



## From the Pastor's Desk...

By Pastor Quentin Wallace

### Looking Ahead with Joy



*Brothers and sisters, I do not consider myself yet to have taken hold of it. But one thing I do: Forgetting what is behind and straining toward what is ahead, I press on toward the goal to win the prize for which God has called me heavenward in Christ Jesus.*

*Philippians 3:13-14*

As we approach this Christmas Season and move toward the new year, many will reflect on many things that they have encountered over the years. Christmas time is one of joy as we celebrate the birth of Christ, and then there's advent where the church anticipates the second coming of Christ. For some, Christmas is a time of joy; for others, it could evoke feelings of loss and sadness as they reminisce about the past and loved ones who have passed on. In those cases, the past could become a weight that keeps one feeling down. Instead wouldn't it be great if the past could be a catalyst that moves one forward instead or an anchor that keeps one in place?

Should old acquaintance be forgot  
and never brought to mind?  
Should old acquaintance be forgot  
and days of Auld Lang Syne.

On New Year's Eve, as the new year approaches, many people will sing in various venues the words written by Robert Burns in the late 18th century to Auld Lang Syne, "Should auld acquaintance be forgot and never brought to mind," these Scottish words simply mean, *times long past*.

*Continued next page...*

## 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](http://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  
Carole Horn

3rd Sunday of the Month  
Linda Henning

4th Sunday of the Month  
Lynn Arnold

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#).

## December & January Events

December 4	Worship and Holy Communion 10:30 am
December 11	Worship featuring the Covenant Childcare Choir 10:30 am
December 11	Blue Christmas Service 1:30 pm
December 11	Youth Escape Room Event—All adults are welcome
December 18	Worship featuring the Christmas Cantata 10:30 am
December 18	Cookie exchange following worship
December 24	Christmas Eve Candlelight Service 8 pm
December 25	Christmas Breakfast 9:00 am
December 25	Christmas Worship Service 10:30 am
January 7	UWF Winter Breakfast 9 am

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For me, this invites us not to forget the past or the meaningful past relationships and the good times, but take those memories and learnings into the future with us. We as people of faith are called to be future-oriented and are looking forward to what's ahead.

No one expresses this more than the Apostle Paul in this passage of scripture listed above in his letter to the Philippians. He learned not to linger in the past, which for him was a period of disobedience and arrogance as he persecuted the followers of Christ, all the while thinking he was doing God's will. However, as recorded in Acts chapter 9, an encounter with Christ on the road to Damascus changed his life forever. From that point forward he became a future-oriented person as he preached, taught, planted churches, and led others to look forward to serving and meeting Christ as well.

No longer was he a person focusing only on what God had done, but on what God is doing and going to do in the future.

As we reflect on the days of old, what can we glean from those memories that we can use to give us joy in the future? What new ministries may we create or look forward to? We will not allow the past to be an anchor, but a catalyst for a great joyous future. Let's make 2023 a year of new and exciting ministry.

Have a Blessed Christmas and a Spirit-filled New Year.

Pastor Quentin

# Adult Sunday School

Two adult Sunday School classes meet weekly from 9:00 to 10:00 A.M. to explore the Scriptures and apply their messages to Christian life today with the help of books by Christian authors and/or DVD presentations by Biblical scholars. Both classes have open doors to welcome interested adults to their studies.

With the arrival of Advent, the Faith Walk Sunday School Class is reflecting on Christmas with the “Light of the World” study by author, professor, and Biblical scholar Amy-Jill Levine. In the month of December the class will explore the first chapters of Matthew and Luke with Levine’s DVD presentations, providing background and insights into the stories of Zechariah and Elizabeth, Mary Mother of Jesus, the journey to Bethlehem, and the visit from the Magi. This class was formed this fall by combining the Faith and Fellowship Class and the Ages and Stages Class. The class meets in the Chapel Library and is led by a rotation of teachers—Carole Horn, Chris Kimmich, Lois Neidermyer, and Cindy Smith.

The Sonshine Class continues to meet and fellowship in the lower level in the B1 classroom right by the elevator. By the middle of December they will finish their current study of James Moore’s “Some Folks Feel the Rain, Others Just Get Wet.” Then in the new year, they are looking forward to fellowshiping together on January 8 and starting a new 15-week study on January 15 with Moore’s book “Seizing the Moments.” Each chapter features people who have turned opportunities and special moments into realized dreams and provides relevant passages of Scripture. Jeannine Spece and Patti Willard alternate as teachers for this class.

On December 11 both classes will participate in the youth’s Nativity Escape Room, a project they have enthusiastically worked on under the direction of Michelle Drumheller and Minister Brenda Wallace.



## Sidelights

### 90+ BIRTHDAYS December & January

Jean Patton—12/22  
Ralph Kallenberg —1/11  
Mary Keeler—1/30

### 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.

### COMMUNITY CLOSET

Our next Community Closet will be held on Saturday, December 10. Thank you for your donations of clothing and coats as we head into winter. And thank you for your continued support of this special outreach to our surrounding neighborhood and community.

### UWF ANNUAL WINTER BREAKFAST

United Women in Faith will have their annual Winter Breakfast on Saturday, January 7th, at 9 AM. Join the women of Covenant for fun, food and fellowship. We will also reveal our 2022 secret prayer partners and pick our 2023 prayer partners.



## Sidelights

### NOTES OF THANKS RECEIVED

**Betty Greider** would like to thank the members of Covenant for caring notes, visits, and prayers. Her pain level is much improved, and she is able to walk again using a walker.

**Jeff McGary** thanks the members of Covenant for the cards and expressions of caring and encouragement he has received during his current health issues.

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

Even though the heat and humidity are gone (we hope), we still need to replace our 40-year-old air conditioners, which means a big \$100K bill. We want to be ready when the warmer weather returns.

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.

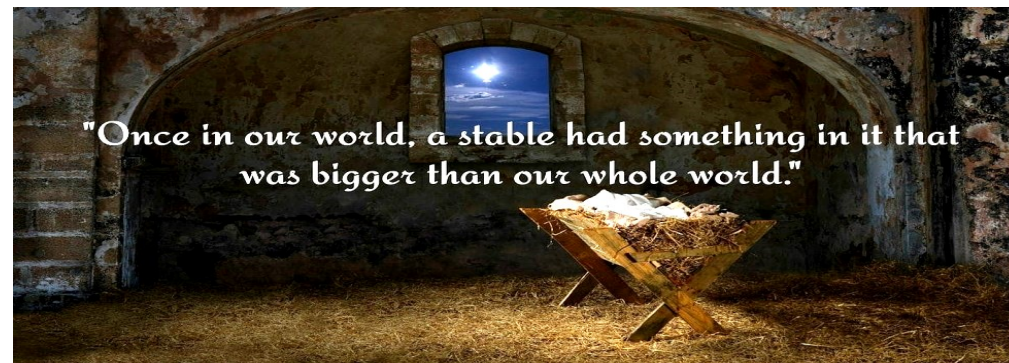
While we always budget for repairs and building maintenance, we could not foresee this large of an expense. Your ongoing contributions to the Building Fund help us deal with these circumstances without going over the yearly budget and dipping into our limited reserves. Please give as you are able.

## PATHWAY to Sustainability

**“You are to walk in every pathway that the Lord your God commanded you, so that life may go well with you.” Deuteronomy 5:33**

When the Church Council met in October for a Saturday retreat, they had the opportunity to fellowship together and to engage in a meaningful discussion about the current status of Covenant Church and the hope for the future. The group explored the assistance offered by the Eastern Pennsylvania Conference of the UIMC through the PATHWAYS program designed to be of assistance to local churches post COVID. PATHWAYS is a process and tool for a church to determine God's calling and plan for that church to effectively share God's love within the congregation and within the community. Five different PATHWAYS were offered by the conference for any church desiring to be a part of the program.

Covenant's Church Council selected the PATHWAY entitled “ensuring congregational sustainability” with a focus on the challenges of increasing attendance at worship services and involvement in leadership, utilizing the church building as efficiently and effectively as possible, and securing finances necessary for the church to continue its mission of making disciples for Jesus Christ. Work on this PATHWAY will begin early in the new year with the assistance of our West District Superintendent, Rev. Jenny Freymoyer. She will facilitate the process with us to assess the church's current reality and to plan for ways to enhance our sustainability and growth for the future. More information will be forthcoming regarding the times of work sessions and the involvement of church staff and laity.



## 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!



The topic for December and January is **Preventing Winter Illnesses.**

Preventing the risk of common winter illnesses begins with washing hands frequently. When you are on the go, using sanitizing gel, tissues, and wipes are a great help. Sneeze into the crook of your elbow, being sure to wash hands or use sanitizer afterwards.

## Types of Winter Illnesses

- ◆ Colds are caused by a virus. Symptoms include stuffy/runny nose, cough, sore throat, sneezing, and a mild fever. Colds last 7-10 days.
- ◆ RSV (respiratory syncytial virus) is an infection in the lungs and airways. It comes with cold-like symptoms, along with wheezing/whistle like breathing that causes rapid breathing. Usually lasts 1-2 weeks.
- ◆ Flu and viral infection comes with symptoms of muscle aches, fever, headache, fatigue, cough, runny nose, and sore throat. If caught early within the first 48 hours, medication can be administered to help its duration. Lasts about 3-7 days.
- ◆ Pneumonia is a lung infection caused by virus or bacteria. Symptoms are a cough with yellow or green mucus, chest pain, high fever, and rapid breathing. Bacterial pneumonia can be treated

with antibiotics and can last 2-3 weeks.

- ◆ Strep Throat is a contagious bacterial infection. Symptoms would be sore throat, trouble swallowing, fever, and possible stomach ache. Note: A cough or runny nose does not accompany strep throat. Strep throat is treated with antibiotics. Usually lasts at least 1-2 days.
- ◆ Stomach Flu is a viral infection in the intestines that can last 1-3 days. Symptoms include stomach pain, nausea, vomiting, mild fever, fatigue, and watery diarrhea.
- ◆ Covid Virus most often causes respiratory symptoms that feel like a cold, flu, or pneumonia. Symptoms can be mild or some people become severely ill. If you have these types of symptoms, please get tested to be sure it isn't "just a cold." If you have a positive test, contact your PCP and follow their instructions. Remember, the CDC says if it's a mild case, quarantine at home for 5 days and wear a mask around others. Continue to wear a mask around others for 5 days. Drink plenty of fluids and get lots of rest.

The best way to prevent Winter Illnesses...**WASH YOUR HANDS!**

Wellness Coach,  
Cindy Smith

## Sidelights

### GROCERY CARDS

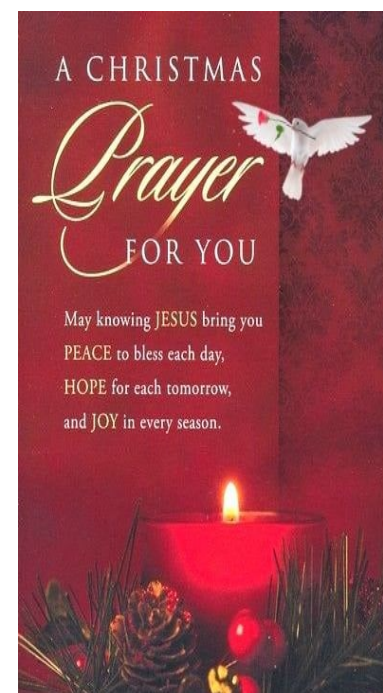
Please check the News to Go for Sundays when grocery cards will be available in the lobby.

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.







## Bible2School Starts Third Year for Fulton Elementary

Bible2School, a released time program for religious education, has begun its third year for Fulton Elementary School; and Covenant is delighted to host both second and third grade classes this year. The second grade class has six students, who are learning about God from the Old Testament; and the third grade class has nine students, who are learning about Jesus and the New Testament. Cindy Hean and Lois Neidermyer along with Minister Santa Jenkins teach the second graders on Mondays. The third grade class meets on Thursdays under the leadership of site director Julie Pack and other volunteers with Bible2School.

Students are still being added to the program through registrations with parental approval. Once a week students' lunch and recess time is used for Bible instruction and exploration. Adults volunteers walk the students to and from the elementary school, bringing the students' lunches with them. As the children eat their lunch, teachers present a story from the Bible and engage the children in discussion about it. Demonstrations, skits, games, and/or crafts further illuminate the lessons to be learned. All of this is accomplished in a little less than an hour per week.

Within Pennsylvania this year 35 elementary schools are involved with a total of 1,587 students as of November. The program has expanded since its founding in Manheim in 2012 with five schools and 450 students. Additional volunteers who are willing to give two hours a week are still needed for Bible2School so that more children can come to know God and Jesus. See Lois Neidermyer if you would be interested in helping with this dynamic program that can impact children within our immediate community.

## Covenant's Youth are Full of Thanksgiving and Christmas Joy!

"Small But Mighty" is the motto of our youth department right now. I have never seen a group of more committed young people. They faithfully show up for Sunday School and Church weekly as well as volunteer to assist with many of the activities of the church. They have worked to make their space more presentable for themselves and the Bible2School groups. They have joined with the Women's and Men's ministries and actively participate in the meal preparation and the activities of the day.

Our youth group partnered with the youth of Faith United Methodist Church (Lititz) in attending the Youth Gretna Glen in November. For the past few weeks, they have been working hard to create an Escape Room under the direction of Michelle Drumheller. On December 11, they will host the two adult Sunday School classes and other adults in exploring the Christmas story through readings, riddles, and puzzles. If you are not in a Sunday School class but would like to participate in this fun-filled activity, please see either Michelle Drumheller or Minister Brenda Wallace. It should be a great time of fellowship and joy.

In preparation for 2023, the youth are exploring the option of attending Gretna Glen's Youth Blast, February 3rd -5th. Please take the time to let Bethany Beznoska, Jaedon Wallace, and Thearren Wallace know how proud you are of their work and faithfulness. We would also like to thank our helpers and supporters, Michelle Drumheller (teacher), Jeanine Speece, and Missy and Dave Beznoska.

## Focus on Evangelism

Have you noticed the people God used to create what we call Christmas? I mean the people that carried out God's plans for meeting the needs of humanity? They were just down-to-earth, good natured ordinary people, one a young virgin maiden and another a carpenter. They evidently had a loving relationship because they talked about marriage.

Mary was the maiden's name. God sent an angel to her and told her that she was going to become pregnant and bear a son. He will be "the Son of God." God sent that same angel and told Joseph that his bride to be will become pregnant through the Holy Spirit and bear a son. You are to call him "Jesus. He will save his people from their sin."

Here is one thing that God wants you to get from this narrative. God plans to change the world, and God wants you to help tell the story. God hopes that you will be responsive to his voice, as were Mary and Joseph. Remember the words of Jesus, "Go into all the world and preach the Good News to everyone..." (Mark 16:15 NLT) The best place to respond to that call, is your home church.

Invite your family and friends to come with you to the 10:30 AM Sunday morning worship services during Advent. Offer to pick them up. Best of all, invite them to the 8:00 PM Christmas Eve worship service. Then gather the family together for an informal service on Christmas day at 10:30 AM. It will fill your heart with Christmas love.

Spread the invitation to neighbors and co-workers. People are more open to an invitation during the Christmas season, and especially Christmas Eve. Remember the first principle of evangelism is be friendly, Welcome everyone to worship. The best place to start is on the street where you live, like your neighbors. You may not feel qualified, but God is not looking for ability as much as he is looking for availability. God does not call the qualified; he qualifies the called. Merry Christmas!

Be Friendly! Welcome everyone!

## Christmas Post Now Available A Thank You from Dolly

With the rising cost of postage, it is much more cost-effective to bring your Christmas cards to the church and use our Christmas post. You would also be supporting the activities of our Youth Department. Here is how it works.

Bring in your Christmas cards addressed to any of the members and leave them on top of the mailboxes in the Gathering Area. Our youth will sort them alphabetically according to the last name. You may check under the letter of your last name to collect the cards addressed to you and your family.

The calling post will be up until the end of the year. In exchange for this service, we are asking that you would leave a donation for our youth department in the can above the mailboxes. Thank you in advance for your support.

Dolly Kepner requested that this note of thanks be published in the Echoes. Previously, it had only been printed in the church bulletin.

*Dear Covenant Family,*

*What joy fills my heart when I think of the wonderful celebration on Sunday, October 16 for my 70 years music ministry here at Covenant. I was overwhelmed and so thankful for all the sharing and caring in the service, as well as the food, fellowship, reminiscing, cards, and surprise gifts given to me in Bethany Hall. Each of you, past and present, have made serving Covenant church in music ministry such a joy all these years. To God be the glory for the things he has done through me and my music legacy. Thanks again for making the occasion a special day that I will never forget.*

*Your Organist Emeritus,*

*Dolly Kepner*

## COVENANT

### United Methodist Church

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Senior Pastor's Phone: 610-334-3440

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

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The Reverend Sally Ott, Visitation & Witness

The Reverend Dr. Guy Carrigan, Dir. of Evangelism

Jeffrey McGary, Echoes Editor

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Covenant United Methodist Church