

NEW COVENANT CONNECTION

New Covenant Presbyterian Church
1125 Jamison Corner Road
Middletown DE 19709
302.378.4446
nccsec2017@gmail.com
www.newcov-church.org



We are a Biblically grounded church family, dedicated to serving God, sharing Christian fellowship, love and caring with the world.

July 2020

Volume 64

Sharing Why I Love Jesus WILJ Goes Global!

By Nancy Carol Willis

Why I Love Jesus: Sharing My Faith Story
www.WhyILoveJesus.org

In the Beginning...

The **Why I Love Jesus: Sharing My Faith Story** ministry began in 2012, when Pastor Scott Burkley asked me to share my faith story in church. "Just tell why you love Jesus," he said. I enlisted the members of my Christian Writers' group to accept the challenge. Together, we developed a simple, three-step process for organizing faith stories into presentations of about five minutes. The stories were so well received that plans were made to help other church members share their own faith stories. Simple worksheets were developed, and the Christian Writers' team worked with every Church Ministry Team to guide the process. Children and youth created drawings to go with their stories, and all of the faith stories were placed in a binder displayed in the church sanctuary.

Since then, workshops have been presented at regional churches and conferences, including the March 2020 Presbytery Beach Retreat. Nancy had decided to go global with the ministry, and the **Why I Love Jesus: Sharing My Faith Story** ministry was approved for 501(c)(3) nonprofit status. During the COVID-19 shut down, a new LOGO and WEBSITE were designed. Currently, WORKSHOPS are being re-designed and plans are under way to reach Christians of all ages and cultures with the opportunity to share their faith stories with the world.

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Why I Love Jesus Goes Global

Mission

We are a Non-Profit 501(c)(3) Association formed to help ordinary Christians become comfortable sharing personal faith stories. We believe a personal relationship with Jesus Christ has blessed our lives and that Jesus calls us to reach out to the least, the last, and the lost in the world. We offer a website, programs, and resources to Christians wanting to share their own personal faith stories. We also help guide seekers and non-Christians to a relationship with Jesus Christ by sharing the faith stories of ordinary Christians.

Vision

Our vision is to create a global platform where Christians of all ages and cultures can share their faith stories with fellow Christians, seekers, and non-believers. In this way we hope to fulfill the last command of Jesus, who commissioned us to go and make disciples of all nations. Our goal is to create an archival legacy of personal faith stories that affirms the love and faithfulness of Jesus Christ.

Everyone has a Story to Tell

Does a relationship with Jesus make your life better? Did a life crisis draw you closer to Jesus? Has your faith grown steadily over time?

Visit www.WhyILoveJesus.org to read **YOUR Faith Story**

Haven't written your faith story yet? No problem. The website has downloadable worksheets with prompts to guide the process, and Nancy Carol Willis offers FREE editing for those who want it. **Now is a GREAT TIME to share why YOU love Jesus!**

Meet the WILJ Board of Directors (some familiar faces, yes?)

Nancy Carol Willis, President

Nancy is a writer and illustrator of award-winning children's nature books, author of a biography, and a university professor of fine arts. She currently serves as Missions Elder, Arts Ministry team leader, and member of the vocal and bell choirs.

"The ability to share how Jesus Christ has been faithful to me is a joyful witness to the Gospel."



Sandra Boyce, Vice-President/Secretary

Sandy has 25 years' experience as an office manager for her former Presbytery. She is a great-grandmother who is active in her church and describes herself as a child of God by the gift of salvation through Jesus, her Lord and Savior.

"Writing my faith story took me back to the first time I experienced God's love, a love that surrounds me with hope and peace, regardless of life's circumstances."



Paul Willbanks, Treasurer

Paul has over 40 years' experience as a CPA and serves as church Trustee. He volunteers as treasurer for non-profit organizations serving the hunger and housing needs of the MOT community.

"Writing my faith story actually strengthened my faith."



R. Scott Burkley, Spiritual Director

Scott served for over 45 years as pastor of several Presbyterian churches. Now retired, he is active in Rotary and promotes the Bethel Bible Study series.

"In Genesis 12:2-3 God tells Abraham that 'I will bless you and you will be a blessing to others'. Writing our faith stories is a personal way to share God's blessings."



Donna Casey, Development Director:

Donna has spent her career in nursing administration and has recently started a Family Nurse Consulting business. She serves as Christian Education Elder and a Bethel Bible instructor.

"Writing my faith story allowed me to connect with God and understand how He used tragedy to bring me closer to Him."

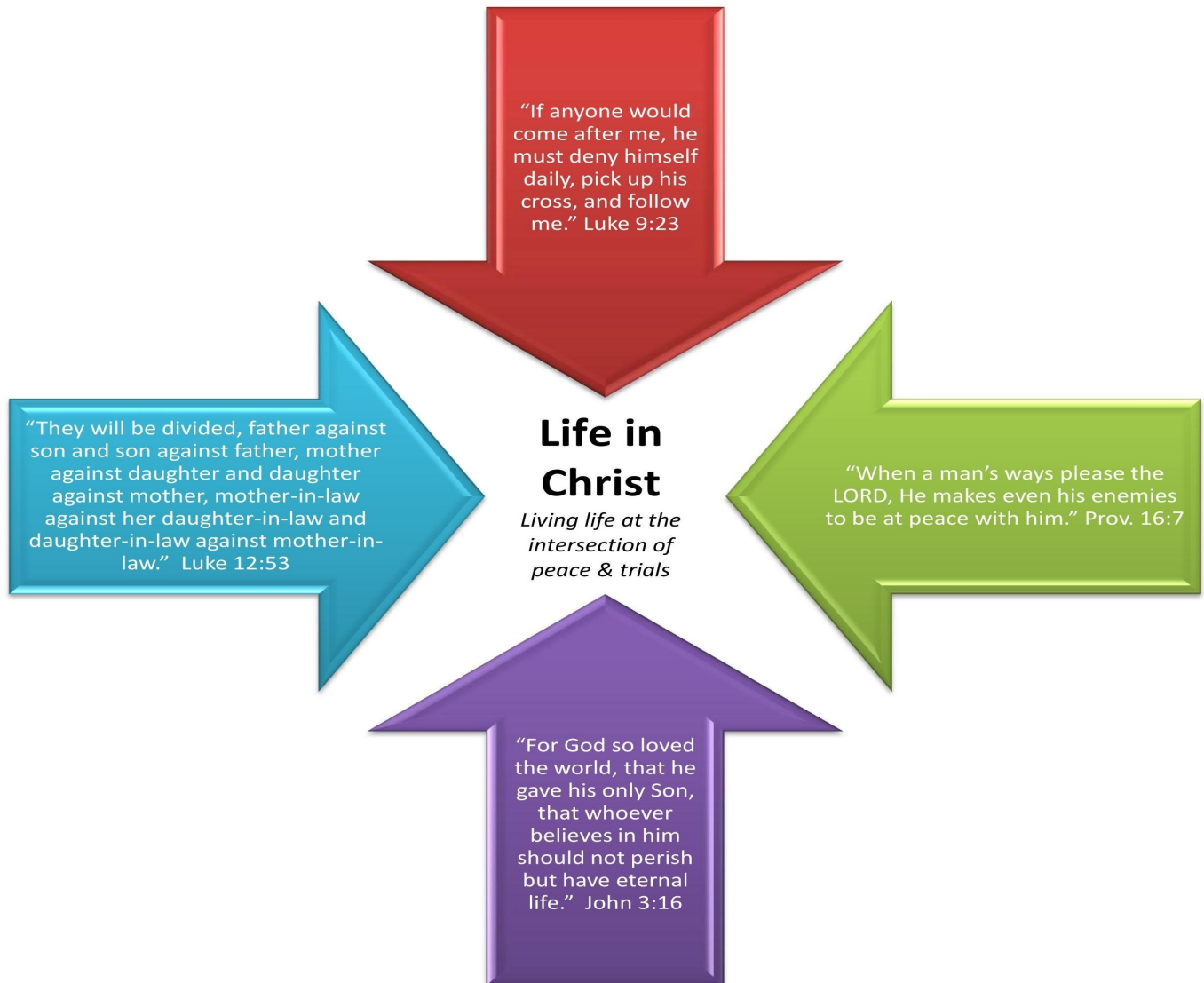


Joan Sabbato, Public Relations Director:

Joan grew up in the Pentecostal church and runs a successful home-based cosmetics business. Joan has served as Evangelism Elder and Bethel Bible instructor.

"Writing my faith story allowed me to organize my thoughts and recognize how important my faith was to me."

From the Pastor



Dear Friends,

Have you felt challenged – lonely – discouraged – confused – sad, or a rare combination of emotions since the coronavirus descended upon us? If so, you are not alone. And yet, this time of slowing down from our regular routines has given us some time and space to reflect and possibly reprioritize our lives.

For me, I have thought a lot about Christian Discipleship. What does it mean and how do we truly and faithfully live as disciples of the One who gave his life for us? I think it means denying ourselves – following Jesus – being thankful for Christ's sacrifice that we might know abundant life – accepting hardships as part of human life – and truly making Jesus our LORD.

We find ourselves in the month of July – the time when we celebrate our country's history and those who sacrificed for us. As a result, we have rights, privileges and freedom that not all people in the world have. And for that, we need to give thanks, and live in such a way as to honor and respect our country and its forefathers. So, yes, I would encourage you to be proud to be an American and to let your life reflect that.

And yet, I have to say that I truly believe the most important choice we will ever make is whether or not we allow Jesus to be our LORD. That means that we live in ways that honor him and we put his way of life

(From the Pastor, continue from page 3)

above our own. We are called to increasingly become more and more like Jesus – to reflect his love and values for all to see. Most of us made a profession of faith when we were young, but did we really understand what it meant? I imagine that most of us did NOT understand the depth of his sacrifice for us, nor did we understand the real COST of DISCIPLESHIP. We are called to make choices that require hardship and sacrifice.

And so, this month, as we reflect on the privileges and freedoms we have as American citizens, let us also contemplate our CALL to CHRISTIAN DISCIPLESHIP, and honestly and faithfully CHOOSE TO FOLLOW CHRIST in all that we do. I invite you to join me on the journey of discipleship as we seek to KNOW, LOVE and SERVE OUR LORD.



Your partner in ministry,

Carol

Garden Party Celebration of Carol's 1st Year

By Cheryl Shields

On June 7, 2020, Cheryl and Bill Shields hosted a Garden Party for Carol and Jay Fisher to celebrate Carol's first year as our pastor.

Bill and I wanted to make sure that the party would be fun and that everyone who attended would feel comfortable coming together in a social situation. With that in mind, we took every precaution to make sure we followed all the required social distancing guidelines.

Our guests were delighted to be able to once again be out among friends as well as have the opportunity to congratulate Carol on her first anniversary as our pastor.

In addition to enjoying catching up with one another, we were able to enjoy yummy food and play games as part of the celebration.

A huge thank you to Landa Lindgren for helping me cook and to Kathy Henry for the delicious cake she baked. And to everyone else who came and brought tasty appetizers and scrumptious desserts.

A special thank you to Kaitlyn Wright for being our server for the party and to Al Grimminger who took pictures to capture the special moments (they were all pretty special!) and, of course, to Carol for her guidance this past year and for future years to come. **[See page 6 for photo essay of party by Nancy Carol Willis.]**

Pastor Carol Celebrates 1 Year Anniversary at the Shields' Home

June 7, 2020



The weather was perfect for the picnic.
Photos by Al Grimminger



We gathered 6 feet apart under tents and throughout the Shields' spacious log home. The menu included chicken and fruit salad and ham sandwiches made by Cheryl and Landa.



A delicious cake was made by Kathy.
Congratulations, Carol!

Photo Essay by Nancy Carol Willis

Worshipping Together!

By Barbara Montazella



Sunday, June 21, began as a warm and sunny day. A perfect day to celebrate the first day of summer and Father's Day! However, the best part of the morning came when we were able to gather together to worship in the sanctuary. We hadn't physically worshipped together since March 15! What a joyous occasion it was for the 24 members who were there and we know that others joined us in spirit via Zoom.

For now, worship looks and feels a bit different as we work to keep everyone safe from Covid-19. All who attended wore masks, sanitized their hands, and entered as a family group. Family groups were seated with six feet between each worshipping family. Music

was pre-recorded by the choir on Wednesday evening and those of us present either hummed along or spoke the words to the hymns. Instead of taking the offering during the service, the offering basket was placed on the table near the doors as you entered. At the end of the service, we took a few minutes to socialize with each other outside in the fresh air while maintaining the proper distance.

This is a new worshipping experience for everyone and we are all learning as we go. Please give Pastor Carol or one of the elders or deacons your feedback about how we can make the worship service most meaningful for you.



We also need your help on Sunday mornings! If you are willing to *be a greeter (door opener) outside, usher inside, or lay leader, please let me know:* 845-893-3741/ montync@msn.com.



Thanks to All Grimmer for taking and sharing all the pictures!

Light-Bearing in Our Time

By Rose DeShaw

Genesis 1:14 – Then God said, "Let there be light-bearers (sun, moon, stars) in the expanse of the heavens to separate the day from the night, and let them be useful for signs (tokens) [of God's provident care] and for marking seasons, days, and years."

I am sitting here by my big window, watching dawn bear its daily message. Today, it rises pinkly, turning to crimson with streaks of purples and blues in the morning sky. Every sunrise is unique in God's hands, designed as a useful reminder to us who are up to see it, like a marker-lettered notice posted about a neighborhood event.

Like this daily, heavenly phenomenon of light, we believers are also commissioned to be light-bearers. Jesus told His followers, "You are the light of the world." (**Matthew 5:14**)

Jesus Himself is the Light:

John 1:9 – There it was — the true Light [the genuine, perfect, steadfast Light] which, coming into the world, enlightens everyone.



A Broadway play in the 1960s produced a common slogan: *Stop the world — I want to get off!* But there is a purpose for why you and I are alive in this world today. Each of us was made particularly to bear witness to the Light in our every action, thought, and word, shining the truth. Some of the very first songs that we are taught in Sunday School are about being little lights to shine for our heavenly Father wherever we are, even if it is in a small corner rather than on the world stage. Another song says that when we choose to shine our light of faith and hope, we are being a sunbeam, echoing the heavens once more.

This is my Father's world, as the hymn asserts, "He is the Ruler yet. Though the wrong seems oft so strong," the world is not to be despised or rejected, as some still do today. Some blame God for the darkness. Yet, every single day, God provides us with a new dawn, a useful reminder of what we need to be up and doing: "Let there be light-bearers." God commissions and sends all believers to be useful in a dark time, with all joy, bearing the light of salvation. We have the honor of becoming signs and tokens of God's provident care, marking our seasons, days and years, and sharing God's salvation, mercy, and forgiveness to all around.

Prayer: There is a wideness in Your mercy, our loving heavenly Father. We say that and sing that because You have set the heavens to remind us of Your providence, the evidence of Your loving care for us, a fact that we cannot deny. You have marked out the seasons of our lives. Change the way that we think, Lord, that we may worship You with hearts full of joy and praise, even in the midst of tribulation. May our lights shine forth for You, wherever we are. In Jesus' name, we pray. Amen.

Youth Programs

By Donna Casey and Carol McBride

Carol McBride & I have been working to re-invigorate the youth program at New Covenant Presbyterian Church. Working with Pastor Carol Fisher and Pastor Caitlan Gartland from Chestertown Presbyterian Church, the following three-part program is in development:



After School Youth Program
For Elementary School – 5th grade
Led by: Carol Fisher

Middle School Youth Group
Grades 6—8
Led by: Donna Casey & Carol McBride



High School Youth Group
Grades 9—12
Led by: Donna Casey & Carol McBride

Each youth program must have three elements: Christian Education, Fellowship and Service. It is our goal that the youth will discover a closer, intimate relationship with Jesus.

We are currently in the process of collecting demographic information on current and/or recent youth group membership. Once this information is completed, we will reach out to these kids for their input on developing a program that they will be excited about sharing with their friends.

Pastor Caitlan Gartland will continue to provide insight and guidance and if Chestertown is able to conduct a community service activity over the summer, our youth will be invited to participate.

OUR MEMBERS



For those in our church family and friends:

- ◆ Kathy Henry, briefly hospitalized for a hernia..
- ◆ Debbie Hudson, healing after hospitalization.
- ◆ Nancy Hetterly, bouncing back after a visit to the hospital.
- ◆ Susan Pedersen, suffering from Bells Palsy.
- ◆ Russ Morris, recovering from cataract surgery..
- ◆ Joyce Artysiewicz's sister, Bertha, had bypass surgery.
- ◆ Matt Leeson, that his benign brain tumor has not grown.
- ◆ Norma Dunn's sister-in-law has died.

- ◆ Carol A. McBride, painful compression fracture.
- ◆ Cyndi Daniels, continuing radiation treatment.
- ◆ Connie, daughter of Judy and Don Cooke, cancer treatment.
- ◆ Craig Schafer, healing and prayers for his family.
- ◆ For our Covid-19 Task Force Worship, working on a new way to worship combining *in-person* service and *live-streamed* service.
- ◆ Nancy Florian, lost her mother from Covid-19.
- ◆ The Munro/Kimble families, grieving the loss of Judy Kimble's brother, David Munro.
- ◆ Mary, a friend of Alice Megonigal, needs prayers for healing as she grieves the loss of her mother.
- ◆ Our Daily Bread and Neighborhood House as they continue to serve those who are hungry in our community.
- ◆ Sharing joy with Janet Glaser' that her daughter is visiting.

For our shut-ins:

- ◆ Gail Gill
- ◆ Elizabeth Harlan, suffering from bursitis and had a fall.
- ◆ Ruth Keiderling
- ◆ Earlene Kelter

World Concerns for:

- ◆ Peace and Justice for ALL people to reign supreme, and for all the violence to end.
- ◆ All those affected by the coronavirus (physically, emotionally, financially, spiritually) and for all those who have lost loved ones due to its wide-ranging effects.
- ◆ For safety for all those in the path of hurricanes and severe weather.



- 4 Scott Burkley
- 7 Jeff Howard
- 9 Cory Tasker
- 10 Gordon Brenton
- 12 Matthew Urban
- 15 John Hetterly
- 18 Nelda Pemberton
- 21 Ben Urban
- 25 Judy Cooke
- 25 Bethany Funk
- 26 Tom Kimble
- 28 Ron Sabbato



- 10 Ellen and Ron Hughes
- 14 Pam and Skip Leeson
- 17 Mr. & Mrs. Fred Noll

Men at Work

Covid-19 may have prevented us from going to church. In spite of it, the men tackled the shed! Thank you for doing such a great job!



More pictures mower shed repairs link:

https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1jmv1HrKyKM5M_zTTqG3BXLLwswvpd63j?usp=sharing

Vision Task Force

Let's Grow God's Church

By Carol Fisher

Hello one and all. Are you ready to get out of your house and experience a full life again? Some of us feel like we've been living under a rock or in a shell – as if life has been put on hold for a few months. But it's time to get out and give thanks for the blessings God has given us. Even your Vision Task Force has been on hold for a while but we are revving up again to faithfully answer God's call to our church.

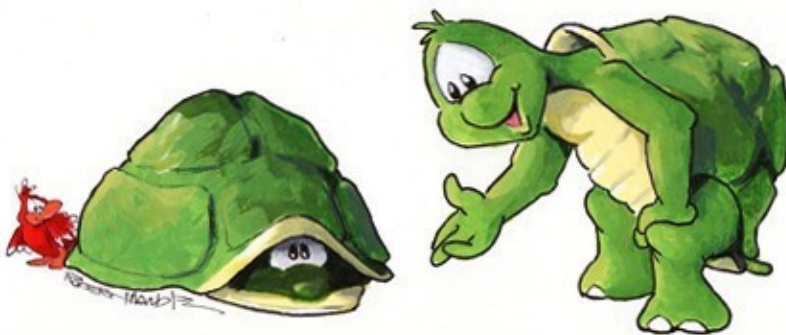
Church growth professionals say that **2 KEY INGREDIENTS** are required to **GROW**: **ACCESSIBILITY** and **HIGH VISIBILITY**. Who knew when NCPC was planted in a corn field that growth would happen at our doorstep? And yet, although we are on a very busy corner, what we lack is high visibility in communicating **WHO** we are – **WHAT** we have to offer – and **HOW OPEN** we are to **WELCOMING NEWCOMERS**.

The past few months have been difficult for us and we have experienced loss. And yet, no matter what comes, we must faithfully answer our call to **SHARE the GOOD NEWS of GOD'S LOVE with our COMMUNITY**. We no longer live in a world where every new person who lives near the church automatically comes to check us out and see what we have to offer. So, it is up to us to let our community know that we have something special to share, and to warmly welcome them when they come. This may mean that some of us who have worshiped quietly and barely been noticed will need to "get out of their shells" and truly welcome newcomers. I know you can do it, so please respond positively when asked to be part of our **HOSPITALITY TEAM**.

Who knows what God has in store for us, but we will never know if we don't try to reach out and invite new people. And that takes **EACH and EVERY ONE of US TO INVITE** whoever we meet. Will you join us to making New Covenant a place where others will want to come and see what God is doing in our midst? We were **NOT** put here simply to exist for our own pleasure (although there have been many wonderful times shared

together). We must be faithful to **INVITE** and **WELCOME** one and all. And that will require doing things that may not always feel comfortable – like sticking our neck out in unknown territory.

Please join us answering God's call and say **YES** when you are asked to help out. Remember the ancient proverb that says, "Take note of the turtle, who understands that forward progress is made **ONLY** by sticking your neck out."



IF YOU WANT TO GET AHEAD... STICK YOUR NECK OUT!

Stewardship



Do You Shop With Amazon?

By Ben Urban, Stewardship Chair

Good news for Amazon shoppers!

Shop at **smile.amazon.com** and Amazon will donate .5% of your eligible purchases to New Covenant Church—no fees, no extra cost! Whether you are a regular Amazon user or a Prime Amazon user, you can shop **smile.amazon.com** and it will take you to your own account.

If most of our church family decides to use the website, all the .5% donations can add up over time. It is easy to enroll. Simply go to **smile.amazon.com**, and under charities, select New Covenant Church, Middletown. You can then begin to shop. The next time you plan to shop use **smile.amazon.com** and it will take you to your account. It will verify your charity (New Covenant Church) and keep a running total of your donation amounts.

If you need any assistance: Call me 908-500-9705 or email me johnbenurban@gmail.com.

SUPPORT NEIGHBORHOOD HOUSE

By Jane Adams

Neighborhood House is now open five days a week from 10:00 a.m. until 3:00 p.m. in order to serve food to the MOT area.



Their current needs are canned food containing meat such as:

- ◆ Dinty Moore beef stew
- ◆ Progressive beef soup with vegetables
- ◆ Chef Boyardee raviolis with meat, spaghetti and meatballs, or lasagna with meat
- ◆ Van Camps, Beanee Weenee
- ◆ Canned chicken breast
- ◆ Canned ham

Store brands are okay, too.



Treasurer's Report

Monthly Contributions (Pledges, Non-Pledge and Open Plate)	17,930
All Other Income	18
Total Income	17,948
Missions	-
Buildings & Grounds	1,194
Finance/Operations	343
Personnel	6,497
Total Expenses	8,034
Net Income/Difference	9,914

In May, we received \$10,000 from the Presbytery. Without that income, there would have been a loss of \$86 for the month. We also received a \$1,000 grant from the Presbytery that is reflected in the designated fund Grants/Scholarships.

On May 11, we received \$17,500 from the PNC PPP loan (Paycheck Protection Program). That amount will not be in the general fund income until November when the loan is forgiven.

Through June 17th, we have received \$8,336 in pledged income and \$50 in non pledge contributions.

EMERGENCY PHONE NUMBERS

Submitted by Joan Sabbato

These Are More Effective Than 911

When You:

Are sad, phone **John 14**
Have sinned, phone **Psalms 51**
Are facing danger, phone **Psalms 91**
Are alone and scared, phone **Psalms 23**
Are worried, phone **Matthew 8:19-34**
Wonder about Christianity,
phone **2 Corinthians 5:15-18**
Are hurt and critical, phone **1 Corinthians 13**
Are seeking peace, phone **Matthew 11:25-30**
Need Christ-like insurance,
phone **Romans 8:1-30**
Feel like an outcast, phone **Romans 8:31-39**
Are leaving home for a trip, phone **Psalms 121**
Are praying for yourself, phone **Psalms 87**
Require courage for a task, phone **Joshua 1**
Are depressed, phone **Psalms 27**
Lose faith in humankind,
phone **1 Corinthians 13**
Are losing hope, phone **Psalms 126**
Feel the world is small compared to you,
phone **Psalms 19**
Want to carry fruit, phone **John 15**

Or when:

People have failed you, phone **Psalms 27**
It feels as though God is far from you,
phone **Psalms 139**
Your faith needs stimulation,
phone **Hebrews 11**
It feels as if the world is bigger than God,
phone **Psalms 90**
Inflation/investments hog your thoughts,
phone **Mark 10:17-31**
Your bank account is empty, phone **Psalms 37**




It looks like people are unfriendly,
phone **John 15**
Paul's secret for happiness,
phone **Colossians 3:12-17**
With a big opportunity/discovery, phone **Isaiah 55**
To get along with other people, phone **Romans 12**

Alternate Numbers:

For dealing with fear, call **Psalms 47**
For security, call **Psalms 121:3**
For assurance, call **Mark 8:35**
For reassurance, call **Psalms 145:18**

All these numbers may be phoned directly, no operator assistance is necessary. All lines to heaven are available 24 hours a day. Feed your faith, and doubt will starve to death.







Puzzle Fun!



WATER WORKS!

The gospels record Jesus' miracles, many of which involve water.

Directions: Using the illustrated equations, fill in the blanks to describe each miracle. Use the Bible references for help.

 + e	Water changes to _____	JOHN 2:1-11
 - k + d	Heals a man born _____	JOHN 9
 - op +  - w	Calms a _____	MATTHEW 8:23-27
f +  - d	Catch of _____	LUKE 5:1-11
 - ch + er	Walks on _____	MATTHEW 14:22-33

Answer: wine, blind, storm, fish, water

PATRIOTIC PARFAIT

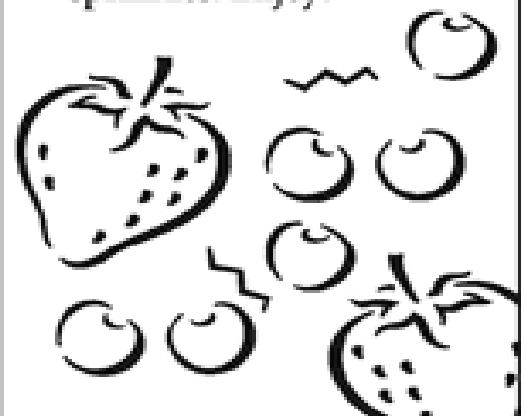
On the 4th of July, make this healthy, festive dessert to share with family and friends.

What you need:

- Clear glasses or plastic cups
- Spoons
- Vanilla yogurt
- Cut strawberries
- Fresh blueberries
- Coconut, whipped cream, red and blue sprinkles (optional)

What you do:

1. Place a couple of spoonfuls of vanilla yogurt at the bottom of each glass or cup.
2. Add cut strawberries to cover the yogurt layer.
3. Add more yogurt over the strawberries.
4. Add a layer of blueberries.
5. Repeat the layers until you reach the top of the glass or cup.
6. For extra fun, add coconut, whipped cream and sprinkles. Enjoy!



Presbyterians rock! Below is a link to a fun, short, toe-tapping video from GA:

<https://youtu.be/zGLmgCc9dG0>

Just for Giggles

The Worst Quarantine Haircut!!

By Donna Casey



Time for a change!



Oh goodie! Mom's gonna give us a trim for summer! Can't wait to show off our new look!



How handsome we looked, BEFORE!!

What were you thinking, Mom? "You've made me a NAKED Nefie" (a direct quote from Moose).



Can you at least knit me a sweater from the pile of hair?



"They must have had some form of email. The Apostle Paul wrote the epistles."



"Do I have to give thanks for all the spinach or just the bite I'm going to eat?"



"No, not a punishment. I was just looking for a nice, quiet place to pray."

WISDOM FOR LIVING AN ABUNDANT LIFE

The “WOW!” Factor Treasure the Present

After the final notes concluded at a recent symphony performance in Boston, the conductor hadn't yet lowered his baton when a child exclaimed, “Wow!” The break in protocol, magnified by excellent acoustics, didn't upset the participants or audience. Instead, later several people said it brought them great joy. One even called the moment life-changing.

The incident was especially meaningful because the child, a 9-year-old named Ronan, has autism and is generally nonverbal. Music, his family says, tends to attract his interest and make him happy. When symphony officials learned Ronan's identity, they arranged a private performance so he could meet some musicians

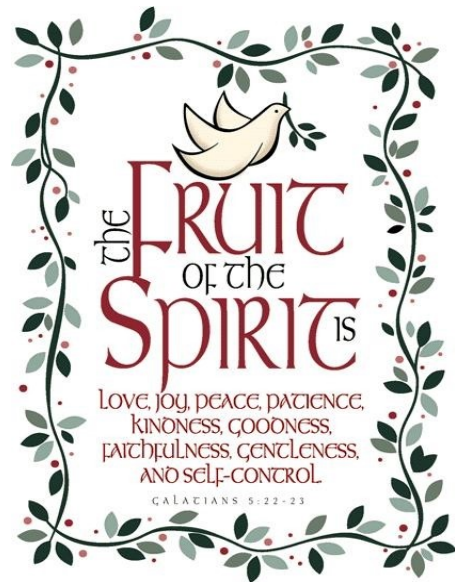
How often do you shout “Wow!” — in a good way — at what you see and hear? You may tend to do so on vacation or while observing God's natural wonders, but what about during your day-to-day life? Think about the people you encounter and their talents — and your own. When have these sparked a “Wow!” of thanks to God?

Every blessing, large or small, is a wow-moment — a gift from God that warrants our praise. —adapted from Home Touch Ministry.

WOW!

By Henri Nouwen

Patience asks us to live the moment to the fullest ... to taste the here and now, to be where we are. When we are impatient, we try to get away from where we are. We behave as if the real thing will happen tomorrow, later, and somewhere else. Let's be patient and trust that the treasure we look for is hidden in the ground on which we stand.



Taking Measure of Prayer

By Charles Spurgeon

Fluency [in prayer] is a questionable endowment, especially when it is not accompanied with the weight of thought and depth of feeling. Some [people] pray by the yard, but true prayer is measured by weight, not by length. A single groan before God may have more fullness of prayer in it than a fine oration of great length.

July 4th Freedom



How Will We Use Our Freedom?

—adapted from *Homiletics*

In 2000, Cornealious Anderson was sentenced to 13 years for robbery. The 23-year-old was released on bail and told to await orders to show up to prison. But due to a clerical error, those orders never came. Some people might have taken advantage of such freedom and committed more crimes. But Anderson started a business, coached youth football and volunteered at church, earning respect in his community.

Thirteen years later, when Missouri officials discovered the error and put Anderson behind bars, an online petition called for his release. A judge agreed that Anderson was a changed man and, again, he was freed.

What would *you* do with such undeserved freedom? What *do* we do with the unmerited freedom God grants us despite our sin, and with the freedoms we celebrate on July 4? May we follow Anderson's example and use our freedoms — social *and* spiritual — to serve others.

