

ECHOES

April/May, 2021

**We Invite
We Welcome
We Nurture
We Serve**



**COVENANT
United Methodist Church**

From the Pastor's Desk...

By Pastor Quentin Wallace

Prepare to Celebrate



Then Jesus told him, "Because you have seen me, you have believed; blessed are those who have not seen and yet have believed." John 20:29

Once I was listening to a teaching by Rev. Fred Price, and during his lecture he held up his Bible and asked the crowded auditorium, "Do you believe this is a Bible?" And all who could clearly see "Holy Bible" inscribed on it yelled, "Yes!" Rev. Price responded, "You don't have to believe it, because you can see it."



Over the past year, people throughout the world have been asked to believe before they have seen. Believe a vaccine is coming. Believe the vaccine will work effectively. Believe wearing masks, social distancing, and hand washing will keep you safe in the interim. That's a lot of believing without seeing.

In the text above Jesus said to Thomas the following words. "Because you have seen me, you have believed; blessed are those who have not seen and yet have believed."

Why would those who haven't seen be more blessed? That doesn't make sense, because isn't seeing believing? According to Jesus, true faith is believing without seeing first. Jesus said that because only a select few of his disciples saw him after the resurrection. But millions more who have had to rely on blind faith and trust. So far, over the past many months, we as people of faith have had to trust without seeing. Trusting our church will survive. Trusting we will see our brothers and sisters in Christ in gathered worship again.

That said, I understand this has been a trying year thus far with all of the COVID precautions, but I am believing that we will be gathering for in-person worship in our church building very soon.

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Sidelights

COVENANT'S VISION AND MISSION STATEMENTS

Our Vision Statement: **Bringing Christ's Light into the Community and Beyond.**

Our Mission Statement: **We Invite, We Welcome, We Nurture, We Serve.**

Pastor Quentin's theme for 2021 is **Becoming More Like Christ.**

Please be in prayer for Covenant Church.

WAYS TO CONTINUE GIVING

Thank you to our faithful members who continue to support Covenant Church. Here are options for you to give your personal tithes and offerings:

- Mail checks to 110 N. Mulberry St., Lancaster, PA, 17603
- Place offerings in the basket during our drive-in services on Sunday morning.
- Give online. Go to our website www.covenant-umc.com and click on the GIVING link and follow the directions.
- Text 717-769-1063. After the initial setup, giving is easy.

Please call the church office with questions.

Sidelights

PRAYER CHAIN

We are renewing the Covenant Prayer Chain and have a new coordinator, Patti Willard. If you have a prayer request, please call Patti at 717-872-7561. If she is unavailable, please leave a message. Also, if you are interested in being a member of the Prayer Chain, please contact her to add your name to the list.

HOSPITAL VISITATION

Don't forget to notify the church office when you or a loved one is in the hospital. Our Care Team is available to visit and share prayer.



UPPER ROOM

You can purchase the Upper Room daily devotional for only \$1. We have regular and large print in the office.

We Worship Together

Sunday Worship

Until further notice, Sunday worship will continue to be livestreamed on Facebook starting at 10:00 a.m.

Additional Online Opportunities During the Week

- Wednesdays at 2:00 p.m. on Facebook Live, Pastor Quentin will bring words of encouragement.
- Thursday evenings at 7:00 p.m. Pastor Quentin will share a Bible Study.
- Monday through Thursday at 10 a.m. and Friday at 6 a.m. join our conference prayer call at 605-313-5107 (202700#).

Update from the Outreach Team

Even though we are not presently in the church building, Covenant is still at work doing outreach for our community. As many of you know, we were not able to hold our Community Closet events in January and March as we usually do. However, with your generous donations, we had collected plenty of winter clothes. In order to put those donations to good use, Cindy Smith, Bob Hean, and I packed boxes of winter clothes, hats, gloves, coats, and toothpaste and delivered them to Ebenezer Church to help the homeless, the Food Hub, the Transitional Living Center, and Community Aid. We also asked for and received permission from the Trustee Board to put out racks of men's, women's, and children's clothing for the folks from Narcotics Anonymous to look through on Monday night. Thank you to all who continue to support this mission. We are hoping to hold a Community Closet in May.

We are also partnering with the Nurture Team to work with Fulton Elementary School. Fulton is working on a program to promote good attendance at their school. The plan is to reward the class with the best attendance each month with a pizza party. Covenant supplied the March pizza party. We are also contributing six \$10 McDonalds gift cards for the first week in March, April and May, to be given to the child in each grade who has perfect attendance. Fulton feels that this is a great incentive for children to keep coming to school.

Roger Kresge has chosen to give up his position as coordinator for the Covenant team that works with IMPACT! Missions and Manifest Urban Alliance. We are truly grateful for his years of dedicated service to this important mission. A team from Covenant works with IMPACT! on the third Saturday of each month. Hugh McClure is now helping to coordinate this mission. IMPACT! Missions has rehabilitated 40 homes in the city since 2013. No other organization has come close. Please consider this wonderful opportunity to help low income families be able to afford their own homes.

Hooray! Red Bird has tentative plans to reopen their work camps. Only four teams will come each week with a maximum of 40 volunteers. If you have volunteered at Red Bird previously, you know this is wonderful news. Please continue to pray for Red Bird as they forge ahead on a path of hope and opportunities for building a healthy community. Red Bird will be celebrating 100 years of serving the community. We would like to help Red Bird continue for the next 100 years. If you desire to contribute to this mission, you can send a donation to the church and designate it for Red Bird.

We pray that Covenant's doors will soon be open again. In the meantime, we continue to nurture and reach out to our community.

- Cindy Hean

...continued from Page 1

Keep in mind that there is one thing that we have that the faithless do not have, and that is trust in God.

During the month of April, we will celebrate the resurrection of Christ even though we didn't see it. Yet we know that Jesus lives. And in the midst of these pandemic inconveniences, we will still move forward by recognizing mothers on Mother's Day as we highlight those women who have nurtured us just as they believed and trusted God to take care of their children without knowing the outcome.

While it is a challenge to believe what we haven't seen yet, we do it all the time.

Let us pray, believing and trusting the words of the apostle Paul: "And 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

We must believe that all of these changes we have endured and undergone that were uncomfortable and seemingly unfair occurred for a higher purpose. And when it's over, not only will God get the glory, but we will celebrate the restoration.

While I look forward to in-person worship and hearing the stories of how God kept us through it all, I conclude with the words of the psalmist, "Let each generation tell its children of your mighty acts; let them proclaim your power." —Psalm 145:4

Here's to Good Health!

I want to help you think about what foods you have been eating. Spring is coming, and we often think about taking off a few pounds we have gained over the long winter season. This article gives some ideas of food that is good for you and what makes them good for your eating habits.

Green beans are high in fiber and can help you prevent weight gain and even promote weight loss without dieting. You can also get the same effects from raspberries, chick-peas, and strawberries.

Salmon contains omega-3 fatty acids. The fatty acids in oily fish can boost your skin's defenses against UV damage. Tuna also does the same thing.

Watermelon is a good source of Vitamin C. It also has lycopene, and antioxidant that may help protect against heart disease and

some types of cancer. You can also try cucumbers, salad greens, and strawberries.

Blueberries are good for your heart. Berries can help to increase levels of good HDL cholesterol and lower blood pressure. Raspberries and strawberries do the same.

Tomatoes contain Vitamin C, which may be the secret to smoother skin. Vitamin C can help lower the risk of wrinkles and age-related dry skin. Oranges, strawberries, and broccoli offer the same results.

As you can see, eating fruits, certain fish, and green veggies can be good for you. If you add these foods to your meals you can be on your way to a healthier, more energized life.

Happy eating!

Cindy Smith,

Sidelights

NOTES OF THANKS

Jeff McGary send thanks to his Covenant family for the prayers and cards he received following his recent surgery and recovery at home.



MOOS UPDATE

The MOOS program has been closed since the spring of 2020, but is looking to hopefully reopen for the new school year starting in August, 2021.

Because of the pandemic, we have not been able to do any fundraising activities. So we are looking to our church partners for support going forward. All donations will help to prepare financially for the reopening and are greatly appreciated. Donations should specify Covenant UM and the MOOS program on the check. Thanks in advance for your support.

Sidelights

CHILD CARE CENTER STILL APPRECIATES DONATIONS

The Covenant Child Care Center is still seeking donations for certain necessary items that are sometimes hard to find. These items are:

- Disposable adult masks
- Disposable child-sized masks
- Clorox/Lysol wipes
- Lysol Kitchen Pro spray cleaner
- Lysol All Purpose cleaner
- Hand sanitizer with 70% alcohol or more
- Lysol disinfecting spray

Donations can be brought to the church office during open hours. Thanks for your support.

FLOWERS

If you want to place a centerpiece or vase in memory or in honor of a loved one, the cost is \$28. Please contact the church office Monday-Friday, 8:30-2 at 717-393-1561.



Dolly Kepner Celebrates 75th Anniversary of Confirmation

On Palm Sunday, Dolly Kepner, Covenant's organist for the past 50 years, will celebrate the 75th anniversary of her confirmation at Covenant Church in 1946 when she was 15 years old. When asked about what she remembered of the event, she replied, "I don't really remember a whole lot about it. Dr. Erhart was the pastor at the time, and there were others who were confirmed along with me, but I don't recall any of their names." She mentioned that she was somewhat surprised to have been taken into the church on Palm Sunday, because she was expecting it to take place on Easter. In fact, no one from her family was there to see her confirmed.

Dolly explained that she was raised in a Mennonite Church, but her family had friends who attended Covenant. She said that quite a few young people were leaving the Mennonite Church at the time, and one of these family friends had started taking Dolly to Covenant for several months prior to her confirmation. "I had only been attending Covenant for a few months before I was taken into the church. So I didn't really know too many people," she said. But after 75 years at Covenant, she now knows and has known a lot of people.

At age 18 and already an accomplished pianist, Dolly continued her music studies taking organ lessons from Mildred Wissler, the church's first and only other organist. She then started playing the piano for children's Sunday School and the organ in Junior Church. Later she started directing the children's Cherub and Carol Choirs, which she continued doing for 30 years. And she has been the organist at Covenant for the past 50 years. So Dolly has been involved in Covenant's music program for 70 out of her 75 years at Covenant! "I never thought of it as a job. I just love it," she said.

So we congratulate Dolly on this milestone anniversary and offer our appreciation for her years of faithful service to Covenant. Who knew how blessed we would be to have received such a fine young lady into our church 75 years ago!

Covenant Members in Business

Aunt Sandy's Attic

Sandy Leonard
Antiques, Collectibles, Books, Art, etc.
545 W. Market Street, Marietta, PA 17547
717-426-5091

JM Services

Jeff and Brad McGary
Interior & Light Exterior Painting,
Handyman
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

Kresge Computer Consultation

Roger Kresge, 299.4613 or
rkresge123@comcast.net

Dale Building Designs

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

Miller Optical

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

Groffs Family Funeral

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

Richard B. MacDonald

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

Interiors by Kristen

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

Willard Hypnosis Center

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

General Conference Postponed Again

United Methodist General Conference organizers announced that the denomination's top law-making assembly — long postponed by the pandemic — must wait to meet another year. The global gathering with 862 voting delegates is now scheduled for August 29-September 6, 2022, in Minneapolis. Bishop Peggy Johnson explained the reasons for the second postponement of the 2020 General Conference as follows:

- The continuing effects of the Coronavirus and the health hazard of large crowds gathering in one place.
- The international challenges with COVID, testing required for air travel, and visa uncertainties.
- The justice issue of full inclusion of our international delegates (who compose 44% of the global lawmaking body) if they are not able to come due to the complications of the virus.

There will be a very brief virtual session of General Conference on May 8, 2021, to enable a quorum of delegates to approve the use of mail ballots for voting on 12 matters that will allow the denomination to function until the 2022 in-person session. In addition, the Northeastern Jurisdictional Conference has been moved up to July 20-23, 2021, as a virtual meeting, in order to approve the retirement of three bishops and realign episcopal areas as needed.

A regular session of the Eastern PA Annual Conference is still scheduled online for May 20-22, 2021. Because this year's session will use the Zoom webinar poll function, all voting members will need to use computers to participate. The Conference will provide satellite locations with computer access for online participation. Others may view the session live-streamed on the Conference's Facebook page.

After serving for 13 years, Bishop Peggy Johnson has requested voluntary retirement effective September 1, 2021. She and her husband, the Rev. Michael Johnson, plan to move to Carrolton, VA, to live near their older son and his family. Decisions about episcopal coverage for ten conferences with the retirement of three bishops will be made at the July Jurisdictional Conference. The Eastern PA Conference will likely share a bishop with another conference, probably either Greater New Jersey or Central PA.



Sidelights

PRAYER & PALMS

On Saturday, March 27, Pastor Quentin will be distributing palms and praying with families under the portico from 10 am to noon.

GOOD FRIDAY SERVICE

Please join us for our virtual Good Friday service on April 2 at 7 pm on Facebook Live.

EASTER FLOWERS

We are ordering 45 flowers, including 15 lilies, 15 daffodils, and 15 tulips, to be displayed in our sanctuary during our virtual Easter worship service. The flowers will cost \$7.00 each. To reserve one or more of these flowers to be presented in honor of/ in memory of a loved one, call the church office between 9 am and noon Monday through Friday. You will be able to pick up your flower(s) on Monday, April 5, between 9 am and noon.

EASTER OFFERING

This special offering will be contributed to the general fund of Covenant Church. Thank you in advance for your generosity.

Sidelights

GROCERY CARDS

You can continue to support the Mission Outreach of Covenant by purchasing your grocery store gift cards through the mail. Please mail your check to Covenant UMC at 110 N Mulberry St 17603 with a note. We have \$50 Stauffer's cards; \$25 and \$50 Giant cards; and \$50 Weis cards.

Please make your checks out to Covenant UMC. After receiving your check, we will mail your grocery store cards to your home.

CHILDREN & YOUTH

Children and youth are meeting on Zoom on a weekly basis. Children will meet on Zoom on Sunday mornings from 8:15 to 8:30. Youth will meet on Zoom on Friday nights from 7:00 to 8:00 and then on Sunday mornings from 9:00-9:30. If you have any issues with getting on Zoom please email Sara (sarapink3228@gmail.com).

KEEP YOURSELF IN THE COVENANT "LOOP"

If you don't already receive the weekly "News to Go" via email, and if you don't receive Calling Post phone messages from Oklahoma City (It's really Pastor Quentin!), please give your contact information to the church office.



Relief Through UMCOR

One Sunday during Lent has always been designated for a special offering for the United Methodist Committee on Relief—UMCOR. This year members of Covenant Church are encouraged to give anytime during Lent. Last year United Methodists gave \$1,150,756 to the special Sunday UMCOR offering, which underwrites UMCOR's administrative costs so that all designated gifts will go to projects that givers specify. In times of crisis, UMCOR can then respond with 100% of specified donations going to those in need. This fund is administered by the General Board of Global Ministries.

As the humanitarian relief and development arm of The United Methodist Church, UMCOR responds to U.S. and international disasters, addresses diseases and poverty, assists refugees and immigrants, provides clean water and works to reduce hunger. UMCOR is unable to do this work without church members' support.

A recent example of relief provided was a \$10,000 grant from UMCOR to the Kentucky Annual Conference to assist with an immediate response to destructive flooding in Eastern and Southeastern Kentucky. The funds are being used to defray the expense of moving supplies and meeting immediate needs of local churches until in-Conference donations can arrive.

Contributions to UMCOR may be made through Covenant United Methodist Church with the amount designated for UMCOR.

COVENANT

United Methodist Church

110 North Mulberry Street

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Office Telephone: 717.393.1561

Senior Pastor's Phone: 610-334-3440

Office Hours: Monday-Friday, 8:00 a.m.—1:00 p.m.

Church Staff

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The Reverend Sally Ott, Visitation & Witness

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Sara Petersen, Dir. Children & Youth Ministry

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