

Westgate Witness



October 2024

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Facebook: Westgate American Baptist Church
www.WestgateABC.com



Greetings in the Name of our Lord!

Growing Pains - James 1:2-4



There was a Minister in NYC who was born without arms. He tells of the experience of learning to put on his own clothes. He said his mother always would dress him. She fed him, dressed him, fed him, dressed him. One day, she put his clothes in the middle of the floor and said **“dress yourself.”** He said, **“I can’t dress myself.”** She said, **“You will have to dress yourself, I won’t always be here to help you.”** I kicked, I screamed, I kicked, I screamed, I yelled at my mother **“you don’t love me.”**

Finally, he realized that if he was going to get any clothes on, he would have to put them on himself. After hours of struggle, he got the clothes on. He said it was not until later that he learned that his mother was in the next room crying.

I don’t know if God is sometimes distant from us so we will grow in some way. I do know that sometimes we feel distance, absence. And normally it’s because we, not He, moved. **But how do we manage those feelings of absence? How do we live with the experience of distance from God?** Also, how do we live in the midst of travail and suffering? What comes from suffering in our lives? What does suffering, challenge, discomfort, or travail bring forth in us? According to James 1:2 **“whenever you face trials of many kinds, it tests your faith and**

develops perseverance. Perseverance must finish its work so that you may become mature and complete...

I am told that there is one species of birds of which the mother bird does everything she can to get her growing babies out of the nest. When she is ready for them to go and she knows that they can fly, she begins to push them out of the nest. On occasion, when a particular recalcitrant bird refuses to leave the nest, the mother does what a lot of human mothers ought to do when children refuse to grow up. **She actually begins to take the nest away.** Piece by piece she picks at the nest until it is completely dismantled. I can imagine a conversation going on between the child and the mother.

“Mother!” the small bird shouts. “What are you doing?”

“I am taking your nest away,” she replies.

“Why are you doing that?”

“I put this nest up. I can take it down.”



“But don’t you love me?”

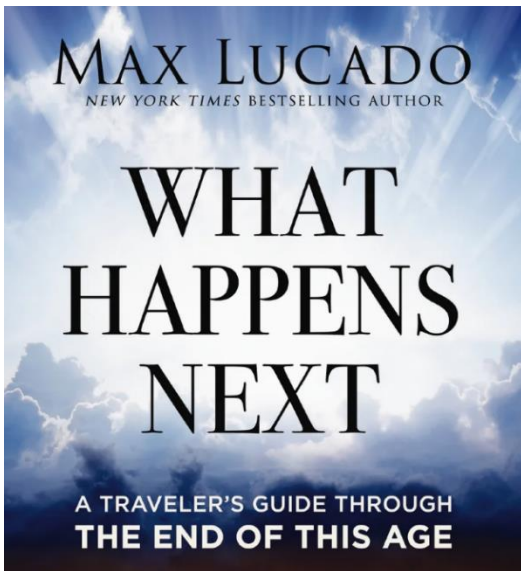
“Of course, I love you. But my love requires that you fly, and you can’t fly sitting around in that nest all the time. So, I’m taking it away.”

The small bird suddenly finds itself sitting in thin air and begins to flap its wings. As it flies upward, surprised by its ability, it calls back over its shoulder, *“Hey, Mom. Look at me. I’m flying! I’m flying!”* *“Of course, you’re flying,”* the mother says. *“That’s what the disappearing nest is all about.”*

Sometimes we’re allowed to see the reason for our pain. But there are other times when we simply have to trust that God loves us and that He knows what He’s doing. Do you remember the time Jesus washed the disciples’ feet. Peter became irritated. He simply couldn’t understand the Son of God washing anybody’s feet. It ought to be the other way around, he thought. And then Jesus said, ***“What I am doing you do not understand now, but you will know after this”*** (John 13:7). Jesus was telling Peter to trust Him. God says that to us a lot. Our sufferings and adversities are often part of a greater plan, ultimately a good plan, which would likely be misunderstood even if God explained it to you. ***“We walk by faith, not by sight”*** 2 Corinthians 5:7. But because God loves us, and values us. He will sometimes allow the refining fire of adversity and suffering to shape us into better people than we would otherwise be. And we can stand strong and straight knowing that thru life’s hurts the pearls of character are in formation within us. Praise Be to God!

Robert Zimmerman, Pastor





Adult Sunday School

Study Topic: What Happens Next?

A Traveler's Guide Through the End of This Age

Are we living in the end times? If so, what does that mean for us? These questions can cause confusion and anxiety in the hearts of Christians, but God wants us to be prepared, not scared; informed, not intimidated. Join Author and Pastor Max Lucado on an optimistic and accessible journey into what the Bible says about the end times. This six-session series will provide a solid foundation for understanding God's eternal plan and events like the rapture, the tribulation, and our eternal glory in heaven. As Max teaches us, the end of our story is all about hope and all about Jesus.

The study will begin with four big ideas that will provide a solid foundation for understanding God's eternal plan. *We are made to reign with Christ. *God has made and will keep his promises. *Heaven has a timeline. *A Golden era—the millennium—awaits God's children.

In What Happens Next, we will explore the timeline of human history examining milestones such as the rapture, the seven years of tribulation, and the glories of heaven. In contrast to the anxiety that sometimes accompanies these topics this study offers a wise, reassuring, and well-researched overview of God's word.

Each Sunday we gather at 9:30 for coffee and conversation. At 9:45 the class topic What Happens Next will begin as Stephen Appleby facilitates the presentation and the conversations that will follow. The topic will likely be a 6-7-week study.



Womens Bible Study
Tuesday @ 9:30 am. Please consider
joining us as we continue to study the
gospel of Matthew



"If my people who are called by my name will humble themselves, and pray and seek my face, and turn from their wicked ways, then I will hear from heaven, and will forgive their sin and heal their land. Now my eyes will be open and my ears attentive to prayer made in this place."

2 Chron 7:14-15



Tuesday, October 29, 2024, @ 10:00 am

****Non-denominational Prayer Vigil****

Are you concerned with the state of our world, our children, our schools and our society in general today? **We are.** If there was ever a time to come together and seek the Lord for His help in these desperate times, **it is today.**

The pastor and members of the Westgate Baptist Church will hold a **"Non-denominational Prayer Vigil"** to seek the Lord's leading for the cares of our world today. The vigil is not motivated by any political or cultural views, we just want to seek God for His will to be done. **We welcome all faiths.**

We will pray for:

*****Our country and our world***

*****Our families and children***

*****The family of God and its witness***

*****Our personal needs for healing***

We will open with a worship song, then go right into prayer. One person will lead each prayer section, but we encourage everyone to pray quietly along with the leader. You may stand, sit or kneel as you feel led. God asks us, as believers in Him to join together in prayer for the cares of this land. Come and join with us! We welcome you! Call the office at (717) 394-1071 for any questions.



SAVE THE DATES



**Next Board Meeting is
October 7th @ 6:30 PM**

AB Men's Breakfast - Our next Men's Fellowship breakfast will be on October 15th @ 9:00 am. We will meet at the Family Fare Restaurant, 5921 Main St., East Petersburg PA 17520 for a casual Christian Men's fellowship time.



November 1, 2024 Marriott Downtown Lancaster
A celebratory dinner of all God is doing at Water Street through partners like you! To reserve and purchase tickets go to: wsm.org/celebration



THANKSGIVING SERVICE

Community Ecumenical Thanksgiving Service

Sunday November 24th at 7 p.m.
at Temple Beth El



The Temple Beth El is hosting an interfaith ecumenical Thanksgiving service on Sunday preceding the Thanksgiving Holiday at Temple Beth El in East Petersburg. The service will be followed by a desert reception. There will be shared leadership from various churches in the area and will include special prayers, readings and music. This promises to be a festive and meaningful addition to our Thanksgiving observance.

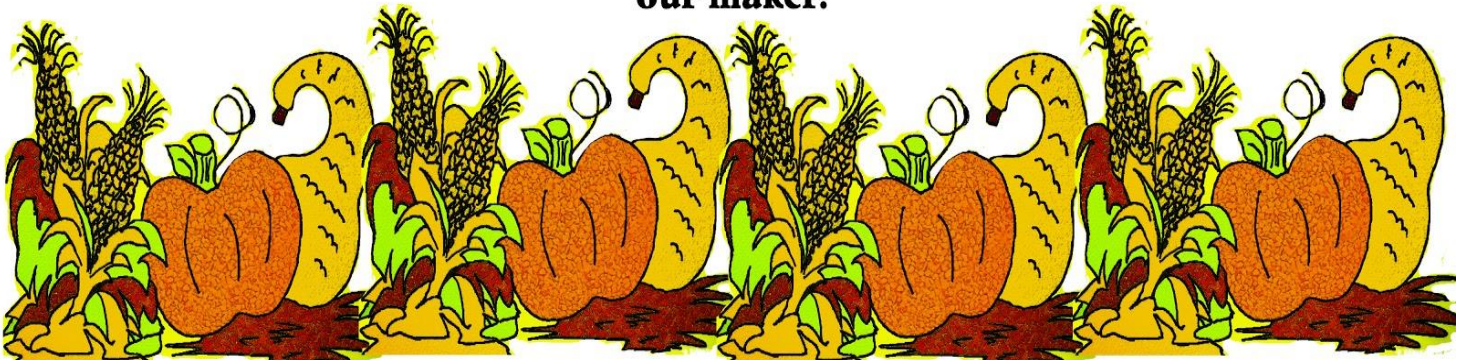


Psalms 95:1,2,6

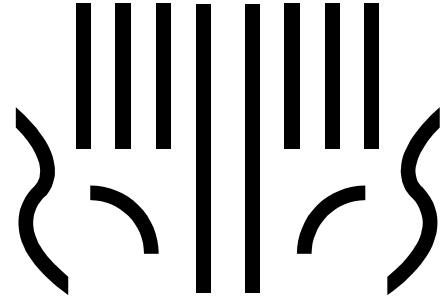
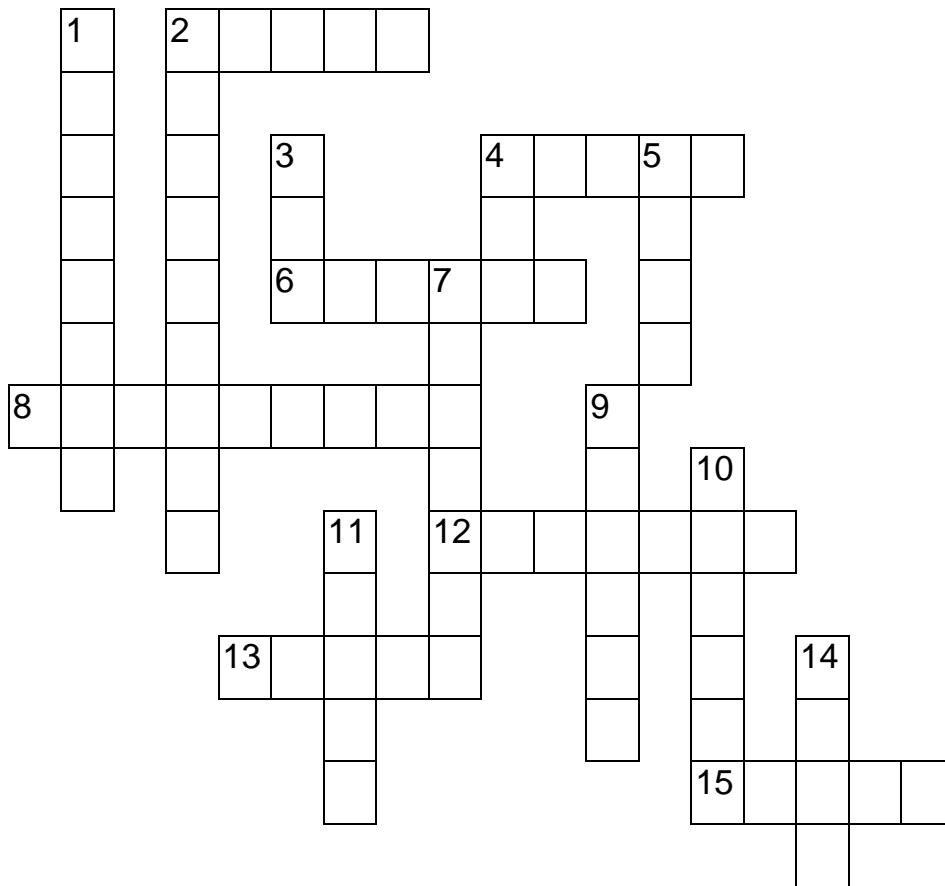
O come, let us sing unto the LORD: let us make a joyful noise to the rock of our salvation.

Let us come before his presence with thanksgiving, and make a joyful noise unto him with psalms.

O come, let us worship and bow down: let us kneel before the LORD our maker.



CROSSWORD: All of the clues and answers are taken from the story of Job, the book in the Bible that comes right before Psalms.



Nevertheless, the righteous
 will hold to their ways, and
 those with clean hands will
 grow stronger.

J o b 1 7 : 9

ACROSS

- 2. Cause of Job's trouble
- 4. Twinkling, heavenly lights
- 6. The Shuhite, a friend (2:11)
- 8. Creature of the deep, (41:1)
- 12. The Temanite, a friend (2:11)
- 13. Sores
- 15. Job had 7,000

DOWN

- 1. The One who ever lives (19:25)
- 2. Affliction
- 3. Had seven sons
- 4. Ocean
- 5. Precipitation
- 7. Job had 500
- 9. The Naamathite, a friend (2:11)
- 10. Job had 3,000
- 11. Job's 4th friend (32:2)
- 14. Job had 500 yoke



Check your answers on page 10

Just for Thought

Lesson Learned!

One of my coworkers got a speeding ticket and was attending a defensive driving course to have points erased from his license. The instructor, a police officer, emphasized that being on time was crucial, and that the classroom doors would be locked when each session began. Just after one class started, someone knocked on the locked door. The officer opened it and asked, "why are you late"? The student replied, "I was trying not to get another ticket" The officer let him in.



WHAT KIND OF DAY WILL I HAVE?

I woke up early today, excited over all I get to do before the clock strikes midnight. I have responsibilities to fulfill today. I am important. My job is to choose what kind of day I am going to have.

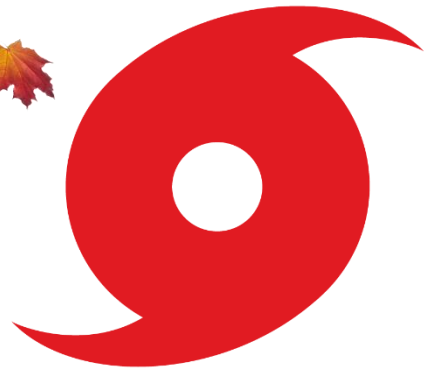
- Today I can complain because the weather is rainy, or I can be thankful that the grass is getting watered for free.
- Today I can feel sad that I don't have more money, or I can be glad that my finances encourage me to plan my purchases wisely and guide me away from waste.
- Today I can grumble about my health, or I can rejoice that I am alive.
- Today I can lament over all that my parents didn't give me when I was growing up or I can feel grateful that they allowed me to be born.
- Today I can cry because roses have thorns, or I can celebrate that thorns have roses.
- Today I can mourn my lack of friends, or I can excitedly embark upon a quest to discover new relationships.
- Today I can whine because I must go to work, or I can shout for joy because I have a job to do.
- Today I can complain because I must go to school or eagerly open my mind and fill it with rich new tidbits of knowledge.
- Today I can murmur dejectedly because I must do housework, or I can feel honored because the Lord has provided shelter for my mind, body and soul.
- Today stretches ahead of me, waiting to be shaped. And here I am, the sculptor who gets to do the shaping.
- What today will be like is up to me. I get to choose what kind of day I will have!



Will to Remember



A lawyer was reading out the will of a rich man to the people mentioned in the will. *"To my loving wife, Rose, who stood by me in the rough times, as well as the good, I leave the house and two million dollars."* The lawyer continued, *"To my daughter, Jessica, who looked after me in sickness and kept the business going, I leave the yacht, the business and one million dollars."* The lawyer concluded, *"And to my cousin, Bill, who hated me, argued with me, and thought that I would never mention him in my will-well you were wrong. **Hi, Bill!**"*



You Can Make a Difference

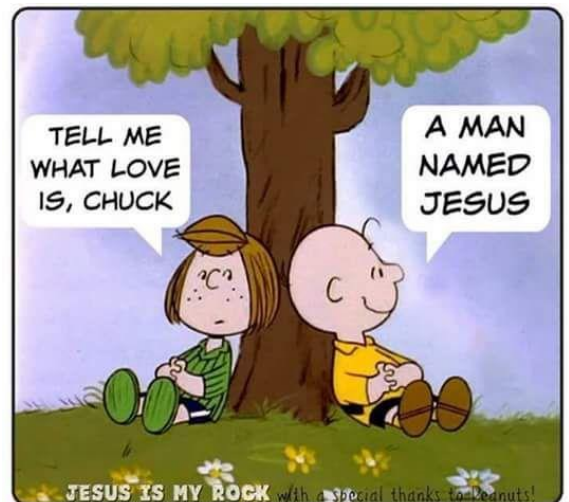
Help people affected by Hurricane Helene

Consider giving a donation at
www.Redcross/Donate.com



ABW- consider baking some goodies for the November bake sale and we will be looking for crafts and donations for our Christmas Tree

For I know the
Plans
I have for you,
declares the Lord
Plans to Prosper you
and not to harm you
Plans to give you
Hope and a Future
-Jeremiah 29:11



Please remember to give us a like on FACEBOOK and share the page with family and friends!



Westgate American Baptist Church



- 10/1/2022 David & Jennifer Ryan
- 10/3/1987 Ron & Lynda Williams
- 10/11/1975 Paul & Sandy Dour



Answers to crossword



Solution:

Across

- 2. Satan
- 4. stars
- 6. Bildad
- 8. Leviathan
- 12. Eliphaz
- 13. boils
- 15. sheep

Solution:

Down

- 1. Redeemer
- 2. suffering
- 3. Job
- 4. sea
- 5. rain
- 7. donkeys
- 9. Zophar
- 10. camels
- 11. Elihu
- 14. oxen

Treasurer's Report

September	\$8,495.00	
Budget Income	\$7,504.00	
Non-budget income	\$991.00	

Checkout our new website:

WestgateABC.com

Stay up to date on all upcoming events and news! Make sure you click the tab that say "Just for Thought" for some interesting and useless info!

