

PASTOR'S PEN

“Waiting on God in a hurried world”

As the new year begins, fresh opportunities abound. I want to encourage us to consider the opportunity we have to transform a common and often dreaded daily occurrence. Think of something you enjoy doing. What is it that you find energizing? What if you transfer that attitude and excitement to waiting? I readily confess that the next time I look forward to waiting will be the first time. However, I seriously plan to give it a try.

Our theme for 2020 is waiting on God in a hurried world. While I look forward to preaching on this theme, I want to suggest a few simple practices to enhance our experience of waiting. What if we saw waiting as an opportunity to connect with God? Instead of growing impatient or frustrated over the need to wait, intentionally using the time afforded us when we wait to pray could prove beneficial.

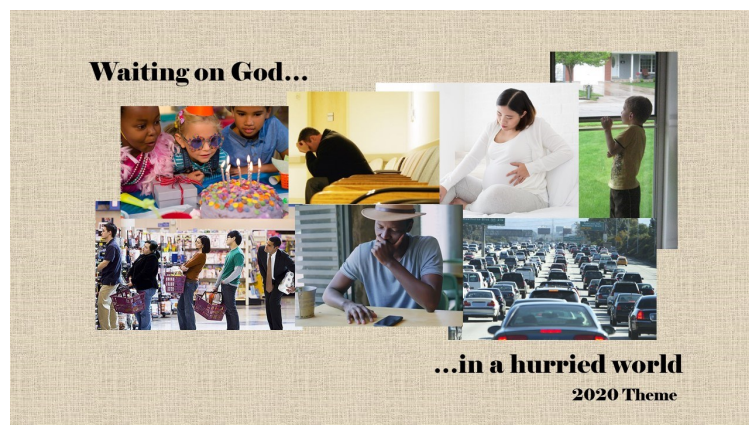
The following are some practical examples to consider. When waiting for a person, pray for that person to know that he/she is deeply loved by God. Pray for God to fill that person with God's grace. When waiting to go somewhere or for an event to begin consider praying that God will prepare you to hear/experience God in the moment.

There are times we wait for news whether it be a text response, phone call or a report from a professional. In such times it may be helpful to pray that God would prepare us to hear the news trusting in God. Perhaps when we check our phone for a response, we can offer a simple prayer asking God to help us trust in God's goodness and grace as we wait.

Finally, when we encounter people or situations when we feel forced to wait unnecessarily may be the perfect time to pray that God create in us a clean heart and renew a right spirit within us. For example, when going through the fast grocery line for 10 items or less and the person in front of us has 16 items. When driving and people fail to understand the sign saying slower traffic keep right. If this is not a struggle for you, please feel free to pray for me that God would renew a right spirit within me.

I have tried to provide several practical suggestions how to use our waiting to connect with God. Just maybe, our waiting can be transformed to a positive experience. As I look forward to this year, perhaps I will discover the joy of waiting. Do you care to join me in waiting?

-Pastor Randy



Upcoming BIRTHDAYS

Mary Ellen Schade	1/1
Lester Heacock	1/8
David Chittick	1/10
Janey Garrido	1/13
Judy Garrido	1/14
Karry Bull	1/14
Heather Zeo	1/18
Peg Freed	1/25
Donald Derstine	1/31
Dorothy Wartko	1/31
Isaac Garrido	2/1
Jeff Buckwalter, Jr.	2/3
Jon Swartley	2/4



January ANNIVERSARIES

David & Mary Lee Chittick 1/25

FEATURED IN KAREN'S PLACE

January 11 @ 6:30 pm.

Movie Screening **"Right Before Your Eyes"**

This movie was inspired by true life events. A Newly recovering alcoholic rides home on a train to see his autistic son, whom he hasn't seen since birth, meets a stranger and shares his life story with him. This is a powerful movie about faith and addiction. After the movie, actors will be available for a brief Q & A, followed by refreshments in the fellowship hall.

A SPECIAL SECOND SUNDAY SENSATION

On December 8 the entire congregation enjoyed the presentation by The Puppet and Story Works, Steve and Dotti Seitz of Manheim. They told the Christmas story with humor and music. Their puppets and expert ventriloquism kept everyone entertained while hearing a good message. Enjoy the following pictures of their show!



FROM THE PRAYER CORNER

Waiting on God in a hurried world is our theme for this year. It can be difficult to wait, and sometimes we may not even know what we are waiting for. Or we may not want to say it aloud because of fear of what others might say.

This year I want to encourage us as a congregation to invite the prayer ushers to pray with you about what is keeping you in a waiting posture right now in your life. The prayer ushers will not give you advice or answers, but simply pray for you as you name your concern. The prayer ushers will keep it confidential and will not follow-up with you. Remember they are available every Sunday during our morning worship service.

Another opportunity to name our waiting posture is to visit the upstairs prayer room and use it as a resource this year, learning to sit in the stillness for a few minutes or to post a sticky note on the bulletin board with your concern. The upstairs prayer room is ideal for a personal quiet time with God and once again a calendar will be posted outside the room to reserve a time slot.

May we as a congregation learn to trust God more fully as we wait.

“Wait for the Lord; be strong and take heart and wait for the Lord.” Psalm 27:14

-Sandy Landes, Prayer Minister

FROM THE LIBRARY

There is no gardening right now, so how about a book or two from the church library. You might consider:

Surviving Henry, Adventures in Loving a Canine Catastrophe by Erin Taylor Young. She begins by saying that “Henry is the anti-dog. I don’t believe in divine misprints. But life with Henry makes me wonder.” They finally find a place to board Henry at K9 University (where he had almost flunked his obedience lessons) while they travel to visit relatives over the holidays. She goes to retrieve Henry and talks to Angel at K9. She sees dollar signs for the damage when Angel reports that somehow Henry got out of his kennel and training area and into the store area (which set off a police alarm). Angel said that Henry recognized him at the door, “and his whole body started wriggling and wagging like I was his best friend... The store was trashed... He pulled every single thing he could reach off the wall.

Chewed it, ate it, played with it, mangled it. *Everything*. All over the floor. Literally.” This book is good for anyone who needs to laugh but especially for those who have raised and trained puppies.

Invited, the Power of Hospitality in an Age of Loneliness by Leslie Verner. The author learned about hospitality from her parents and her time in China, Uganda and other countries. Her stories help redefine hospitality; it is less about entertaining and more about being a good neighbor. She says there is power in a simple invitation. Leslie offers some ideas for offering hospitality no matter our age or situation in life. She includes ideas for inviting neighbors, church or community people, and “friends and soon-to-be friends.” One of her tips for uncertain hosts is, “If you have food, people will come.” She also reminds us that “people are more significant than the environment, food, or cleanliness of the home.” Let’s invite someone soon.

-Freida Myers, Librarian

CHRISTMAS CAROLING

On Wednesday evening, December 18, several people met at Don and Kathy Heckler’s house to go caroling in their neighborhood. They sang at the houses along the streets around their house. People who answered the door received a Christmas card with an invitation to our Christmas eve service. Afterward, the singers enjoyed a visit over hot chocolate and cookies at Don and Kathy’s house.



ADVENT and CHRISTMAS EVE

The Christmas eve candlelight service on December 24 included carol singing, an offering to support the renovations at Pinebrook and a message by Randy, concluding with candle lighting during the singing of “Silent Night”.

REMEMBERING Some highlights of 2019:

>**January**—Second Sunday Sensation presented Elva Hurst, a chalk artist from Lancaster, sharing the Good News with children.

>**February**—The trustees reported that most of the installation of the central air conditioning had been completed, and other projects were under way. Second Sunday Sensation continued with Jesse Rothacker of Forgotten Friend Reptile Sanctuary showing pet reptiles to an excited group of children (turtles, snakes and lizards, anyone?).

>**March**—Phil Zeo, Jr. and Hannah Donohue married here on March 22 in the presence of family and friends. Second Sunday Sensation presented the Butterfly Guy for the children.

>**April**—Good Friday Service on April 19 was a service of waiting. Easter Sunday began with breakfast from 8:30—9:30 followed by the service at 10am. On April 28 there was a service of ordination for Sandy Landes.

>**May**—On May 26 Phil and Pratiksha Tyson spoke of their work in Nepal with Love Justice International and Beauty for Ashes Nepal. These charities help keep people at risk of being lured out of the country into slavery, and give employment and income to women who have been returned from brothels in India. The new playground by the pavilion was completed on May 27.

>**June**—Karl Strauch and Cindy Houghton were married on June 15 at an outdoor wedding by Lake Galena near their home in the presence of their combined families.

>**July**—A special memorial service for Vernon Althouse who died on June 24 was held on July 8 with a large number attending from far and wide. Soccer Camp was held in our field on two Saturdays, July 22 and July 29 with over 30 children attending.

>**August**—Church picnic at Lost Acres on August 4, and many seniors enjoyed pot luck at Lois and Freida's on August 11-- always plentiful and delicious food! Christian Zeo filled in at the office while KrisAnne enjoyed her July/August sabbatical.

>**September**—On September 1 we met at the pavilion for a prayer of blessing for the Pavilion and Playground. On September 21 there was a pig roast at our new pavilion, with Angel Mejias presiding over the grill and serving the delicious results. There were side dishes and wonderful desserts also served. Members of the many groups who use DMC facilities throughout the week were especially invited.

>**October**—The relationship seminar with John Drescher Lehman that was held for three weeks beginning September 15, concluded with two sessions on October 6, during the Sunday School hour and following a catered lunch.

>**November**—The Rockingham Male Chorus performed wonderful music during the Sunday School hour, and at the same time Second Sunday Sensation presented "Mr. Mike" (Michael Haney) with stories about God's faithfulness for the children.

A SPECIAL DAY

A special event for our congregation took place on Sunday, December 29. Mike and Aimee Gourley, and Dave and Joyce Zuzack were baptized by pastors Randy, Sandy and KrisAnne, after which Karl and Cynthia Strauch joined them in becoming members. We heard the faith story of each of them and gathered around them with prayers of welcome.



Deadline for submitting items to the February 3 News & Views: **January 28**

PARTING THOUGHT:

“Another year is dawning, Dear Master, let it be, In working or in **waiting**,
Another year with thee.”
-Frances Ridley Havergal, 1874

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