

Westgate Witness



March 2024

2235 Harrisburg Pike, Lancaster, PA 17601 -- 717-394-1071



HAPPY
Easter



Dates to Remember

March 6th – Lunch @ Millers
March 7th – ABW Meeting
March 10th – Daylight Savings Time
March 10th – Congregational Meeting
March 11th – Board Meeting
March 19th – Men's Breakfast

Greetings in the Name of our Lord!

Living The Twenty-Four Hour Gift

James 4:13-14 “Come now, you who say, “Today or tomorrow we will go to such and such a such city, spend a year there, buy and sell, and make a profit; whereas you do not know what will happen tomorrow. For what is your life? It is even a vapor that appears for a little time and then vanishes away.”

I believe life has been teaching me the importance of being more fully present to the day that I am in. Sometimes an hour is too short, and a week a month or a year is too long. But days are the bite-sized portions to life, the God designed units of time. How Many Times Does Your Heart Beat in a Day? According to the Mayo Clinic, the average adult heart beats 60 to **100 times** per minute, which translates to 86,400 to 144,000 beats per day. A day equals 1,440 minutes—A day, a complete rotation of the earth—A day with both the sunrise and a sunset.

I am talking about seeking to taste the here and now—the day that you are actually in. Impatience will make us want to get away from where we are in the now of today. We are tempted to behave as if the real thing will happen tomorrow, later, somewhere else. Let's be patient and trust that the treasure we look for is hidden in the ground on which we stand today—be living fully in the day we have been given.



How about the decision to live a brand new, untouched, uncharted, unused day! The gift of twenty-four un-lived, unexplored hours. And if you can stack one good day on another and another, you will link together a good life. But here is what we must keep in mind—you no longer have yesterday. It slipped away as you slept. It is gone—you can't alter it or improve it. There are no mulligans. Have you noticed the hourglass sand won't flow upward. The second hand of the clock refuses to tick backward. The monthly calendar reads left to right, not right to left. We no longer have yesterday.

You don't yet have tomorrow—you can't live tomorrow today. You can't spend tomorrow's money, celebrate tomorrow's achievements, or resolve tomorrow's riddles. You only fully have today. This is the day that the Lord has made. Live in it. You must be present to win.

Dear Father, thanks for giving us life in daily portions. You know that 24 hours are sufficient for us to manage—yet it is so easy to fret about what happened yesterday—and worry about what we fear tomorrow. Teach us to live more fully in the present. Give us wisdom and strength to take life one day at a time.

Pastor Robert Zimmerman

Kintsugi is the Japanese art of putting broken pottery pieces back together with gold — built on the idea that in embracing flaws and imperfections, you can create an even stronger, more beautiful piece of art. Every break is unique and instead of repairing an item like new, the 400-year-old technique actually highlights the "scars" as a part of the design. Using this as a metaphor for healing ourselves teaches us an important lesson: Sometimes in the process of repairing things that have broken, we actually create something more unique, beautiful and resilient.



Submitted by Pastor Robert

This week I began to do some study on a future Sermon on the subject of prayer. In the process and I decided to save a litany of favorite quotes on prayer from a broad theological perspective. I hope a few of them will speak to your heart on this timeless subject.

- “Prayer is a refusal to settle for what is.” – Walter Brueggemann
- “To clasp the hands in prayer is the beginning of an uprising against the disorder of the world.” – Karl Barth
- “Prayer gets us in on what God is doing.” – Eugene Peterson
- “Prayer is the test of everything; prayer is also the source of everything; prayer is the driving force of everything; prayer is also the director of everything. If prayer is right, everything is right.” – St. Theophan the Recluse
- “Whatever good may be done is done and brought about by prayer.” – Martin Luther
- “Real prayer comes not from gritting teeth but from falling in love.” – Richard Foster
- “True prayer is a way of life, not just for use in cases of emergency.” – Billy Graham
- “If you want a life of prayer, the way to get it is by praying.” – Thomas Merton
- “The most important thing in prayer is that we present ourselves as we are before God as He is.” – Thomas Merton
- “The prayer preceding all prayers is ‘May it be the real I who speaks. May it be the real Thou that I speak to.’” – C.S. Lewis
- “Prayer is not an escape from the world but an entrance into it.” – Ann & Barry Ulanov
- “The only way to pray is to pray; and the way to pray well is to pray much.” – Dom Chapman
- “Pray as you can, not as you can’t.” – Dom Chapman
- “Every religion that is worth its salt has taught people how to pray.” – William Johnston
- “Prayer is not asking. Prayer is putting oneself in the hands of God, at his disposition, and listening to his voice in the depths of our hearts.” – Mother Teresa
- “Prayer changes the world because it first changes us.” – Laurence Freeman
- “More things are wrought by prayer than this world dreams of.” – Alfred Lord Tennyson
- “The root of all prayer is interior silence.” – Thomas Keating
- “Talk in prayer is essential but it is also partial. Silence is also essential.” – Eugene Peterson
- “If we wish to pray with confidence and gladness, then the words of Holy Scripture will have to be the solid basis of our prayer.” – Dietrich Bonhoeffer
- “A prayer life that does not stick to Scripture will soon become poor in ideas, poor in faith, poor in love, and will finally die.” – Adolf Koberle
- “Prayer requires both silence and crying out at the same time, both in the presence of God in response to God’s Word.” – Dietrich Bonhoeffer
- “Whoever does not pray at determined times does not pray at undetermined ones.” – Claus Harms “The need for prayer has never been greater than it is at this time, and it will be still greater from now on till the end of time.” – Martin Luther
- “A life of prayer is a life of beginning all over again.” – Charles Cummings

Resurrection of Jesus

Easter is one of the principal holidays, or feasts, of Christianity. It marks the Resurrection of Jesus three days after his death by crucifixion.





AB Men's Breakfast - Our next Men's Fellowship breakfast will be on March 19th at 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.

Special thanks from the Staff of Westgate Baptist Church for the wonderful luncheon at Harvey's Barbeque in our honor on Sunday February 11th. Your generosity and thoughtfulness are deeply appreciated. The quality of the meal and the warmth of our time together was wonderful.



On Wednesday March 6th at 2p.m. Westgate Baptist Church is planning a lunch trip to Miller's Smorgasbord 2811 Lincoln Highway E, Ronks. Because of some anticipated coupon benefits we are expecting a cost of \$20.00 per person. Please add your name to the Sign-Up Sheet in the foyer or contact either Robert Zimmerman or Church Secretary Lora Shirey to have your name added. Simply bring \$20. per person on the day of the meal. When arriving at the Restaurant indicate you are with the Westgate Baptist Church.

Congregational Meeting



Sunday March 10th there will be a brief meeting after Church for members and regular attenders. The purpose of this brief meeting is to have conversation with the Congregation about a Board recommendation regarding the specific allocation of our mission giving. Pastor Zimmerman along with the Board's consent is recommending that the churches mission giving be more heavily weighted toward two specific ministry's that are being birthed from our congregational family. Both the Leroy Tebie family (commissioned by Crossworld) and Anderson McMahon (commissioned by Disciple Makers Internship) are in urgent and abundant need for their respective ministries, and we want to be better poised to support them missionally.

Upcoming Meetings!

Board Meeting Monday, March 11th @ 6:30 PM
ABW Meeting Thursday, March 7th @ 1:00PM





Easter Flowers orders are now being taken!

All orders and payment are due by
Sunday, March 24th.
Please give payments to Kay Cameron
Traditional Easter Flowers

(Lilies, daffodils, tulips...)



The flowers will be used to beautify our Easter Service on March 31st. You may take your flowers after the Easter worship service.



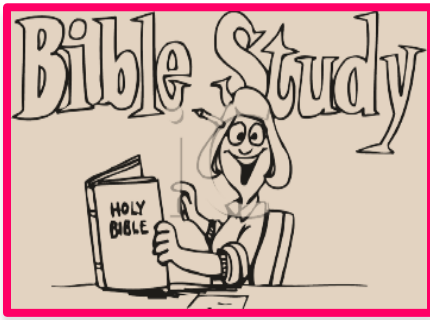
*Our Traditional Easter Sunday Service will be held at Church
INDOORS at 11 a.m. with breakfast in our fellowship hall
preceding the service from 9:30-10:30 a.m. Drop in anytime
within that hour window.
There will be no Sunday School that Sunday.*

Sunrise Service at 6:30 a.m. at 106 Fairland Road, Lititz.
Richard and Nancy Cook's neighbor Dean Zeigler hosts Ecumenical Outdoor Sunrise Service followed by an outdoor breakfast. Bring your own lawn chair or blankets. Having attended this service for several years I can emphasize how utterly beautiful it is to see the sunrise against the backdrop of beautiful Lancaster County hills and farmland.



(See Pictures from
Last year)





Women's Bible study!

Join us at 9:30am each Tuesday for coffee, fellowship, study, and prayer. We are studying the topic: The Importance and Power of Praise and Worship. Are you a worshipper? What really is worship? We're looking at what the Bible says about worship in both the New and Old Testaments. Who do we worship? Why? When? How? Where? Come join us at 9:30am each Tuesday for coffee, sharing, fellowship, study, and prayer. This is a joyous topic, and we'll include fun games, activities, and videos to enhance our study. See Lynda if you have any questions.



Adult Sunday School

Beginning Sunday March 3rd Gary Stump will begin a 4-5 week

Biblically based class focusing on the Epistle of 2 Peter. 2 Peter is authored by Peter the Apostle/Disciple with particular focus on the grace of God in Christ which empowers Christians to live righteously, even in the face of opposition and persecution. The book also deals with false teaching which was exerting

pressure on the early church to depart from the knowledge of Christ. The false teaching was not only a theological but a moral challenge in seeking to live a legitimate Christian lifestyle.



AMERICA FOR CHRIST OFFERING 2024 GRACE upon GRACE

Your gifts to the **America for Christ Offering** impact thousands – through ministries with marginalized children, mission trips that transform lives torn asunder by hurricanes, resources that cultivate Christian leaders, chaplains who bring comfort to hospitals and nursing homes, and much more.

It is of the LORD's mercies
that we are not consumed,
because his compassions fail not.
They are new every morning:
great is thy faithfulness.
Lamentations 3:22-23



+

Please consider making a donation!



Birthdays – March

Happy Birthday

- 1st Judy Johnsen
- 4th Mike Pate
- 6th Chuck Oetell
- 17th Paul Dour
- 24th Cynthia Ferris
- 26th Pat Rust
- 27th Samwel Ombongi
- 28th Gordon Tolson
- 29th Nancy Cook
- 30th Stacey Sollenberger



Happy Anniversary

- 6th Dan & Ivy Sweigart
- 18th Leroy & Sarah Tebie

Treasurer's Report

February 2024	\$8,835.00
Budget Income	\$8,579.00
Non-budget income	\$256.00

Sunday March 10th
Turn Clocks One Hour Forward



Why do you look for the living among the dead?
He is not here,
but has risen.
Luke 24:5