

## ***Thoughts from the Pastors***

Greetings from the Brondykes! As you know [or may not], my husband Richard and I are the transitional pastors here at Middle Octorara. One of our heart-felt convictions is prayer, both individually and as a group will pave the way for the new pastor and prepare hearts for a new beginning. These thoughts on individual prayer are intended to help us open our hearts to prayer.

How do we pray? Most of us pray for the needs of our families and requests which Deb e-mails. But prayer enriches and nourishes even more fully when we include other types of prayer too. This little acrostic helps me when I pray.

**A** adoration. That focusing first on God for His marvelous character. His

Holiness, mercy, goodness, beauty, justice ...His All-knowing, [omniscience] All powerful [omnipotence] and All-present [omnipresence] character. Starting our prayers in worship of Him rather than reciting our prayer list not only pleases God but also causes His Spirit to fill and guide our prayers. Examples could be: "Lord, I worship you, I love you, I'm overwhelmed by your....." Worship songs such as "Lord you are more precious than silver, Lord you are more costly than gold. Lord you are more beautiful than diamonds and nothing I desire compares with you" Or hymns like "Holy, Holy, Holy" and "How Great Thou Art." The psalms, so overwhelmingly beautiful, make the heart sing with worship. [Psalm 103, 139]

**C** onfession. In Confession we open our hearts to God, humbly, honestly and simply without excuses or reasons. Person confession can ensnare us by falling into personality traps. Those having a tendency to excessive introspection, self-blame, or guilt spend too much time berating, regretting or fretting. Prayer which in faith rejoices in God's redeeming forgiveness in Christ pleases God. Those rushing to get on with their 'to do' list or aren't reflective or simply not aware may skip over confession. Confession, like the assurance of pardon found in the Sunday order of worship, always ends with personal thanksgiving and assurance of God's pardon. [Psalm 51, I John 1:9]

**T** hanksgiving. This includes the truly wonderful blessings we can see, and also ones we cannot, We need to thank God for those troubling circumstances over which we have no power or insight. Thanksgiving for the unresolved and even unfair, painful situations, increases our faith and prevents the temptation to ask God: "Why me?"

**S** upplication When we faithfully intercede for others, so many are blessed and come to faith in a personal God. Let's add to our list those in nursing homes, prisons, and especially those who cannot pray, at this time, for themselves, people who are grieving, unbelieving or suffering persecution. Lastly let's not forget to pray for our own needs and desires. By doing so, we grow in trust in the Lord who loves each one of us, just as we are- His beloved child. [I John 4:10]

With love,

The Brondykes

## **CHURCH HAPPENINGS**

### **MEMBER ADDRESS CHANGES**

Dave (Jill) Garver – 626 River Road, Sykesville, MD 21784

### **MIDDLE OCTORARA PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN**

**CLOTHING GIVEAWAY** Your help is needed the week of August 13. If you have any time to give, we will need to sort and organize the clothing for our give-away on August 18. The sorting/organizing will be done Monday – Friday, Aug 13-17. Please contact Shirley Miller to volunteer your help or with questions.

This is one of the ways we reach out to the community – offering free clothing, shoes and accessories to the general public. We ask all ‘shoppers’ to donate \$ or a non-perishable item for the Food Bank in Quarryville.

The Give Away will be held from 7 AM to noon on the 18<sup>th</sup>.

### **SESSION**

The Session has approved to donate to several Missions in June and July. They are: Hands Across the Street which is managed by Columbia Presbyterian Church of Columbia PA. They help to feed the needy in that community.

St. Jude's Hospital in recognition of Joe Mason's 70th birthday and in memory of his son.

Shiloh Presbyterian Church of Oxford PA at the request of Rev. Erin Cox-Holmes in lieu of compensation for Erin leading us in worship and moderating our Congregation Meeting. This will help with their young men mentoring program.

Thanks to all who support these and other worthwhile missions through giving to our Session/ Benevolence Fund.

Matt 25:40

For Pastoral care call:

Rev. Mary Brondyke 717-660-8100 or

Rev. Richard Brondyke 717-969-0019

Church Office Hours: Wednesday 9:30 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.

Hometown Café – 12:00 – 1:00 p.m.

## MISSION MUSINGS

Ah summer time. For some it may be the lazy hazy days of summer. For others summer may be the most hectic time of year. Whichever it may be for you I hope you will always have time to spend with God.

In their message Sunday morning the Brondyke's reminded us of how important prayer must be in the life of a Christian. They empathized how vital prayer is, both one to one with God as well as joining together with our church family in corporate prayer. Many of us lead very busy lives and much of what we do is necessary, important and helpful. Even so if what we do is not God centered is it really what He wants us to be doing?

In Psalms 46:10 He says: Be still and know that I am God. Is that difficult for you to do? Is it difficult to set aside time every day to focus only on God? I challenge each of us to read His word and meditate on it. To pray to Him and then be silent, listening for Him to respond to us as we sit in silence fully expecting Him to guide us and fill our lives with His abounding goodness and love.

Please take time out of your busy schedule to sit back and enjoy His marvelous Creation. Take time to thank and praise God for His countless blessings and then be still and listen for Him to respond to you.

Of course the Bible records Jesus praying often, with and for others as well as off by Himself. Paul admonishes us to pray without ceasing.

This summer and throughout our busy lives may we always set aside time to be still and know that He is God!

Psalms 62:5  
Dan Henry

## REFLECTIONS

*by Barry Girvin*

*One Size Does Not Fit All*

The Christian Education Committee is trying very hard to attract young families to Middle Octorara. As explained in the Bulletin, you can help by supplying names so invitations can be delivered to potential Sunday School and Church attendees.

Although building our Sunday School is a top priority, we should not be tied to one objective. Women's Bible Study has been a success, and we could build on this. Everything does not have to happen on Sunday. Suggestions have been made that we could bring in leaders to present seminars on current topics: suicide prevention, the opioid crisis, special needs children, background checks, financial management, etc. Doing Christian education and church can be a successful combination of past practice and new ideas. Please stay tuned and offer your input.

Times have changed since the church was the centerpiece of the community, but the hunger for salvation through Jesus Christ is stronger than ever. As folks reach out for meaning in their lives, we need to have the will to share our faith. It is a sin of omission when we just walk on by and miss the opportunity to witness. It is the same with our church as the body of Christ. We need to work together and offer many paths to Christ. Let's think big and always consider the needs of different age groups. Family, work, and leisure in today's society require that we think outside the box as we plan how we do church. As my grandmother, Emma Groff, used to say, "Be not the first by whom the new is tried nor yet the last to lay the old aside."

## THIS- N-THAT

### BEWARE THE SPOTTED LANTERN FLY

#### - An Informational Alert for Landowners -

Late in July two young ladies from the Penn State Extension Service stopped by my house to inform me of the need to be on the lookout for the Spotted Lantern Fly. This invasive insect originated in China where it was kept in check by natural predators or pathogens. Since this pest has arrived in the United States, it has become a concern because the natural predators and pathogens do not exist here. The fly has become a major problem in many counties in Eastern PA and has spread to New Jersey. It is projected that the spotted lantern fly may seriously harm our grape vines, fruit orchards and logging industries.

The SLF prefers to feed off certain trees, one of which is Allanthus (known as the tree of heaven). To me this tree looks much like the poison Sumac. There is much to learn about this pest, but one way of controlling it is to rid your property of the Allanthus. The gals from the Extension Office found some Allanthus on my property and they said it is very prevalent in Lancaster County. The Extension Office personnel will come and remove the shrub-like tree free of charge, once it receives permission from the land owner.

I have been reading up on this pest, know what it looks like and know what Allanthus looks like. If you would like further information, please pick up the Pest Alert flyer in the Narthex.

--Here is a link to valuable Penn State information:

<http://extension.psu.edu/pests/spotted-lanternfly>

Boni Henry



## Rain Song

It isn't raining rain to me,  
It's raining daffodils;  
In every dimpling drop I see  
Wildflowers on the hills.  
A cloud of gray engulfs the day  
And overwhelms the town;  
It isn't raining rain to me,  
It's raining roses down.

It isn't raining rain to me,  
But fields of clover bloom,  
Where any buccaneering bee  
May find a bed and room.  
A health, then, to the happy,  
A fig to him who frets;  
It isn't raining rain to me,  
It's raining violets.

Robert Loveman

*(submitted by Dick Keene)*



## SERMON IN SONG

*"A memorable message through songs, stories and insights*

**Join us on Sunday, August 12th at our 10:30 a.m. worship service**



For over 20 years singer, songwriter, and guitarist Mark Cable has been challenging and encouraging **Sunday morning congregations** across the United States. His "sermon in song" presentations combine biblical insights with everyday life application through his heartfelt song lyrics and real life stories. Throw in Mark's off-the-wall sense of humor and you get a powerful message that is both inspiring and truly "memorable". Mark has ministered in hundreds of morning services, often for special occasions such as Friend Day, Rally Day, Easter, Christmas, Valentine's, and even "the pastor-is-on-vacation-day". He understands the need to be flexible in regards to time, theme, multiple services and is available to lead worship as well. Mark's full-time ministry typically takes him to 100 engagements each year with about 20 of those being Sunday morning **Sermon in Song** presentations.



## Hot Air Balloon Facts

- The first human carrying flight technology was the hot air balloon.
- While unmanned balloons have been around in some form for thousands of years, the first untethered flight with people on board was in 1782.
- The large balloon on top is called an 'envelope'. It holds hot air created by a heat source known as a burner.
- The burner creates an open flame by burning a mix of liquid propane and air.
- Hot air balloons are buoyant because the hot air inside the envelope has a lower density than the colder air outside.
- Passengers typically stand in a wicker basket beneath the envelope.
- While most envelopes have a standard balloon shape, others are designed to look like animals, cartoon characters and other fun objects.
- The top of the balloon usually has a vent which allows the pilot to control the speed of ascent/descent (along with the burner).
- Hot air balloons can fly to amazing heights, the world record is over 68,900 feet. It's tough to breathe up there so [oxygen](#) is needed from around 16,400 feet.
- The temperature inside a hot air balloon is usually kept below 248 Fahrenheit.
- A typical envelope is made from nylon with a melting point around 446 Fahrenheit.
- Hot air balloon flights and festivals are popular in various destinations around the world. Well known locations include Cappadocia (Turkey), Albuquerque (New Mexico, USA), Luxor (Egypt) and the Serengeti (Tanzania).

## BIRTHDAYS & ANNIVERSARIES

### August birthday's starting with the 5th

- 5 – Rick Deming
- 7 – Nancy Harnish
- 9 – Chad Ressel
- 11 – Betty Reinhart, Koryn Barrett
- 12 – Sara Kauffman
- 14 – Eva Bishop
- 15 – Chris Pfeiffer, Martin Hileman
- 16 – Lily Keene
- 18 – Katelyn Keene
- 24 – Jani Hileman
- 28 – Eric LeFevre

### August anniversaries

- 14 – Caley & Melissa Roark
- 25 – Rick & Gretchen Deming
- 28 – Ray & Valerie Wessner



## TREASURER'S REPORT

### GENERAL FUND & BENEVOLENCE FINANCES *July 2018*

The following is the individual weekly breakdown of offerings:

July 1 -	General Fund	1,735.00	Benevolence	147.00
July 8 -	General Fund	1,778.00	Benevolence	110.00
July 15 -	General Fund	1,169.54	Benevolence	104.00
July 22 -	General Fund	1,869.00	Benevolence	87.00
July 29 -	General Fund	1,474.00	Benevolence	142.00

An additional \$2,196.74 General Fund money, including manse rental and \$100.00 Benevolence money was also received.

\*\*\*\*\*

We ended with a comfortable balance for the month of July, mainly due to not currently paying a full time minister. I still have not received a bill for the winter snow removal probably because of life changing circumstances for the Johnson family. We will see what God has planned for us in August.

#### YTD GENERAL FUND & BENEVOLENCE FINANCES

	Monthly Budget	YTD Budget	Monthly Received	YTD Received	YTD <b>Expenses</b>
General Fund	13,812.85	82,877.10	10,222.28	76,738.71	75,498.16
Benevolence	615.40	3,692.40	690.00	4,631.00	

Debbie Hoover, Secretary-Treasurer





## CALENDAR OF EVENTS

(Subject to change)

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
August 5	August 6	August 7 ROMEO club 9:00 a.m.	August 8	August 9 Session Mtg. 7:00 p.m.	August 10	August 11
August 12 Mark Cable concert 10:30 a.m.	August 13	August 14 ROMEO club 9:00 a.m. Trustee Mtg. 7:00 p.m.	August 15	August 16	August 17	August 18 Clothing giveaway 7:00 a.m.
August 19	August 20	August 21 ROMEO club 9:00 a.m.	August 22	August 23	August 24	August 25
August 26	August 27	August 28 ROMEO club 9:00 a.m.	August 29	August 30	August 31	Sept. 1