

DEVOTED TO THE RIGHT CALL

“Suppose one of you wants to build a tower. Will he not first sit down and estimate the cost to see if he has enough money to complete it?”

(Luke 14:27-28)

If you ask people “*what matters most in life*” you will receive a wide range of answers: peace, love, joy - just to name a few of the typical replies. When Jesus was asked that question, He replied that what matters most is to “*love God with all your heart, soul, mind, and strength*” and to “*love your neighbor as yourself.*” This means that while peace, love, and joy are important things to have in our life they actually only come about when we are first devoted to what GOD says is most important. After all, God is the One who created us. So God knows even better than we do how we have been designed to live.

Unfortunately, we humans have not always listened to what God has to say about what matters most in life, striking out on our own to decide for ourselves, or striving to make a specific thing what matters most because we like it or desire it. Then we wonder why we do not experience peace, love, and joy. To help us with this, we are going to spend the Sundays of June listening to what Jesus’ first disciples believed about being devoted to what matters most in life. Each week, you will be invited to read a scripture passage ahead of time, spend time in prayer asking God to reveal how what you are reading applies to you and our church, and then participate in worship on Sunday to take another step toward being devoted to what God says matters most in life. Here are the scriptures to read:

Before each Sunday, read Acts 2:41-47

For June 6, also read	2 Timothy 3:10-17
For June 13, also read	1 Corinthians 12: 12-20
For June 20, also read	1 Corinthians 11:17-26
For June 27, also read	Colossians 4:2-6

As we move through what is hopefully the beginning of the end of the pandemic, being devoted to what God says matters most will become more important than ever. For the difficulties we are experiencing in 2021 are very much like those of the 1st century. So learning what those first disciples believed will help us not only be as devoted to what matters most as much as they were, but also help us see God move in the same mighty ways through us that He moved through them so long ago. **Pastor Lloyd** @lfspeer3

TRUSTEE WORK DAY

We need helpers to come to church on Saturday, June 5 (from 9 am to 12 noon). The trustees will be cleaning up the prayer garden, flower beds out front, and removing a small dead tree, along with some minor yard work.

RETURN TO THREE WORSHIP SERVICES

As more and more people are getting vaccinated and seeking to return to in-person worship, we want to make sure we have enough room to continue safe social distancing. To help with that, we are going to return to having three worship services NEXT SUNDAY, June 6, 2021. Since we also want to continue to be able to allow people to enter and leave the sanctuary without too much crowding and continue to clean/sanitize after each service, the times for the three services will be as follows:

8:00 a.m. Traditional Service
9:30 a.m. Contemporary Service
11:00 a.m. Traditional Service

PLEASE NOTE: this means the first service will restart 15 minutes earlier than pre-Covid (8:00 a.m. instead of 8:15 a.m.), and the second service will be return to its pre-Covid time (9:30 a.m.). The third service will continue at its regular time (11:00 a.m.).

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

As always, VBS is planned for the last week of June. Like last year, however, we will not be having an in person program, but will provide links to a video based experience that you can do with friends, family, and neighbors. There will also be a craft packet that you will be able to pick up at the church on Sunday afternoon, June 27. More details about VBS will be in the June newsletter.

SUMMER CAMP

Last year, all conference camps were canceled due to the pandemic. Since we are hopeful that health restrictions will continue to be lessened over the summer as more and more people are vaccinated, conference camps will be open this summer – with a variety of safety protocols in place and lessened attendance to allow for safe social distancing. If your child would like to go to camp, the link for Pocono Plateau is: <https://www.poconoplateau.org> Partial scholarships from the church are available. Talk to Sarah Hicks or contact the office.

MISSION PARTNER FOR JUNE

Our Mission Partner for June is Red Bird Mission. We will partner with them by collecting money for the maintenance of their numerous ministry vehicles. The vehicles are used for their medical and dental clinics, for their food and clothing distribution ministries, and for their home repair ministries. The vehicles they use for those ministries are typically passed down to them after the high school they also operate replaces them with new vehicles, so they typically have high mileage and need regular repair and maintenance. As in past years, we will place a red paper "truck" in a sanctuary window for each donation.

THE GIVING GARDEN

The food grown in our church garden goes to our monthly "Blessing Box" ministry. But to do that, we need help watering, harvesting, and weeding. If you can offer 15 to 30 minutes, join this ministry! You do not have to be a passionate gardener, and we have tools and gloves you can use. Maybe you can plan to stop and help either before or after your errands, or on your way home from work? It is not hard to fit into your schedule, if possible. Please contact Karen MacLaren or Becky Teenie in the office if you would be interested in helping out this upcoming season.

BLESSINGS MINISTRY

There are many people in need in our community. We are trying to help some of them through what we are now calling our BLESSINGS MINISTRY. This ministry has two components. First, on the first Saturday of each month (April 3 this month) we will distribute food donated to us from Wawa. We are calling this "Bags of Blessings." Second, on the third Saturday of each month (April 17 this month), we will distribute food donated by our members. We are calling this "Boxes of Blessings." [While we do have a few business partners who continue to offer us some help in this, most of this part of our blessings ministry now depends on the contributions of our members. **IN PARTICULAR, WE NEED CANNED AND NON-PERISHABLE FOOD ITEMS. WE ALSO NEED HELPERS TO PACK BAGS AND BOXES.** Call the church office if you can help us in this important ministry. **NOTE:** If you cannot donate canned goods because you are not out shopping, or can't make it to church or the church office, you can also add a designated gift to your regular giving; just label it as "Blessings Ministry." That will allow those who can shop to get the items we need to purchase the food items we need.

ALTAR FLOWERS

If you would like to sponsor flowers in honor or memory of a loved one, or for any other reason you wish to celebrate, please contact the church office by Wednesday each week. We can still order flowers through Friday but the bulletins are run off on Thursdays so the sponsor/dedication information wouldn't be able to be included in what was printed.

PRAYER REQUESTS

If you would like someone prayed for specifically in Sunday worship please contact the church office by Friday each week. You can also contact Jenn Chrostowski or the office to put someone on the prayer chain in between Sundays. Since we will only list the reasons for praying for particular persons through our prayers chains now that we are broadcasting worship, we invite you to join one of them. One is done by phone, and the other is done by email.

LIVING AS THE BELOVED COMMUNITY

A six week study about unity, diversity, and Christian faith

Genesis declares that humanity was created in the image of God. Since God is a triune being of community, bound together in deferential love, this should lead humans to relate to one another in deferential love. This has often not been the case however. Divisions have occurred. Discord has cropped up. And the color of a person's skin has been the occasion of untold numbers of ungodly acts of prejudice and discrimination. Even amongst Christians. And even when Christians haven't actively participated in such things, sometimes they have sat idly by while God's beloved kingdom has been harmed.

Since God calls us to mirror His ways, you are invited to participate in a journey toward more fully "living as the beloved community." In this journey, we will look what God says about unity and diversity. We will look at what God says about the role faith should have in how we seek unity in the midst of diversity. And we will look at what God says we should do to help Him bring about the beloved community not just one day in heaven, but also in a significant way even in this fallen and sinful world.

To begin this journey, you are asked to watch a TED talk by Jerry Kang BEFORE our first meeting in July. It can be found at:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9VGBwNI6Ssk>

After you watch the video, you are invited to submit to Pastor Lloyd (at lfspeer3@comcast.net) 1 question the presentation raised for you. They will be part of our conversation on the first night of our study.

JUNE BIRTHDAY LIST Send a Card!

- 1 – Kari Ann Narine
- 3 – Emma Sleppy
- 4– Karen Godsell
- 5– Dylan Robinson

- 6- Art Golden
Janet Noel
Christian Quintana
Jan Rogers
- 7- Dave Coons
- 8- Esther Spangenberg
- 11- Jodi Sheaffer
- 13- Russell Buchanan
- 14- Jarrod Bogarde
- 16 - Raquel Richmond
Tina Mammone
Sarah Hicks
- 18 - Blake Stadanlick
- 19 - Kristen Pierce
- 21 – Trudy Trishuk
- 22 – Laura Pilgrin
- 25 – Nancy Axten
Jeff Kay
- 26 – John Kabaci
Marta Small
- 27 – Bill Spangenberg

SCRIP IS AVAILABLE

We are continuing to sell scrip for **Shoprite** and **Giant** food stores, as we receive 5% back from what you spend. We are also continuing to collect receipts from the 5 Brown owned Shoprite stores in the area (from receipts no older than 5 months), and from Redners as we get 1% back. ***To get credit from Redners, you must swipe your card.*** To buy scrip, contact the church office, or Judy Austin. Receipts can be dropped off on Wednesdays from 10 am to 12 pm.

PRAYER SHAWL MINISTRY

If you know of someone in need of the assurance of God's love, please contact Suzanne Generose, Dot Gerhart, Mary Lou Reside, or the church office to get a prayer shawl. Each shawl has been blessed, and comes with the prayers of those who made them

ALUMINUM CANS

Help maintain our church property by putting used aluminum cans in a secure bag or packaging, and placing them in the BROWN BOX at the parsonage end of the parking lot.

FAITH LED ME (From the Heart by Candace Cameron Bure)

Remember playing the game Mother, May I? All the kids lined up and whoever got to be "Mother" stood several feet away and gave the orders. The goal: Cross the finish line first. "Mother" would say "take three giant steps." I'd ask, "Mother, may I?" Once I heard "mother" respond, "Yes, you may" I would stretch my legs and take the biggest three steps possible. Sometimes I would be distracted by the finish line and forget to ask "Mother, may I?" Before my foot hit the ground, I would hear, "you forgot to ask" and I would have to walk back to the finish line. Getting distracted from the goal is easy to do. *"We can make our plans, but the Lord determines our steps."*
Proverbs 16:9

You and I have complete access to the one who knows us and knows best. Sometimes we forget to call on Him for guidance. We make plans, stretch our legs, and take a step. All of the times I have sought Him first, my giant steps have taken me further.

The next decision that comes your way, wait and listen for the "Yes", you may." We really did learn everything we needed to know in kindergarten.

OUR JUNE BOOK LOOK

After last month's challenging book, I decided to read a mystery (my favorite genre). The book I chose is called A New Chapter, by Kristin Eckhardt. It is the first book in the series, Secrets of Mary's Bookshop. (yes, we have the series) I'll tell you up front, that if you are a serious reader, you'll probably find this book too easy. But that is part of its enjoyment.

Set in the fictional town of Ivy Bay, this novel is about Mary Fischer, a 62-year-old who is trying to create a new chapter in her a life by building the bookshop she had always dreamed of owning. However, the bookshop was broken into before it even opened for business. The odd thing was that nothing of value was taken, except an old photograph of the front of the store, that pictured Mary's Uncle George and a mystery lady. I had fun trying to figure out the why and the who of this stolen photo!

Being a lover of mystery and detective stories, Mary sought to find the intruder. While doing so, she finds that life isn't always what we see in the present, as her family has a dark past and the town has many secrets. Sometimes

the past comes back to haunt us and choices must be made to deal with results from past actions. A soft tone of God's love and support fill this book and leads Mary down the right paths in her life and her detective work.

This book combines everything that I love in simpler novels - a serene town, bookshops, libraries, cupcakes (yes, cupcakes), mystery and the unfailing faith and forgiveness of people who believe in the Lord and those who choose to see the goodness in others. The entire series of The Secrets of Mary's Bookshop is in our church library. I suggest you start with [A New Chapter](#) by Kristin Eckhardt. Enjoy!