

OUR PASTOR'S THOUGHTS

Hi Folks,

Kristine and I went to Longwood Gardens, with family friends, to see the Tulips



blooming, along with other flowers and plants. It had been quite a while since I had been there. I have to say, even though some of the Tulips were past their peak, they were still wonderful. Tulips are one of my favorite flowers. There were some with frilly edges. There were some with several colors. And there were some as big as two hands side-by-side. I think the best Tulips of all weren't in the long beds of flowers. They were in raised planters, inside a fenced in patio. I'm so glad I decided to walk in there. They could have been easily missed.

It can be easy to miss signs of God's goodness. How many times have we just walked past, a most wonderful flower, and not really paid any attention to it?

I do like flowers, and I have a bunch planted around my yard. But for the most part, I like flowers from a distance. I'm really looking forward to flowers in heaven, where I'll be able to enjoy them up close.

That evening I had the opportunity to hear Charlie Zahm sing, Kendrah Tozzo play her harp, and Jonathan

Welk play his bagpipes. This was an opportunity to hear songs, to hear notes, of God's goodness. In Heaven I hope to sing like The Three Irish Tenors, or like Charlie Zahm, or like Craig Williams. In Heaven I hope to learn instruments like the fiddle and the banjo and the piano and the bagpipes from masters like Kendra and Jonathan. We'll get-together and sing and play like I see on TV when I watch PBS programs like The Three Irish Tenors, or The Grand Ole Opry, or the orchestra and singers led by Andre Rieu. I

want to learn the Violin and play like Lindsey Stirling. I want to learn the Hammer Dulcimer.

Again, how easy it can be to miss signs of God's goodness. I'm so glad I got to go to that Covenanter Concert. How easy it could have been just to stay home and miss it.

I see signs of God's goodness in: flowers; music; singing voices; musical instruments; colors; trees; fields of sweet corn and pumpkins; vegetable gardens; sunrises and sunsets; Autumn blue sky; sunlight reflecting on water; and in the stars and the moon in the night sky. I see God's goodness in family and in friendships. I taste God's goodness in good cooking. I try not to miss God's goodness. But sometimes I do because I just pass it all by and I end up missing it.



There's been a lot of sinfulness, fallenness, stuff I call yuckiness in the big headlines of the world recently. I encourage you to be aware of what's going on, but please don't let this stuff take your full attention. Make time and space for God and be intentional about seeing signs of God's goodness.



Here's some Scripture verses that have been on my mind during this time.

Psalm 46:10 Be still and know that I am God ...

It's good for us to stand quietly before God, honoring his power and majesty.

Psalm 103:15-17 As for a man, his days are like grass, he flourishes like a flower of the field; the wind blows over it and it is gone, and its place remembers it no more. But from everlasting to everlasting the Lord's love is with those who fear him, and his righteousness with their children's children – with those who keep his covenant and remember to obey his precepts.

It's good for us to remember that we are fragile, but God's care is eternal.

Psalm 107:1 Give thanks to the Lord, for he is good; his love endures forever.

Remember to be thankful for what God has done for us.

May we see signs of God's goodness each day and night. May they remind us that God loves us and that God wants us to love God in return.

Rev. Douglas M. Hileman, Pastor

CHURCH HAPPENINGS

MIDDLE OCTORARA PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN

CELEBRATION OF MOTHERS BANQUET

The women of Middle Octorara and the surrounding community are looking forward to a night out with friends and family on Saturday, May 13. The men of the church will be cooking and serving the meal at 6 PM. Then, at 7 PM we will convene in the sanctuary and welcome the Dancers from the Paloma School of Irish Dance from Lancaster, PA.

The Mission of the Paloma School is to help everyone reach their highest potential as an Irish Dancer no matter what age, level of natural ability, level of commitment, etc... With an emphasis on fitness and Irish Dance technique, dancers will be given a fantastic foundation for pursuing Irish Dance competitively, through performances or as simply a hobby.

The dancers range in age from elementary to high school and beyond.

Esther Pujol is the director of the dancers and she writes this about the calling and purpose of the troupe.

Christian Character- "What does it profit a man to gain the whole world but lose his soul?" In the midst of training my students to be the best athletes they can possibly be, my most important goal is to not forget why we are truly here. I have succeeded at nothing if my students become champions but at the cost of integrity, humility, and most importantly a relationship with God. "Paloma" means dove and it is a symbol of the Holy Spirit in me. I pray regularly for the school and my students and I consider it to be my most important responsibility.

Children from Hard Places- My own son had an early learning disability which took years of patience and hard work to overcome. His inability to memorize dance steps was one small part of that. When he won a Regional Championship, it was proof to himself that he could do anything with hard work and self-belief and it was one of the greatest gifts I could ever give him. I have a passion for children like this as our school already serves many "Children from hard places" (i.e. adopted children, Children with learning disabilities, etc...)

Health & Fitness- We are supposed to be good stewards of all that we have and that includes our own health. Our culture regularly makes it difficult to live a healthy lifestyle and my passion and goal is to help my students (children & adults) to learn the skills to stay healthy for life (i.e. proper and regular exercise, healthy diet, etc...) I love seeing my students reach their fitness goals.

We are very excited to welcome this Irish Dance troupe to Middle Octorara on May 13. Those who plan to attend should contact **Shirley Miller (786-3690) or Boni Henry (687-8554)** by no later than May 10 to reserve a seat. Cost for the meal and program, which will be collected at the door, is \$8 for adults and \$4 for children under 10. This

promises to be a great program. Ladies, invite your friends and family and enjoy a night out.



LET'S HAVE A PARTY

A clothing sorting party, that is! Members of the church will be meeting on Tuesday, May 9 from 1-3 PM to sort clothing for our annual clothing give away in August. No need to contact anyone about volunteering. Just come and help. If we get the clothing sorted well before the day of the giveaway, it is much easier to prepare and arrange the clothing for 'shoppers' when they arrive. Thank you all in advance for your help.

AUCTION

MOPW has been asked to provide food for a Local Real Estate Sale and Auction on Saturday, May 20. All profit from the sale of the food will be used as needed for church supplies or local missions. Anyone who would like to help at this sale should contact Shirley Miller who will give you specifics about the time you should be there. Also, baked goods are needed for this sale. Baked items should be brought to the church by Friday, May 19.

MILLER SALE ON SATURDAY, JUNE 3.

MOPW is asking all church folk to be available to help out in preparation the days preceding this sale and serving food the day of the sale. Carl Miller will be selling most of his tools and equipment from his body shop. A huge turnout of buyers is expected. So, we who will be selling food are expecting to be very busy. We are asking all who can, please make a baked good or provide a food product to sell. Please contact Boni Henry (687-8554) or Cathy Miller (278-8247) as to how you can help and so you can be assigned a time slot. We, as a congregation want the Millers to know how much they are appreciated and we plan to show our appreciation by helping them at their sale on June 3.

SPECIAL MUSIC

June 4 Stephanie Pfeiffer
June 11 Christine Keefer – piano

YOUTH GROUP

Guess how many chocolate eggs were made this year? Approximately 22,000! Wow that is a lot of eggs! The profit should be over \$8,500.00 that will be used towards Workcamp and other youth oriented missions.

MISSIONS

LOCAL

Summer events We will be collecting backpacks and supplies again for the Solanco kids at the food bank. We need these by August 7th.

Saturday, August 5th we will take our turn at handing out food bank flyers. List of times will come later.

We will also be involved with the Solanco toy drive and parent's gifts for food bank as usual. Keep your eyes open for any of these. You can bring them in anytime. I'll store them downstairs.

Last but not least a huge thank you to all that helped make our Flowing Oil a big success.

Thank you, Nancy Harnish

Dear Ministry Leaders,

Greetings! My name is Brandon Riehl. I am the new Program Assistant at Solid Rock Youth Ministries. I am writing to invite you to partner with Solid Rock for a multi-ministry carnival.

The *Back to School Bash* will be on the 19th of August at the Hoffman Building.

The vision for the event is to bring families from all around the Solanco School District out for a fun and free event. We want to introduce the unchurched to local churches and Christ-centered organizations. Many people find it easier to enter a church for the first time if they have a connection there. Sometimes all it takes is one familiar face or one positive experience to give someone the courage to walk through a church door.

We are still in the beginning stages, but we are incredibly excited to work with as many ministries as possible to bring the community together. We have so much diversity in our ministries, which is a beautiful thing since we have so many different types of people to reach.

We hope to have ministries from the Solanco area participate by running a stand of some sort at the carnival. Examples might include: face painting, carnival games, food, or other forms of entertainment. Larger organizations with multiple departments would even be welcome to run more than one activity. We will also be looking for a few excited individuals that would like to join our planning committee.

I would like to invite you to an informational meeting and brainstorming session on **May 16th at 9:30 am** at Solid Rock. We will share with you more details of our plan and invite your thoughts and ideas. Light refreshments will be provided. Please send any leaders from your church or ministry that may be interested in partnering with us. If you are unable to attend but would like more information, please email me.

Hope to see many of you there!

In Christ,

Brandon Riehl
Program Assistant
Solid Rock Youth Ministries
riehl.inbox@gmail.com



Our summer programs are rapidly approaching! We are looking for volunteers to help with the following programs: drama, art, theme days, and open hours. There are a variety of ways to serve at Solid Rock this summer. If you are able to make an announcement or post in your bulletins that we are looking for volunteers that would be greatly appreciated. They are welcome to email me at riehl.inbox@gmail.com with any questions or for more information.

MISSION MUSINGS

Wow here it is the last day of April already. Does it seem like time flies by faster and faster each year? Just one more reason to be more and more intentional about serving Jesus by serving others.

Of course April is yard sale month and this year that date was April 22. We had another enjoyable and profitable sale because of the efforts of so many of you from our M.O. family. A huge thank you to all who helped make it a success.

Boni and I are looking forward to our mission trip to Tamshiyacu in June. Although we are the only ones going from M. O. this year we will once again join several folks from 1st Pres Jefferson City to paint, stain and do some upkeep projects on the church building and pastor's residents. We will also hold Bible School for the village children each afternoon. That is always a highlight of the trip as the children love to come together to learn more about Jesus.

We will also enjoy renewing friendships with the children and adults that we have gotten to know over the past several years. We will distribute water filtration buckets this year as we have the past few years. We do all this in the name of Jesus. Our prayer is that because of this opportunity God has given us many will come to know Jesus as their Lord and Saviour.

We have this privilege because of the prayer, encouragement and financial support of our church family. We appreciate each and every one of you and thank God for the blessings He has given us to be a part of this mission.

Boni plans on sending her updates while we are there and we ask for your prayers as we travel and spend time with our friends along the Amazon.

Of course you do not need to go abroad to serve Jesus. We all know there is an abundance of opportunities to help others every day in our local area. Take some time to talk with God and I am sure He will guide you where He wants you to serve. Even what might seem to be a small act of kindness done in love can make an eternal difference.

Those who are at our Sunday school closing often see a "small" act of kindness and generosity. As Brandon is up front helping with the closing he looks around and if he sees someone without a song book he is off to take one to them. I smile every time I see him do this and I look around to see others smiling as well. But I believe the biggest smile of all is the smile of Jesus as He looks down and says well done good and faithful servant. I challenge each of us to do the small things in love to brighten someone else's day.

John 6:9

Dan Henry
Mission Committee Chair

REFLECTIONS

by
Barry Girvin

What to Think?

Where are we at Middle Octorara? We are paying the bills and dealing with an aging population. It is a temporary situation. We have no families with small children, few families with teens, and no traditional Christian Education experiences (Sunday School and Bible School) for Youth. We do have the non-traditional Kids Zone-It which is working very well. However, to me the overall picture spells doom in regard to the future of Middle Octorara.

It is all the rage today to say that society is changing and the Church must do its work “outside the walls.” Well, we certainly do more “outside the walls” stuff than any church of our size in the County. But, is it doing anything to improve inside the walls? Think about it. This is where the givers are.

Are we bringing people to Christ, or are we trying to justify ourselves through our good works? Should we identify the unchurched families in our area and make an attempt to bring them in through a creative mix of the traditional and non-traditional? This would take a lot of hard work. We have many excuses: times change, only charismatic and mega churches have the approaches and money needed to attract the younger set, etc.

Why would I want to identify the unchurched and work on creative approaches to Church both inside and outside the walls? Current research suggests the old model of Sunday School and Bible School is not working because:

*Most people are not looking for a church to attend.

*Young people especially feel they are being “lured” into church and they aren’t interested in that.

*The church needs to focus on being Jesus outside of the walls...as opposed to bringing people in.

*Physical and emotional needs need to be met in order for faith development to occur.

*Developing trusting relationships that model Christ is key to connecting people to the Church.

Some even suggest that the millennials and perhaps their parents are closer to deists than Christians. Thus, there is no need for a personal relationship with the creator, indeed it is a waste of time and energy. The creator gave us a brain capable of acting as a moral compass. Religion is using that brain to do good.

The challenge is real! So, let’s stop worrying about how we got to where we are today, and start thinking about work both inside and outside the walls. Developing those “trusting relationships” that model Christ can certainly take place in both areas.

BIRTHDAYS & ANNIVERSARIES

May birthday's beginning with the 7th

- 7 – Julia Reinhart, Wes Girvin
- 9 – Sam Reinhart, Sharon Wallace, Emma Evans
- 10 – Andrew Dalmas, Andrew Griest
- 17 – Cathy Snyder
- 25 – Barry Girvin
- 27 – Rose Griest, Paul Reinhart, Alyssa Girvin
- 30 – Christy Frackman

June birthday's through the 3rd

- 3 – Sandra Shenk

May anniversaries beginning with the 7th

- 10 – Herb & Carol Girvin
- 19 – Wes & Gertie Rineer
- 21 – Amanda & Tom Evans, Sue & Mike Herr, Dan & Melissa Keene



TREASURER'S REPORT

YEAR TO DATE GENERAL FUND AND BENEVOLENCE FINANCES April 30, 2017

FINANCES	Monthly Budget	YTD Budget	Monthly Received	YTD Received	YTD Expenses
General Fund	13,972.85	50,302.26	12,848.56	46,809.29	42,255.45
Benevolence	615.40	2,215.44	793.00	2,503.00	

The following is the individual weekly breakdown of offerings:

April 2 -	General Fund	3,173.00	Benevolence	203.00
April 9 -	General Fund	2,186.00	Benevolence	121.00
April 16-	General Fund	1,648.00	Benevolence	128.00
April 23 -	General Fund	1,922.00	Benevolence	219.00
April 30 -	General Fund	1,934.00	Benevolence	122.00

An additional \$1,985.56 General Fund money was received by mail (manse rental, etc.).

We continue to meet our expenses with our offerings. We will have the snow removal bill to pay in May. Even though we didn't have a lot of winter weather, the one big storm probably required a lot of time to clean up. So hopefully we can continue with no transferring from other funds to meet the General Funds.

Debbie Hoover, Secretary-Treasurer



CALENDAR OF EVENTS

(Subject to change)

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
May 7	May 8	May 9 ROMEIO club 9:00 a.m. Trustee mtg. 7:00 p.m.	May 10	May 11 Session mtg. 7:00 p.m.	May 12	May 13 Mother's banquet 6:00 p.m.
May 14	May 15	May 16 ROMEIO club 9:00 a.m.	May 17	May 18	May 19	May 20 Food stand at local auction
May 21 3rd Sunday Church service/ Potluck lunch/movie	May 22	May 23 ROMEIO club 9:00 a.m.	May 24	May 25	May 26	May 27
May 28	May 29	May 30 ROMEIO club 9:00 a.m.	May 31	June 1	June 2	June 3 Miller auction/food stand