



From the Pastor's Desk...

By Pastor Quentin Wallace

Rebuilding in Chaotic Times



12 Then the Jews who lived near them came and told us ten times over, "Wherever you turn, they will attack us." **13** Therefore I stationed some of the people behind the lowest points of the wall at the exposed places, posting them by families, with their swords, spears and bows. **14** After I looked things over, I stood up and said to the nobles, the officials and the rest of the people, "Don't be afraid of them. Remember the Lord, who is great and awesome, and fight for your families, your sons and your daughters, your wives and your homes." **15** When our enemies heard that we were aware of their plot and that God had frustrated it, we all returned to the wall, each to our own work.

Nehemiah 4:12-15

For nearly 7 months we have been unable to worship in the sanctuary due to precautions from the government and our denomination because of COVID-19. However, we will be re-entering the building for in-person worship at this precarious time. How do we accomplish our ministry while so many things are still up in the air in our community and our nation? The book of Nehemiah describes a time when the Israelites, God's people, had to rebuild during chaotic circumstances.

According to Nehemiah, the walls of Jerusalem had been torn down and burned by their enemies and the people were scattered as a result. One day, Nehemiah a Jew who was employed as a cupbearer to the king in Persia met some of his Jewish countrymen returning from Jerusalem who gave him sad news about his homeland. In response, Nehemiah went into prayer after hearing of Jerusalem's decimated state. Hearing Nehemiah's prayer, God touched the heart of the king, and the king authorized Nehemiah to return to Jerusalem to organize the Jews for a rebuilding campaign.

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

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

CHILDCARE REQUEST

If you would like to support this Covenant ministry, they are accepting donations of

- ♦ Disposable adult masks
- ♦ Disposable child sized masks
- ♦ Clorox/Lysol wipes
- ♦ Clorox/Lysol spray
- ♦ Lysol cleaner
- ♦ Hand sanitizer

VOLUNTEER

Childcare needs 1 or 2 volunteers for check-in

- ♦ Tuesday & Thursday
- ♦ 7:30—9:00AM
- ♦ Take and record temperatures
- ♦ Contact Emily @
- ♦ Covenant-umc.com

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.

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.

We Worship Together

Online Service (10:00 am)

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.

Sunday Worship in the Sanctuary at 10:00 AM

We will begin to worship inside starting October 4th. Your safety is important to us, so we will follow the rules below:

- Screening and temperatures at the door
- Masks will be worn
- Physical distancing, with pews marked
- No coffee, refreshments or gathering
- Call the office to reserve a seat. We will start with allowing 75 in worship

Sunday School at 9:00 AM— Children, Youth and Adult

- The same precautions as worship
- Youth will have Sunday School every other week

Additional Online Opportunities During the Week

- 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 conference prayer call at 605-313-5107 (202700#).

United Methodist Women Bible Study

Pastor Sally Ott will lead us in a timely study, **Finding Peace in an Anxious World** on Monday evenings at 7:00

This study will be on four Monday evenings starting September 28th with the last session on Monday October 19th.

The sessions will be on Zoom, so if you would like to join, please contact Chris Kimmich at rkimmich@aol.com or 717-468-5126 to register.

Ruth Daugherty will join us to close each weekly session.

Community Closet

Community closet is working toward safely re-opening in November. They are currently taking donations of fall/winter clothing, coats, shoes/boots and linens.

Items can be dropped off on Sunday mornings in the coat room off the foyer. Items can also be brought to the church Monday through Friday from 9 AM to noon.

Thank you to all our friends and members who are donating items in good condition to help clothe our neighborhood.

Here's To Good Health!

We have been hearing a lot about vaccines in recent months. Vaccines go back a few years. In 1796 Edward Jenner used substances derived from cowpox (a relatively minor infection once common among people who milked cows) to create a makeshift smallpox vaccine. Vaccines have come a long way since then!

Scientists have been working on a vaccine for the Covid – 19 and we pray that can happen quickly but it needs to go through 4 phases before approved for use, production can then begin.

Production can be rapidly scaled up, but it will be some time before vaccines are available for everyone. It only makes sense that the first vaccines go to healthcare providers, essential workers, and others at high risk, such as older adults and chronically ill.

A vaccine that is more important this year for everyone is the flu vaccine! If you get the flu vaccine, you are 60 % less likely to need to

be treated by a healthcare provider. It can also offer, other benefits like reducing the need for antibiotics, reducing lost time from work, and reducing hospitalization and even death.

Get your flu vaccine as soon as it is available in our area. Flu season usually peaks in January or February, but it can last as late as May. It is best to get the vaccine earlier in the season to allow your body to build up antibodies. Now for the broken record, remember to wear your mask out in public and wash your hands, wash your hands and don't forget to wash your hands!

Stay safe and healthy!

Cindy Smith

Wellness Coach

continued on page 3

continued from page 1

And, it was no easy task for they faced many obstacles because the enemy was always near to discourage their work by constantly ridiculing them. On one occasion the enemy sneered at the wall that the Israelites had built to half its height by questioning its integrity. Ultimately for the work to continue Nehemiah prayed and was instructed by God to assign persons with swords to be posted behind each worker so as they worked on the wall, they felt safe.

In October we are returning to rebuild amid health precautions based on an ongoing pandemic, and political and racial strife in our nation and community. Yet we are called to rebuild just the same because the work is not for our glory but God's.

Therefore I call on every member and friend of Covenant to be in prayer for us as we begin to slowly rebuild our Covenant ministries. At times the enemy will try to discourage us because things will not be as they were before the pandemic. Being that we are God's people we will get through this if we trust.

Sidelights

NOTES OF THANKS

Covenant Child Care Center would like to give special thanks to Janet Galloway, Denise Troop, and Bob & Cindy Hean for their donations of masks and cleaning supplies for the staff.

Ruth Barr sends many thanks for the birthday cards received. "When we have some normalcy in the world, hope to see all of you again, soon."

90+ BIRTHDAYS

Gloria Horner - 10/1

James Patton - 10/2

Robert King - 10/7

Peg Walz -10/9 (100 years)

Ray Goshkey - 10/19

Dolly Kepner - 10/21

Doris Coxey - 10/22

KEEP UP ON THE LATEST COVENANT NEWS

If you do NOT receive the weekly "News to Go" e-mail and would like to be included, please send your e-mail information to chris@covenant-umc.com.

Pastor Quentin will also occasionally send out Calling Post messages to the congregation. This call is routed through Oklahoma City, and may not be a familiar number on your phone display. If you are not getting these calls and want to be included, please contact the church office with your preferred phone number.

Sidelights

UPPER ROOM

The September/October issue of the *Upper Room* is available to purchase for \$1. Please call the church office if you would like to purchase this devotional. Or purchase yours in the back of the sanctuary.



BELL CHOIR IS BACK

Contact Robin Ingram if you read music and would like to join.

BACK TO SCHOOL 2.0

The School District of Lancaster has not started in-person school at this time. All learning will be done virtually. Due to those restrictions, we will NOT have a Back To School event. However, the children still need supplies while learning from home. The Nurture Team had left over supplies from last year and were able to fill 30+ backpacks for the Fulton students. The backpacks will be delivered to Fulton for teachers and social workers to distribute to those in need. Thank you again for your generous donation last year that made this possible.

Church Council and Charge Conference

Church Council - Tuesday October 13 at 7:00 PM on Zoom

Report Deadline - Trustee, SPRC, Pastor, Christ Servant Minister, and Lay Leader reports are due on **Tuesday October 6**

Charge Conference - Thursday November 5 at 6:00 PM on Zoom. Rev. Bumkoo Chung our District Superintendent will host this meeting.

Both Church Council and Charge Conference should be attended by all members who are serving as chairpersons, elected officers, presidents or leaders of committees. Additionally Church Council and Charge Conference is open to all members of the congregation.

A Zoom invite will be sent from Pastor Quentin Wallace to all church leaders. If you would like to be included please contact the church office with your name and e-mail address so you can be included.

COVENANT CHURCH is Bringing Christ's Light into the Community and Beyond AND Preparing for Increase in 2020.

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

MOOS Update

The MOOS Board met recently on Zoom and made the difficult decision to suspend MOOS for the time being. After reviewing the School District of Lancaster's reopening plan, in addition to the necessary health and safety precautions for students and volunteers, we determined that at this time it is not possible for MOOS to serve our targeted number of students. We would be unable to provide our usual fun, safe and nurturing before-school program.

The Board will revisit this decision in early November, if not sooner, and will keep you informed with any reopening plans. We thank you for your commitment and support.

Community Aid Update

Community Aid will continue to partner with us, however they will soon be removing the box in our small parking lot. We will then be "Virtual Partners" and for any items taken by us or our members, directly to Community Aid, we will receive .06 per pound. When you make your individual donations, please mention Covenant Church so we can receive that credit. Clothing and linens will be weighed at drop off in order to credit our account with those earnings.

Sanctuary Flowers

Now that we are back in the sanctuary if you would like to place flowers on the altar on the side vases in honor or memory of loved ones, please contact the church office. The cost is still \$28 for the centerpiece or for the two vases.

Rescheduling of Annual Conference and General Conference

The Eastern PA Annual Conference of the United Methodist Church will meet online October 13-14, 2020, following a rescheduling of dates and venue due to the pandemic. In an historic decision, the conference's members voted overwhelmingly to approve temporary rule changes that will allow for this year's annual conference to be a Zoom videoconference webinar with electronic voting and a reduced agenda. Only matters required by the United Methodist Book of Discipline and mandatory conference business will be conducted. Such business includes reports on key programs and operations as well as voting on an annual budget, clergy equitable salary levels, pension and health benefit plans, and Trustee Board resolutions.

Bishop Peggy Johnson will preside over the morning clergy session and the afternoon conference session from the Conference Center at Valley Forge on October 13. The annual Memorial Service for deceased clergy and clergy spouses is scheduled for October 14, at 10 AM, at Olivet UMC in Coatesville with onsite attendance for families of the deceased and by invitation only. After the sanctuary is sanitized, the annual Service of Ordination and Commissioning will follow at 2 PM that day. Again, attendance at the church—mostly by families of those being ordained and commissioned—will be by invitation only, while others may view it on livestream video.

The Annual Conference session and worship services on October 13 and 14, with the exception of the clergy session, will be live-streamed on Facebook Live for guests to view.

The new dates for the postponed General Conference have been announced: August 29 to September 7, 2021, at the Minneapolis Convention Center. When this year's May General Conference needed to be canceled, the focus for rescheduling turned to 2021 as it was not feasible to schedule any earlier with so much uncertainty over international travel and the spread of COVID-19. The site for this quadrennial legislative event has gratefully been maintained in Minneapolis after seven years of planning for this location.

World Thank Offering and Harvest Home

United Methodist Women will once again host our annual World Thank Offering service on **Sunday November 22** at our 10AM worship time. During October and November can you say a prayer of thanks each day? Are you able to set aside some money in a jar or margarine container to donate to worldwide missions? There are so many things we can be thankful for so we challenge you to be thankful for Jesus; be thankful for your health; be thankful for the companionship or pets; be thankful for fresh country air; be thankful for Zoom and Tele-Health visits; be thankful for toilet paper; or any other things that come to your mind.

On Sunday November 22nd you can bring those coins (and bills) to the service to present your thanksgiving.

Additionally, we will be taking donations of non-perishable food items for our local food bank, the Food Hub. Please join us on this very special week as we thank God for his many blessings and share from our bounty.

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

Mr. Jeffrey McGary, Echoes Editor

Mrs. Chris Kimmich, Administrative Assistant

Email

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

Admin. Asst....chris@covenant-umc.com

Echoes Editor...jcmcgary@comcast.net

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



IMPACT! Missions Update



Have you seen news articles about the lack of affordable housing in Lancaster City? Covenant members are working to help solve this problem, by working with IMPACT! Missions and our "Manifest" Urban Alliance.

Working with volunteers, IMPACT! Missions is a local faith-based housing ministry that has completely renovated and rehabilitated about 40 homes in Lancaster City, and then made those homes available to low-income families. Our Manifest Urban Alliance includes 7 United Methodist churches, along with the Urban Commission of the Eastern Pennsylvania Conference. Manifest was formed to address housing issues in Lancaster City.

You're invited to join our monthly IMPACT/Manifest workday, from 9 to 1 on the third Saturday of each month. You don't need to be an expert carpenter, plumber, or anything like that. We just need willing workers. Contact Roger Kresge at 717-435-2529, or email roger@covenant-umc.com.

Or you're welcome to join our IMPACT/Manifest weekday volunteer team. Just pick your own hours and join in.

We also practice safe distancing. IMPACT! Missions has developed detailed protocols and procedures to help us stay safe in spite of the coronavirus pandemic.

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