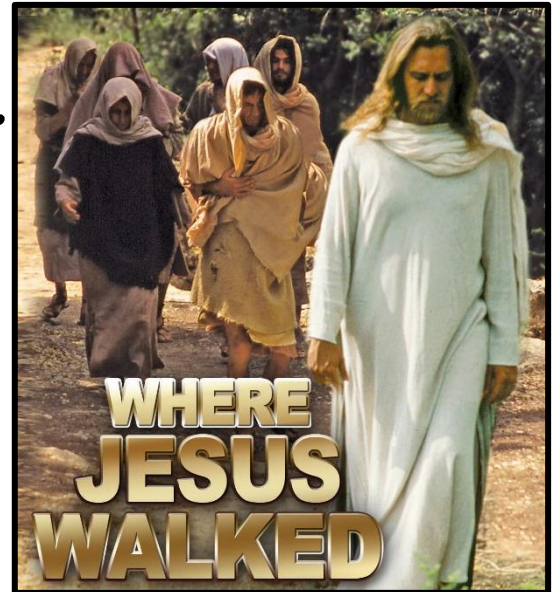


# *The Pastor's Pen...*

## **July/August 2022**

*I walked today where Jesus walked,  
In days of long ago.  
I wandered down each path He knew,  
With reverent step and slow.  
Those little lanes, they have not changed,  
A sweet peace fills the air.  
I walked today where Jesus walked,  
And felt His presence there.*

—by Daniel S. Twohig



Kathie and I recently spent six days in Israel, visiting the places that were near and dear to our Lord. It is very difficult to describe with accuracy what we experienced there, yet with all my heart I wish for you to have the opportunity to make the pilgrimage too.

Our first day was spent along the Sea of Galilee. While no small pond by any means, the lake was not as vast as I pictured it in my mind. To be on Galilee is to feel at peace. There on the mount where Jesus gave the beatitudes in Matthew 5 there was a quiet, thoughtful reverence as pilgrims re-read the passage with the lake in the background.

One of my highlights on the trip was the visit to the Galilee baptismal site on the Jordan River. Like my predecessor, Alexander Mack, I was baptized by a good friend whereupon I, in turn, baptized the others – seventeen in all. I could picture Jesus as he was baptized by his cousin, John.

Other highlights included being at the site where Jesus reinstated Peter (Do you love me more than these?); being on the Mount of Olives, overlooking the city of Jerusalem; placing my hand on the rock of Gethsemane where Jesus prayed, “not my will by Thy will be done.”

I loved, loved, loved being in Bethlehem and praying next to the marker that recognizes the official birthplace of Jesus. Quite honestly, the City of Bethlehem was one of the main reasons I wanted to take the tour and I was not disappointed. In my June 26 sermon, I mentioned praying at the wailing wall and then witnessing the parade of families celebrating a bar mitzvah with great joy.

But the ultimate highlight was the privilege of leading our group in bread and cup communion when we visited what possibly was the empty tomb of Jesus. It was a powerful and emotional moment.

The Christians in Israel say the Holy Land is the “Fifth Gospel” because it helps visualize and clarify Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John. My only regret is that Kathie and I took the trip in the twilight of my ministry as it would have been so helpful to have taken it twenty years earlier. But then was not God’s time. I am thankful for the time we spent both in ministry and in the Holy Land and I would do it again in a heartbeat.

--- **Joel**



## **What's Happening in Worship**

July 3: Share the Love and Make the Connection

Romans 15:1-7

ANNUAL CONFERENCE EMPHASIS

July 10: **Worship and Fellowship in Norlo Park @ 11 a.m.**

Rev. Marilyn Hubbard, preaching

July 17: Sister Ali Toms, preaching

July 24: The Three Deadly Things

John 3:-10 NRSV

July 31: My Favorite Sermon One More Time

Mark 5:21-34 NIV

Sunday, August 7<sup>th</sup> thru Sunday, September 4<sup>th</sup>:

FINAL SERIES *Dear Younger Me – What I Wish I*

*Would Have Known, Would Have Felt, Would Have Done*

### Baptism Invitation

I've had a request for a baptism during the 8:30 a.m. service of worship. This would be my final baptism at 4<sup>th</sup> Street.

If you've ever considered being baptized into the Body of Christ or re-baptized OR if you've thought about bringing your church membership to 4<sup>th</sup> Street, this would be a great opportunity for you and a final opportunity for me as your pastor.

Please speak with me ASAP. I will be happy to meet with you, explain the biblical precedent for baptism and/or membership, and reserve your spot for the service. The tentative date is Sunday, August 28<sup>th</sup>.



Combined Sunday School is continuing through August 28th from 9:30 to 10:30 a.m. We will meet in the Mini Fellowship Hall pending attendance. (Back up location is the sanctuary.)

Class will begin with class happenings, prayer requests, etc. Lesson will begin at approximately 9:40 a.m.

Director, Gretchen Sortzi will be presenting this multi-generational series entitled Harnessing Hope. If you've never been to Sunday School, give it a try. If you are faithful attendee, I can't wait to learn with you.

Drop the kids and grandkids in their class, join the adult class, and enjoy a lesson the whole family can talk about.

### **HARNESSING HOPE SUMMER SERIES**

#### The Month of July

July 3 <sup>d</sup>	A Godly Mindset
July 10 <sup>th</sup>	NO SUNDAY SCHOOL
July 17 <sup>th</sup>	Emotional Well-Being
July 24 <sup>th</sup>	Soul & Spirit
July 31 <sup>st</sup>	The Physical

#### The Month of August

August 7 <sup>th</sup>	Put the Rock Down
August 14 <sup>th</sup>	Let it Go
August 21 <sup>st</sup>	The Art of Love
August 28 <sup>th</sup>	Bringing it all together
August 28 <sup>th</sup>	Small Covered Dish Lunch after Church 30 Minute Closing Presentation – Harnessing Hope

# A NOTE FROM GRETCHEN,

May and June were both very busy months in the Christian Education department. We celebrated a year-end Youth Group party, Graduation Sunday, a Lock-In, and Sunday School kick off the same weekend with Vacation Bible School the next! It was a wild time of fun and celebration. I am so pleased with our success.

Vacation Bible School saw 55 students registered and 43 attendees on our highest day. With about two weeks of preparation and limited time to market, a successful week was still achieved. Over 95 people joined us for our hotdog roast, three families for Sunday School, five families in P.E.R.K. service, and fifteen kids performing. We also created 100 Hope Boxes for the local community. WOW! What a monumental month! Thank you to those who donated foods for snacks. Snack time was a successful part of a fun week of Bible School. Thank you for helping to make it a success! Thank you to everyone who helped in this great adventure.

Our Sunday School classes have completed their first full month as we work on Harnessing Hope. In our first month, we learned about the greatest hope of all, Jesus, the way, the truth, and the life. As a class, we challenged ourselves each week to achieve new goals and reach higher levels of love. Our student and toddler classes have been learning the same material and the fluid learning throughout the church is starting to show! Have you seen the W, T, L yet?

July begins our second month where we find hope within ourselves. There is so much learning and the material is fun and energizing. If you haven't attended Sunday school this summer, now is the time!!! Remember, Jesus doesn't take the summer off, the evening off; he doesn't take time off. We as a church have a chance to increase our momentum through the summer. We can choose to make this the highest attended, closet to Jesus summer we've ever had. What are you waiting for?

As you probably expect, I have big plans in the works for new programs and activities to encourage more young families to come see all that we have to offer. I cannot thank the church enough for its unfailing support as I've gotten comfortable in this position. This church is MONUMENTAL!

Be blessed,

Gretchen Sortzi

[gretchen@chambcob.org](mailto:gretchen@chambcob.org)

Director of Christian Education & Youth Ministries



Pastor Joel's last Sunday with us will be on Sunday, September 4, 2022. There will be one combined service at 10:00 a.m. in the Sanctuary with a reception to follow worship. Plan to attend and help us celebrate Pastor Joel!

Sunday, September 11<sup>th</sup> at 4:30 p.m. will be the Church Picnic at Twin Bridge Campground, 1345 Twin Bridge Rd, Chambersburg. All the details coming in the September Pastor's Pen!



## Additions to the Library.....

*Eight Twenty Eight* by Ian & Larissa Murphy. Two college students are in love and planning their marriage. Then a terrible accident --How do they go on?

*Ghost Soldiers* by Hampton Sides. The story of how POWs banded together to survive in the Philippines during WWII.

*Tabors Creek* by Mona Papoutsis. This is fiction based on fact. The husband in the hills of W. Va. runs a still. The Feds find him and he shoots them, when they wreck his stills. He is hiding in the woods. The shaken family take off in his car. His money is in the car! He vows to find and shoot them!

DVD- *A Dog's Purpose*- A delightful story of a devoted dog.

DVD- *An Interview with God*- what would you ask God??

**Summer Office Hours** – Beginning on Friday, June 3, 2022 and for each Friday thereafter our church office will close at 12 noon.  
Regular Friday hours will resume on Friday, September 9, 2022.



## **WORSHIP SERVICE AND COOKOUT AT NORLO PARK (ROUTE 30 EAST)**

**When: Sunday, July 10<sup>th</sup>**  
**Time: 11 a.m. Worship. Meal to follow.**

Our fellowship has been invited to join Pastor Lois Waters and Unity of Christ Church, the Cedar Street Mennonite Church, Overflow Community Church, John Wesley AME Zion and St. James AME Church for a six-church worship service and lunch at Norlo Park.

Rev. Marilyn Hubbard of St. James will bring the message. Others will take part in the worship.

Please plan to come and enjoy a meal of BBQ chicken, hotdogs, burgers, cole slaw, macaroni and potato salad, beverage and dessert.

\*Bring your lawn chairs and your offering.

**No church services** will be held at Chambersburg COB on that day.



**Ladies of Strength Training** will begin a 12-week class on Tuesday, August 30, 2022, through Thursday, November 17, 2022, from 10 a.m. to 11 a.m. The class includes the use of leg and arm weights along with stretching and balancing. You will need your own weights, a towel, and a bottle of water. A fee will be collected to support church maintenance.

Contact Karen Wagner for additional information: call or text 717-504-3949 or e-mail [rkwagn@comcast.net](mailto:rkwagn@comcast.net).



Summer has been very busy at the preschool. I plan to have a 4-week summer camp that runs from June 27-July 29. The theme is trains and the life of Paul. I am looking forward to having seven students join us for this great time.

During July and August, I will be preparing for the upcoming school year. We can't wait to meet our new students. We currently have 18 students enrolled for the 2022-2023 school year.

### **August/September Events**

August 30<sup>th</sup> - Smart Cookies Preschool Orientation (6:30 PM)

September 6<sup>th</sup> - First Day of School for 5-day students

September 7<sup>th</sup>- First Day of School for 3-day students



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Smart Cookies Preschool is looking for volunteers to help in the classroom. You can volunteer for a full- day (9:30 AM-2:30 PM) or you can volunteer for ½ of the day (9:30 AM-12:00 PM or 12:00 PM-2:30 PM). If you are interested in volunteering, please let Carol Wingert know.



Dear Church Family,  
Bob and I want you to know how much you are loved and how special you are to us and to God. Your cards, prayers and visits have been such a warm encouragement. So uplifting.

We have had our share of medical problems this year. We take one day at a time. We do feel so blessed by God. Thank you for your support and prayers for the loss of our nephew. Please continue praying for his parents Mike and Deb; sister Christy and daughter Karsyn. She is 16. We know each of you have had and still have your daily walk and your personal problems. We continue to pray for our church families.

**---Love and Prayers,  
Bob and Gail Appenzellar**

Many Thanks to Pastor Joel and this amazing Congregation. The death of my husband, Jacob, brought cards, calls, prayers & teabag. At times I felt caught up in a HUGE group hug. Words are not enough so Humbly, I say Thank You each.

**---Lora Bucher & family.**

Dear Chambersburg COB Fellow Travelers,

Many thanks for the prayers, calls and cards that came our way to encourage us over my most recent health concern. May the good Lord bless you and keep us as we travel this pathway of life together.

**---"HEY" Harold Yeager**

I would like to thank Pastor Joel for his visits and prayers with me, and the church family for the cards and prayers during my hip surgery.

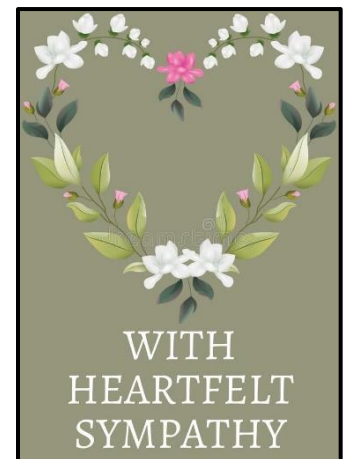
**---Evelyn Laughlin**

I would like to thank everyone for their prayers, cards, and phone calls after my recent surgery. Thank you to Pastor Joel for the visits before and after my surgery. Praise God for healing!

**---Denise Garnes**

**On behalf of the Raymond S.**

**Hawbaker** family, we thank you all for your expressions of love and support through cards, prayers, food, phone calls, and visits. Special thanks to Pastor Joel and Liz Thorpe for their visits, the Women's Ministry of the church and the Deacons for preparing and serving the meal, and to all those who helped make the Celebration of Life service possible. Everything has been greatly appreciated during this time of loss. We are blessed to have such a wonderful church family.



**Our Sympathy to:**

June Hawbaker; Linda Hawbaker; Carol and Jere Wingert; Nancy and Bryan Hoke; Nicholas and Samuel Wingert; Eugene Hawbaker and Family and Mabel Hawbaker following the death of their husband, father, grandfather, brother and brother-in-law Raymond S. Hawbaker on Monday, June 13, 2022.





## Neighborhood Block Party, Wednesday, August 3<sup>rd</sup>!

A neighborhood Block Party will be held as part of Mid-Week Connection on Wednesday, August 3<sup>rd</sup>. A meal will be provided that you can take out or dine here outdoors. Park your car and enjoy your meal outside and enjoy other activities such as corn hole, games, face painting and ice-cream! Mark your calendar now and plan to attend!

# Newsletter

## Newsletter Deadline

**Deadline for September Pastor's Pen** is Sunday, August 21, 2022

Please submit all information to the church office.

## Finances at a Glance June 26, 2022

Not, how much of my money will I give to God, but how much of God's money will I keep for myself.

---John Wesley

\*\*\*\*\*

Unified Budget Received Year-to-Date  
\$189,424.91



**WHAT: Mid-Week to Go.....**

**WHEN:** Wednesday, July 6, 2022  
5:30 p.m. - 6:15 p.m.

**WHERE:** Chambersburg COB

Meal delivered to your car!  
First come-first served basis.

*260 South Fourth Street  
Chambersburg, PA 17201  
717-264-6957*

*Mid-Week Connection's purpose is connecting our Brethren family to the community through fellowship and service.*



**CARLISLE FIRST  
CHURCH OF THE BRETHREN**

**SATURDAY, JULY 23, 2022**

**3:00 P.M. to 9:00 P.M.**

**LIVE MUSIC**

**6:30 P.M. to 7:30 P.M.**

**\$13.00 (plus donation)**

**Meal Includes: chicken, beans, baked potato and roll**



**BENEFIT FOR THE  
CHILDREN'S AID SOCIETY**

