

ECHOES ECHOES

February/March 2022

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



**COVENANT
United Methodist Church**

From the Pastor's Desk...

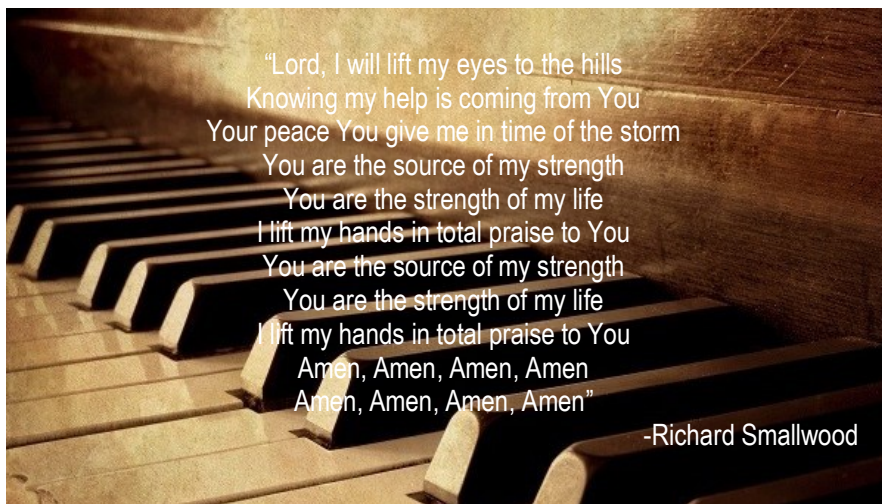
By Pastor Quentin Wallace

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



"I lift up my eyes to the mountains — where does my help come from? My help comes from the Lord, the Maker of heaven and earth."

Psalm 121:1-2



Above are the lyrics to "Total Praise," a song written by Richard Smallwood, an African American composer. This gospel song has always touched my heart because it expresses gratitude for what God has done. Many church choirs sing this song as a testimony as it emphasizes praise in worship. There are many things that garner praise in our lives that are primarily based on accomplishments, and could range from winning a sports competition or creating a new invention. However, I would consider praise of our God as most important, and this should always be a top priority.

The "Total Praise" lyrics are based on verses from Psalm 121. Overall the psalms in the Bible have always been honest heartfelt expressions of what the writers were feeling at the time, and in this psalm they highlight the importance of and the need for praise concerning the awesomeness of God, in all that we do. We as believers, those saved by grace, must give praise to God for all things, both small and large.

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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 **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
- 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

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
Harold & Janice Ulmer

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#).

Focus on Evangelism

It was last Saturday morning (Jan 22) and I had just finished reading the Saturday edition of the newspaper. The church page was about churches across the nation that are having financial problems due to the coronavirus quarantine. Worship attendance is down, worship coming into the home online has increased, but the giving is lacking. This article took up about half a page of space.

Then my eye turned to an article a page later, a small article, one column wide and about three inches long. It reported that there has been an increase in funds received from gambling and sports betting, as reported by state regulators. "That casinos and other operators took in more than \$4.7 billion from gamblers in calendar year 2021 in one of the nation's largest commercial casino states" - Pennsylvania.

A little later, I was washing my hands in the bathroom, and I looked into the mirror and scratched my head. I thought, "You know, God must be up there looking down on us and scratching his head. What's wrong with these people called Americans? Do they not remember that I helped found this nation to be different and to have a spiritual foundation? After all, I put it in the founders' heads to make sure that MY WORD will be proclaimed in local churches that are never taxed out of existence!"

Now, you may be wondering where I am going with this. May I suggest that all this has to do with evangelism. If you look at the statistics of church attendance and folks gambling, the church page indicated that since the covid pandemic, church attendance has noticeably dropped and giving diminished. However, income from gambling increased because more people are gambling. Many churches applied for funds available from the government program, called PPP – Paycheck Protection Program. Local churches could apply for assistance to meet salaries. A few churches indicated their attendance and giving has been sustained.

The church has a huge evangelism ministry to initiate. Why? Because attendance and giving has dropped? No! Because more people have found gambling to be a form of hope. The hope that sustains people in the midst of a quarantine must be missing. Our source of hope is found through faith in God's love revealed by Jesus Christ. Research tells us that people are looking to gambling for the answer to the meaning of life. There is an emptiness that causes people to turn to gambling. Is gambling the answer? Obviously not. Gambling only contributes to their problems.

The answer my friend is found in a meaningful relationship with God through faith in Jesus Christ. Christ can fill the emptiness which the pandemic and life has created. Evangelism is the ministry that says, "Jesus Christ is the answer." Everybody needs to know who Jesus is. Jesus came to show us how much God loves us and bring us forgiveness, hope, and eternal life! The church needs folks who have found life's hope and meaning in Jesus Christ and can share their faith in Christ with others. That is evangelism.

-Pastor Guy Carrigan

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Do we thank God for waking us in the morning or allowing our safe return home each night? We must always acknowledge that our help comes from the Lord, our strength comes from the Lord, and our peace comes from the Lord. Because we understand the importance of God to our very existence, in worship we come to praise with our whole selves.

In Psalm 100, the psalmist shares what the worship experience should look like. "Shout for joy to the LORD, all the earth. Worship the LORD with gladness; come before him with joyful songs. Know that the LORD is God. It is he who made us, and we are his; we are his people, the sheep of his pasture. Enter his gates with thanksgiving and his courts with praise; give thanks to him and praise his name. For the LORD is good and his love endures forever; his faithfulness continues through all generations."

In short, we should enter the worship experience joyfully and gladly as we sing songs of praise filled with thanksgiving. We understand that God created us and keeps us as a good shepherd nurtures and protects his flock. Therefore, when we gather for worship once a week, it must be to give total praise to our God. At that time, allow the sanctuary to erupt in praise.

In fact, this year let's use as our theme, "God in 2022, Our Total Praise is to You."

Blessings
Pastor Quentin

Sidelights

90+ BIRTHDAYS February & March

Daniel McGary - 2/27
John Longenecker - 3/18

MOOS UPDATE

MOOS (Mornings on Orange Street), a before-school program for students from Fulton Elementary school, has started and needs volunteers from 6:45 - 8:00 a.m. any weekday. If you are interested please contact the new program director, Elizabeth Morales, at 717 - 344-9795 or send an email to themoosdirector@gmail.com. Thank you for considering this special opportunity to help families in our immediate neighborhood.

BOOK RECOMMENDED

February is Black History month. There is a book displayed in the library that has been highly recommend for you to read in February or any time. *Mr. and Mrs. Prince* is the story of how an extraordinary eighteenth century family move out of slavery and become legends.

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.

"I've learned that people
will forget what you said,
people will forget what you did,
but people will never forget
how you made them feel."

Maya Angelou
1928 - 2014



Sidelights

NEW WOMEN'S GROUP TO MEET

Are you looking for Fun, Fellowship, Prayer with other Women? We have the answer for you. That's right, we are starting a Women's Group that will be meeting once a month. We are meeting on Sunday, February 13, at 12:00 p.m. for a light lunch and fellowship. Bring your Bible and bring a friend. We look forward to seeing and fellowshiping with you. If you have any questions, please see Debbie Tyson, Marylou Hill. or Minster Brenda.

GIFTS RECEIVED

In memory of **Bob Moss**, gifts have been received for the Dolly Kepner Fund from:
Bonnie Herr
Harold & Janice Ulmer
Greg & Kathy Smith
Denise Troop

In memory of **Bob Moss**, gifts have been received for Outreach from:
Grace Fisher
Carole Horn

In memory of **Harriet Dabler**, a gift has been received from Pastor Sally Ott to purchase masks for the choir.

In memory of **Ruth Barr**, a gift has been received from Jenny Engle.

In memory of **Harold & Olive Quckel**, a gift has been received from Lois Neidermyer.

A donation was made to **MOOS** from Lois Neidermyer.

A donation was made to the **Noah Fund** from the Day Care Center.



If we had no winter, the spring would not be so pleasant.
If we did not sometimes taste adversity, prosperity would not be so welcome

— Ann Bradstreet

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, Lanc., 17603
www.DonDaleDesigns.com

Groffs Family Funeral

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

Interiors by Kristen

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

JM Services

Jeff McGary
Interior & Light Exterior Painting,
717.330.9616 or jcmcgary@comcast.net

Kresge Computer Consultation

Roger Kresge, 299.4613 or
rkresge123@comcast.net

Miller Optical

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

Richard B. MacDonald

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

Willard Hypnosis Center

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

Here's to Good Health!

We all think of hearts when the month of February comes around. Valentine's Day is marked by sending cards with hearts; boxes of candy come in heart shapes; flowers are red to indicate love of the heart. February is a month of love.

We are talking here of the human love, but I want you to remember the One who loves you most. Jesus Christ loved you so much that He came and died for our sins to make us right in the sight of God. He arose to give us new life, eternal life. Now that is love!

Your heart is an organ in your body that is a miracle! To tell how it works in some simple way would be to say it consists of a plumbing system and an electrical system. There are two pumps. One uses arteries to push oxygenated blood from the heart to the rest of the body; the other pump uses veins to usher blood back to the heart and into the lungs to get re-oxygenated.

Your pulse, or your heartbeat, is controlled by the heart's electrical system. These systems can be measured with various tests to check for abnormalities. Here are some reminders about how to care for your heart.

- Keep your weight down
- Take medication as ordered
- Eat well balanced meals
- Try to avoid stress
- Get some type of exercise each day
- Wash your hands often
- Get enough sleep
- Love God with all your heart
- Don't smoke
- Use alcohol in moderation

Take care of your heart, not just in heart month, but all year long!

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.

KEEP YOURSELF IN THE "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!), give your contact information to the church office.

COMMUNITY CLOSET

Community Closet was held on Saturday, January 15. The closet was able to assist about 20 families. Glory to God! The next Community Closet will be held on March 12. Donations of good used clothing will be cheerfully accepted.

COVENANT

United Methodist Church

110 North Mulberry Street

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.

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The Reverend Dr. Quentin E. Wallace, Senior Pastor

The Reverend Sally Ott, Visitation & Witness

The Reverend Dr. Guy Carrigan, Dir. of Evangelism

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