

Gettysburg United Methodist Church

October 28, 2020

Psalm 125

(NRSV)

A Song of Ascents.

- 1 *Those who trust in the Lord are like
Mount Zion,
which cannot be moved, but abides
forever.*
- 2 *As the mountains surround Jerusalem,
so the Lord surrounds his people,
from this time on and forevermore.*
- 3 *For the scepter of wickedness shall not
rest
on the land allotted to the righteous,
so that the righteous might not stretch out
their hands to do wrong.*
- 4 *Do good, O Lord, to those who are good,
and to those who are upright in their
hearts.*
- 5 *But those who turn aside to their own
crooked ways
the Lord will lead away with evildoers.
Peace be upon Israel!*

Time Change

This is the weekend (Nov. 1) that we change from Daylight Savings Time back to Standard Time. Please set your clocks back one hour before you go to bed this Saturday night.

We will celebrate Holy Communion at both our online and in-person worship services this Sunday, Nov. 1.

Meditation

Read Hebrews 12:1-2

Did you know that you are a saint? In the Bible the term 'saint' refers to all Christians. All who are disciples of Jesus Christ by faith in him are saints, according to the usage of the word in the New Testament. A saint is someone who is holy (set apart by choosing to follow Christ rather than self or the world). We are all called to be holy; we are all saints.

In some traditions, certain special persons are recognized as Saints because they are Christians of extraordinary piety, holiness, and faith. There is a long process for recognition of Sainthood, including the attribution of at least two miracles to the Saint. These persons are examples for others to follow, and are objects of veneration for intercession and miracles.

In our own tradition, even though all Christians are considered to be saints, there are those we hold in especially high esteem who may serve as examples for us. In the United Methodist tradition we often think of John and Charles Wesley in that way. We may be inspired by the example of Billy Graham or Mother Teresa. We also may be inspired by saints who aren't famous, but still serve as examples for us. Perhaps a parent or a grandparent (or a son or daughter), perhaps a member of our congregation, perhaps another Christian who has influenced our faith serves as an example for us.

On All Saints Sunday we remember all Christians who are now in heaven. They are the "great cloud of witnesses" that is mentioned in Hebrews 12:1. They were faithful examples to us while they were on earth, and now they cheer us on from heaven as we ourselves run the race of faith. We especially remember those members of Gettysburg United Methodist Church who have gone home to glory during the past year. They will be recognized during this Sunday's service (both online and in person), and I thought they should be remembered here as well. As

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Give thanks . . .

(Continued from page 1)

you read their names, please say a prayer of thanksgiving for their lives, and for all that they meant to you. And please say a prayer of blessing for their families and friends who still struggle with their loss. The members whose lives we celebrate this year are:

Norma Reale
Charles F. Swingler
Noreen P. "Peg" Shealer
Lloyd Calvin Dye
Patsy J. Tawney
Maurice V. "Bud" Crews
Lois Mae Ferrence
Janet Marie Carlson
Sonda Newby
Genevieve M. "Genny" Reaver

We are thankful for their lives and for the many blessings they brought into this world. We are also thankful that their lives are not over, for they live forever in the heavenly light of God's glory. We shall see them again when God calls us home to his eternal presence.

We truly are surrounded by a "great cloud of witnesses". We rejoice in all of God's saints as they inspire our lives. May we "run with perseverance the race that is set before us, looking to Jesus the pioneer and perfecter of our faith," encouraged by the lives of those who have gone before us.

Pastor Rick

Prayer

Lord Jesus Christ, we thank you for the lives and witness of all of your saints. We especially remember those whom you have called home to heaven during the past year. We thank you for the blessings they brought to our lives and to our world, and for the many ways they continue to inspire our faith.

We rejoice that they share in your victory over death, and dwell in your house forever.

Be with America during these times of trial. We pray for a free and fair election. We pray for those portions of our nation affected by wildfires and hurricanes. We pray for true freedom for all peoples. Be with those who especially need your healing, comfort, guidance, and hope. Draw them into your loving presence

Open our lives to the transforming work of your Holy Spirit, that we may follow the example of all your saints as we run the race you have set before us; for this we pray in your name. Amen.

SCCAP Thanksgiving Bags

REVISED LIST!

We will be supporting SCCAP again this year with Thanksgiving Bags. The bags are located in the gathering area of the church.

We have received a revised list of items from SCCAP. We apologize for any inconvenience or confusion this may cause. The revised list is: 1 can sweet potatoes, 1 or 2 jars turkey gravy, 2 cans green beans, 2 cans corn, 1 box stuffing mix, 2 cans mixed fruit, 1 box instant potatoes. 1 jar applesauce, 1 can pumpkin pie mix OR 1 can fruit filling (your preference), 1 box pie crust mix, 1 can evaporated milk, and \$3.00 enclosed in an envelope which will be used to purchase rolls.

(The items included in the above list that were added to the previous list are: 1 jar apple sauce, 1 can of pumpkin pie mix OR 1 can fruit filling, 1 box pie crust mix, and 1 can evaporated milk.)

Again, we apologize for the changes to the list, and thank you for your faithfulness in helping others.

The bags should be brought back with your purchases no later than Nov. 15.

. . . for God's saints!

Church Conference

Our annual Church Conference will be held at the conclusion of our worship service (around 11:30 am) on Sunday, November 8. We hope to be able to hold the Church Conference in combined in-person and Zoom formats. If you desire a link for the Zoom format please email the church office to request one.

All members of the church are encouraged to attend and vote. Church Conference elects officers for 2021, sets the pastor's 2021 compensation, and receives various reports.

Voting Questions?

Deanna Painter is willing and available to answer any questions or issues you may have concerning the voting process in the upcoming General Election. She is also able to help you find transportation to the polls on Nov. 3. Her phone number is (717) 586-7334 and her email is deannapainter@hotmail.com.

The United Methodist Bishops in the US are encouraging everyone to vote, and to work for a free and fair election process especially this year. They write, "The right of every citizen to vote in the United States is under attack, and with it, the foundation of American democracy and the sacred worth of all persons. We call United Methodists to vote and to protect free and fair elections and peaceful transfer of power."

Weekly Prayer Concerns

To add someone to this prayer list, please call the church office.

This week's list (as of 10/27/2020) is:

Joyce Dye
Rodney Truscott
Dale Shade—recovering from surgery
Penny Daugherty
Scott Bowers
Rochelle Lutz
Imogene Hunt's brother
Sharon Brown (cataract surgery)
Our Dist. Supt., Rev. Cathy Boileau, & her husband
Mike (positive COVID tests)

Members in Assisted Living / Skilled Care Homes:

Edith Bulman (SpiriTust Lutheran, York);
Kermit Carlson (Paramount, Fayetteville);
Shirley Hammond (Morning Glory, Littlestown);
Missy Legay (Moul Home, York);
Bob Reed (Lorien, Mt Airy, MD);
Peggy Reynolds (Quincy-cottage, Waynesboro);
Gloria Swinger (Country Meadows-apartment), Mechanicsburg

Members with Limited Mobility:

Butch Carter, Betty Cook, Joyce Dye, Pearl Keckler, Raymond Koenig, Chuck Lutz, Ruth Anna Polley, Wilma Schaible, Betty Schulteis, June Spencer, Virginia White

Thanksgiving Dinner

Our annual Community Thanksgiving Dinner will be held on Tuesday, November 17 as a take-out meal.

The dinner will be prepared and available for pickup at the Sterner Building in the Rec Park in Gettysburg. Pickup will begin at 5:00. As always, plenty of help will be needed to prepare and serve the meal. Tickets (250 total) are required and are available through the church office at a cost of \$1 per adult.

Sign-up sheets will be available at the church in the near future for those who are able to help, or you may call Dale Shade at (717) 359-4626 to volunteer. We will follow CDC protocols for masks and social distancing.

Kennie's Market has generously donated 250 plastic grocery bags, so donations of additional grocery bags are no longer needed. We appreciate everyone who has donated bags so far.

HYMN

Shall We Gather at the River

Robert Lowry

1. Shall we gather at the river,
where bright angel feet have trod,
with its crystal tide forever
flowing by the throne of God?

Refrain:

Yes, we'll gather at the river,
the beautiful, the beautiful river;
gather with the saints at the river
that flows by the throne of God.

2. On the margin of the river,
washing up its silver spray,
we will walk and worship ever,

all the happy golden day.
(Refrain)

3. Ere we reach the shining river,
lay we every burden down;
grace our spirits will deliver,
and provide a robe and crown.
(Refrain)

4. Soon we'll reach the shining river,
soon our pilgrimage will cease;
soon our happy hearts will quiver
with the melody of peace.
(Refrain)

Robert Lowry was born in Philadelphia in 1826. He was an accomplished preacher, pastored several Baptist churches, served as a professor at Bucknell University in Lewisburg, PA, and became a music editor and publisher of gospel songs toward the end of his life. He died in Plainfield NJ in 1899.

Shall We Gather at the River was written in 1864 while he was pastor of Hanson Place Baptist Church in Brooklyn. An epidemic was sweeping through the city, and many of his parishioners and friends were affected by it. He was inspired to write this hymn based on the text of Revelation 22:1-2. Both music and words came to him at the same time. The hymn looks forward to our eternal life before the throne of God, and celebrates our gathering together in heaven. It may be found as number 723 in *The United Methodist Hymnal*.

World Hunger Sunday

Harvest Home for World Hunger Offering

November 22, 2020

100% of the Offering Goes to Hunger Projects

- 50% will go to hunger projects and agencies within the Susquehanna Conference
- 25% will go to national hunger projects through UMCOR
- 25% will go to international projects through UMCOR

Altar Flowers

The altar flowers for Sunday, Nov. 1 are presented by Sharon Brown in memory of her grandparents.

Giving Spree

Enclosed is a copy of the Donation Form for the annual Giving Spree. We encourage your prayerful support of the ministries listed, and ask that you especially consider giving to C.A.R.E.S., Ruth's Harvest, Adams Prison Christian Ministries, Tender Care, and Adams Rescue Mission, which are also supported by our congregation. They are all listed for 2020 Mission Can Donations.

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