a sermon. He used that and did a pretty good job. Pastor Curt filled in the 25th of April and will lead May 2nd too. It is good to be in worship with him again.

I know that this surgery for Pastor Lou Ann is long overdue because I would often hear her say "ouch, ouch, ouch....quit it arm.", etc. She has coped with this since September last year. I am one who will cope with pain for a few days, but if it does not get better, I am soon in the doctor's office! I have a couple of friends who totally believe in calling on the healing power of the Spirit so they do not go to a doctor. I am a believer but I feel that God will lead me to a doctor who can enable relief of whatever problem I may be facing, so there is healing there. What works for one does not always work for others. But, I do not put down my friends for their belief and I have never heard them speak negatively about me for my beliefs. We accept each other no matter what our differences may be.

And, of course I need to say "HAPPY MOTHER'S DAY!!! to all Mothers and mother figures! Make sure your loved ones give you a day off to enjoy!!! The little ones and I have some special plans for Mire but I cannot even give a clue because Mire proof reads what I write so she would get the insight on our special plans. So, I will simply say to her to look for a GOOD day on May 9th!!!

May's humor:

Did Eve ever have a date with Adam? No...just an Apple.

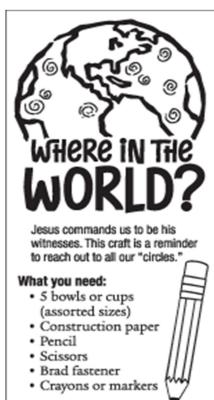
If Mary gave birth to Jesus and Jesus was the Lamb of God, does that mean Mary had a Little Lamb????

Which Bible Character was the most flagrant law breaker? Moses...He broke all Ten Commandments at one time!

LOVE YOU ALL!!!

BLY and MIRE





What you do:

- Place the bowls and cups upside down, each on a different color of paper. Trace around the circles and cut them out.
- With a pencil, pierce a small hole atop each circle. Layer circles on each other from largest to smallest, aligning the holes. Insert the brad through all layers.
- Starting in the center, label the circles my bouse, my city, my state, my country, the world. Draw a picture on each one.
- Pray, asking Jesus how you can spread his message.



Answer: power