

The Lamplighter

VOLUME 13, ISSUE 6

JUNE 2020

Pastor's Page

by Pastor Gary

History is so important. I am not a history buff, but I do enjoy learning historical snippets. While we all hear of how unprecedented the current virus pandemic is, it actually isn't. How do I know this pandemic and our response to it is not unprecedented? Because history says so.

The hometown newspaper back in Washington, PA, from where I just moved, is running a series about the Spanish flu epidemic from just over a century ago. Back then, just as today, there were virus deniers, protesters, fear-mongers, and obedient followers. There were political and legal battles on both sides of the response. Everything we see in the news today is essentially a repeat from the last time. While "those who do not learn history are doomed to repeat it," is a well-known saying, we are repeating history whether we learned it or not.

Here are some examples of the historical repetition. The "Spanish flu" was not Spanish; in fact, the Spanish called it the "French flu," and, just like today, the United States was blamed for being the actual source of the disease. Theaters, churches, saloons, and schools were all closed down. Vicks VapoRub, a home treatment for the flu, was out of stock instead of today's toilet paper supply. People complained that their civil rights were being violated, and that they were being ruined financially. What was true

then is true now, but it isn't anything different.

We survived as a nation and as a world, because God willed us to. We will survive as a nation and as a world this time around if God wills us to. God is not only aware of history, He is the author and ultimate focus of history. We humans experience history one day at a time, but God, Who is outside of time, experiences history all at once. The best illustration of this is watching a parade from the ground or from the air. When I watch a parade on the ground, I see one float or band at a time; when I fly my airplane over a parade, I see the entire parade, beginning to end, all at once.

The bottom line is that we have no reason to worry or fear. First, we have been through this before and came out fine on the other side of it. Second, we are one hundred years better prepared medically and scientifically than we were last time. Third, and most importantly, God is in control this time just as He was last time. Let's trust Him, and see what happens: we are guaranteed the outcome for us will be good. "And we know that all things work together for good to them that love God to them who are the called according to His purpose." -- Romans 8:28

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"We will survive as a nation and as a world this time around if God wills us to.. . The bottom line is we have no reason to fear."

Pastor Gary

We are leaving this space vacant as a reminder to keep praying for Geary Bish, our Sunday School Director as he continues his fight against cancer. WE LOVE YOU, GEARY!



EDITOR'S NOTE:

During the current Covid-19 crisis, we will be publishing an abbreviated edition of the monthly newsletter, minus the calendar, on our website. We will still mail it out to the homebound. Once we can begin meeting again, we will resume normal publication. Copies are also at the church for pickup.



Library News

New and on the Shelf

Fiction

Jerusalem Assassin by Joel C. Rosenberg (F ROS)

Non-fiction

The Hole in our Gospel by Richard Stearns (248.4)

The Translator's Guide on the Book of Amos by Jan De Waard (224.8)

Living the Extraordinary Life by Charles Stanley (248.4)

Standing Strong by Charles Stanley (248.4)

Audio

Adventures in Odyssey: Life Lessons - Respect



Missions & Outreach

Status of Planned Events due to Coronavirus

Sunday School: Some classes meeting via Zoom

Sunday Morning Service: 11 am via Facebook Live

Sunday & Wednesday evening services: Via Zoom

AWANA: Finished until September

Ladies' Tuesday Bible Study: cancelled until further notice. Please continue reading the book of Isaiah.

Women on Mission & Mission Warriors—Not meeting in June but are encouraging you to continue collecting toiletries for the women in West Virginia

Hand lotion; baby wipes, deodorant, toothpaste, toothbrushes, dental floss, shampoo, conditioner, & bar soap.

UPWARD Soccer: Cancelled; refunds pending (Fall season a possibility)

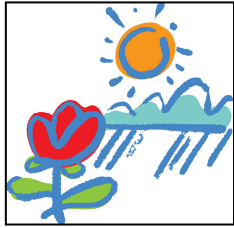
VBS 2020 : Tentatively still on, but planning is on hold.

Youth Mission Trip to WV in July: Currently still on, but subject to change

? ? **Bible Quiz** ? ?

Ecclesiastes 3:1 says, "For everything there is a season, and a time for every matter under heaven." Which of the following are mentioned in the list that follows?

- A. a time to teach, and a time to learn
- B. a time to mourn, and a time to dance
- C. a time to fast, and a time to eat
- D. a time to work, and a time to rest



A kindled fire

"I can worship outside among nature just as well as I can inside a church building." That claim is especially common during the summer, when church attendance tends to decline.

Certainly it's possible to worship and talk to God among his creation. In fact, George Washington Carver called nature "an unlimited broadcasting station, through which God speaks to us every hour, if we will only tune in." And Martin Luther said, "God writes the Gospel not in the Bible alone, but also on trees, and in the flowers and clouds and stars."

Yet corporate, or church, worship is still vital. Luther also noted: "At home, in my own house, there is no warmth or vigor in me, but in the church when the multitude is gathered together, a fire is kindled in my heart and it breaks its way through." When we're away from God's house, we miss blessings and opportunities including communion, fellowship and support. So this summer, spend time in nature but don't neglect "to meet together" (see Hebrews 10:25)

"No man stands taller than when he stoops to help a child."

- Abraham Lincoln

June Family News



02	Tyler Hill	16	Ruth Kirkum
05	Norma Hanson	17	Geary Bish
06	Jerry Pruitt	18	Doug LaRue
07	Justice Tarburton	21	Justin Irwin
08	Ann Dodge	21	Nick Papanicolas
08	Billy Moore	22	Richard Dodge
10	Casey Phillips	22	Kevin Jewell
11	Sharon Bruce	23	Jeni Irwin
11	Caroline Dinh	25	Gordon Hanson
11	Tara Havrilla	27	David Thompson
12	Thomas Hancock	28	Morgan Krauel
13	Hailey Tippett	29	Nan Linville
14	Gloria Peterson	30	Glenn Miller
16	Matthew Hancock	30	Jennifer Miller

06	Saverio & Dawn Adamo
06	Paul & Tracy Milcetic
07	Kevin & Amy Jewell
08	Richard & Nora Dodge
08	Talmage & Sally Sexton
14	Titus & Cairna Muniz
25	Gordon & Norma Hanson
26	Matt & Jennifer Cooke

CONGRATULATIONS, GRADUATES!



Max Bode graduated with honors from Shepherd University with a Bachelor of Arts degree in Sports Communication on May 8, 2020. He hopes to attend graduate school in the fall and eventually pursue a career in college athletic management.

Jake Burgess graduates the week of June 1, 2020* with honors from McDonough High School. Among other things, he is class valedictorian, student liaison to the Charles County Public Board of Education, and played on the tennis team. He has been accepted to the University of Maryland Business Honors program and is considering several career options.

Morgan Krauel is graduating from Maurice J. McDonough High School the week of June 1, 2020*. She plans to go to CSM in the fall for 2 years to earn an AAT (Associate of Arts and Teaching) Degree. She will then transfer to a 4 year college to pursue a dual degree in Elementary and Special Education.

Katie Lusk will graduate from La Plata High School the week of June 1, 2020*, and then attend the college of southern Maryland to study nursing.

Xaris Schneider graduates May 26th, a year early, from Faith Christian School in Washington, PA, where she has attended since her preschool days. She plans to attend either the College of Southern Maryland for her first two years, or go directly to Leavell College In New Orleans and major in Christian Counseling.

* These virtual graduations will be re-broadcast June 11 beginning at 7 am on Comcast 26, Verizon 12 and other platforms. See www.ccps.com website for latest information.

***Note: If you don't see your birthday or anniversary listed here and would like to have it included, please call the office. Also notify the office if you find an er-**



Nathan Hancock and **Sarah Adeyanju** were united in marriage on May 2, 2020 at Sarah's home in a small private ceremony. They now reside in Virginia. A reception will be held at a later date.

Please keep them in prayer as they are frontline workers as a paramedic and nurse. Also pray they find a new church home when the pandemic allows in-person worship again.

Contact information for Pastor Gary:

email: PastorGary@fbclaplata.org

cell: 724-747-0430

FYI
(abbreviated version)

Due to the current health emergency, we are not meeting as a body at the church, but are streaming Pastor Gary's messages live on Facebook at 11 am every Sunday and posting the audio later on the church website. Below are his messages for May:

- June 07: "New Creature" 2 Corinthians 5:17-18**
- June 14: "Rahab, the Harlot" Joshua 2:1-4**
- June 21: "Spiritual Fruit" Galatians 5:22-23**
- June 28: "Words Say Much" Judges 12:4-6**

Some Sunday School classes and Wednesday night prayer services are meeting via Zoom. Contact your teacher or leader for details.

Tellers for June:

Although we are not meeting as a church body, people are still sending in their tithes. Tellers will be stopping at the church every couple of days to process your gifts. The Finance Committee is also exploring online giving options and will announce that plan when it is finalized.

"Solutions are not found by pointing fingers; they are reached by extending hands."

—Aysha Taryam

Highly esteemed

After returning from a lengthy mission trip overseas, John Huffman and his fellow passengers were held up in customs for two hours. When he finally made it to the packed airport lobby, Huffman realized it might take a while to find his family. But suddenly his 3-year-old daughter ran toward him yelling, "Daddy! Daddy! That's my daddy!" and launched into his arms.

"What a welcome," he writes. "I have never felt so loved and acknowledged in my life." Perhaps that's how God feels when we call on His name in worship and prayer, acknowledging Him as our heavenly Father — and honoring Him above all else.

Special Dates in June

- June 14: Flag Day**
- June 20: First Day of Summer**
- June 21: Fathers' Day**

We hope to resume our regular schedule in June, and if so, we will resume publication of the monthly calendar of activities with the July issue.

Welcoming the Holy

Abraham and Sarah welcomed three strangers who turned out to be the Lord. Jesus said, "If anyone gives even a cup of cold water to one of these little ones who is My disciple," the giver will be rewarded (Matthew 10:42, NIV). An ancient Jewish proverb asserts: "Hospitality is one form of worship." A Russian Orthodox monk is said to have told a younger one, "Sometimes I see a stranger coming up the road and I say, 'Oh, Jesus Christ, is it You again?'" And an old Gaelic poem declares, "Often, often, often, goes the Christ in the stranger's guise."

Sometimes we think we must do something big to serve God. Today, when you smile at someone on the street, take time to entertain a child's question, bring cookies to a new neighbor, thank a server or clerk ... know that you are serving Jesus, that you are worshipping God.

—Heidi Mann



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An invitation to rest

Summer calls to mind a slower pace, time off from school and work. But many still face daily demands this time of year: farmers work long hours; teachers may take seasonal work to make ends meet; parents with kids now home all day may catch up on work late at night. Still, may the longer days and warmer weather beckon you into a bit of free time this season. Listen:

“When you take time to replenish your spirit, it allows you to serve others from the overflow. You cannot serve from an empty vessel.” —Eleanor Brownn (public speaker and educator)

“Sometimes it's important to work for that pot of gold. But other times it's essential ... to make sure that your most important decision in the day [is] which color to slide down on the rainbow.”

—Douglas Pagels (author)

