

ECHOES

COVENANT UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

May, 2017

Issue 62, Number 5

One God Idea



by
**Pastor Quentin
Wallace**

Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. (Philippians 4:6)

During the Lenten season, we studied a very inspiring book, *Draw the Circle: The 40 day Prayer Challenge* by Mark Batterson. In the chapter entitled, "One God Idea", Batterson offers an illustration of the power of prayer and God's revelation from the life of George Washington Carver.

In the early 1900s, the southern agricultural economy was struggling for two reasons, the boll weevil had ruined the cotton crop, and the soil was nutrient deficient due to lack of crop rotation. Carver encouraged the farmers to plant peanuts to resolve the soil issue, and the soil was revived, but at the time there was no demand for peanuts. Today there are many uses for peanuts, not only for snacks and sandwiches, but for wood stain, fertilizer, soap and shaving cream to name a few. According to Batterson, the ideas and uses for the peanut revealed to Carver followed a long talk with God through prayer. One God idea is greater than the ideas of thousands of people.

Prayer is the basis for the strength and guidance of any church. Without

constant communication with the one who sent us, we may lose direction and purpose.

On Saturday, May 20, the Leadership Team and I are asking all to join us in prayer to seek God's guidance for the direction of Covenant for the 21st century. Some churches may be comfortable with always doing what they have always done, but Covenant, from my observation, is always seeking new ways to serve God and community.

Again, this is where conversations with God are paramount, and we feel nothing is more appropriate than holding continual prayer for 12 hours (7am to 7pm) by the faithful members of this congregation.

Speaking of the power of prayer, on Sunday, April 30, we welcomed seven youth into full membership after confirmation. Each young person has made a decision to follow Jesus as Lord. These occurrences are due to the power of prayer. We have been praying for our children & youth ministry and young people's ministries to grow. And God is answering our prayers.

I have another story to share from one of many experiences I have had in the past. At my former appointment that was a church located on the southeast side of Reading, we noticed in 2013 there were very few men in church. We began to pray about God

sending men into our church. For Father's Day that year, I was led to preach from Genesis:3 after Adam and Eve had eaten the forbidden fruit, discovered their nakedness, and were hiding from God as result.

So they hid from the Lord God among the trees. Then the Lord God called to the man. "Where are you? (Genesis 3:8-9)

We knew that God is better at calling people than we were, and one year later God led over a dozen men to join our church. As a result, we were able to add two new ministries; the Male chorus, and the Brothers for Christ Men's ministry. The men walked the neighborhood and prayed on weekends to help reduce violence, and fed people in downtown Reading. This was all due to the power of prayer.

In closing, please plan to join in our Prayer-A-Thon on Saturday, May 20. God wants to provide the revelation we need for Covenant that can only come through conversations with God, and afterward we should expect "One God Idea."

However, as it is written: "What no eye has seen, what no ear has heard, and what no human mind has conceived"--the things God has prepared for those who love him. (2 Corinthians 2:9)

Short & Sweet

NOTES OF THANKS

Ivadene Nagley thanks everyone for their prayers, cards, and visits during her recent illness. She also appreciates receiving the tapes of the Sunday services.

Flo Wyland thanks Hugh McClure, Glenn Miller, Harold Ulmer, Roger Willard, and Faye and Don Zechman for helping her move into her new apartment.

MEMORIALS RECEIVED...

In memory of Helen Fegley, gifts to the Dolly Kepner Fund from Lois Niedermeyer and Mr. and Mrs. Harry Senft.

LEADERSHIP TEAM SETS

PRAYER-A-THON

On Saturday, May 20, from 7 a.m. until 7 p.m., the Leadership Team will conduct a Prayer-a-Thon for Covenant Church. This event continues our Lenten emphasis on the need for and the power of prayer as together we continually surround Covenant Church in prayer. During the Prayer-a-Thon, individuals may sign-up for hour blocks of time during which the Chapel/Library will be used for prayer and meditation on various focus areas vital to our goal to grow Covenant Church, make disciples, and strengthen our ministry. Look for sign-up sheets in the Gathering Area. Monitors are also needed to sit in the lobby on an hourly basis.

MOOS NEEDS VOLUNTEERS

Mornings On Orange Street is seeking volunteers for Tuesday, Thursday, and Friday mornings between 7:00 and 8:30 a.m. If your are interested or able to offer some time to this important outreach ministry, please contact the church office.

PUT MAY 20th ON YOUR C A L E N D A R S !

Youth Car Wash

Outreach Book and Bake Sale

On a nice Saturday in May what could be better than getting your car washed, buying a good book, and enjoying a tasty baked good? Well on Saturday, May 20th, from 8 a.m. until noon, you can do just that. During that time, our youth group will wash your car for a donation, and our Outreach Team will be holding a book sale and bake sale as well. All proceeds will benefit the youth and our outreach ministries. If you have books you would like to donate for the book sale, please bring them to church during the previous week.

LOOKING FOR GRADUATES

As the end of the school year approaches, the church office is looking for those members who will be graduating from high school, or institute of higher learning this year. Please call the church office (393-1561) with the information in order for Covenant Church to recognize these accomplishments at a Sunday service in June.

PRAYER MEETING TIMES

Please remember that there are two ongoing prayer meetings during the week. The first is on Wednesday at the church starting at 12:30 p.m. led by Pastor Zechman. The second opportunity is the conference call prayer group on Friday mornings at 6:00 a.m. led by Minister Brenda Wallace. To join the Friday group call 1-712-432-0360, code 202700.

SUMMER CAMP

The recent spring-like weather reminds us that summer church camp will soon be here. Registration forms for Gretna Glen are now available. Forms for Pocono Plateau and Camp Innabah are expected soon. There are camps for almost all ages, from kindergarten to grandparents, as well as specialty camps for music, drama, horseback riding, archery, fishing, and others. See Pastor Don or Ginny in the office for registration forms.

CHILDREN'S DEPARTMENT SUMMER TEACHING SCHEDULE

- ◆ June 4: Wanda Snyder & Jeanne Schall
- ◆ June 11: Denise Troop & Cindy Hean
- ◆ June 18: Lois Niedermeyer & TBD
- ◆ June 25: Kristen Stemmer & TBD
- ◆ July 2: Faye Zechman & Don Zechman
- ◆ July 9: Faye Zechman & Don Zechman
- ◆ July 16: Bill Kepner & Phyllis Kepner
- ◆ July 23: Bill Kepner & Phyllis Kepner
- ◆ July 30: VBS Sunday & Pot Luck
- ◆ August 6: Sara Cuevas & TBD
- ◆ August 13: Minister Brenda & TBD
- ◆ August 20: Sara Cuevas & TBD
- ◆ August 27: Stephanie Schall & TBD
- ◆ September 3: Nancy Grau & Bill Grau

Contact Wanda Snyder or Don Zechman with questions.

We Worship Together

May 7, 2017—4th Sunday of Easter

Holy Communion

Contemporary Worship (9:00) and Traditional Worship (10:20): Pastor Wallace will preach at both services. The Chancel Choir will present an anthem at 10:20 a.m. Holy communion will be observed on this Sunday.



May 14, 2017—5th Sunday of Easter

Mother's Day

Blanket Sunday

Contemporary Worship (9:00) and Traditional Worship (10:20): Pastor Wallace will present the message during both services. A Mission Minute will be presented by Chris Kimmich. The Chancel Choir will sing, and the Celebration Ringers will present an anthem.

May 21, 2017—6th Sunday of Easter

Music Appreciation Sunday

Contemporary Worship (9:00) and Traditional Worship (10:20): Pastor Wallace will preach the message at both the 9:00 a.m. & 10:20 a.m. services this day. On this Sunday we will show our appreciation for all the musical ministries of Covenant Church. The Kingdom Kids, the Celebration Ringer, the Praise Team and the Chancel Choir will all participate in the 10:20 service.

May 28, 2017—7th Sunday of Easter

Contemporary Worship (9:00) and Traditional Worship (10:20): Darwin Tyson will preach at the 9 a.m. contemporary service and Roger Kresge will preach at the 10:20 traditional service. The Chancel Choir sings at 10:20.

June 4, 2017—Day of Pentecost

Graduate Recognition

Heritage Sunday

Contemporary Worship (9:00) and Traditional Worship (10:20):

Team & Committee Updates

WORSHIP TEAM (4/18/17)

Music Appreciation Day is May 21. Sunday, June 4 will be BUSY! As it is Pentecost; Graduate Recognition; Heritage Sunday; and Member Recognition. June 11 is the last Sunday that Chancel Choir will perform. Also, Children's Promotion Sunday is June 11.

OUTREACH TEAM (4/3/17)

The Community Closet served about 43 families in March. The next one will be held on May 6. This will be the last one before summer; will resume the first Saturday in September.

At this point, the Outreach Committee is financially sound due to unused profits

from last year's parking lot sale plus profits from the grocery cards. It was decided that distribution of these funds will be as follows: \$1000 to MOOS; \$300 to Love INC; \$300 to LUMINA; \$300 to LCCC; and \$300 to Red Bird.

The Outreach Committee assembled and distributed 53 personal hygiene kits to the women's shelter along with extra toiletries. These were very much appreciated.

LEADERSHIP TEAM (4/11/17, 5/2/17)

Pastor Quentin presented some information about "missional" churches, churches that focus on being Christ wherever you are in the community.

The team discussed how Covenant would look if it were more missional and how that would support this year's emphasis on "Growing the Kingdom." The discussion led to ideas about how we witness for Christ and creating opportunities for unchurched people to openly discuss God, the church, and living for Jesus. The "next steps" part of the discussion led the team to recognize a need for prayer that could be met through an event like a Prayer-a-Thon. A Prayer-a-Thon would provide the opportunity for members to pray for Covenant and ask for God's leading. The team then began planning the event and then fine-tuned it during its May meeting.

Volunteers for May

May 7

Anchorite: 10:20 - Joann Scheid
Hallway Greeter: 10:20 - Denise Troop
Lobby Greeters: 8:40 - Faye Zechman & Brenda Roth; 10:00 - Lori Brown & Tina Butler

May 14

Anchorite: 10:20 - Charlie Miller
Hallway Greeter: 10:20 - Marilyn Keener
Lobby Greeters: 8:40 - Cindy & Bob Hean 10:00 - Joann Scheid

May 21

Anchorite: 10:20 - Marilyn Keener
Hallway Greeter: 10:20 - Carol Brower
Lobby Greeters: 8:40 - Mary Lou Hill; 10:00 - Sandy & Guy Carrigan

May 28

Anchorite: 10:20 - Nancy Grau
Hallway Greeter: 10:20 - John & Aileen Longenecker
Lobby Greeters: 8:40 - Sara & Alex Cuebas; 10:00 - Janice & Harold Ulmer

MAY USHERS

Dave Beznoska, Head Usher
Bill Grau, Jr.; Meryl Groff;
Dick Galen

JUNE USHERS

Head Usher will recruit ushers each Sunday.

Covenant Members in Business

A Brush with Jeff

Interior & Light Exterior Painting
Jeff McGary, 717.330.9616 or
jcmcgary@comcast.net

Conestoga Innovations Promotional Products

(for all your advertising needs)
Wanda Snyder, 1.800.759.8885 or
sales@conestoga-innovations.com

CTC Lollipop Company

414 N. Pine Street, 717.509.5916
Tues.-Fri. 11am-7pm; Sat. 9am-2pm

Dale Building Designs

Donald A. Dale, 872.4263
2086 New Danville Pike, Lanc., 17603
www.DonDaleDesigns.com

Groffs Family Funeral

& Cremation Services, Inc.
Thomas S. Buter, 394.5300
528 W. Orange St.

Interiors by Kristen

Kristen Stemmer, 875.4014
2086 New Danville Pike, Lanc. 17603

K & W Tire Co. Inc.

Lucille Kline, 397.3596
735 N. Prince St.

Kresge Computer Consultation

Roger Kresge, 299.4613 or
rkresge123@comcast.net

Miller Optical

Glenn & Maryanne Miller, 393.2020
Glasses, Contacts, and Exams
Lancaster & Willow Street

Richard B. MacDonald

Attorney at Law
312 W. Orange St., Lancaster
717.394.1508

Steve's Automotive Technology

Steve Sultan
PA Safety and Emission Inspections
1027 Dillersville Rd #16
666.3646

Willard Hypnosis Center

Roger J. Willard
3304 Main St., Conestoga, PA 17516
717.872.7561 or
willardhypnosis.com



Use UMCMarket!

Do you shop online? Lots of people do. But did you know you can also support Covenant Church when you do your shopping online? It's easy! In just three easy steps you'll be on your way:

- 1) Start your shopping experience by going to www.umcmarket.org, and clicking on the **Sign In/Up** button in the upper right corner of the screen.
- 2) Create a username and password, and select a ministry you want to support (e.g., Covenant United Methodist Church). The interactive menu walks you through the process.
- 3) Start shopping! A percentage of your online purchases will be donated to Covenant Church! Hundreds of online vendors support the UMCMarket program.

There's also an option to add a UMCMarket button to your Web browser (works with Chrome, Firefox and Safari, but not Internet Explorer or Edge) that makes it even easier for future shopping. Our United Methodist denomination has been working to develop UMCMarket for several years, and this version 3.0 works very well.

Want to learn more?

Watch the UMCMarket video at <https://vimeo.com/user37820020/learnmoreaboutumcmarket>

We will also post this link on our church website, at www.covenant-umc.com. Or contact Roger Kresge for additional help.

Here's to Good Health

May Wellness Note

Winter is finally over; the days are getting nicer, and it is time to be out and about more often. I just want to give you a few reminders about how to be safe when you are outside enjoying God's creation.

- ⇒ Use sunscreen.
- ⇒ Stay hydrated.
- ⇒ If you go barefoot, watch where you are going.
- ⇒ Remembers to keep hot foods hot and cold foods cold when you are eating outdoors.
- ⇒ Stretch and warm up before getting involved in outdoor sports activities.
- ⇒ Be aware of persons who are allergic to bee stings.
- ⇒ Get rid of any standing water to keep mosquitoes away.

⇒ Take time to sit and relax!

Enjoy the days ahead and stay healthy!

Here is an idea for a side dish to go with those meats done on the grill.

Asparagus and Mushrooms Lemon-Thyme Butter

In a large skillet, sauté 1 lb. fresh asparagus (trimmed and cut into 1 inch pieces) and 1/2 lb. sliced fresh mushrooms in 1 tbsp. butter and 1 tsp. olive oil until tender. Stir in 1 1/2 tsp. minced fresh thyme, 1 tsp. grated lemon peeo, 1/2 tsp. each salt and lemon juice, and 1/4 tsp. pepper.



Yield: 4 servings

A Snippet of Covenant History

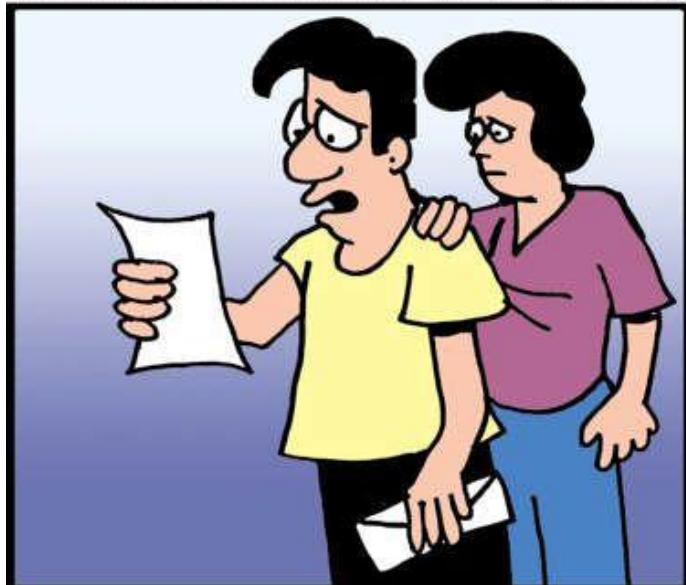
Covenant's First Bell Choir

On October 3, 1963, the first rehearsal of Covenant's newly formed Handbell Choir was held. The choir was initially composed of boys who were encouraged to join the handbell choir at the time their voices were changing.

Look for a picture of our first bell choir coming soon to the Gathering Area.



CHURCH OF THE COVERED DISH by Thom Tapp



"It's from our church... we've been called up for active duty."

Covenant UM Church

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We Welcome
We Nurture
We Serve