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From the Pastor's Desk



Hi St. John's Blymire's UCC folks!

You are probably wondering: Who is this person who is writing this column for our newsletter? Well, I am the person who your search committee has asked to serve as your part-time intentional interim pastor for as long as it takes for us to do interim tasks, finish the church profile, and call a new part-time settled pastor (our estimate is that it will take about 9 months). Please feel free to call me Rick or Pastor Rick.

I live in Jackson Township, just north of Spring Grove, with my wife Becky. We moved back to south-central Pennsylvania 5 ½ years ago to be closer to our children and grandchildren. Our daughter Jennifer and her husband Sean and family live here in the York area, our son Mark and his wife Mary and family live in Springfield, Virginia, and our daughter Rachel and her husband Daniel and family live in Fredericksburg, Virginia. We have five grandchildren ranging in age from 18 years to one month old – Matthew, Shelby, Alexandra, William, and Cody.

I have had a 45-year career in ordained ministry, serving United Church of Christ and Disciples of Christ (with whom I have ministerial partnership standing) churches in several states. I have also been an Assistant Professor of Humanities for Ivy Tech Community College of Indiana for 20 years. Since "retiring" from both professions and moving back to this area, I still teach college courses part-time online. I have also served as the part-time interim pastor for Emmanuel (Freysville) UCC, Emmanuel (York) UCC, and Heidelberg (York) UCC; and I have served as the part-time Designated Pastor at Christ (Codorus) UCC.

I received my B.A. from Tufts University, my M.Div. from Chicago Theological Seminary, and my D. Min. from Bangor Theological Seminary (which is now BTS Center). I have a lifelong stuttering speech impediment, which means that I speak a bit more haltingly and a bit more slowly than the average person. I simply ask that you be patient with me. Among my passions are the intersection of philosophy and religion and making Jesus real to others by what we say and do.

My wife Becky is the minister of music at St. James Lutheran (ELCA) Church in West York. She and I have been ticking off a few things on our bucket list: We are volunteer drivers for Windy Hill's Home Delivered Meals (Meals on Wheels), travel as much as we can, "play at" golf, and are learning to play tennis and pickleball. I also sing with the York Symphony Chorus.



I am already somewhat familiar with St. John's Blymire's Church, having helped the HUGS Team here in 2021 in the Church Empowerment Program as a trained coach of the Penn Central Conference of the United Church of Christ.

What will I be doing with you folks at Blymire's Church? As your half-time intentional interim pastor, I will meet monthly with the Coordinating Ministry Team, meet monthly with the Pastoral Relations team, prepare Sunday worship and messages in coordination with the Worship Team, visit members who are hospitalized and (as time allows) those in long-term care facilities, do weddings and funerals as needed, work mainly from home but be in my office at church at least on Wednesday mornings, support the continuation of your strong worship and fellowship and Christian education and other activities, work with Blymire's technical people to develop internet broadcasts of Sunday worship services and special events so that we can be a hybrid church (which churches are finding out today is the best way to survive and thrive), represent St. John's Blymire's (along with lay delegates) at York Association and Penn Central Conference (UCC) meetings and events, and helping you all commit to a new future and new leadership by engaging with you in interim tasks which will culminate in submitting your church profile and in having your search committee recommend a new settled pastor for whom you will vote.

The interim tasks include:

- (1) Getting to meet you all personally and informally in small groups of 6-8 in folks' homes or at the church to listen to your joys, concerns, and hopes for the church.
- (2) Reviewing what the HUGS Team has already studied and seen with the Mission Insite demographics of your immediate area and deciding what is our "mission field" at this time.
- (3) Helping you remember your church and ministerial history, consider possible shifts in lay and pastoral leadership, and administer and evaluate results of a Welcoming Diversity Survey.
- (4) Helping you re-connect with UCC denominational and ecumenical linkages and covenants.
- (5) Engaging with you to commit to a new future and to new pastoral leadership.


I follow Rev. Lou Ann Jones and Rev. Curtis Weber who I know are highly skilled, creative, energetic, caring, and eloquent pastors and who have had ministries at Blymire's that have had meaningful impacts on all of you. I will never entirely fill the shoes of those two giants of the faith.

But I will do my best to use my own experience, training, and skills to help you answer the questions: **Who are we? Who are our neighbors? Who is God calling us to become as we journey into God's future? What is our unique niche here in Dallastown?**

I will be guest preaching for you on July 24th. My first Sunday as your intentional interim pastor will be August 21st. I look forward to meeting you and to embarking on our faithful and fruitful ministry together!

God's richest blessings on you all,

Pastor Rick Pulling



PASTORAL COVERAGE

Since Pastor Lou Ann used the rest of her vacation during the month of June and officially retired June 30, we will be relying on supply pastors and lay speakers for our Sunday worship for most of the summer.

As you read in the article above, an interim pastor, Rev. Rick Pulling, has been hired. You will have a chance to meet him when he speaks as a supply pastor on July 24, Due to prior commitments, however, he will not be able to begin his duties as interim pastor until August 21. If anyone is in need of pastoral care before August 21, you may contact Rev. Curt Weber at (717) 246-9027 or (717) 309-7449.

SPECIAL SERVICES in JULY and AUGUST

July 3 – Pentecost 4

Supply Pastor: Rev. Curt Weber

July 10 – Pentecost 5

New Life for Girls

July 17 – Pentecost 6

Supply Pastor: Rev. Tom Caruso

July 24 – Pentecost 7

Supply Pastor: Rev. Rick Pulling

July 31 – Pentecost 8

Lay Speaker: Nelson Leader

August 7 – Pentecost 9

Supply Pastor: Rev. Curt Weber

August 14 – Pentecost 10

Lay Speaker: Jeri Jones

August 21 – Pentecost 11

Pastor: Rev. Rick Pulling

August 28 – Pentecost 12

Pastor: Rev. Rick Pulling



Our annual summer concert series has started up again on Sunday afternoons from 2:00-4:00 PM. The public is invited to join us in the pavilion behind our church. In case of inclement weather, the concerts will be moved indoors to the church. There is no admission charge, but a free will offering will be taken. Snacks will be available for purchase. Bring your own lawn chairs or blankets or sit at one of our picnic tables.

July 10 - FIRST CAPITAL BRASS (Brass ensemble)

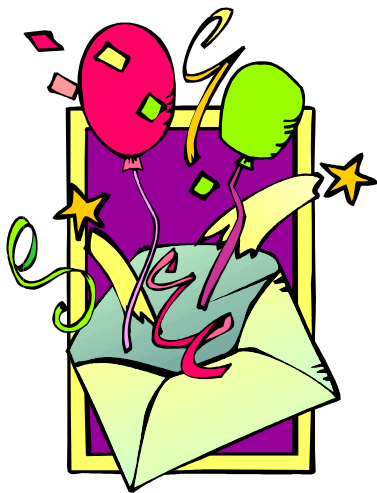
August 14 - TIMELESS (50's and 60's rock and roll)

SEPTEMBER 18 - BLUESTONE (Bluegrass)

OCTOBER 1 - DOCKENSPIELERS (German band)

This concert will be held in the pavilion on Saturday night from 5:00-7:00 PM. German food (hot dogs, sauerkraut, German potato salad, etc.) will be available for purchase.

JULY BIRTHDAYS



- | | | | |
|-----|------------------|-----|-----------------|
| 1. | Erin Ness | 26. | Sarah Leader |
| 3. | Derek Troop, Jr. | | DeLaney Woerner |
| 4. | Billy Roelke | | Sequoia Innerst |
| 8. | Betty Hyser | 28. | Sandra Koicuba |
| 9. | Christine Pope | 30. | LeAnn Eberly |
| 11. | Toni Flinchbaugh | 31. | Jim McDowell |
| | Christina Lutz | | |
| 13. | Carrie Rutledge | | |
| | Heather Barley | | |
| 14. | Trent Brown | | |
| 16. | Randi John | | |
| 18. | Wanda Strickler | | |
| 19. | Trudy Wise | | |
| | Dennis Ness | | |
| | Curt Weber | | |
| | Travis Rost | | |
| 20. | Scott Smith | | |
| 22. | Maranda Morton | | |
| 24. | Alys Leader | | |

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

CELEBRATING JULY ANNIVERSARIES

July 3 - Jeffrey & Joan Mickey - 47 years
July 8 - Greg and Sonja Ness - 55 years
July 19 - Kevin and Renne Myers - 25 years
July 25 - W. Edwin and Judy Bishop - 37 years

AUGUST BIRTHDAYS



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

- | | | | |
|-----|-------------------|-----|-------------------|
| 2. | Sterling Boyd | 25. | Oliver Holtzapple |
| | Dave Miller | 27. | Lakota Innerst |
| | Ariel Contino | 29. | Heather Matthews |
| 3. | Terri Diehl | | Nancy Rutledge |
| 4. | Janet Williamson | 30. | Ryan Woerner |
| | David McDowell | | |
| 9. | Terry Doll | | |
| 10. | Sue Myers | | |
| 11. | Madelynn Barley | | |
| 12. | Peggy Luckenbaugh | | |
| | Amelia Ness | | |
| | Samuel Ness | | |
| 13. | Elizabeth Giese | | |
| 17. | Lucas Smith | | |
| | Bonnie Sipe | | |
| 19. | Greg Ness | | |
| | Joan Schell | | |
| 22. | Christina Barley | | |
| 24. | Barb Marshall | | |

CELEBRATING AUGUST ANNIVERSARIES

- Aug. 1 - Lonnie and Carol Barnhart - 58 years
Aug. 4 - Matthew and Jill Boyd - 21 years
Aug. 9 - Francis (Bernie) and Delores Noll - 55 years
Aug. 10 - Ed and Barb Adams - 48 years
Aug. 16 - David and Brenda Miller - 58 years
Aug. 18 - Charles and Janet Williamson - 44 years
Aug. 19 - Ryan and Jenna Woerner - 17 years

FINANCIAL REPORT

Undesignated General Fund

Red Brick Chapel

Cemetery

Month-2022	Income	Expense	Income	Expense	Income	Expense
January	\$9,995.00	\$10,580.71	\$0.46	\$254.37	\$915.03	\$0.00
February	\$8,570.74	\$11,555.09	\$1,000.48	\$390.39	\$0.23	\$294.90
March	\$96,036.48	\$15,958.44	\$0.41	\$563.73	\$0.19	\$845.18
April	\$9,517.87	\$14,766.40	\$1,000.35	\$16,785.27	\$200.20	\$2,370.60
May	\$13,730.24	\$11,108.47	\$808.06	\$153.57	\$818.22	\$2,683.03
June						
July						
August						
September						
October						
November						
December						
Total	\$137,850.33	\$63,969.11	\$2,809.76	\$18,147.33	\$1,933.87	\$6,193.71

Balance of Undesignated General Fund @ June 1, 2022

\$76,639.29

Balance of Red Brick Chapel Fund @ June 1, 2022

(Includes \$61,957.19 Endowment)

\$64,801.17

Balance of Cemetery Fund @ June 1, 2022

(Includes \$876,203.37 CD's, Trusts, UCC Foundation)

\$879,620.93

Financial Assistance Given through Hand of Hope Fund - 2022

	#	Total	Monthly	Available
	Families	\$\$\$	Donations	Balance
Beginning				\$ 162.74
January			\$ 80.00	\$ 242.74
February	1	\$ 25.00	\$ 35.00	\$ 252.74
March	1	\$ 25.00	\$ 11.00	\$ 238.74
April			\$ 59.00	\$ 297.74
May			\$ 35.20	\$ 332.94
June				
July				
August				
September				
October				
November				
December				
Total	2	\$ 50.00	\$ 220.20	

REMEMBER OUR SHUT-INS and those in need of PRAYER

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



Keeping in our prayers
Dolores Barley
Jeanette Black
Cindie McKinsey
Ginny Weber
Friends battling cancer
Covid 19 patients

Linda Trone
Room 604
Colonial Manor Nursing Home
970 Colonial Avenue
York, PA 17403

Carolyn Innerst
Room 123
Senior Commons@Powder
Mill
1775 Powder Mill Road
York, PA 17403



Remember
and pray for
Our Members
in the
Military

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

SAMMY SANDWICH FUNDRAISER

The FUN Team will be selling sandwiches to raise money for upcoming events. The cost of each is \$5.00. Choices are subs (lettuce, tomato, onion wrapped separately)—Italian, American, Turkey or pretzel sandwiches—Ham & Swiss, Sweet Bologna & American Cheese. Deadline for orders is Sunday, July 17. Pick up will be on Wednesday, August 3, from 3:00-5:00PM. Order forms are on the table in the Gathering Room or call the church office.



Chicken Barbecue Our next chicken BBQ's will be held on Saturdays, July 9, and August 13, from 1:00 AM -1:00 PM. You will get a 1/2 chicken, baked potato, applesauce, roll and butter all for \$10.00. To place an order, please call the church office at 244-0655. We sold out early nearly every month so far, 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 November.

We are also planning to set up a bake sale table and would welcome donations of home-made cookies, 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.

ONCE UPON AN APRON



The FUN Team is sponsoring a ladies luncheon and program called "Once Upon an Apron." The event will be held from 11:30 AM-3:30 PM on Saturday, September 24. The cost is \$10.00 per person, which includes lunch, gift bags, a fashion show, photo booth and much more. There is a sign up sheet in the Gathering Room or call the church office. Deadline to register is Sunday, September 11. Feel free to invite a friend and bring your favorite apron. Any questions, see Marti Leader or Diana Myers.



CARD and GAME CLUB



We have started a group to play card and board games here at the church. Everyone is welcome, and if you don't know how to play certain games, there will be someone who can teach you. You can bring lunch or order in.

We will meet the second Wednesday of each month starting at 11:00 AM and playing until people are ready to stop. If you have any questions, please call Janie Montgomery (717) 891-3607 or Diana Myers (717) 855-4752

EMMANUEL'S CLOSET
July August 2022

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

Spam
Jelly
Cereal
Beverages (all kinds)
Spaghetti sauce
Canned pasta
Pancake syrup



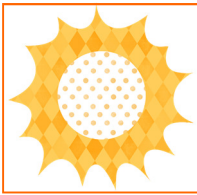
E.C. Continuing Needs

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 in 2023.**

***THANKS FOR
CARING!***



Prayer is sitting in the silence until it silences us, choosing gratitude until we are grateful, and praising God until we ourselves are an act of praise.

Richard Rohr



July/ August
2022

"God has shown me that he doesn't think anyone is unclean or unfit."

(Acts 10:28 CEV).

LABEL OR LOVE

Life is so much easier without this command. Categorizing others creates distance and gives us a convenient exit strategy for avoiding involvement. Jesus took an entirely different approach. He was all about including people, not excluding them. "The Word became flesh and blood, and moved into the neighborhood" (John 1:14 MSG). Racism couldn't keep him from the Samaritan woman; demons couldn't keep him from the demoniac. Jesus spent thirty-three years walking in the mess of this world.

In our lifetimes you and I are going to come across some discarded people. Sometimes tossed out by a church. And we get to choose. Neglect or rescue? Label or love? We know Jesus' choice. After all, look at what he did with us.

Max Lucado

SWEET GIFTS OF SUMMER!

Everywhere are gifts of the heart, if only you will open your eyes wide enough to recognize them: soft evening hushes, the brilliant colors of the rainbow, the love of a good friend, the loyalty of your pets, the fierce devotion of family, a melody wafting through the air, the smell of something delicious ensuing from a kitchen, the bright friendly faces of flowers, the song of the birds. Life and love... gifts freely given!



A grandmother was telling her little granddaughter what her childhood had been like: "We used to swim in a pond. I had a swing made from a tire. It hung from a tree in our front yard. We rode our pony. We picked wild raspberries in the woods." The little girl was wide-eyed, taking this all in. At last she said, "I sure wish I'd have gotten to know you sooner!"

TOO MUCH BEACH???

Sunny beaches are my happy place. They're my first choice for vacation, yet I've often wondered if I'd appreciate them so much if I lived there. If I never knew rain or clouds or storms or snow again, would I somehow stop appreciating sunshine? Would I long for quiet snow covered ground? Would I crave a heavy thunderstorm that knocks out the power? I'm not going to have to worry about any of those questions anytime soon! I plan to continue living in a place that has 4 seasons, crazy storms, and as much as it makes me cranky these days...snow.

I feel the same way about joy. If, I wonder... I lived in a constant state of blissful joy, would I still appreciate it? OK, clearly I don't have to worry about the answer to that question, either... but it does make me think.

The first sunny day after a long, cloudy winter, feels so much more incredible to me than the tenth sunny day in a row. The first joyful day after a long funk, evokes so much more gratitude in me than the 10th consecutive day of feeling good.

So, while it's always nice to dream of living on a sunny beach and feeling constant bliss, for me, right now, I'm choosing to send some love to the clouds. Without them, I may not appreciate the sun.

Lara Heacock



Sunshine
all the
time makes
a desert.

Arab Proverb



THE VIEWFINDER

In 2011, I was in the Air Force, serving my 5th deployment in Afghanistan. I was the navigator on a crew that was flying missions, using radar and cameras to record the locations of roadside bombs and improvised explosive devices. We flew above the main transportation routes that our supply trucks used. After we'd pinpointed the locations of bombs, they could be detonated safely.

One week that fall, a cyclone created a thick cloud cover over the whole country. The conditions created a huge problem for us. Although our radar could penetrate the clouds, our cameras could not.

Without that footage, how helpful could we be to the troops on the ground?

The copilot and I prayed together before our flight took off. "God, will you part the clouds for us?"

I asked. "The way you did the Red Sea?"

Our C-130 flew toward the area we were supposed to record. Visibility hovered near zero because of all the clouds. Maybe it will get better closer to the target, I thought. But 10 seconds away, I could still barely see the ground below us, much less any explosive devices hidden in culverts or buried in the dirt. Soon the plane was directly above our target area. We would have to make do with whatever the camera could somehow detect through the cloud cover. That hardly seemed enough when there were lives at stake.

We turned on the camera. Right before our eyes, the clouds began to part, like curtains being pulled back to reveal the exact spot we needed to see.

"God's doing it," the copilot muttered. That's what it felt like. Over and over on that recon flight, the clouds would part at just the right moment for us to capture the images we needed.

Our crew located more bombs that day than we ever had before in a single mission. The analysts on the ground couldn't believe the footage we'd recorded. The copilot and I made sure to tell them who was really responsible.

Kyle Swanson

"The first gulp from the glass of natural sciences will make you an atheist, but at the bottom of the glass God is waiting for you."

Werner Heisenberg
(Father of Quantum Physics)

SUMMER WITH GOD

Would you like to enjoy a season of spiritual warmth, growth and renewal? Here are some suggestions to add more God to your summer.

Slow Down

Summer brings a change of pace; vacation, holidays, travel. Why not take advantage and invite God into it?

Take a break, whether it's a beach vacation or a weekend away, and listen to God's voice. Pause for prayer on a walk or hike. Take the opportunity to linger a little longer in God's presence.

Unload a Burden

We dress light in summer. No heavy coats or sweaters, but is something still weighing you down? A grudge? Regret? A bad habit? This summer ask God to help you let go of whatever is cluttering your spirit.

Move Prayer Practice Outside

Take your morning coffee and prayer time to the backyard. Or find a spot in the park to pray and read your Bible.

Mingle Seasonal Pleasures with Prayer

Stop to smell the roses (literally) and give thanks for the fragrance of summer. Share lemonade or a slice of watermelon with your prayer partner. Savor the sounds of children playing or birds singing. Let God prompt you with a few fond memories of your childhood summers.

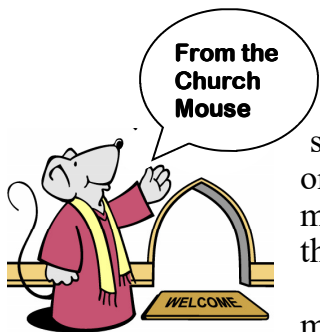
Reflect and Recharge

When you look back on the summer months how would you like your spiritual life to be different? Refreshed? Rejuvenated? You might spend time reflecting on the first half of the year and asking for God's blessing on the second half to come. Or you might renew a practice you've let slide, like attending church or singing in the choir. You might renew a friendship, or pray together over the phone. Summer is an easy season to love, especially when you use it to grow closer to God!

Bob Hostetler

ALWAYS REMEMBER

1. The nicest thing about the future is that it always starts tomorrow.
2. Money will buy a fine dog, but only kindness will make him wag his tail.
3. A good time to keep your mouth shut is when you're in hot water.
4. There are no new sins; the old ones just get more publicity.



Revelations for JULY AUGUST from “Bly Mire” Mouse

I hope you are all enjoying your summer. Mire and I have decided to do something a bit different this year. We usually only take a vacation for a week or two and even then we don't travel very far. Since COVID kept us at home for most of the past two years, this year we are planning an extended road trip with the little ones. We will be gone for most of the months of July and August.

We will miss the services at Blymire's Church, but we hope wherever we may be on a Sunday morning we will find another church to attend. One thing we will continue to do for Blymire's, however, is give our weekly offering. We have decided to give our July tithes at the end of June before we leave and we will give our August tithes when we return at the end of the summer. We read the article below several years ago and have followed the advice in it ever since.

Don't Take a Vacation from Giving

With the summer months approaching, many people will be going on vacation and not attending church regularly. Too often this also means they will not be contributing regularly to the church either. They feel that they do not need to give an offering for the weeks that they do not attend.

This philosophy, however, is not applied to other parts of one's life. If you go away on vacation for two weeks, you do not pay half of your rent or mortgage because you were only living in your house for half a month. You do not pay half the phone bill because you did not use the phone for those two weeks. You do not pay half the cable bill because no one was watching TV while you were away. If your car was left sitting in the garage or driveway, you do not make half a car payment. Being away for two weeks and not using these things is no excuse for not making a full month's payment. They were available for your use for the whole month, but you chose not to use them.

Think of your church in the same way. We are here each week for you, whether you choose to attend or not. We still have to pay the same salaries, utilities, insurances and other bills, no matter how many people are in attendance. So next time you take a vacation, don't take a vacation from supporting your church.

Happy Vacationing and God Bless!

Love, Bly and Mire
and the excited little ones



SANDY SCENES

Make a scene with this fun summer craft you can create outdoors.



What you need:

- Play sand
- Spoons
- Empty jars
- Powdered tempera paint
- Cardstock paper and pencil
- Craft glue
- Paintbrush



What you do:

1. Pour a few tablespoons of sand into empty jars. (You need one jar for every color of paint you make.)
2. Add a small amount of powdered paint to the sand and then mix. Experiment with the amount, using more paint to create deeper colors.
3. Lightly sketch a design on cardstock.
4. Working in one small section at a time, paint an even layer of craft glue on the paper.
5. Use a spoon to sprinkle colored sand atop the glue. Tilt the paper so extra sand falls off. Repeat to complete the entire design.
6. Let dry on a flat surface before displaying upright.

PUZZLE



Beyond number

God is all-knowing, and his thoughts toward us are beyond number.

Directions: Solve the addition problems and use the code to complete Psalm 139:17-18, NIV.



How 13+10 to me are your 12+6, God!



How 8+11 is the 10+3 of them!



Were I to 15+6 them,

they would 3+12 the grains of 4+18

when I 13+4, I am still with you.



PSALM 139:17-18, NIV



Answer: precious, thoughts, vast, sum, count, outnumber, sand, awake