

GOOD NEWS *Gazette*

October 2022



Volume 20, #10

Come to be revived

Ron Savits will be the guest speaker at this year's revival services, which will begin October 9 during the worship service and will continue October 9, 10 and 11 at 7:00 p.m. The theme of his sermons will be "New Beginnings."

Ron is the senior minister at the Pine Creek Valley Christian Church in Jersey Shore. He has had a long career of ministry in Lycoming County, at various churches, including Newberry Church of Christ and Lycoming Christian Church.



Our annual congregational dinner will be held November 12 at 6:00 p.m. Be sure to sign up in the foyer if you plan to attend.

A second sheet is available for those who want to prepare and bring food for the meal.

But first, come to the kick-off picnic

The annual fall revival kick-off picnic will again be hosted by Pat and Sheila Quick at their home, 979 State Home Road, Montgomery, October 8, starting at 4:00 p.m.

Sign up at the welcome center if you are planning to attend so Sheila will know how much food to prepare. (You **don't** want to discover that the soups are gone by the time you arrive!)

All food will be provided; just bring yourselves and a chair for each person in your family or group.

If you would like more information, contact Sheila or Pat at (579) 547-6035 or (570) 394-2733.

Forgotten God



In the name of the Father, the Son, and ... the Holy Spirit. We are baptized into and pray in the name of all three, but how often do we live with an awareness of only the first two? As Jesus ascended into heaven, He promised to send the Holy Spirit—the Helper—so that we could be true and living witnesses for Christ. Unfortunately, today's church has admired the gift but neglected to open it.

Join us starting Sunday, October 16, as we learn about, grow closer to, and examine the ways in which we can grow through the power of the Holy Spirit.

*In Christ,
Glenn*

Celebration of Joy

Grover Church of Christ, 20 Main St, Grover, will host a Celebration of Joy October 2 at 6:30 p.m. for an evening of Gospel music and fellowship. Following the program, they will have a Linger Longer where folks can enjoy some food and visit with brothers and sisters from sister congregations.



Men of Issachar

October 1, 15, 29, 8:00 AM

Life Chain

October 2, 2:30 PM

Celebration of Joy

October 2, 6:30 PM

The Way—Youth Group

October 3, 10, 17, 24, 31, 6:30 PM

Revival Kick-Off Picnic

October 8, 4:00 PM

Fall Revival

October 9, 10, 11, 7:00 PM

Vision Meeting

October 25, After Worship

Seniors' Luncheon

October 25, Noon

TNT Teacher Training

November 3, 6:30 PM

Take a minute

Take a minute to think about it.

Are you a frustrated Christian? Regardless of why you are frustrated, admit it. Are you discouraged, Christian? Regardless of why you are discouraged, get over it.

The world is full of frustrated, discouraged Christians. These are good people; these are talented people. But they are nonproductive because of frustration and discouragement. Some have already left the church while others are staying, although they are becoming bitter.

This is an epidemic that is sweeping the American church. This is being caused by many things and many events. I believe the real reason or cause is because of change. The world is changing; the churches are changing; and we, as people, are changing. This is producing frustration and discouragement.

We are frustrated because we don't like what we see in hear as Christians. We become discouraged because we think we can't do anything about these changes.

The good news

Here is the good news. I told you the bad news first. The good news is that you don't have to change your convictions. You don't have to like the new music styles if that is what is frustrating you. You don't have to stop going to church, although you may have to change churches. You don't have to stop giving your money as good stewards.

When you stop doing these things, you only hurt yourself. The good news is that Jesus Christ is still Lord and King. He is still in charge of His kingdom.

The devil has been using frustration and discouragement for centuries. These are the tools of his trade. When he can use anything to get Christians to be nonproductive,

(Continued on page 4)

FCC Leadership

Elders

Dick Moon
Joe Myers
Mike Pantano
Pat Quick

Ministry Leaders

Activities

Open

Aesthetics

Beth Fritz

Building & Grounds

Kurt Fritz

Communion

Fred Seely

Covid-19

Jim Reed

Encouragement

Cindy Sauter

Greeters

Sheila Quick

Homebound

Sheila Quick

Offering

Barb Baysore

Missions

Sue Myers

Publicity

Wanda Bower

Prayer

Open

Security Ministry

Brett Dalrymple

Seniors

Bill & Betty Lewis

Ushers

Ralph Eiswerth

Women's Ministry

Open

Worship

George & Jodi Wolfe

Youth Group

Matt & Colleen Musgrave

Information for the next issue of the *Good News Gazette* is due no later than the 15th of the preceding month.

Have you noticed an error or an omission? Do you have a suggestion, idea or complaint? Send your comments to bower1263@gmail.com.

First Christian Church

5329 Lycoming Mall Drive
Montoursville, PA 17754
(570)368-3101 – (570)368-8376 (fax)

Glenn Rossi, Lead Pastor (513) 290-3909

Melanie Brownsberger, Children's Director
(570) 772-1167

Kathryn Rossi, Secretary (570) 368-3101

Wanda Bower, Editor, bower1263@gmail.com



Seniors Ministry

October luncheon

Come join us October 25 at noon in the fellowship hall for our senior luncheon. We will have chicken pot pie prepared by Allen Baysore. Please bring a side dish or dessert to share. We will play bingo following the meal.

Anyone 55 or older is invited to attend. Call Betty Lewis at 570-546-1020 if you have any questions.



Don't forget to mail a card to your secret sister this month.

Be-attitudes

- Be understanding of your enemies.
- Be loyal to your friends.
- Be strong enough to face the world each day.
- Be weak enough to know you cannot do everything alone.
- Be generous to those who need your help.
- Be frugal with what you need for yourself.
- Be wise enough to know that you do not know everything.
- Be open enough to believe in miracles.
- Be willing to share your joys.
- Be eager to share the sorrows of others.
- Be a leader when you see a path others have missed.
- Be a follower when you are shrouded by uncertainty.
- Be the first to congratulate an opponent who succeeds.
- Be the last to criticize a colleague who fails.
- Be loving to those who love you.
- Be loving to those who don't love you; they may change.
- Be yourself, above all.

—Author unknown

First Christian Kids Corner

Hello Friends,

The September cupcake wars were **epic**! We have such a creative group of families! We had cupcakes looking like flowers, volcanos, and pumpkin patches, just to name a few.

The families were judged on creativity, taste, presentation, and cleanest work area. They were able to decorate four cupcakes for each of three challenges: 1) Use only forks to decorate, no spoons or rubber scrapers; 2) come up with a mystery flavor; and 3) decorate their cupcakes based on a theme. Everyone had a good time and, they all want to repeat the activity next year!

During church, the children finished learning about Psalms 23 and 119. We are now starting a thirteen-week study on the "Sermon on the Mount."

Plushies and family Sunday

October 23 will be Bring Your Favorite Plushy to Church Day. Children will bring a stuffed animal to church to have them participate in junior worship.

October 30 will be the last family Sunday of the year; you are not going to want to miss it!

We know that in all things God works for the good of those who love him, who have been called according to his purpose. Romans 8:28

*Many Blessings,
Melanie*

Mark your calendars

The Children's ministry will present a teacher and aide training session on November 3 at 6:30 p.m. at the church. See Melanie for more information.

Make life-long connections in life groups

Coming to a family room near you—life groups! FCC is starting Life Groups in homes or at church. They will include regular Bible study, prayer time, service activities and other connection-building opportunities, and fun with your group and will meet on a regular basis.

It will be a chance to do life together with a small group of people wanting deeper connections and relationships with others. If you haven't yet filled out an interest card for our Life Group Initiative, please contact me at glenn.pastor@outlook.com, 513-290-3909, or fill out a card, found in the Sunday bulletin, to express your interest. Don't miss out!



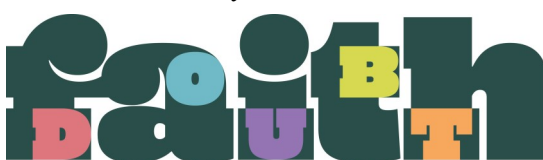
Glenn

You're made for faith

Contrary to popular opinion, faith and doubt aren't opposites. Instead, "doubt is a way station en route to faith," writes J. Ellsworth Kalas. "I can't imagine getting to faith at a grand level that raises the hair on your arms without passing through doubt to get there."

Switching metaphors, Kalas explains, "Faith is an edifice in which some of the grandest parts are the various stones and mortar of doubt." Christians need not worry about doubt, which is "the stuff that goes into the building of faith."

The *real* enemy of faith is unbelief, but it's not a fair fight, says Kalas.



Because humans "are made for faith ... unbelief is always an intruder, always working against what is magnificently native to us."

Take a minute

(Continued from page 2)

he wins and the kingdom loses.

The cure is just what the Bible teaches. Draw near to God, and he will draw near to you. God can't help us unless we help ourselves. God can't bless us unless we stay in his body. And don't try to tell me you can be a Christian and not go to church! It's impossible. First, you are not loyal to the Lord's Supper, and, second, you will not tithe, and that is part of your obeying God. And, the worst thing is, you are now not accountable or under authority of the church when you don't go. In God's eyes, uncommitted Christians are like the fig tree he cursed. The tree was cursed because it became useless.

It's revival time for Christians everywhere. We either need to get in or get out. God is calling all people to him. In these days, we **dare** not and **will** not let Satan have victory over us. It's time to stop making excuses and become the church that Jesus died for.

The word frustrated means defeated, brought to naught. The word discouraged means to lessen the enthusiasm, courage, that which destroys courage.

We are not defeated. And we the church, have not lost our courage. Jesus said, "I will never leave you or forsake you." I still believe that..

Do you?

Bud Yoder



Stay after worship October 23 for a meal and a vision meeting presented by our church leadership.

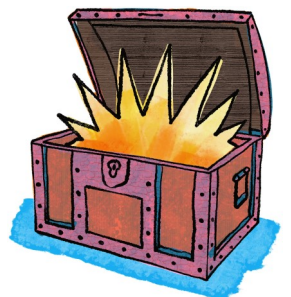
Cupcake wars

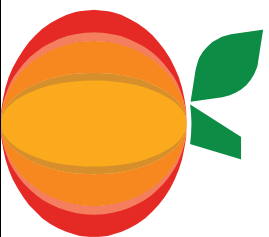


Hidden blessings

Dear friend, God may send you some valuable gifts wrapped in unattractive paper. But do not worry about the wrappings, for you can be sure that inside he has hidden treasures of love, kindness and wisdom. If we will simply take what he sends and trust him for the blessings inside, we will learn the meaning of the secrets of his providence, even in times of darkness.

—A.B. Simpson





OCTOBER

2022

| Sun | Mon | Tue | Wed | Thu | Fri | Sat |
|--|-----------------------|--------------------|-----|-----|-----|-----------------------------------|
| | | | | | | 1 Men of Issachar, 8am |
| 2 Bible School, 9am Worship, 10:15am Life Chain, 2:30pm | 3 The Way, 6:30pm | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 Revival Kick-Off Picnic, 4pm |
| 9 Bible School, 9am Worship, 10:15am Revival, 7pm | 10 Revival, 7pm | 11 Revival, 7pm | 12 | 13 | 14 | 15 Men of Issachar, 8am |
| 16 Bible School, 9am Worship, 10:15am | 17 The Way, 6:30pm | 18 | 19 | 20 | 21 | 22 |
| 23 Bible School, 9am Worship, 10:15am Vision Meeting, after worship | 24 The Way, 6:30pm | 25 | 26 | 27 | 28 | 29 Men of Issachar, 8am |
| 30 Bible School, 9am Worship, 10:15am | 31 The Way, 6:30pm | | | | | |

PUZZLE

SEEING CLEARLY

God's character is evident through what he made.

Directions: Hold up the puzzle to a mirror. Then write the backward words correctly to complete Romans 1:20, NIV.

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Create some invisible art and then reveal the seasonal design.

What you need:

- Leaves
- White paper
- White crayon (label removed)
- Watercolor paints
- Water
- Paintbrush

What you do:

1. Gather leaves of different shapes and sizes. On a table, arrange them flat without overlaps. Set the paper over them.
2. Hold the crayon sideways and use the long edge to color over the leaves. You'll make an invisible rubbing of them.
3. Then paint over the paper with watercolors. The areas with crayon will resist the paint and reveal the hidden leaf designs.

Cents-ible stewardship

During a children's sermon, the pastor gave each child two pennies and told them to put one in each hand. "With full hands," he asked, "how would you do other things, like drink a glass of juice?" They'd have to let go of one penny. (Likewise, adults must be willing to "let go" of material goods and desires to worship God alone.)

The pastor let the children keep the coins. When my 5-year-old returned to her seat, I suggested she could put them in the offering. Her quite loud response was, "NO! I need more money!" (Maybe my at-home talks about generosity — not to mention the kids message — hadn't sunk in?) Granted, giving is a tough concept, even for grown-ups. But adults would gladly give away "worthless" pennies.

When the offering plate came by, my daughter put in her pennies all by herself. "Now maybe some little girl can eat tonight," she said. God's prompting may take some time to change our hearts. But may we all give so freely and give up what seems important at the time.

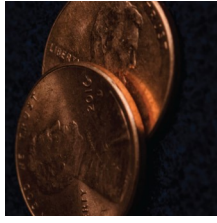
—Julie Lee



Taking awe breaks

Many of us are juggling so many things that we are run by our lives rather than living them as gifts from God. What if we could learn to stop for a moment many times a day? What if in those moments we could decide to notice the sheer miracle of being alive? We would then be taking awe breaks instead of coffee breaks.

—Gunilla Norris, *Weavings*, July/August 2008

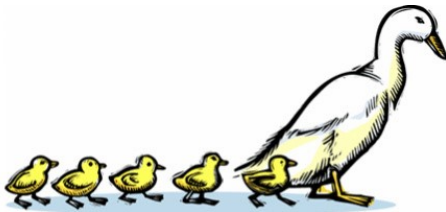


Where are your wings?

Danish philosopher Søren Kierkegaard told this parable about a town filled with ducks. Does it remind you of anyone?

In a land inhabited only by ducks, all the residents waddled to church one fine Sunday, with ducklings following behind their parents. They entered the Duck Church doors, got situated in their proper pews, sang from the Duck Hymnal and then listened to Duck Minister preach from the Duck Bible (Yes, even ducks have their own preferred version of Scripture).

"Ducks, God has given you wings!" the preacher shouted. "With wings you can fly like eagles! You can soar into the sky! No walls can confine you! No fences can hold you! God has given us wings, and we can know the utter euphoria of unfettered freedom! Do you believe you can fly?" In response, the duck congregation all shouted, "Amen!" Then they left their pews ... and all waddled back home.



Prayer for the church

The following prayer, included in *Evangelical Lutheran Worship* (2006) and other hymnals, is often used in Protestant churches on Reformation Sunday. But it's an important petition for all Christian denominations at all times of the year, for we constantly need God's truth and peace, direction and reformation.

"Gracious Father, we pray for your holy catholic church. Fill it with all truth and peace. Where it is corrupt, purify it; where it is in error, direct it; where in anything it is amiss, reform it; where it is right, strengthen it; where it is in need, provide for it; where it is divided, reunite it; for the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen."

| | |
|----------------------|-------|
| Hannah Myers | 10/2 |
| Connie Moore | 10/5 |
| Darren Bitler | 10/14 |
| Izayah Brownsberger | 10/16 |
| Michael Brownsberger | 10/17 |
| Deanna Bitler | 10/22 |
| Wanda Bower | 10/23 |
| George Wolfe | 10/23 |
| Gail Seitzer | 10/31 |

| | | |
|--------------------------|----------|-------|
| Cathy & Mike Pantnao | 50 years | 10/1 |
| Fred & Vaudeen Seeley | 51 years | 10/2 |
| Stephanie & Greg Harris | 49 years | 10/6 |
| Jen & Chris Diefenderfer | 16 years | 10/7 |
| Kurt & Beth Fritz | 42 years | 10/11 |

OCTOBER



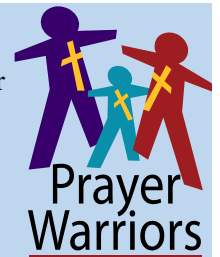
Is your birthday or anniversary incorrect or missing from the list?
Contact the office so we can correct our records.

Prayer Warriors

Prayer warriors, don't forget to pray for your families. For the month of October please pray for...

- * Mercy — "May my children always be merciful, just as their Father is merciful." (Luke 6:36)
- * Biblical Self-Esteem — "Help my children develop a strong self-esteem that is rooted in the realization that they are God's workmanship, created in Christ Jesus." (Eph. 2:10)
- * Purity — "Create in them a pure heart, O God, and let that purity of heart be shown in their actions." (Ps. 51:10)

Suggested activity: Ask them what they want to be when they grow up.



Administrative assistant position available

The church is seeking a new administrative assistant who would provide clerical support to the staff and elders in the church's administrative office. The position requires strong attention to detail, the capability to communicate well with church staff and church members, and the ability to stay organized. Ability to maintain strict confidentiality is a must.

This person would handle a wide range of office tasks, from word processing to social media, as well as answering phones and acting as a liaison between the members and the leadership team.

The workweek schedule is two or three days per week, approximately five to six hours per day (10-15 hours/week). The hours and days are flexible and will be negotiated with the lead pastor. It is anticipated that hours and responsibilities will increase as the church grows.

Contact the office for a job description for more information about the position.





First Christian Church
5329 Lycoming Mall Drive
Montoursville, PA 17754

No lone-ranger Christians

World Communion Sunday, celebrated this year on October 2, reminds us there's no such thing as solitary Christianity. "As Christians we're called to belong, not just to believe," writes Rick Warren. "We are not meant to live lone-ranger lives; instead, we are to belong to Christ's family and be members of his body."

After all, Christian fellowship can't occur without fellow Christians. We can't learn the intricacies of the Bible and theology without preachers and teachers. We don't baptize ourselves. We don't take Holy Communion alone; in fact, the sacrament's very name refers to interaction with God and others.

The New Testament clearly states that one cannot be Christian all alone. We are members of Christ's body (Ephesians 5:30). We belong to the family of believers (Galatians 6:10). We are "a royal priesthood, a holy nation, God's own people" (1 Peter 2:9, NRSV). So don't be a lone ranger or a stranger — to worship or to Holy Communion!

So we make it
OUR GOAL
to please him,
whether we are
AT HOME
in the body
or away from it.

2 CORINTHIANS 5:9, NIV

