



From the Pastor's Desk...

By Pastor Quentin Wallace

There is a Non-Anxious Presence in the Boat



³⁷ A furious squall came up, and the waves broke over the boat so that it was nearly swamped. ³⁸ Jesus was in the stern, sleeping on a cushion. The disciples woke him and said to him, "Teacher, don't you care if we drown?"³⁹ He got up, rebuked the wind, and said to the waves, "Quiet! Be still!" Then the wind died down and it was completely calm.⁴⁰ He said to his disciples, "Why are you so afraid? Do you still have no faith?"⁴¹ They were terrified and asked each other, "Who is this? Even the wind and the waves obey him." (Mark 4:37-41)

⁶ Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. ⁷ And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus. (Phil. 4:6-7)

When the disciples and Jesus were crossing the Galilee and suddenly encountered a squall or wind storm, the disciples began to panic even-though the Lord was on board asleep. When I have preached on this passage in the past, I attempt to set the atmosphere on board the boat by highlighting the wind, howling and whistling. The waves banging against the boat, "Bang-Bang-Bang." The boat reacting to the wild waves by rocking and reeling from side to side like a roller coaster. All the time casting its passengers from one side of the boat to the other, as it goes up and down like a seesaw over the waves, as the occupants attempt to hold on to the boat as a rodeo cowboy strives to remain on a bucking horse.

These disciples on this boat are both fearful and angry simultaneously. These experienced seamen are afraid of drowning, on the one hand, and angry that the storm has control of the situation on the other, and they are helpless.

Imagine this- a group of disciples (Christ-followers) in a boat with Jesus, but falling apart emotionally. After they yelled and screamed for a time, someone suggested they awaken Jesus. Why did they wake up Jesus? Was it to stop the storm? I believe they woke Jesus up to help them hold the boat together. I believe they wanted Jesus to join in with what they were doing. "Jesus wake up-don't you care that we drown?" they said with great distress. However, Jesus wakes up, and does something unheard of...He speaks to the storm.

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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

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

GIFTS GIVEN

To the Dolly Kepner Music Fund:

- In memory of **Mae Meringer** from Greg & Kathy Smith, Lois Neidermyer, and Carole Horn.
- In memory of **Melvin and Marian Hough** from Lois Neidermyer and Carole Horn.
- In memory of **David Henning** from Carole Horn.

To the General Fund:

- In memory of **David Henning** from Lois Neidermyer.
- In memory of **Mary Seigrist** from Lois Neidermyer.

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.

Parking Lot Service (10:00 am, weather permitting)

The following rules and procedures apply:

- We will transmit the service via an FM radio signal (107.1) that you can hear in your car
- Restrooms inside the church will be available before and after the service
- You may bring lawn chairs if you wish to sit outside your car
- Cars should be parked 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

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#).

Pictorial Directory Cancelled

We recently received notification from the LifeTouch company that they are cancelling our directory photographs scheduled for September. Apparently the pandemic has affected their business enough that they are no longer able to meet all the demands that a pictorial directory would require. While disappointed with this news, we will continue to explore other options to hopefully have a directory published in the near future.

We still need to thank the following individuals for calling our church members to schedule photo appointments. They are: Nancy Groff, Cindy Hean, Joan Miller, Sandy Leonard, and Cindy Smith.

Tuesday Noon Prayer Time

The EPAUMC Cabinet is having a Zoom prayer time every Tuesday at noon for August and September. Anyone may join using the information below: Here is the schedule of Cabinet Prayer Leaders:

Sept. 1: Rev. Steve Morton, North District Superintendent

Sept. 8: Bishop Peggy Johnson

Sept. 15: Rev. Dawn Taylor-Storm, Director of Connectional Ministries

To participate in the zoom meeting, go to epaumc.org home page and search for "conference wide prayer meeting."

To just listen, call +1 646 558 8656.

Here's To Good Health!

Living in Lancaster County you might remember your mother doing spring and fall house cleaning, during which the house would get a thorough cleaning. This deep cleaning was much more than the usual weekly cleaning. Remember how clean the house smelled after that cleaning?

We have been told during this Covid 19 pandemic that we need to regularly clean and disinfect all high-touch surfaces, including doorknobs and handles, light switches, countertops, phones, keyboards, toilets, and sinks.

This month I want to give you some reminders as you do your cleaning.

- Always follow the directions on disinfectant labels.
- Leave a window or door open if the directions tell you to do so. Step away from strong odors until the smell goes away.

- Wear gloves when cleaning.
- Never mix bleach with ammonia or vinegar.
- Dilute bleach with water. Four teaspoons per quart of water.
- Don't use disinfectant cleaner or wipes on your skin or food.
- Wash your hands with soap and water after using disinfectant cleaners.
- Store your tightly capped cleaning products out of the reach of children.

Here is to happy cleaning and staying healthy.

Cindy Smith,
Wellness Coach

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While everyone else was terrified, Jesus was the non-anxious presence in the boat. He was calm, and the fear the disciples displayed did not change Jesus' demeanor. Instead, he spoke to the storm. "Peace is still," He said. And the storm ceased.

Since March of this year, we have been on a voyage of uncertainty with this pandemic, and it has left us with fear and a loss. Suddenly this virus is taking control—calling the shots, and this has caused a great sense of loss for many. With the precautions that have been put into place such as social distancing and limited gatherings, many of us in our society are fearful and angry as we ride out this storm of sorts, holding on for dear life. However, we as followers of Christ have Jesus on board—in our hearts and minds, and we know that our Savior has the power to speak to the storm. Jesus brought peace and calm in the midst of the storm.

When Paul the Apostle wrote to the Philippians, he reiterated how prayer reduces anxiety and fosters peace in trying times. We expect people who do not have a relationship with Christ to become anxious and panic, but those who have a relationship with Christ should call on him at times of uncertainty. As we go through the storms of life, we must call on Jesus through prayer and P.U.S.H. (Pray Until Something Happens).

My prayer is for the peace of Jesus Christ to touch each member of our faithful Covenant family as we navigate this time of uncertainty, as we place our trust in our Lord.

Blessings,

Pastor Quentin

Sidelights

NOTES OF THANKS

Covenant Child Care Center would like to give special thanks to Penny Ridgeway and Barbara Finefrock for their donations of masks and cleaning supplies for the staff.

Kathy and Greg Smith send their thank you to all who sent cards and prayed for them during Kathy's recent illness.

The church would like to thank **Leo and Yvette Diaz** for the donation of a new flag for the parking lot.

90+ BIRTHDAYS

Ruth Barr, September 7

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.

COMMUNITY CLOSET

Community Closet is cancelled for September. Please hold all donations at this time.



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.

From the Outreach Team...

The Outreach Team recently got together for a brief meeting to distribute funds. We were blessed with a generous donation to help with our local ministries and we did distribute to a foreign ministry. The foreign ministry we chose was the Peter D. Weaver Congo Partnership. With the impact of the pandemic as well as growing rates of malnutrition and starvation, help in the Congo is needed more than ever. Contributions to this partnership provide physical, emotional, and spiritual support to our Congolese brothers and sisters.

Funds were also given to the following missions: Anchorage Breakfast, Blanket Sunday, Clare House, Food Hub, Love INC, LUMINA, MOOS, Manifest Impact Missions, Red Bird, and Transitional Living Care. We also made a contribution to Ebenezer Church, which is hosting an overnight shelter serving up to 20 single adults.

The Outreach Team is not sure what the year will bring us regarding our fundraisers and donations. Please remember that grocery cards are still available for purchase.

Please continue to pray for the healing of our world and nation, for there is so much going on with the pandemic, violence, rioting, and hatred, that God will continue to be our rock, our healer, our salvation, and our provider. Continue to be safe and healthy.

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

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

Chris Kimmich to Retire

Administrative Assistant Chris Kimmich has announced her decision to retire at the end of October. Chris has served Covenant Church with dedication in this role during the past year and has taken on responsibility effectively during a time when the job was evolving and when the pandemic presented its challenges.

With her technical and organizational skills and her knowledge of the church and its congregation, Chris was the right person for the job at the right time. She helped to reorganize the office and to streamline the position. Sincere appreciation is extended to Chris for the work she has accomplished and especially for her communication skills and outreach to so many members.

Chris is looking forward to spending more time with her husband Ron as well as with her children and grandchildren. She loves to travel and plans to enjoy more extensive trips during her retirement.

The process for hiring a new part-time Administrative Assistant is now underway. The job is advertised as 25 hours per week, 5 days a week, with responsibilities for communications, bulletins, membership records, church calendar, and other church business. Computer skills, organizational skills, and communication skills are essential. Previous secretarial experience is desirable. The full job description is available on the church website.

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.

Child Care Center Seeks Donations

The Covenant Child Care Center has opened and continues to operate under 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.

UMW Spiritual Growth Study

All women of Covenant are invited to join us Monday nights on Zoom while we study "**Finding Peace in an Anxious World**," led by Pastor Sally Ott. The study will start on Monday, September 28, for a total of four weeks (last session on October 19). In order to be included, please contact Chris Kimmich (rkimmich@aol.com) with your e-mail address. If you do not have Zoom capabilities on your computer or Smartphone, you will be able to "call in" to hear the study. Contact Chris at 717-468-5126 to get the directions on how to join. We are looking forward to the women of Covenant coming "together" for this time of Fellowship and Learning.

The purpose of this study is to recognize the prevalence of anxiety today and its impact, and to find a way to explore ways to find peace through scriptural & spiritual disciplines, so that we can be rooted in God and energized to live fully as disciples of Jesus Christ. This study had its roots in Urban Village Church in Chicago. This new church start was in response to hate crimes, such as a white supremacist entering a church in the summer of 2015 and slaughtering 9 African Americans during Bible Study, as well as other actions before and after this incident which are clearly contrary to the Love of God, as modeled in Jesus Christ.

There are four individual themes in this study which offer insights and some answers to our questions about these disturbing events. We will come together for 4 weekly sessions based on the Serenity Prayer and the book of Proverbs. The 4 themes are: Serenity, Acceptance, Courage, and Wisdom.

These four themes, or topics, constituted a series of sermons preached by different pastoral leaders at Urban Village Church. United Methodist Women became aware of these series and discerned that the series would be appropriate for a Spiritual Growth study for Mission U. It has been a pattern that topics chosen years in advance prove timely when the time comes to present them. We hope you will join us for this opportune study.

NEW DIRECTOR OF CHILDREN AND YOUTH MINISTRY HIRED



Sara Petersen

Covenant's new part-time Director of Children and Youth Ministry is Sara Petersen, whose home church is West Willow United Methodist Church in Willow Street. Having graduated from Lancaster Bible College with a degree in Youth Ministries in December of 2018, she is excited about taking on this new role at Covenant, which she began on August 2. Her job right now includes working at the church Monday, Wednesday, and Friday from 11:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. and connecting with the youth through Zoom.

Sara has already worked on organizing her office on the main floor and on initiating renovations in the Youth Room on the lower level. What she is most excited about so far, however, is her one-hour meeting time with the youth through Zoom every Friday evening. She begins with a worship time and then includes a lesson followed by fellowship and games. Plans are already underway for painting the youth room. A social distancing painting party will be scheduled in the near future.

Sara has had the opportunity to interact with some of the parents on Zoom as well and looks forward to more such times. She also is considering how best to begin work on children's ministry, especially finding ways to do so during these challenging times.

With her heart for children and youth, Sara has been involved for a number of years with summer camping programs as well as with before and after school programs. Currently she continues to work with a Lampeter-Strasburg program, by caring for third graders during morning time before school.

Sara is grateful for the help that she has received in taking on her new position, from both Minister Brenda Wallace and Administrative Assistant Chris Kimmich.

Thanks go to Minister Brenda for the time and effort she invested in connecting with our children and youth as the search was ongoing for a new director—all during the COVID-19 pandemic.

TRANSITION OF DIRECTORS FOR COVENANT'S CHILD CARE CENTER

Covenant's Child Care Center reopened on June 6, 2020, following its closure due to the COVID-19 pandemic. In the capable hands of then Director Leah Shenk, the Center prepared to function following prescribed health and safety guidelines. In August the Center had 52 children in its care with more to come in September.

Prior to the pandemic, Leah Shenk had determined that she would be leaving her job at the Center in June after 13 years of faithful service. Dedicated to the Center, she continued to work through June and July in order to facilitate the reopening, to oversee the annual State Inspection and Pre-K graduation ceremonies, and to provide for a smooth transition for a new director.

Leah is to be commended for her accomplishments at the Center, developing it into a well recommended and profitable Center with an increase in enrollment over the years from 30 children at her start to 70 children prior to COVID-19.

The newly hired Director of the Child Care Center is Emily Mekeel, who is well prepared to take over this role, having served as the Center's Assistant Director and Pre-K teacher. With a Bachelor of Science in Education degree from Bloomsburg University, she also brings to this position knowledge, skills, and experience from her 13 years at the Center.



Emily Mekeel

As a certified teacher, she had helped many children grow and thrive as they prepared for kindergarten. Emily began her new job at the beginning of August and looks forward to helping the Center continue its growth and positive impact on the children and our community.

Covenant members Corey Dick, Samantha Dick, Jeff McGary, and Denise Troop serve along with Pastor Quentin Wallace on the Child Care Board of Directors.

Bible2School Seeks Volunteers

In the last Echoes it was announced that Bible2School has established a partnership with Covenant Church, where Bible classes will be offered to 2nd, 3rd, and 4th graders attending Fulton Elementary School for the 2020/21 school year. Covenant will host the Bible2School Fulton classes three days a week.

However, due to the Covid pandemic, plans have changed to start the school year. Bible2School will now begin its program virtually via Zoom, either by the end of September or early October. Then, whenever the school district goes back to in-person classes, Bible2School will do the same.

Volunteers are needed to:

- Conduct Zoom classes. Sessions will begin with one big Zoom meeting and then break out into smaller Zoom groups.
- Conduct in-person classes when able to. This is a 2-hour commitment. Half hour set up, one hour class, half hour clean up.
- Make copies and organize packets for children to take home.

Covenant is committed to conducting classes 3 days per week for 2nd, 3rd, and 4th graders. Specific days are not known at this time. Ideally it works best to have 3 teachers per grade. Having only 2 teachers increases the class size.

We understand that your time is valuable, so Bible2School provides the curriculum and materials so you can focus your energy into developing relationships with the children. Our team approach means you are supported and valued.

Interested? Learn more by contacting Santa Jenkins, Bible2School's Washington and Fulton Area Coordinator, at santajenkins@bible2school.com or 717-992-7879.

COVENANT STAFF APPRECIATED

Appreciation is sincerely expressed to the staff of Covenant Church for their faithfulness and dedication to their roles at the church since the outbreak of the COVID-19 pandemic in March. Our Senior Pastor Quentin Wallace not only continued with his Sunday preaching by using Facebook Live but also expanded his inspirational messages to the congregation by adding a mid-week word of encouragement on Wednesday afternoons and a Bible study time on Thursday evenings. While being constrained by visitation limitations to hospitals and senior care facilities, Pastor Sally Ott, creatively continued her outreach to Covenant members in need. As our Pastor of Visitation and Outreach, she is now rejoicing as hospital and retirement center restrictions are being slowly lifted.

While our choirs were not able to gather to bring music to the services during these times, the Zeuch family provided worship through music for Covenant every Sunday. Even though Chancel Choir Director Kyle Zeuch should have had the summer off as the choir always does, he went above and beyond his job description to begin the services with a devotional time, to lead in hymn singing along with his solos throughout the summer, and to meet choir members weekly through Zoom sessions. Bethany Zeuch played the piano from their home, the organ at the church, and the keyboard in the parking lot to provide accompaniment; and young Harper Zeuch blessed the congregation with her singing and her hymn number announcements. An additional blessing was the solo music of Yvette Diaz, our Contemporary Service Music Leader, with her vocal selections and guitar accompaniment midweek on Facebook Live and Sundays in our single 10:00 A.M. service.

Supporting our pastoral and music staff was the work that was happening at times behind the scenes. Administrative Assistant Chris Kimmich worked daily on weekdays at the church to keep communication lines open and to attend to necessary operational matters, while Custodian Kevin Fritz thoroughly cleaned the church facility and made improvements, especially with areas in need of paint. Woody White, Part-time Weekend Custodian, and Hugh McClure, Sexton, returned to work more recently as the duties of their jobs were again needed. The outreach of Covenant Church was extended by the use of technology and the diligent efforts of church volunteers: Minister Brenda Wallace with Facebook Live, Darwin Tyson with all the technicalities and set-up for Sunday morning parking lot services, Roger Kresge with technical advice, and Leo Diaz with audio assistance. In addition, there have been many other lay church leaders and workers who have been faithful in their regular responsibilities to help Covenant continue to invite, welcome, nurture, and serve.

Praise the Lord that while so many of us were missing being in church, our church was not missing! Thank you, pastoral and church staff and other church leaders for your faithfulness in promoting the mission of Covenant United Methodist Church during these challenging times.

Staff Parish Relations Committee

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

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Email

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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.

Return Service Requested

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