



From the Pastor's Desk...

By Pastor Quentin Wallace

"Who Do You Say That I Am?"

But what about you?" he asked. "Who do you say I am?" Simon Peter answered, "You are the Messiah, the Son of the living God." Matthew 16:15-16



And I tell you that you are Peter, and on this rock I will build my church, and the gates of Hades will not overcome it. Matthew 16:18

One morning my younger daughter who was about 12 at the time had overslept and wanted to walk to school after the crossing guards had left their post. Because it was later and most of the walkers were already at school, I decided I would drive her to school so she'd be safe. Wanting to be independent, she insisted on walking to school by herself anyway and would not get into the car. So I drove alongside her as I asked her to get into the car. Meanwhile, a lady walking her dog observed what was going on and intervened by asking my daughter if she knew the man who was trying to get her into the car? "Of course," she said, "that's my dad." After that she got into the car, and I dropped her at school. As I returned home, I saw the lady with the dog, and I stopped to thank her for considering my daughter's safety.

It was in the region of Caesarea Philippi when Jesus asked the disciples, those who had been traveling with him for three years, "Who do you say that I am?" Sadly the disciples were not unified with their answers but were quite split as to Jesus' identity. Some thought he was a prophet returned from another era; others felt he was a great teacher with abilities. However, it was Peter, with the help of revelation by the Holy Spirit, who said, "You are the Son of the living God."

At this stage in my life, I realize my understanding of Christ has changed over the years. Initially he was my mother's savior, and she instilled in me and my sister that it was important to go to church, pray, give offerings, and to live right as a Christian should. So, at that juncture, Christ was really my family's God and not mine until I had journeyed longer. As I went through the struggles of life and learned to pray for myself, Christ became my savior. Later in life Christ became my Lord, savior and guide. I was saved but was not entrusting my entire life to Christ. That took a while.

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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 2020 is **Covenant is the church for ALL generations, and we mean it!**

Please be in prayer for Covenant Church.

WAYS TO CONTINUE GIVING

Covenant church is grateful for all our faithful friends and members who are continuing to send their tithes and offerings while we are unable to meet. If you are able, you can mail checks to 110 N. Mulberry St., Lancaster, PA, 17603, or give electronically. To give electronically go to our website www.covenant-umc.com and click on the GIVING link and follow the directions. You can also use your smart phone to securely text a gift to Covenant. To send a gift, just send a text message to 7177691063 with the dollar amount (e.g. "\$20"). The first time you do this you will be asked to fill out a short form with billing information. After the initial setup, giving is easy as sending a text message. Please call the church office with questions.

Sidelights

GAME ON!

A small group met on Zoom a few Saturdays ago to play games. The game of the day was Bible Pictionary. What we gained was over an hour of fun, fellowship, and laughter. You can join using a laptop, tablet, or phone. If you are interested in spending some quality time with fun people and find a great way to relieve stress in your life, contact Chris Kimmich either by email or the church phone. By the way, these types of activities are excellent for your mental health.

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.

CONTACT INFORMATION

We want to stay in contact, and many of us are reaching out by telephone and email. **Do we have your latest information?** Please email or call the church office with updated phone numbers and email addresses.

MT. GREтна TABERNACLE

All summer services and special programs at Mt. Gretna Tabernacle have been cancelled for the summer. The Mefferds report that if things get better there may be a service or two in August.

We Worship Together



**CHURCH
ONLINE**

As long as the Coronavirus restrictions continue, we will conduct worship services online at 10 a.m. each Sunday. Go to the Covenant website (covenant-umc.com) and click on Worship to get the Covenant Facebook link. You do not have to have a Facebook account to participate. The live link will allow you to see and hear the entire service.

ADDITIONAL ONLINE OPPORTUNITIES

- **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 confer-**

Status on Reopening the Sanctuary

Greetings Church Family,

I'd like to thank you for your steadfastness during this temporary closure of the church. We are planning to reopen the church for worship once the Governor moves Lancaster County to the green phase. Lancaster County will be moving to the yellow phase within a few weeks, and the Covenant Child Care Center is preparing to reopen. At that time, they will be implementing safety precautions to protect staff and children from Covid-19 exposure.

Also, during the yellow phase small groups may begin to meet in the church (fewer than 25 persons) while maintaining social distancing. Until we reach the green phase, we are working on the possibility of holding worship on the parking lot in June. We will announce the dates for those services once the details are worked out. Thank you for your faithfulness, and we look forward to worshipping together in our building soon. In the meantime, continue to worship virtually and uplift one another in your prayers.

Blessings,

Pastor Quentin

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When Jesus asked that question of his disciples, I am unsure of what Jesus expected to hear. However, we know Peter's response, and Christ commended him for his declaration but added that his revelation did not come from human understanding and reasoning, but from God. Why did Jesus add that statement? I believe Christ knew that Peter should have been just as unclear as the other disciples but was given for that moment special knowledge through the power of God. In other words, it was too soon for him to make that declaration—Peter had to journey longer until he received an infilling of the Holy Spirit that was yet to come.

Consider what occurred with Peter in Matthew 16, immediately following his profession. He wanted to stop Christ from going to the cross, fell asleep in the Garden of Gethsemane, cut off the ear of a Roman soldier during Jesus' arrest, denied Christ three times...etc. Clearly before the indwelling of the Holy Spirit, Peter did know who Christ was or he would have reacted differently displaying an attitude of unfailing trust.

The Covid-19 pandemic has upset our apple cart of security, and it is in times like these when Jesus may be asking us, his people, in the midst of varying opinions, "Who do you say that I am?" While Peter declared Jesus to be the Son of the Living God, Peter's actions did not display the assurance a disciple of the Son God should have. Instead he reacted to situations as if Jesus was just an ordinary man. Brothers and Sisters in Christ, our savior is not an ordinary man but a deliverer and an intercessor on our behalf. Jesus promised us a comforter—the Holy Spirit that provides a peace and security that the world does not understand.

Back to the story I began with...when the lady asked my daughter if she knew who I was. My daughter could say without a doubt that I was her dad, and she was assured that, although she was being stubborn, I had her best interest in mind. If asked, who do you say that Jesus is? How does that provide security for you in a time of certainty or uncertainty? In Matthew 16:18 Jesus said that, based on Peter's profession, the church would be built on the knowledge that Jesus is the son of the Living God, and the gates of hell would not prevail against it.

Although we are unable to gather in person for worship, it does not mean that worship is not continuing. We are praying daily over prayer conference calls, and people are being healed and uplifted as a result. The word of God is still being preached, taught, shared via Facebook Live and Zoom, and people are coming to know God and share their faith with others. A positive twist to this online worship and teaching is our online attendance is growing exponentially, and people are joining us for teaching and worship both locally and across several states. It is at these moments that we truly come to know who Jesus is. Thank you, Covenant family, for making sure Covenant is increasing its influence in the community by sharing your prayers, your gifts, your talents, and your witness.

Blessings,

Pastor Quentin

Sidelights

GIFTS GIVEN

To the Dolly Kepner Music Fund:

- In memory of **Marian Hough** from Tom Buter
- In memory of **Melvin and Marian Hough** from Jim and Doris Work

To the General Fund:

- In memory of **Melvin Hough** from Cindy Smith
- In memory of **Melvin and Marian Hough** from Ron and Chris Kimmich
- In memory of **David Henning** from Ron and Chris Kimmich

JUNE 90+ BIRTHDAYS

- Doris Heipler, June 26
- George Schaeffer, June 28

We thank God for their faithfulness to Covenant church.

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.

Sidelights

THANK YOU...

TO Certified Carpet for graciously (with no prompting from us) waiving our April bill due to the Corona virus.

TO Kevin Fritz, our custodian, who has been working faithfully every day, deep cleaning all areas of the church and day care; carpet cleaning; painting and freshening areas; and over all giving our church building and grounds his excellent care.

TO Volunteer Minister Brenda for adding editing to our Sunday morning worship.

TO Volunteers Roger Kresge and Darwin Tyson for assisting the staff in moving toward live streaming and parking lot service capabilities. More news to come.

TO Covenant members for their support during this time

UPPER ROOM

The May/June Upper Rooms have been delivered to the church. They are available for \$1. If you would like to pick up your Upper Room, please call Chris at the church office 717-393-1561 to set up a time to purchase your daily devotional.

Please keep in mind you will need to abide by all social distancing rules as outlined during the time of your visit.

A Shout-Out to Our Media Team

There are many lessons to be learned through this COVID-19 era. Here is one that I have learned. Media ministry is a necessary yet challenging task. The most stressful part of my week is Sunday morning. Yes, I have checked and double checked everything. However, I always wonder if the service will run smoothly. Will there be technical problems? Will the picture show up sideways or upside down? Will we lose a signal in the middle of the service? Is there sound? And the list goes on and on.

Being the sole person responsible for setting up the makeshift studio in our family room, serving as the lighting and camera crew as well as editor and producer for worship services has given me a deeper appreciation for our media team. Granted, I have done this work at other churches and had a taste of the demands. However, these past weeks under the stay at home order have heightened my sensitivity for the amount of work that happens behind the scenes to allow others to enjoy worship. Whenever we are back in our building and you see those people sitting in the back seemingly calm and effortlessly working, please understand and appreciate the commitment and deep dedication to worship that they possess.

"Thank you" is not enough but here goes.....Praise God for Roger Kresge, Hugh McClure, Glenda Gonzalez, Zach Snyder, Lori Brown, and Darwin Tyson. Thank you for your service to Covenant Church.

COVENANT CHURCH is Bringing Christ's Light into the Community and Beyond AND Preparing for Increase in 2019.

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

Conestoga Innovations Promotional Products

(for all your advertising needs)
Wanda Snyder, 1.800.759.8885 or
sales@conestoga-innovations.com

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 and Brad McGary
Interior & Light Exterior Painting,
Handyman, and Junk Removal
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 have been wearing face masks to stay healthy and help prevent the spread of the coronavirus. But what can we do to prevent bad breath?

Bad breath is known as halitosis. Halitosis can come from bacteria feeding on food in your mouth. So what can you do to help prevent bad breath?

Brush your teeth – Brush at least twice a day. Think about brushing after each meal. If you can't brush, swish with water or mouthwash. Chewing sugarless gum can also help get rid of food particles in your mouth.

Brush your tongue - Odor causing bacteria thrives on the rough surface of your tongue. Mucus from postnasal drip can also feed odor causing bacteria. Gargling with mouthwash also may help.

Floss daily – Flossing removes food particles between your teeth.

Drink plenty of water – Saliva and water wash away food particles that feed bad breath. If you have persistent dry mouth talk to your doctor. Dry mouth can be caused by some medications or some diseases.

Think about what you are eating, drinking or inhaling – Tobacco, garlic, onions, alcohol and coffee cause temporary bad breath.

Talk to your dentist or doctor if these suggestions don't help with bad breath. You could be having dental problems such as gum disease or an abscessed tooth. You might need to deal with dry mouth problems; even your stomach or lungs could cause bad breath.

Remember that dentures need attention, too. Brush dentures before soaking them at night and again in the morning before putting them back in.

Cindy Smith,
Wellness Coach

Sidelights

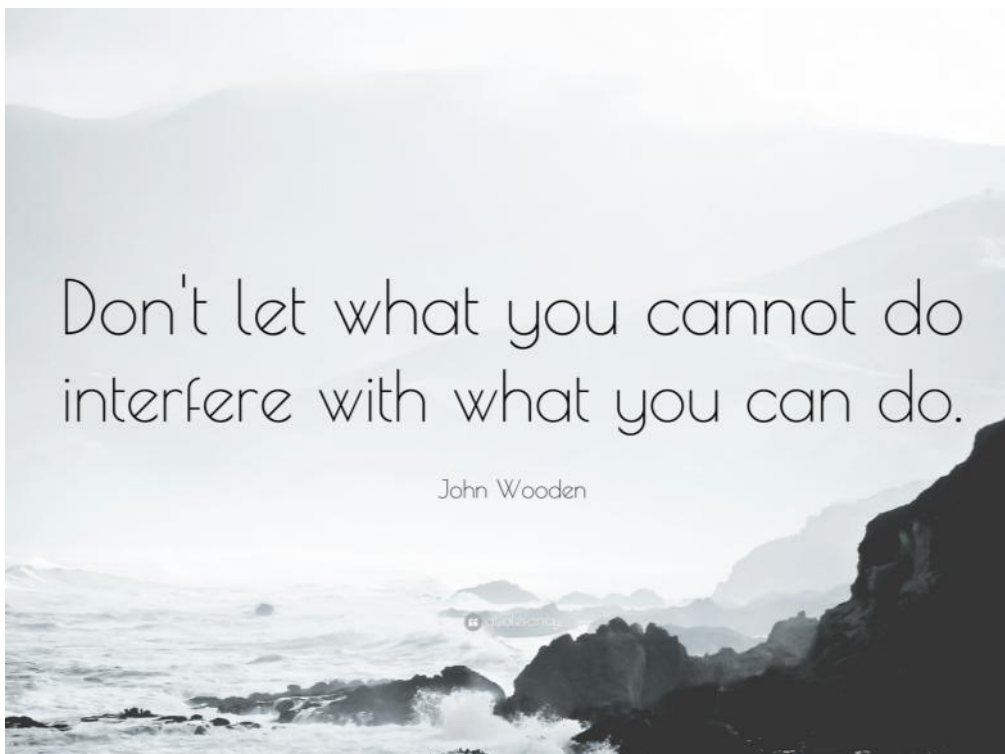
**Covenant Has Talent!
Wednesday, June 10
7 p.m.**

We already know that there is a lot of talent in our church. Let's bring it together in one place. This is not a competition but a celebration. Many of you are working in new areas or honing your current skills during this season—playing instruments, sewing new items, baking new items, enhancing your singing, writing, learning new jokes, riddles or magic tricks.

This can either be a performance or show-and-tell. If we get at least 10 acts, we will have a virtual talent show. Please email Chris Kim-mich or call the church office. Registration is due by Friday, June 5. You need to sign up to participate and/or to watch so that you will receive the zoom invitation.

NOTE OF THANKS

Ruth Neuman sends thanks for the thoughtful and lovely birthday cards she received. They were greatly appreciated and enjoyed! She is looking forward to the time when we can greet each other in person. In the mean time, she continues to be with all of us in spirit and prayer.



Sidelights

COVENANT GRADUATES

Congratulations! to:

Allyson Dull who graduated from the University of Pittsburgh with a degree in biological science. She has already received a full time position at Lancaster Laboratories. Allyson is the daughter of Tom and Cathy Dull and lives in Willow Street.

Bethany Beznoska who graduated from McCaskey High School and the CTC veterinary assistant program. She hopes to find work with animals when jobs open back up and then continue schooling in veterinary assistance. Bethany is the daughter of Dave and Melissa Beznoska.

Cory Faus who graduated from McCaskey High School and their construction program where he apprenticed with Warfel Construction. Warfel has offered him a position, and he will be employed by them after graduation. Cory is the grandson of Bob and Cindy Hean and the great-grandson of Grace Fisher.

Katie Willard, daughter of Roger and Patti, who graduated in December from California Baptist University with a Masters in Accounting. Katie lives in East LA and is employed as Controller of Food and Beverage Services at Paramount Studios.

Youth Department Update

Our youth continue to meet weekly via Zoom. A special thank you to the parents for continuing to support this ministry and for allowing your children to participate. This month we have enjoyed a number of activities including:

- A presentation by Piercing Word
- Games such as Pictionary, Hang Man and Bible Trivia
- Conversations about fairness and who God is
- Creating a Mother's Day video
- And we even had a surprise visit from Quenel last week.

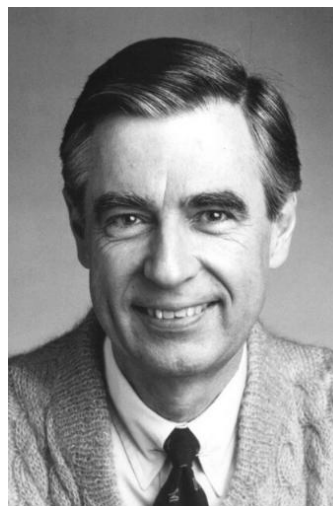
Furthermore, we are excited to celebrate with Bethany Beznoska who is graduating from McCaskey High School. She is a faithful member of the youth group, youth usher, and acolyte. Bethany has a strong passion for animals and plans to work as a veterinary assistant. Congratulations Bethany!

I would like to start a series for the youth entitled 'Why Am I a Christian?' highlighting members of our congregation! I anticipate this being very brief and can be a live conversation with the youth on Fridays or something previously recorded at your leisure. I feel that it is important for our young people to hear stories of faith from people that they know and admire.

If you have a faith story, please don't keep it to yourself. It can be a story of struggle and/or a story of victory. Everyone is invited to participate. Several students from the Albright College Christian Fellowship have already shared their stories. I hope to receive an overwhelming response from our Covenant family as well. If you would be willing to share your story, please email me at ministerbjw@gmail.com. If you do not have email, please call the church office. We can record through the phone as well.

As always, I say that we have a great group of youth who continuously seek the Lord. When you pray, please lift up the names Abigail, Ameila, Bethany, Destiny, Jaedon, Kylie, Makenzie, Melody, Quenel, and Thearren.

Minister Brenda Wallace



"When I was a boy and I would see scary things in the news, my mother would say to me,

'Look for the helpers. You will always find people who are helping.'

To this day, especially in times of 'disaster,' I remember my mother's words and I am always comforted by realizing that there are still so many helpers—so many caring people in this world."

~Fred Rogers

Plans Being Made for Parking Lot Services

The staff and volunteers at Covenant are working hard to be able to allow us to worship “in physical distancing safety” in our cars in the church parking lot. This may allow us to have communion together, see each other, and be “a light at the corner of Mulberry and Orange.”

When this happens there will be some rules for you to follow:

- We will transmit via an FM radio signal you can hear in your car
- You must stay in your car
- No one may enter the church to use the restroom
- You may not exit car during our time together
- Pre packaged communion elements will be distributed safely
- Cars will be facing the portico with spaces left between vehicles. Cones or other objects will be placed in spots that must remain unoccupied
- Vans and trucks will be asked to park in the back row to prevent blocking the view of worship participants

This is a “work in progress”, please bear with us as we make decisions to keep us all safe; abide by the governor’s mandates; and lift our worship to God. We are discussing doing this the first Sunday of each month, until we can worship together in the sanctuary. Watch your e-mails and listen for our calling posts for the date of our first Parking Lot Worship Service.



Nothing can calm our souls more or better prepare us for life's challenges than time spent alone with God.

BILLY GRAHAM

Sidelights

“NEWS TO GO” EMAIL BLAST

Once a week we send a News To Go email blast to 90 emails addresses stored in our program. If you do NOT receive this e-mail and would like to be included, please send your e-mail information to chris@covenant-umc.com.

CHILD CARE CENTER REOPENING

At this time, the Covenant Child Care Center plans to reopen on Monday June 8, with the appropriate conditions and requirements per guidelines from the state. The center is in need of a few items that they hope to acquire through donations. They are:

- Cloth masks for staff, possibly with kid-friendly motifs.
- Clorox wipes
- Lysol aerosol spray

Any of these items will be gratefully received at the church office.

CHURCH OFFICE HOURS

Presently, Chris Kimmich is usually in the office from 8-11 during the week. However, please feel free to call her on her cell with any questions or concerns. 717-468-5126.

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.

Church Staff

The Reverend Dr. Quentin E. Wallace, Senior Pastor

The Reverend Sally Ott, Visitation & Witness

The Reverend Dr. Guy Carrigan, Dir. of Evangelism

The Reverend Theodore C. Mefferd, Pastor Emeritus

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