



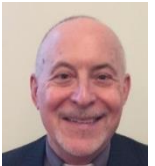
October 2020

A Monthly Update in the Life of our Church

Contact

Creating spiritual practices for strength

Our souls, like our bodies, flourish with regular exercise



My high school Phys Ed teachers liked to say “no pain/no gain.”

That was their refrain after I or a classmate complained that a particularly rigorous exercise, group jog or sporting game had left our poor bodies hurting. The benefits will come later, they implied.

This pastor likes to say “no gain now means more pain later.”

If you don’t strengthen your faith now, I maintain, it will not fully support you during tough or even tragic times.

And with shorter days, colder nights and more time inside just six or eight weeks away, what are you doing to build up your spiritual resistance and endurance ?

What if the combination of seasonal flu and the Covid virus leads to more social restrictions and stay-at-home orders?

Solitary praying, solitary reading and solitary listening to spiritual music or messages may be just what the pastor ordered in these times of uncertainty. Just 20 minutes of spiritual downtime is a powerful antidote to isolation, stress and “the bad news blues.”

What’s in your spiritual wallet?

Here are some general tips on developing meaningful spiritual practices. Some I gleaned from reading, others from talking with pastoral peers and some I just developed myself.

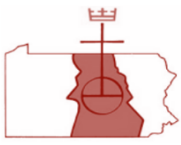
Feel free to adapt, mix or match!

- Schedule your spiritual practice on an electronic or manual calendar. You do it with social, medical or professional appointments, so why not for your spiritual life and faith practices?
- Be realistic about the duration and frequency of your practices. It’s better to schedule 15 minutes of prayer three times weekly that you will honor vs. five weekly sessions of 30 minutes that is uncertain.
- Pick a location that is free from distractions and interruptions. Consider a favorite outdoor spot, bring a folding chair and dress accordingly. Meeting God out in nature is powerful.
- Combine your spiritual practice with exercise. Walk, jog or bicycle with God as companion. Mother Nature is God’s first Bible. Enjoy God’s creation; marvel at the fall colors too!

Add music or background chanting to the equation if that makes it more powerful. Or perhaps just the sound of a waterfall, rainstorm, ocean waves or gurgling stream while you pray?

- Consider finding a prayer, reflection or reading partner. In these days of Covid, they need not be physically present. You could Zoom with them or just keep in touch by phone later.
- Or perhaps turn a daily routine into a spiritual practice. My mom liked to count her blessing or pray while washing dishes in front of a window that looked out on our backyard and woods.
- Finally, shake up your routines and daily practices in general. While we all crave variety and changes from time to time, schedule your own changes before life circumstances make you.
- PS Our Website has a library of past video services and daily devotions you can revisit. Ask Jorja if you need help to find them.

Blessings,
Pastor Tom Caruso



September 23, 2020

Members and friends of Penn Central Conference

If I speak in the tongues of men and of angels, but have not love, I am only a resounding gong or a clanging cymbal. If I have the gift of prophecy and can fathom all mysteries and all knowledge, and if I have a faith that can move mountains, but have not love, I am nothing. If I give all I possess to the poor and surrender my body to the flames, but have not love, I gain nothing.

I share these opening words from 2 Corinthians 13 with you all today with an invitation to ponder this familiar passage. It is one we often hear at weddings, but these Pauline words weren't originally directed towards newlyweds, but to the Church. It's a passage that reminds us that without love, even our greatest efforts and achievements fall flat. It's a passage that challenges us to love one another patiently, humbly, graciously, truthfully, and with perseverance.

I have spent my life in the Church and I have been blessed enough to see the love that Paul speaks about here demonstrated many, many times. It's part of our identity. It's something we, the Church, strive for and something that we don't always get right! (Don't worry, that's where Grace comes in.) It's a love that stays with us not only through celebration, but also through sacrifice, struggle, and conflict.

On Saturday, September 12th, that love filled Hartman Center to the brim. Standing in front of the nearly 200 of you who gathered (and masked, and social distanced) was one of the most humbling and profound experiences of my

lifetime. As I looked out over your faces, I thought to myself "This is Church."

Because, what I saw looking out at all of you wasn't just an easily cohesive group of people, naturally coming together out of convenience or fun, it was something much deeper. I saw a Church, bound in love and bound in our connection to Jesus Christ. When I looked out at you all, I saw a Church which is sustained by a love that isn't dried up in the face of disappointment or anger, but which continues to grow within and through the most challenging of times. Looking out at you all, I saw a Church bound by a love which always perseveres.

Saying goodbye to our beloved Hartman Center is hard. Many of us in the Conference, if not the Conference as a whole entity, grieves its loss. We don't understand the greater Mystery in which we exist, and we wish that God would answer our prayers and comfort our souls. Friends, God is at work in doing just that, but it is not through a massive shift in the universe or a mysterious miracle donation which makes everything "ok." God is at work within us and through one another. God is at work when we recognize the love which binds us, explore what it means to be the Church together, and accept the challenge to love one another with the love of Jesus Christ - patiently, humbly, graciously, truthfully, and with perseverance. Friends, lean on one another through these challenging times, and remember to look for God at work.

Peace,
Zoë D'heedene
Coordinator of Camps/Retreats



Leadership Team September Meeting Highlights

The Leadership Team met on September 10 for its regular monthly meeting. After the flurry of activity brought on by the pandemic for most of this year, it was a welcome respite to realize that we didn't have a lot of pressing issues to discuss. We are continuing to work on the projects that are in process.

Financially, the church is stable at this time. Jonathan presented us with the first look at our 2021 budget. This will be discussed further next month in preparation for the November annual congregation meeting.

We have been considering how we can put our weekly worship videos on DVD to send to shut-ins and other folks who can't attend in-person worship, but who don't have access to a computer with internet access. This will require further investigation to see if it is something we can do.

Jan Stong will be coordinating outreach to a few of our members who are in need of support at this time. She will be reaching out to the congregation for help. She will also collect paper towels for the Bethesda mission until October 4. Audrey Baker will coordinate the virtual crop walk on October 25.

Pastor Tom presented his pastor report. He has enjoyed incorporating non-traditional music into our services recently, in a blended format, and will continue to do so. He is also considering offering a monthly prayer group by Zoom. More details will be provided as they are available. Pastor Tom will be taking a well-deserved Sunday off in September, October, and November.

After Jorja's vacation, she will return to the office on September 21, on her full five-day Monday through Friday, 9 am -12 pm schedule. We hope she had a relaxing vacation. We are appreciative of all her hard work in keeping Redeemer's operations running smoothly!

Thank you to George Kapp for assisting us with developing an ad to run in the Merchandiser. We look forward to the opportunity to reach more people who may want to worship with us.

Rev. Dr. Marisa Laviola unfortunately was not able to meet the congregation in person on September 20. We did have a lovely worship with her by zoom, and will make plans sometime soon to have her visit us in person to address

the congregation about the search process and answer any questions.

Our next Leadership Team meeting will be held on October 8 at 7pm. As always, please reach out to the Leadership Team if you have any questions, comments, or concerns.



Respectfully submitted,
Kim Merkert
Leadership Team Chair

An Autumn Petition

As Summer into Autumn slips,*

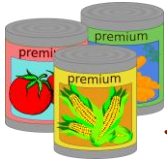
Oh, give me grace today,

*To rise and turn as Summer's
leaves*

*Draw life and strength from
heavenly rays.*

*Guideposts Four Simple Prayers for Fall
First line from Emily Dickenson





Fall Happenings at Redeemer

The Annual Redeemer Food Drive, "Fill the Sills" in support of the Hershey Food Bank begins on October 1 through November 29. Non-perishable food items will be accepted and displayed on the windowsills in the sanctuary. Items will be delivered to the Food Bank in time for its holiday distributions. Last year, our building use partners also participated in the drive to *fill the sills*, helping us to surpass previous drives. Audrey Baker will spearhead the project again this year, and seeks volunteers to help gather donations and deliver them to the Food Bank in November. Please see or contact Audrey Baker for more information and thank you for your help to assist our neighbors in need during the holiday season. **Thank you** for participating in this year's drive. Let's try to surpass last year's drive of more than 200 pounds of food!

"Share the Bounty" Paper Towel Drive Ends Sunday October 4th

Months back, Bethesda Mission reached out to local churches to solicit donations of paper towels. Sadly, we originally planned the drive for May, but something called Covid-19 got in the way... Of course, we all know that paper towels are an essential item in every household. An emergency shelter program is no different and, unfortunately, paper towels are not easy to come by through emergency food and household goods donation programs, making it difficult for social service agencies to access these items at low cost.

That's where you come in! The pile is growing thanks to wonderful donors who have been placing donations on the pew in the lobby. **Keep them coming!** We have a little over 1 more week to go. **Bethesda Mission** thanks you for your support, and thanks to Jan Stong for coordinating this effort.



Annual UCC Homes Gift Card Drive is Coming! It's hard to believe that the Christmas Season is just around the corner. UCC Homes has contacted us and asked us to consider supporting their Gift Card Drive again this year. More details are to come on this in the November CONTACT. Audrey Baker will be helping to coordinate this effort again this year. If you are willing to assist in this campaign, please see or reach out to Audrey.



They're Back! What a pleasant surprise to see a new batch of painted rocks placed by the water garden this week. The rocks, lovingly painted by volunteers of "Set In Stone Hidden Rocks", share fun and inspirational messages. They are for the taking and meant for you to enjoy, so don't be shy! If you see one you particularly like, TAKE IT, enjoy it, and pass it on to another spot for someone else to enjoy too!



October Special Celebrations

Birthdays... Have a happy one!

- Tom Bell
- Dave Sube
- Bill Wenrich
- Anita Wenrich

Anniversaries ... Congratulations!

- Mr. & Mrs. Larry Wagner



September 2020 Worship Attendance

	Date	Attended	Total
September	09/06/20	22	22
	09/13/20	16	16
<i>average</i>	09/20/20	19	19
<i>19</i>	09/27/20	19	19

Organ Repair Campaign Successful

Halleluiah! The campaign goal of \$15,500 to cover the organ repairs has been met! Any additional funds received for the campaign will be devoted to ongoing maintenance including tuning.

Thank you for your support of this important project.

Pumpkins in the cornfields,
Gold among the brown,
Leaves of rust and scarlet
Trembling slowly down.
Birds that travel southward,
Lovely time to play,
Nothing is as pleasant
As an Autumn day!



Taking Action for Anti-Racism

Many people in our community are learning about, reading about, and talking about racism. Many also wonder what they can do about it. This interactive dialogue will focus on understanding the issues, identifying systemic racism and its impact in our own communities, exploring solutions, and finding concrete ways to take action. Presenters will share lessons learned on ways members of our community can translate good intentions around anti-racism to community-based action toward anti-racism.

This 3-part Zoom Series will discuss current events related to George Floyd, Amy Cooper, Breonna Taylor, and Ahmaud Arbery and more, sharing strategies for communicating about difficult topics. Changing the harmful impacts of racism will require building a personal accountability and commitment to take action. This workshop series will strive to center the voices and experiences of People of Color and promote accountability for white aspiring allies. Learn more [here](#).

Sunday Afternoons - October 4, 18 & 25 – 1 PM

Questions - Contact Pastor Fields, 717-867-1641 or Ali Perrotto, 717-270-6972x361

Presented by Christ Church UCC, Annville - Recommended enrollment fee: \$20 per person



Prayers of Healing Touch for

Sharon Thomas as she recovers from her nasty fall and two broken ankles

Kemmy Himmelberger asks for continued good health

Gary Mastrangelo following a medical test and treatment decisions

Prayers of Support and Strength for

Bev Patton's 88-year-old cousin ***Joyce Meck*** and her 90-year-old husband, ***Ernest***, who were robbed at knife point

The family of ***Tom Welsh***, who was diagnosed with dementia and living at home in his family's care

Marakay, friend of Pastor Tom's, who has been diagnosed with cancer

Lois Wood as she adjusts to her new home

Prayers Comfort for the Families of

Jean Patterson, Pam Mongold's aunt, who passed away as the last of her father's 13 siblings.

William Whitehaus, Dick Conrad's cousin, who passed away recently



Prayers for the Larger Community for those who serve and protect; for those in government who make decisions that affect our world, our country, our commonwealth, and our communities.

Prayers of support and gratitude for first responders and those in the medical field continuing to fight to keep us safe and care for those impacted by Covid-19 as we mourn the 200,000+ lives lost in our country and nearly 1,000,000 worldwide.





October 2020

nday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1 12pm Nooner AA 12pm FP Fall Food Drive Begins	2 12pm Nooner AA 6:30 PM Kiss AA	3 7am Sunrise AA 12pm KISS AA
						
4 9:15am Worship World Communion Sunday Paper Towel Drive Ends 3pm KISS AA	5 12pm Nooner 7:30pm OA	6 9am FARA 12pm Nooner AA 8:30am Hershey Ministerium Mtg	7 12pm Nooner 6:30pm KISS AA	8 12pm Nooner AA 12pm FP 7pm LT Mtg	9 12pm Nooner AA 6:30 PM Kiss AA	10 7am Sunrise AA 9am PCC Board of Directors 12pm KISS AA
11 9:15am Worship 3pm KISS AA 6:30pm IPA	12 12pm Nooner 7:30pm OA	13 9am FARA 12pm Nooner AA	14 12pm Nooner 6:30pm KISS AA SCRIP Orders Due!	15 10am Pastor's Community of Practice Mtg 12pm Nooner AA 12pm FP	15 12pm Nooner AA 6:30 PM Kiss AA	17 7am Sunrise AA 12pm KISS AA
18 9:15am Worship Nancy Kapp preaching 3pm KISS AA	19 12pm Nooner 7-8pm Soup for the Soul 7:30pm OA CONTACT SUBMISSION DEADLINE!	20 9am FARA 10am Hbg. Ministerium Mtg Penbrook UCC 12pm Nooner AA	21 12pm Nooner 6:30pm KISS AA SCRIP Order Arrives	22 10am PCC Interim Ministry Group 12pm Nooner AA 12pm FP	23 12pm Nooner AA 6:30 PM Kiss AA	24 7am Sunrise AA 12pm KISS AA
25 9:15am Worship CROP WALK Donations Due! 3pm KISS AA 6:30pm IPA	26 12pm Nooner 7:30pm OA	27 9am FARA 12pm Nooner AA	28 12pm Nooner 6:30pm KISS AA	29 12pm Nooner AA 12pm FP	30 12pm Nooner AA 6:30 PM Kiss AA	31 7am Sunrise AA 12pm KISS AA Happy Halloween! 

Notes

Annual Redeemer "FILL THE SILLS" Food Drive: October 1 through November 22
CROP WALK Donations: NOW through October 25 – Donation basket is located in the sanctuary

Crop Walk 2020 Set for October 25

WALK...GIVE...CHANGE THE WORLD

Our community believes in ending hunger and, in 2020, we will continue to fight against the new challenges of disease and disaster that leave people hungry. Join with us to help raise fund to help our neighbors get the food they need.

Due to the continuing health crisis, CROP WALK 2020 will be a virtual, self-paced walk. Make a step goal for yourself and others or commit to raising funds in support of the Hershey and Hummelstown Food Pantries and Church World Service. Pray, meditate, and prepare to serve the world who continues to struggle with hunger.

This year, donations will be accepted October 1 through October 25. Checks are to be made out to **Crop Walk/Church World Service**. A basket will be located in the rear of the sanctuary marked Crop Walk. Checks may also be sent to the church office.

Thank you to Audrey Baker, Annette Mastrangelo, and Suzanne Cook for coordinating this year's effort. **Questions?** Please see or reach out to any of these ladies or call the church office!

Plan your walk

- Choose a specific time to walk with by yourself or with a few friends where social distancing is possible.
- Choose where to walk: a parking lot, city park or neighborhood block. Plan a hike on a local trail or plan out how many times you might walk your backyard to count up your steps toward a goal! Or come up with your own activity to mark the occasion.
- Please abide by local, state and CDC guidelines for health and safety.
- Tell your story on your own personal page. Record and post your own video, sharing why you are involved and challenging others to join you by donating and raising funds.
- Share your video on social media, tag your friends and potential donors.
- Connect to the why of walking. Bring your whole self, and spirit into this work!
- Pray or meditate each day leading up to the Walk.
- On your Walk Day, open with a prayer for the vulnerable and set aside time for quiet reflection or active excitement.
- As you Walk, safely fellowship with your group as you join in solidarity with others near and far.
- Post pictures of you and your team on social media – and be sure to tag them with #VirtualCROPHungerWalk or #EndHungerNow.

Share a picture of yourself with the church office so we can post it on our Redeemer Facebook and web pages!

This is new to all of us, and we welcome ideas and suggestions about how to virtually bring everyone together while we help as many hungry people here and around the world as we possibly can. We are being called, more than ever, to step up and make a REAL difference!! Our local hunger agencies and CWS will need our support even more after this crisis is over.

Together, we can help end hunger in our community and around the world.



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Contact us at (717) 533-7300
or email at
info@redeemerchurchucc.org

Be sure to visit us on Facebook
page and our website at
www.redeemerchurchucc.org

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The October issue of CONTACT is sponsored by Dwight and Lorna Davis in honor of their son Nathan and his wife Adrianna's wedding anniversary.

