

ECHOES

March, 2020

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



From the Pastor's Desk...

By Pastor Quentin Wallace



Spring is Around the Corner

And the God of grace, who called you to his eternal glory in Christ, after you have suffered a little while, will himself, restore you and make you strong, firm and steadfast. -1 Peter 5:10



After a lengthy winter, we look forward to spring when the trees begin to bloom after their months of slumber. I love springtime because it births new life and is the preface to summer.

One Easter as my family and I returned from church, we noticed that the dogwood tree that sits in our front yard had seemingly blossomed overnight; bare limbs one day and in full bloom covered with white fluffy flowers the next. While it felt to us as if it occurred suddenly overnight, things were actually happening beneath the surface inside our tree and others plants. And what was working on the inside began to be displayed by bursting forth onto the outside. Just a few months previously, this same tree had lost its leaves as if it were dying and losing its vitality forever. However, we understand that trees go through this cycle as nature allows trees and plants to weather the seasons.

Fall, winter, spring and summer are reminders that God is always at work sustaining us. As we come to the end of winter, those of you who like to plant gardens will begin to gather seeds for a time of sowing with the expectation of reaping a harvest. In the 1 Peter passage above, the writer shares how God, through grace, restores and makes those who trust strong and steadfast. God does not only continue this system of restoring what was lost for plants, but for the believers as well.

With God we are able to look forward to the new life and new growth that God is preparing for us through God's Holy Spirit, a Holy Spirit that remains with us through all of the seasons.

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 2019 is **Preparing for Increase.**

Please be in prayer for Covenant Church.

LENTEN BIBLE STUDY BEGINS

"GOD'S TRANSFORMING POWER"

Pastor Quentin will be teaching a five week Bible Study on God's Transforming Power at 7 p.m on Thursday evenings. The study will begin on March 5th and conclude on April 2. Each week a passage of scripture will be listed in the News To Go for participants to read in advance of that week's study. Please sign up in the Gathering Area. Together we will study and grow in the knowledge of the Lord. Make this Lenten season a time for adding more to your spiritual life.

USHERS NEEDED

If you are interested in serving as an usher in the 10:30 service, for one month at a time, or just one Sunday a month, please contact Dave Beznoska at dbeznoska931@comcast.net.

Sidelights

MANIFEST UPDATE

Members of Covenant prepared and served lunches to seven to ten people each day during the week of January 19th. The Manifest workers along with Lancaster County work release prisoners were working at a property in the 700 block of South Lime St. The workers had cleared the house of existing plumbing, walls, and most of the electricity. New walls were beginning to take shape to create the stairwell and an added half-bath.



The provided meals were truly appreciated. The serving team was delighted to dish up seconds and even some fourths! Chili, mac'n'cheese, deli-like sandwiches with soup, pizza, and hamburger goulash, along with fresh fruits or freshly baked cookies, were served throughout the week. We are looking forward to preparing lunches for another group of workers during the first week of May. We plant the seeds and God nourishes!

DO YOU LIKE TO SEW?

Bishop Johnson would like to present lightweight clerical robes to ten Congolese pastors. If you are willing to be a part of the sewing team, please contact Elaine Spangler (Grandview UMC) at ejsjac76@aol.com or 717-419-9193.

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.

We Worship Together

Sunday Services **9:00 a.m. - Contemporary Worship**
10:30 a.m. - Traditional Worship

March 1, 2020—1st Sunday in Lent

Holy Communion

Preaching at both services is Pastor Wallace. Music will be presented by the Praise Team at 9 and the Chancel Choir at 10:30. Youth will participate in the 9:00 service.

March 8, 2020—2nd Sunday in Lent

Pastor Wallace will preach. Music will be presented by the Praise Team at 9 and the Chancel Choir at 10:30. The Bell Choir will provide special music at the 10:30 service.

March 15, 2020—3rd Sunday in Lent

Pastor Wallace will preach during both services. Music will be presented by the Praise Team at 9 and the Chancel Choir at 10:30.

March 22, 2020—4th Sunday in Lent

Preaching at both services is Pastor Wallace. Music will be presented by the Praise Team at 9 and the Chancel Choir at 10:30. Law Enforcement Appreciation will be shared for the Manheim Township Police Department at the early service and for the Lancaster City Police Department at the 10:30 service. Dedication of prayer blankets will take place, and our youth will participate at the 10:30 service.

March 29, 2020—5th Sunday in Lent

Preaching at both services is Pastor Wallace. Music will be presented by the Praise Team at 9 and the Chancel Choir at 10:30.

March Volunteers

March 1

Lobby Greeters: 8:40 - Ruth Neuman & Brenda Roth; 10:00 - Lori Brown & Tina Butler

Anchorite: Janet Seyfert

March 8

Lobby Greeters: 8:40 - Cindy & Bob Hean; 10:00 - Youth

Anchorite: Janice McElroy

March 15

Lobby Greeters: 8:40 - Mary Lou Hill; 10:00 - Sandy & Rev. Guy Carrigan

Anchorite: Carol Brower

March 22

Lobby Greeters: 8:40 - Mee Schuler; 10:00 - Janice & Harold Ulmer

Anchorite: Cindy Hean

March 29

Lobby Greeters: 8:40 - Mary Lou Hill; 10:00 - Cathy Boyd & Bobbie Schwan

Anchorite: Lois Neidermyer

March Ushers

Head Usher, Glenn Miller
Abe & Marilyn Keener

Here's To Good Health!

CPR

The lifesaving technique, cardio-pulmonary resuscitation (CPR), is often useful when someone's breathing or heartbeat has stopped. Here are some steps you can take to help save a life.

- Call for help – Call 911 or emergency medical help before starting CPR, or have someone else call. The dispatcher can instruct you until help arrives.
- Don't attempt rescue breaths (this is new in the last few years) – In most cases it's unnecessary to do mouth-to-mouth breaths.
- Start chest compressions – Have the person face up on a firm surface. Kneeling next to the person's neck and shoulders, place the heel of one hand over the center of the person's chest with your hands on top. Use your upper body weight as you compress the chest between 2 and 2.5 inches. Press hard and fast at a rate of about 100 to 120 compressions a minute.
- Follow a strong beat – Perform compressions to the beat of an up-tempo song such as "Stayin' Alive" by the Bee Gees or "I

Walk the Line" by Johnny Cash.

- Use a defibrillator – An automated external defibrillator (AED) provides an electric shock that can restore heart rhythm. Follow the prompts to deliver one shock, and then resume CPR until help arrives or the person regains consciousness.

I want you to know that we have two AEDs here in Covenant Church. There is one located in the cupboard going up the ramp in the Gathering Area, and there is a sign posted on the outside of the door noting its location. There is also one up on the second floor in a cabinet located outside the elevator connecting the two sides of the class rooms. There is a sign there noting its location.

We hope we never need to use this information, but now you know how you can help in an emergency. Have someone call 911, start CPR, and have someone get the AED.

Cindy Smith
Wellness Coach

Sidelights

GIFTS GIVEN

In memory of **Ann Evans**, from Farmdale Elementary School, Vince Bresch, Migdon & Ben Bowman, and Sally & Bruce Ott.

MESSAGE FROM SPRC

After prayerful consideration, Minister Santa Jenkins has stepped down from her position as Youth Director at Covenant. We were blessed with all the efforts that she used in leading our youth in the past years. We wish her well in her new callings and encourage her in those endeavors. The SPRC committee will be searching for a new Youth Director in the following months. So pray that the committee can find a suitable replacement. During this time, Minister Brenda and her helpers will assist in leading the Youth. This is a great blessing for them to do this. Thanks for your support in this matter.

- Phil Biechler,
Chair of SPRC

LVC Concert Choir Comes to Covenant

Saturday, March 21



7:30 pm

The Lebanon Valley College Concert Choir's 84th Annual Tour brings them to Covenant United Methodist Church on Saturday, March 21, 2020, at 7:30pm.

The ensemble of 50 singers will present a program entitled "Moments," containing both sacred and secular music representing a variety of genres.

The theme of the concert focuses

on the day to day moments in our lives that may seem small and insignificant, yet can encourage and bring us happiness. All are invited to this FREE concert.

SANCTUARY FLOWERS

You may purchase flowers to adorn the sanctuary on Sunday mornings. The cost is \$28 for either the centerpiece or the two vases. See the church secretary on Sunday mornings to place your order.

SOUND TECHS NEEDED

There is a need for additional sound techs on Sunday mornings. Training will be given. Please see Darwin Tyson for more information. He is usually on the sound board at the 10:30 service.

Sidelights

GIANT YARD SALE TO SUPPORT ANCHORAGE BREAKFAST PROGRAM

A huge indoor yard sale will be held on Saturday, March 28, to raise funds for the Anchorage Breakfast Program that provides free breakfast to the community every Monday-Friday, 52 weeks a year. To Donate GOOD STUFF, please contact Sue Grimm Mattox, sgrimm1028@gmail.com, or call 717-575-6414 .

LISTENING SESSIONS SCHEDULED FOR UMC GENERAL CONFERENCE

In preparation for the upcoming UMC General Conference in May, Listening Sessions have been scheduled in various areas of the Eastern Pennsylvania Conference.

The elected delegates from Eastern Pennsylvania who will be going to General Conference will provide an overview of proposed resolutions to be presented for action at General Conference and will welcome questions and comments.

The closest Listening Session for our district is scheduled for Wednesday, March 25, from 7:00 to 8:30 p.m. at Church of the Good Shepherd UMC, 1500 Quentin Road, Lebanon, PA 17042.

This session is an opportunity for delegates to hear from local church members in regard to the proposals for the future of the United Methodist Church as well as an opportunity for church members to gain clarification and to share their thoughts and concerns.

Covenant to Host AGO Organ Concert

March 22,

4 p.m.



Louis Vierne (1870-1937)

The Lancaster Chapter of the American Guild of Organists proudly presents "The Blind Organist of Notre-Dame: Louis Vierne" on Sunday, March 22, at 4 pm at Covenant United Methodist Church, Lancaster, PA. This program traces the tumultuous story of Louis Vierne (1870-1937) through a multimedia presentation including pictures, narration, and live organ music. Local organists will be featured playing the works of Vierne on the mighty Casavant Organ of Covenant UMC. A suggested donation of \$10 will be collected to support the mission and outreach of the Lancaster Chapter of the American Guild of Organists.

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

JM Services

Jeff and Brad McGary
Interior & Light Exterior Painting,
Handyman, and Junk Removal
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

Covenant's Youth in Action



Although the leadership of our youth is in transition, the youth group is still enthusiastically serving God! Expect to see our young people actively participating in our worship experiences on the 1st Sunday at 9 am and on the 4th Sunday at 10:30. In February, we had 100% participation of the youth in attendance, with some youth taking

on more than one role. Getting up in front of a group of adults to speak is quite a daunting task. But they did it!

Also, during the Soul Food sampler, the Cuebas family shared some important information regarding a dear friend who is 18 and desperately needs a stem cell transplant.

Additionally, TeTe Wallace performed an excerpt from the Broadway play *Hamilton*. Our youth are incredibly talented!

Please encourage our youth when you see them. Learn their names. Let them know that they are appreciated and loved by their church family. Your prayers are needed as we move forward with selecting our next Youth Director.



Sidelights

LET'S PRAY TOGETHER

How many persons do you know who have been born between 1980 and 2015? For sociological study, those born between those years have been divided into two different generations. The ones born between 1980 and 1994 have been called The Millennials and those born between 1995 and 2015 are called The Gen Z generation. These are also generations that God loves and that Jesus died for on Calvary's Cross. For us there is an opportunity to share Jesus Christ with these generations.

Persons of these generations are by and large missing in our congregation. That is why Pastor Quentin has asked the congregation to pray, asking God to send children, youth, and young families to our church, that they might become a part of our congregation. In the book of James, it says that "you have not because you ask not."

Just think what would happen if one hundred persons would pray each day asking God to send those folks to our congregation. I put praying in the positive because I believe God answers our prayers. We have lots of persons who can give leadership to care for those whom we invite and God will send. Now that is Evangelism, prayer evangelism. We can all participate in that ministry.

Hopefully, we have all had experience coming before God and the Throne of Grace. The next time you are in worship, as you leave the sanctuary and greet Pastor Quentin, tell him that you will be one of those one hundred who will pray daily. Let's plan ahead for a ministry with that generation.

Guy Carrigan, Director of Evangelism

You Can Help!

Affordable housing is one of the biggest issues facing the Lancaster community. Lack of affordable housing, especially for families, leads to poor quality of life, crime, health and safety issues, just to name a few. In 2018, 7 United Methodist churches in Lancaster, including Covenant, joined with Lumina and the Urban Commission of the Eastern PA Conference to form the Manifest Urban Alliance, in order to address housing issues in our city.

Working together to provide volunteers, funding and other support, our Manifest churches partner with IMPACT! Missions, a local faith-based housing ministry. Covenant volunteers have been working with IMPACT! Missions since 2014, working to repair homes for people in need, and to rehabilitate deteriorated and sometimes condemned properties; these rehabilitated homes are then sold to low-income families with special financing programs that help make possible the American dream of home ownership.



IMPACT! Missions Home for Sale

IMPACT! Missions, with its volunteers and partner contractors, has already completed more than 30 home rehab projects, mostly in Lancaster City! You can help! Here are some of the ways you can join with our Manifest Urban Alliance:

1. Volunteer for our monthly Saturday workdays, usually the 3rd Saturday of the month. You don't need to be a skilled craftsperson, just be willing to work. We also do "on the job" training. For info, email Roger Kresge, rkresge123@comcast.net.

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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 Quentin E. Wallace, Senior Pastor

The Reverend Sally Ott, Visitation & Witness

Minister Santa Jenkins, Youth Director

The Reverend Dr. Guy Carrigan, Dir. of Evangelism

The Reverend Theodore C. Mefferd, Pastor Emeritus

Mr. Jeffrey McGary, Echoes Editor

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2. Volunteer to work with our weekday Manifest/IMPACT! team, where you can pick your day and hours. This is ideal for retired persons looking for ways to minister to the community, and you don't need to be a skilled craftsperson. To sign up, send an email to Correen Russo of Lumina at correen.lumina@gmail.com.

3. Sign up to help provide lunches for Manifest workers from the Lancaster County Prison work release program. Covenant members are providing lunches for a week, once each quarter. To volunteer, contact Sue Kresge at suekresge@comcast.net.

4. Contact both Lumina and IMPACT! Missions to volunteer your time for the Manifest Urban Alliance. There are many ways you can help, more than we can possibly list here. Lumina contact info: 717-394-8412, or email correen.lumina@gmail.com. IMPACT! Missions contact info: 717-806-5770, or send email to info@impactcamps.org.

Return Service Requested

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