

Westgate Witness

September 2023



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



MARK YOUR CALENDAR

September 5th - Women's Bible Study Resumes

September 7th - ABW Meeting

September 10th - Adult Sunday School

September 11th - Board Meeting

September 19th - AB Men's Breakfast

Greetings in the Name of our Lord!

Trusting God Amidst Calamity: Genesis 45

Have you ever wished you could get back at someone who has treated you unjustly? You just want them to experience, if only for a moment, the frustration or pain that they have inflicted on you. Revenge is never a good idea, is it? But sometimes it's awfully satisfying. A few years ago, a man named Mark Bao had his laptop stolen. Fortunately, Bao had a software program on his laptop that allowed him to access it remotely. To his surprise, he discovered that the thief had used the laptop to record a video of himself practicing various dance moves. And this thief was a really horrible dancer. So, Bao uploaded the dancing thief video to YouTube with the title **"Don't steal computers from people who know how to use computers."** The embarrassed thief returned the laptop and begged Bao to take the video down, but he refused.

When musician Dave Carroll's guitar got damaged by baggage handlers on a United Airlines flight, airline representatives refused to reimburse him for the damage. Carroll worked out his frustrations by writing a humorous song titled **"United Breaks Guitars"** and posting it to YouTube. The song quickly went viral. According to the BBC, within one month of the song's debut, United Airlines suffered a 10% drop in its share price—equal to a loss of \$180 million in value.

Those are fairly harmless and creative ways to get revenge. But what if the injustice is much more severe? Shouldn't the revenge be equally severe? If

anyone ever had reason for revenge it was the Biblical Joseph, his jealous brothers had stripped off his ornamental robe, thrown him into a pit, then sold him into slavery. He ended up in the land of Egypt, where he faced false accusations and years of imprisonment. But during these 13+ years in Egypt, Joseph chose to live as a godly man. He continually worked to honor God with his character and his actions. And God guided him to positions of ever greater power and prominence. In Genesis 45, we see that Joseph has become the governor over the land of Egypt, second only in power to the Pharaoh. This is the moment Joseph has been waiting for. A famine drives his desperate brothers to Egypt because under Joseph's wise and godly management, the Egyptian government has stored up more than enough grain to feed the people. His conniving brothers are on his turf now. Here is his chance to get his revenge. So why doesn't he?

Because as Joseph looks back on his 13+ years in Egypt, he sees the redemptive power of God, how God used his suffering to fulfill a greater plan. God redeemed those years lost to slavery, to injustice, to prison. Joseph looks back and sees that his story isn't just about him; it's about God's power working through him to protect the nation of Egypt and to save his own family from starvation. And I hope that we can develop that same perspective on our lives, that same faith in a loving God who is always working to redeem our struggles, to heal our past and draw us into a relationship with Him.

Look at what Joseph says to his brothers in verses 5-8: ***"And now, do not be distressed and do not be angry with yourselves for selling me here, because it was to save lives that God sent me ahead of you. For two years now there has been famine in the land, and for the next five years there will be no plowing and reaping. But God sent me ahead of you to preserve for you a remnant on earth and to save your lives by a great deliverance." "So then, it was not you who sent me here, but God."*** But God . . . I could be bitter and broken, but God has given me hope. I could be angry or anxious, but God has given me peace. I could be alienated and alone, but God has shown me love. Where in your life can you say, "My troubles could have destroyed me, but God . . ."? In his book *Shattered Dreams*, psychologist Larry Crabb writes, *"Our job as spiritually forming Christians is to believe God when He promises to work both everything that happens in our lives and everything that happens in our souls for the good of people who love God and who surrender to however, He wants to use them in this life (see Romans 8:28). That's faith."* Did you hear that? Our job is to believe God. Can you do that when you are surrounded by troubles? Through those long years of slavery and imprisonment, Joseph believed in God's promises and surrendered himself to God's will. And all those years later, he could look back and see how God had turned his troubles into triumphs.

Pastor Robert Zimmerman

Women's Bible Study Resumes on Tuesday, September 5!

Join us on Tuesday, September 5 at 9:30am.

Bring a friend!

We invite all ladies to join us as we finish out Ezra in our 1st session and move into a brand-new book - Nehemiah! We'll look at Nehemiah - the king's cupbearer who lamented over the destroyed walls of his beloved Jerusalem. We'll see how God worked to restore the walls and gates of Jerusalem. During our study, we enjoy fellowship, sing together, pray for each other, and play fun games based on scripture!



ON Sunday September 10th Adult Sunday School resumes at 9:30.



We gather for conversation and coffee and by 9:45 the class topic begins. Pastor Robert will be leading the initial restart. Often using audio visual aids (YouTube, Rightnow Media, C. D's, Angel Productions) we will grapple with a combination of relevant life topics centering around spiritual, cultural, and pragmatic life issues combined with discussion and biblical reflection. We often sing, explore, discuss, wrestle with truth, and pray together.



Next Board Meeting is scheduled for Monday, September 11th @ 6:30 PM

FACT: In 2019, the US Senate passed a bill ensuring that a fund to compensate victims of the September 11th attacks never runs out of money — and that first responders won't have to return to Congress to plead for more funding.

Church Picnic
Sunday, October 8th at 5:00
Home of Richard and Nancy Cook
106 Fairland Road, Lititz - 717 665 0996



Roast Beef, Mashed Potatoes and Gravy,
Baked Corn, Tossed Salad, Carrot Cake, Angel Food Ice Cream Roll,
Coffee, Hot and Iced Tea



Cost: \$15.00 per person. Bring lawn chairs. Bring only your appetite but no food. Make reservations and cash payment to Reverend Cook or Nancy by **Sunday October 1.**

School Supply Collection is Underway!
All donations benefit the
Water Street Mission



Westgate is collecting school supplies now until the week of September 10th. All donations can be dropped off at the church. There will be boxes both upstairs and downstairs. Some Ideas for donations include: Pencils, Pens, Crayons, Markers, Notebooks, Erasers, Rulers



ABW Meeting scheduled for September 7th @ 1:00pm
Will be discussing the upcoming bake school for November.

AB Men's Breakfast



Our next Men's Fellowship breakfast will be on September 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.

FACT: After the September 11th attacks on the World Trade Center, the rescue and recovery clean-up of the 1.8 million tons of wreckage from the WTC site took 9 months.

Lancaster Chapter *of the* American Guild *of* Organists



On Sunday September 24th at 5:30 we are hosting a Cookout/Potluck Dinner followed by an Organ Concert and Hymn Sing by the Lancaster Chapter of the American Guild of

Organists. Before we gather in a Sanctuary at 7 p.m. for an Organ Concert offered to the public, we will have a joint Cookout/Potluck with the Organ Guild in the Pavilion. Please bring your favorite hot or cold dishes for the Potluck and by all means an insatiable appetite. The Concert following the joint meal

will feature various Organists from the Guild playing our 1929 E.M. Skinner Organ (deeded by the Brooklyn Museum of art). Additionally, there will be various Hymn sing selections, and historical information about the Organ which was installed in 1976 but became a source of a lawsuit and lengthy trial because of a discovery that the original Skinner pipes had been stolen. The Organ Guild will also be having a free-will offering at the concert for future upkeep and maintenance of the Organ.

Please invite neighbors, friends, and family to the Cookout/Potluck and the Concert to follow at 7 p.m.



Transportation / Home Tasks / Personal Care / Companionship

1001 E Oregon Road, Lititz PA 17543

Available to serve you or your loved ones!

Phone: [717-366-8613](tel:717-366-8613) Email: contactlah@landis.org

<https://landisathome.org/>

FACT: The September 11 attacks of 2001 caused the deaths of **2,996 people**, including 2,977 victims and 19 hijackers who committed murder–suicide. Thousands more were injured, and long-term health effects have arisen because of the attacks.

Movie Recommendations

Now Playing on Netflix- JESUS REVOLUTION PG-13 2hr

is an accurate, compressed portrait of the hippies and Vietnam War protestors who find Jesus because God calls several Christians to tell them about Jesus Christ. The plot is propelled by a love story between an impoverished young man, Greg Laurie, with an alcoholic mother, and Cathe, a beautiful young woman from a wealthy Southern California family.



**In Theatres July 4th - Sound of Freedom
PG- 13 2hr 11 min**

The incredible true story of a former government agent turned vigilante who embarks on a dangerous mission to rescue hundreds of children from sex traffickers.



This year- 2023- is 91 years since the American Baptist Women throughout the USA began this “over & above” offering. This collecting of coins and bills has helped support the full range of American Baptist Mission since 1932. At that time the women of American Baptist Churches were challenged to raise \$150,000.

Today Love Gift is still an “over & above” gift that supports the United Missions of our American Baptist Churches, USA, providing support for the full range of mission activities regionally, nationally, and internationally. This year Westgate Women and the full congregation have given a penny shy of \$275.00 to Love Gift. On September 24 you’ll have an opportunity following worship to add to those coins and bills.



Thank you ~ Marie A. Mohn; ABW Love Gift Coordinator

FACT: On Sept. 11, 2001, **343** firefighters died, lost in the collapse of buildings, from smoke inhalation and from more of the devastating impacts that day.

Birthdays & Anniversaries- July & August

Birthdays

9/1 Samantha Thamavong
 9/9 Kay Cameron
 Rachel Stump
 9/10 Donal Miller
 9/11 Woody White
 9/20 Clair Martin
 Annie Saylor
 9/22 Bonnie Campbell



Anniversaries

9/2/2008 John & Ruth Hessen
 9/16/1967 Jim & Kay Cameron
 9/22/2018 Will & Samantha Thamavong
 9/29/2019 Luis & Rosy Guillen



Treasurer's Report

| | |
|--------------------------|-------------------|
| August 2023 | \$8,691.00 |
| Budget Income | \$7,611.00 |
| Non-budget income | \$1,080.00 |

Church WORD SEARCH

| | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| M | B | H | F | C | T | H | E | F | C | Y | T | H | H | S |
| I | T | O | R | P | E | N | V | V | Y | H | T | G | T | O |
| S | E | F | O | D | H | O | E | Y | O | A | U | N | H | J |
| S | M | K | L | K | P | I | D | M | B | L | I | R | E | B |
| I | P | I | P | B | O | P | V | B | A | A | U | S | C | F |
| O | L | L | P | S | R | F | A | V | S | R | U | Q | A | H |
| N | E | M | Z | R | P | S | M | Y | I | S | C | M | U | H |
| A | N | Z | Q | N | O | R | A | O | C | L | I | A | W | O |
| R | A | V | S | F | N | D | V | H | R | L | F | G | S | B |
| I | L | W | G | R | R | E | R | I | Y | M | B | N | B | V |
| E | M | D | Y | E | D | I | S | A | V | I | O | R | X | B |
| S | V | P | T | N | S | H | T | I | A | F | O | N | P | T |
| Q | N | T | B | T | D | O | G | F | O | D | L | I | H | C |
| R | A | F | W | Z | G | S | A | S | T | F | Q | V | Y | Q |
| L | C | H | O | O | S | E | T | H | E | R | I | G | H | T |

| | | |
|------------------|-------------------|-----------|
| BOOK OF MORMON | FAMILY | PROPHET |
| CHILD OF GOD | JESUS CHRIST | SABBATH |
| CHOOSE THE RIGHT | LATTER DAY SAINTS | SACRAMENT |
| CHURCH | LOVE | SAVIOR |
| FAITH | MISSIONARIES | TEMPLE |