

THE PARK BENCH



Greetings in the name of The Lord,

April was a busy month. Easter Sunday was filled with joy and saw the addition of six new members to our congregation as well as two baptisms. And things on the horizon over the next few months do not appear to show any signs of slowing down. I love it!

In a culture of overstuffed schedules (like mine and yours), it is often difficult to slow down and be mindful of the reason we come together each week to honor the Sabbath. It is a time to find rest and renewal in an increasingly overwhelming week. Our worship time is a time to stop, freeze, and connect with God.

Work. Children. Dinner. An hour at the gym. The cell phone that rings as you pull into your driveway. It makes carving out a day of rest seem like a foreign idea and a difficult one to accomplish at that. But it is hardly an original concept.

The Sabbath day goes all the way back to the Book of Exodus. It is, in fact, the fourth of the Ten Commandments, coming right after the commandment to not take the Lord's name in vain and just ahead of the one about honoring thy father and thy mother.

"Remember the sabbath day, to keep it holy," it says.

The Sabbath was not invented to lure everyone to church one day a week to get their money. It is one of God's eternal principles. In the story of Genesis, God made the world and took the seventh day to rest. God took the seventh day to rest to set a divine example. (The Sabbath) is an eternal principle that was practiced long before it was carved into stone on Mount Sinai. It is a Christian practice to give Sunday, the first day of the week, back to God. It was probably easier to embrace and practice several decades ago when America was a simpler culture, but it became a harder principle to practice as technology made working longer and later not merely possible but even expected. It has become absurdly easy to allow deadlines and obligations to dictate every minute of every day -- to the point that taking time off to worship, to pray or to meditate can seem a waste of time.

Spending 60 to 70 minutes in the presence of God is critical but that brief respite is only the beginning of recapturing a true sense of rest. Simply going to worship is not going to satisfy that hunger for renewal since the rest of the week can easily overwhelm that hour.

One Pastor challenged his congregation with a sermon titled, "An Invitation of Revolution." Make time to rest, he told them, knowing that many of their lives were as full, if not fuller, than his own. In a column in the church's newsletter, he re-enforced the idea.... "I do know that we will never really begin to change things without taking some major steps", and so he told them how to reap for themselves some much-needed downtime by exhorting his flock to do no chores on Sundays. "If mowing the lawn is work, don't do it," he explained. "If working in your garden is something that brings you joy, then maybe that is something that should be allowed."

One Jewish Rabbi agrees. If you want to honor the Sabbath, he says, then you must define -- in your own terms -- what work means to you. (Continued)

So, what does it take to reconnect with the Sabbath? **Discipline!** It takes some discipline; if one doesn't do it regularly, one forgets about it. If we lose that discipline, we lose the spirit of the Sabbath.

It seems to be very good for thought as well as a delicacy for the soul....Especially as we enter the season of summer when, on one hand, our schedules seem lighter with vacations, it is those same vacations away from home that may draw our attention even further from the Church....*out of town, out of mind.* Whatever discipline we settle on, let us ultimately heed the words of the writer of Hebrews when considering our priorities.....

And let us not neglect our meeting together, as some people do, but encourage one another, especially now that the day of his return is drawing near. Hebrews 10:25

In the Loving service of Christ,
Pastor George

Guest Speaker on May 7, 2017
DAVE RETTIG

Our guest speaker on May 7, 2017 will be Dave Rettig. Dave was a pitcher in the National Baseball League and served as a baseball scout for the Montreal Expos, the Florida Marlins and the Pittsburgh Pirates. His passion however, is raising up godly youth. He founded Christian Sports International to equip youth with life and sports skills while sharing the Gospel through sports camps / clinics. Dave is also the founder of National Character Education Foundation, an organization that promotes the benefits good character in both private/public schools; and Co-Founder of Schools of Life, an organization that builds schools in developing countries, ensures each school has clean water system, teaches English as a second language, and serves the local community as their Christian church.

**Our summer hours of
9:30 a.m. Worship Service and
no Sunday School
will begin on
Sunday, May 28, 2017.**

FELLOWSHIP GATHERING - May 7 right after the Worship Service. A light lunch will be provided followed by a learn-to-paint session with Sandy Hughey as the instructor. All materials will be provided as well as lunch for a fee of \$20.00. Come learn to paint and spend the afternoon visiting with both old and new friends. Sign up on the clipboard.

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL will be held the week of June 25 through the 29th. Amanda Palombo will be contacting you for ways she can use your time, talents, and treasures. Please contact her at 724-601-3111 and tell how you can help.



May Worship Service Greeters

- 7 Lois Gobrecht
- 14 Millie & John Flinchum
- 21 Richard Frankenstein & Taylor Mauro
- 28 Nancy Hurley (9:30 a.m.)

Our very own
Katelyn Dauer
 will be performing in

The Pittsburgh Symphony Orchestra's annual Kraft Heinz Audience of the Future & EQT Student Side-By-Side event will be held on Tuesday, May 16, 2017 at 7:00 PM at Heinz Hall.

The EQT Student Side-By-Side program gives aspiring young musicians the unique opportunity to rehearse and perform "side-by-side" their Pittsburgh Symphony Orchestra counterparts on the Heinz Hall stage. The program participants had rehearsals, coachings, performances, and workshops with PSO conductors and musicians.

At 6:00 PM there will be pre-concert exhibits showcasing the creativity of the Kraft Heinz Audience of the Future program, and stay after the concert for an ice cream and jazz reception, featuring the Shaler Area High School Jazz Band!

General admission tickets are \$10.00.



This is an exciting time for our church family !

Dates are set for the new church directory.

June 23 and 24 we will have photographers here from Life Touch to take your family portraits. Sign ups to reserve your day and time of appointment will begin on **May 14th**.

If you have any questions please direct them to Nancy McNaughton who will be glad to assist you in any way.

REV. PAUL AIELLO'S GREATER CRANBERRY MEN'S CHORUS *will be presenting "WBOG Is On The Air" an original musical comedy on May 21, 2017 at the Cardinal Wuerl High School in Cranberry. Tickets are \$10.00 (\$12.00 at the door.) Rev. Paul will be glad to take your order !*



Our children's program during the Worship Service needs volunteers for the month of May. Please talk to Laurie Dauer and she will be happy to get you the information you need to lead the children. May 7, May 14 and May 21 are the open dates. (May 28 we begin our summer hours)



Make this craft to display a bit of springtime year-round!

What you need:

- An old shirt
- Tempura paint (brown, dark pink, light pink and white)
- Paintbrush
- Light blue or white construction paper
- A paper plate
- Q-tips
- Paper towels



What you do:

1. Roll up one sleeve and paint your arm and the palm of your hand brown.
2. Lengthwise on the paper, carefully place your painted arm and hand, with fingers spread apart. (This is the tree trunk and branches.)
3. Place the other paint colors on the plate.
4. Using Q-tips, place dots of paint (blossoms!) all over the branches.
5. When dry, display your tree — or give it as a Mother’s Day gift.

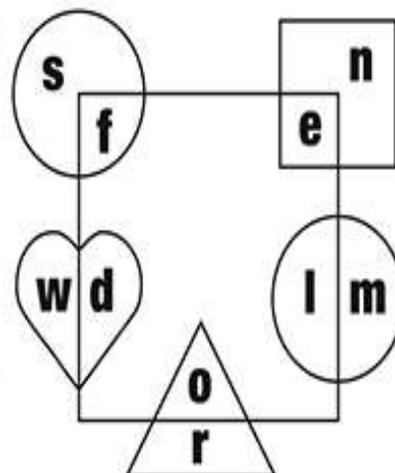


GOD CARES FOR YOU!

Jesus tells his followers not to worry about their daily needs. What example does he give of God’s care for his creation?

Directions:

To complete Luke 12:27 (NIV), match the shapes under each blank with the letter shapes shown to the right.



“Consider how the wild _____
 grow. They do not labor or spin.

Yet I tell you, not even _____
 in all his splendor was _____
 like one of these.” Luke 12:27, NIV

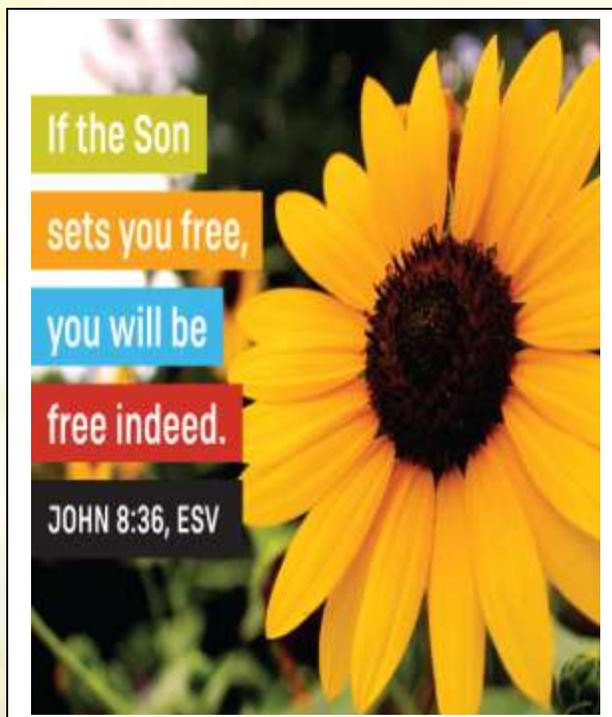
THE GUIDING LIGHTS *are providing desserts for Crossroads Meals on Wheels. We ask that you donate desserts, preferably cookies, brownies, cakes all in disposable pans. If any - one wants to make a donation of money to one of the members we will buy desserts for them. Put them in upstairs kitchen freezer and we will deliver them to Crossroad Church.*



Special dates

- National Day of Prayer, *May 4, 2017*
- Mother's Day, *May 14, 2017*
- Armed Forces Day, *May 20, 2017*
- Victoria Day (Canada), *May 22, 2017*
- Ascension, *May 25, 2017*
- Memorial Day, *May 29, 2017*

We will be doing the Kings Day Fund Raiser with a change of location. We will be at the Neville Island Kings just 2 exits south on I-79 May 10 from 6 a.m. until 9 p.m. Coupons will be available next week. Come in any time that day, present your coupon when paying your bill and our mission group will receive 10% of your total.



Acts of God

Unexpected “flash mob” musical performances have sprung up in public places such as airports and malls. Philadelphia’s 600-member Opera Company scattered among Macy’s crowds and broke out in the “Hallelujah Chorus.” A university choir did the same at a Fargo, North Dakota, food court. Groups have also performed impromptu renditions of “Silent Night,” “Amazing Grace” and well-known secular songs.

These events have been called “random acts of culture,” but they might better be called “purposeful acts of God.” Through music, we can praise God anywhere. Whenever Christ’s disciples move beyond church buildings and Christian gatherings to share the gospel, God is surely at work.

Prayer Requests and Concerns

April 30, 2017

- ^ **Lois Exton** is at her daughter, Ellen and her family's home in Cranberry. She is doing well and hopes to return to her own home soon. She thanks everyone for their love and concern during her recent hospitalization and rehab.
- ^ **Prayer for all** the policeman and first responders who are in danger as they are out there doing their job. Especially Shawn McNaughton who is a member of this church family and works in Cecil Township.
- ❖ **Answered Prayer and Praise for** : **Olivia O'Leary** upon her baptism. **Jane and Dale Nagel** who were here to worship with us and celebrate on Easter Sunday. **Our new members** : Christian Carver, Dave Kelly, Sally Cunningham, Cindy Foight, and Mike Jones who received the right hand of fellowship on Easter.
- ❖ **Those Who Have Lost Loved Ones** : **Bob Waldron**, long-time Franklin Park fireman, lost his battle this past week after waiting many months on a heart transplant that was not to be. Please keep his family in your prayers and the many fireman who held fund raisers for their friend. **Rev. Dr. John Fetterman** has passed away. Please keep his family in prayer, especially his wife **Kate** as she continues battling cancer. The Fetterman's are family of Dave Kelly.
- ❖ **Continued Concern For**: Rev. Robert Cunningham, Sean Miller, Jeremy Styron, Mary Glassburn, Katie Jones, Tim McCrory, Landon Noulett, Dylan McKinney, Ryan, 16 years old, (awaiting a heart transplant), Bob Waldron, Edith Yockel, Patty Koen, christians around the world who are being persecuted.
- ❖ **Those With Cancer**: Kaitlyn Francis**, Lance Cunningham, Bill McGahee, Sue Snyder, Matt O'Leary, Robert Stinebiser, Horatia Hammerschmitt.
- ❖ **Missionaries** : **Becky and Larry Stanton** (Hungary); **Peter and Sarah McCurdy** (Dominican Republic / Cuba); **Carol Sydnor** (Nepal); **Nora and Pieter Kalkman** (Prague, Czech Republic), **Brian and Lynette Smith & their boys** (Haiti). **Valerie and Aaron Osterbrock** (East Malaysia) **Ted Parks**.
- ❖ **In Service of Our Country** : **Major Doug Bauer**, his wife Hope and children, Walker & Mackenzie who are in Guam. Major Douglas Bauer, PO Box 4494, Yigo, Guam 96929.

Gene Worst Concordia of Franklin Park 1600 Georgetown Dr. Sewickley, PA. 15143	Dorothy McKinney Creek Meadows Personal Care 1630 Ellwood City Road Zelienople, PA. 16063	Albert (Buck) Bucklew Chicora Medical Center 160 Medical Center Road Chicora, PA. 16025-2612	Peggy Bucklew Chicora Medical Center 160 Medical Center Road Chicora, PA. 16025-2612
Janet Tehois Broadmore Senior Living 3275 Washington Pike Apt. 221 Bridgeville, PA. 15017 412-559-2813		George Green Cranberry Place 5 St. Francis Way Room 122 Cranberry Township, PA. 16066	Mrs. Shirley Wright Passavant Retirement Community Trillium House Room 215 Zelienople, PA. 16063 Telephone 724-452-5400
Homebound - Jane Nagel & Dale, Jr. 4015 Wick Place Wexford, PA. 15090	Gloria Meinert 2915 Salisbury Court Wexford, PA. 15090	Jean Downing	Bill and Eleanor Mooney 221 Chickasaw Avenue Pittsburgh, PA. 15237

** Just a note – **Kaitlyn Francis** continues treatment for reoccurrence of cancer in her young life. Kaitlyn is the great-granddaughter of Millie and John Flinchum; daughter of Brittany and Jason Frances, granddaughter of Dawn Lilly, great-granddaughter of the late Doris English and great-great-granddaughter of Dorothy McKinney, 102 years old and a member of our congregation.

Jamie and Gustavo Lopez welcomed a new little baby girl on Saturday, April 22, 2017. She weighed 4 pounds 10 ounces and joins big brothers Nico and Alex. Congratulations to the Lopez family !

- 1 Doug Frazier
 4 Tori Stewart (her 14th !)
 6 Peggy Bucklew
 6 Michael Mowod (his 13th !)
 6 Rebecca English (her 18th !)
 6 Melissa English (her 18th !)
 9 Sandy McGinnis
 9 EARL & MARY NEELY
 11 RANDY & LAURIE DAUER
 16 Shane Cress
 16 Cameron Cress
 18 Sue Snyder
 18 Donna McGee
 19 Ann Dobson
 21 RICK & LINDA RARAIGH
 22 Dee Aiello
 25 Linda Raraigh
 28 KELLY & JEFF SEYBERT
 29 Zach Seybert (his 9th !)



Address: 2470 Nicholson RD. Sewickley, PA 15143 [View On Google Maps](#)

Phone: 724-935-3950

Follow



“Thriving Through Restoration “ 2017
 American Baptist Women’s Conference,
 July 14 through 16 at Shippensburg
 University. **Sponsored by American
 Baptist Women’s Ministries of
 Pennsylvania and Delaware.** Girls 5th
 grade through 12th grade are also
 encouraged to attend and be blessed. For
 programs being offered and schedule of
 events for this weekend go to
 “ABCOPAD” home page; left side click
 “ministries”; then “Women’s Ministries”
 and then “ABWMOPAD”



Charles Michael Jones
 Olivia Grace O’Leary

Dave Kelly
 Sally Cunningham
 Christian Carver
 Cindy Foight