

ECHOES ESSHOE

August/September 2022

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



**COVENANT
United Methodist Church**

From the Pastor's Desk...

By Pastor Quentin Wallace

Year 8



"For I know the plans I have for you," declares the Lord, "plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future." Jeremiah 29:11

It's been said by the proverbial "they" of pastoral ministry that it takes seven years for a pastor and congregation to meld. Although that seems like a lengthy period, the thought behind this is that by then, those that are unhappy have left and those that are on board have coalesced. With that in mind, year 8 should be one of great expectation and promise.

I thank God for allowing me to lead the Covenant congregation for one more year. And this is my Pastoral Prayer:

Dear Lord,

I pray for guidance as I attempt to do your will as pastor of the Covenant Lancaster congregation. We've seen many challenges, illnesses, deaths, members seeking worship elsewhere, building maintenance issues, and musical staff transitions. While things may seem insurmountable and the cause of anxiety, we understand that we serve a God who is about to do great things and bless us abundantly.

Lord you have not brought us this far to leave us. We will continue to be the light that shines in this community, and ministry will go forward. As we go forward, we pray that the spirit of liberty and joy be released upon every member of this congregation. You are a God of renewal, revival, and growth. In the precious name of Jesus I pray.

Amen

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 2022 is **God in 2022, Our Total Praise is to You.**

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
- 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

If you have a prayer request, please call Patti Willard 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.

LOBBY GREETERS

1st Sunday of the Month
Bob & Cindy Hean

2nd Sunday of the Month
Mary Lou Hill

3rd Sunday of the Month
Linda & Lou Henning

4th Sunday of the Month
Tina Butler

5th Sunday of the Month
Cathy Boyd
Bobbie Schwan

We Worship Together

Sunday Worship

In-person worship will be held each Sunday at 10:30 a.m. The service will also be livestreamed on Facebook for those who wish to worship at home.

Additional Online Opportunities During the Week

- Wednesday at 10 a.m. and Friday at 6 a.m. join our conference prayer call at 605-313-5107 (202700#).

Following the worship service on August 14, please stay for a church meeting and a discussion of some important issues.

August Events

8/13 Community Closet
8/14 Church Meeting After Service
8/20 Impact! Missions Work Day
8/28 Dolly Kepner Celebration

September Events

9/3 Care and Share Breakfast
9/11 Men's Luncheon & Women's Luncheon
9/17 Impact! Missions Work Day

Focus on Evangelism

As a result of the action of the Supreme Court stirring the nation about abortion, and as the media continues to talk about abortion, the words of the Book of Jeremiah came to mind. Jeremiah wrote: "The word of the Lord came to me: I chose you before I formed you in the womb; I set you apart before you were born. I appointed you a prophet to the nations. But I protested. Then the Lord reached out his hand, touched my mouth, and told me: I have now filled your mouth with my words. See, I have appointed you today over nations and kingdoms." (Jeremiah 1:4,5,9,10)

As abortion discussions saturate media and personal conversation, it dawned on me that perhaps many in our church are not aware of the position of the UMC regarding abortion. I also thought that, as we share our faith in Jesus Christ, we may need some abortion resources to help us be an effective evangelist.

In my reading, I came across this portion out of our Book of Discipline of the United Methodist Church. It was entitled "Social Principles: The Nurturing Community," from the 2016 edition of the Book of Discipline. There are three sections I direct your attention to. They are "Abortion," "Ministry to Those Who Have Experienced an Abortion," and "Adoption."

I direct you to these resources, not that they're the only resources, but as one reliable resource on this particular issue that is representative of the United Methodist Church and its point of view. A copy is posted on the bulletin board under Evangelism. See Dr. Carrigan for a copy.



RETIREMENT CELEBRATION

for
Organist Dolly Kepner

Sunday, August 28, 2022
Worship at 10:30 A.M.
with Dolly at the organ

Gather in Bethany Hall following the morning service to express your appreciation for her musical gifts to Covenant Church—directing children's choirs, playing organ for junior church, accompanying the senior choir and guest musicians, and serving as church organist for 50 years!

Please RSVP by signing up in the Gathering Area or calling the church office by August 21 to join in the celebration, including a light luncheon. Look for more details in the mail.

Do not miss the inserted article about Elma "Dolly" Harnish Kepner and her decades of music ministry at Covenant Church. Appreciation is expressed to Barbara Hough Huesken for interviewing Dolly and writing the article.

*"To my eyes and ears the organ will
ever be the King of Instruments."*

- Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart

Sidelights

90+ BIRTHDAYS August & September

Christiana Miller—8/12
Dorothy Groff—9/26

FLOWERS

If you want to place a centerpiece or vase in memory or in honor of a loved one, the cost is \$49. Please contact the church office Monday-Friday, 8:30-2 at 717-393-1561.

THANKS, COVENANT FAMILY

Blanket Sunday

Thank you to our Covenant Family for their contributions for Blanket Sunday. We have successfully raised \$225 to provide to Church World Services to secure blankets needed for families.

MOOS

Thank you to our Covenant Family as we were able to donate over \$1200.00 to MOOS.

COMMUNITY CLOSET

Our next Community Closet will be held on Saturday, August 13. This particular edition of Community Closet will also include a yard sale that will help clear out some of the downstairs rooms in preparation for the new year beginning in September.

Sidelights

NOTES OF THANKS RECEIVED

Blake Miller would like to thank the members of Covenant for the generous college graduation gift he received. "It was very much appreciated."

Sarah Rappoldt would like to thank the members of Covenant for the *100 Days of Hope* book and Amazon gift card she received. She says, "It was such a sweet surprise. Much love to you all."

Benjamin McElroy send his thanks to Covenant members for the book and gift card he received. He states, "It was very much appreciated and thoughtful. Thank you again!"

OUR ACs NEED YOUR \$\$\$! THINK PINK!

The heat and humidity has kicked in, and we need to replace our 40-year-old air conditioners, which means a big \$100K bill.

So we're asking you to please THINK PINK and use your pink envelopes to make a cool commitment to give a little extra to the Building Fund each Sunday. This will help us to pay off these unbudgeted, but very necessary expenses more quickly and without accruing high interest.

While we always budget for repairs and building maintenance, we could not foresee this large of an expense. Your ongoing contributions to the Building Fund help us deal with these circumstances without going over the yearly budget and dipping into our limited reserves. Please give as you are able.

Outreach Update

The Outreach Team is still supporting the church and our community.

We continue to hold the Community Closet the second Saturday of every other month, instead of the first Sunday as it used to be. By having it on the second Saturday we can hand out food boxes from Blessings of Hope. Our next date is Saturday August 13th. We will also be holding a yard sale that date to help clean out the rooms downstairs so we can get ready for the new church year.

We recently counted the pennies in the penny jar and the total was \$151. We purchased four \$25 dollar Giant gift cards in case we get calls to the church for people in need of food.

We have been partnering with the Nurture Team and hosting events for the community. We held an Easter event in April and the children's day in June. We are looking to hold a Friday Night Food Truck and Back to School event on a yet to be determined date. We will continue our support of Fulton Elementary School, and we are planning to resume the Community Table when school starts.

The Outreach Team is looking at having a fundraiser at Isaac's. Keep an eye open for the date.

Blanket Sunday was held in May and we raised \$225. There was a 116% increase in kits & blanket distribution compared to Jan-June 2021. Thank you.

We also continue to support our local ministries. Love Inc. is one of them. Their mission is to empower, connect and support churches as they arise to transform lives and communities, in the name of Christ. There are two programs that our church could support. One is Christmas Adopt a Family. The other is the Homes of Hope program which would help families that are moving into a house with the purchase of sheets, bath towels, or kitchen items. If you are in a small group or a Sunday School class and looking to help the community, keep these programs in mind. And please continue supporting our Grocery Cards program.

Blessings, Cindy Hean

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

Dale Building Designs

Donald A. Dale, 872.4263
2086 New Danville Pike, Lancaster, PA
www.DonDaleDesigns.com

Groff Family Funeral

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

Miller Optical

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

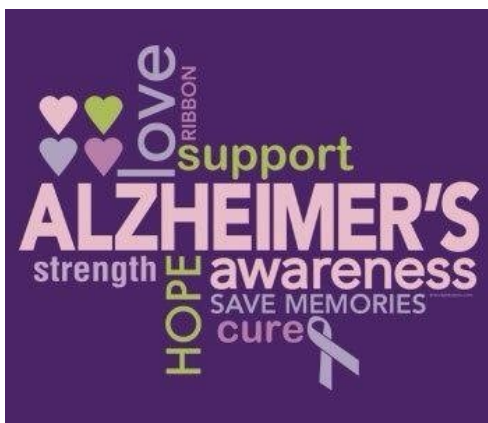
Willard Hypnosis Center

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

Here's to Good Health!

Alzheimer's Disease is not just forgetfulness. Alzheimer's Disease affects people's memories but is much more than simple forgetfulness. It is a progressive, degenerative, and incurable brain disorder that is ultimately fatal. It is not known why some people get this devastating disease.

Alzheimer's Disease usually progresses gradually, lasting from two to twenty years, with an average duration of seven years. Alzheimer's does not affect every person in the same way. Here is a list of stages that represent the general course it follows.



PRE-CLINICAL/PRE-SYMPTOMATIC STAGE

Physical conditions connected to Alzheimer's exist in a person's body long before symptoms are evident. Currently this stage is only defined in research settings.

MILD COGNITIVE IMPAIRMENT

These persons have persistent memory problems like having difficulty remembering names and following conversations, but can perform routine activities without more than usual assistance. This stage can be diagnosed by health professionals.

MILD STAGE

Early in the illness, people tend to exhibit minor memory loss and mood swings and are slow to learn and react. They start to shy away from anything new and prefer the fa-

miliar. They can still perform basic tasks but may need assistance with more complicated activities. Speech and understanding become slower, and they will often lose their train of thought. They may get lost while traveling or forget to pay bills. They can be aware of this loss of control and become depressed, fearful, irritable, and restless.

MODERATE STAGE

In this stage, people begin to be disabled by the disease. They can recall the distant past, but recent events become difficult to remember. They lose the ability to comprehend location, time, and day. Caregivers must give clear instructions and repeat them often. As the mind continues to slip away, they may invert words and not recognize familiar faces.

SEVERE STAGE

During this stage, persons become less and less responsive. Memory becomes so poor that no one is recognizable. They lose bowel and bladder control and eventually need constant care. The ability to chew and swallow is lost. These persons become vulnerable to pneumonia, infections, and other illnesses. When the person becomes bedridden, respiratory problems become worse. This stage eventually leads to coma and death.

If you know someone who has Alzheimer's, talk with the doctor who made the diagnosis. They can help you find community support groups, social services, long term and respite care, along with other resources.

Remember that God loves you no matter what the future holds. Keep looking to Him to face each new day's challenges as you deal with Alzheimer's Disease or any other illness.

Cindy Smith
Wellness Coach

Sidelights

GROCERY CARDS

Please check the News to Go for Sundays when grocery cards will be available in the lobby.

You can also 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.

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

AV HELP NEEDED

There is room for you on the sanctuary sound board. Interested? Training will be provided. Please see Darwin Tyson for more information.

OUTREACH / NUTURE

The Outreach and Nurture Committees will be hosting a Back to School Event, date to be determined. Donations are being accepted in the form of school supplies and/or monetary contributions. All donations can be given to either the Church office or Cindy Hean.





New Organist/Accompanist Sought

With the upcoming retirement of organist Dolly Kepner and the resignation of Ruby Rublesky as Piano Accompanist, the Staff Parish Relations Committee has decided to search for an Organist/Accompanist, who will inspire worship through music on Sunday mornings and for special services throughout the year. Formal music education and strong skills in playing the organ as well as the piano are desired along with experience in accompanying choral groups and also vocal and instrumental soloists. The musician should be a committed Christian who is accomplished in playing hymns and has a repertoire of sacred music for preludes and postludes. The Organist/Accompanist will work with the Director of Music to coordinate music appropriate for each service and to rehearse weekly on the piano with the Chancel Choir and/or soloists or ensembles.

Covenant Church has a tradition of excellence in organ music. The church's 1926 Casavant pipe organ is one of a handful of historically significant and tonally unaltered instruments in Central Pennsylvania. It contains over 2500 original and 600 tastefully augmented pipes playable from 5 divisions (one floating) on a 3-manual and pedal draw knob console. The tonal resources in the acoustically friendly sanctuary are ideally suited to not only solo performance but also inspired congregational singing.

This position is part-time with the salary being somewhat negotiable depending upon the credentials of the candidate. A full job description can be found on the church's website: <http://www.covenant-umc.com>. Interested musicians may apply by submitting a letter of intent and resume along with references to office@covenant-umc.com.

Piano Accompanist Concludes Year at Covenant

Ruby Rublesky Robinson was honored on Sunday, July 31, 2022, for her year of service at Covenant Church as Piano Accompanist. She rehearsed with the Chancel Choir and accompanied them and other special music on Sunday mornings for worship. She also played the piano for congregational singing and for the rest of the service if Dolly was unable to be at the organ. Now Ruby has concluded her time with us in order to advance in her career by assuming the position of Music Director at Doe Run Presbyterian Church near Coatesville.



Last July Ruby was excited to take on the accompanist role here at Covenant, especially since her music career seemed to be at a standstill with the COVID pandemic. So this July she expressed mixed feelings about leaving Covenant, noting that she so appreciated the way the choir and others in the congregation made her feel part of our church family. Of course she is grateful to have the opportunity to expand the use of her musical talents and to accept the challenges of being in service to the Lord as a church music director. The new job does allow Ruby to continue teaching her piano students in Oxford and Strasburg.

In her last worship service at Covenant Ruby was thanked for sharing her musical talents with us and presented with a peace lily planter. Our prayers go with her in her new position.

My 
Lifeguard

WALKS ON WATER

MATTHEW 14:22-32

COVENANT

United Methodist Church

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Lancaster, PA 17603-3507

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

The Reverend Dr. Quentin E. Wallace, Senior Pastor

The Reverend Sally Ott, Visitation & Witness

The Reverend Dr. Guy Carrigan, Dir. of Evangelism

Jeffrey McGary, Echoes Editor

Email

Senior Pastor...pastorquentin@covenant-umc.com

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Echoes Editor...jcmcgary@comcast.net

Web Page...<http://www.covenant-umc.com>

Search Continues for Director of Children and Youth Ministry

Covenant UM Church in downtown Lancaster is seeking a committed Christian with the calling, passion, and experience to work with children and youth.

Responsibilities for this part-time position focus on managing, leading, and expanding church programs for children and youth. Such programs include Sunday School classes, children and youth group activities, and community events that create connections between the neighborhood and the church.

A complete job description with qualifications and responsibilities can be found on the church's website-www.covenant-umc.com.

Interested individuals may apply by sending a letter of intent and resume to-office@covenant-umc.com.

Return Service Requested

Covenant United Methodist Church
110 N. Mulberry St.
Lancaster, PA 17603-3507