

PASTOR'S PEN

I hope you have engaged in our simply praying focus of the past several months. I found myself both praying and encouraging others to pray that simple prayer of David, "Create in me a clean heart O God, and renew a right spirit within me." I believe this prayer merits ongoing attention, so please feel free to continue praying it several times each day. However, I will offer another focus for this month. Please pray as you wish, but consider how this may be added to your daily routine.

Psalm 46 begins by expressing how life can seem chaotic and even out of control. It alludes to those times when security is lacking. We are then invited to lean on and trust the God who is our refuge. Verses 10 and 11 declare, "Be still, and know that I am God! I am exalted among the nations, I am exalted in the earth. The LORD OF HOSTS IS WITH US; THE GOD OF JACOB IS OUR REFUGE."

I invite us to practice being still before God. Some may find it rather difficult to silence all the noise and things that clamor for our attention. It may be hard when children need help, bosses make demands, phone alerts go off, or friends need to talk. After shutting off outside sources, we often discover many internal voices flooding our mind. It will take practice to be still before God. I imagine it could easily take several attempts before one is able to be silent for even a few seconds.

I encourage each one to practice being silent before God. Invite God to help you to be still in God's presence. Invite God to help you name the many things that distract and fill your mind, which hinder you from being silent. In your silence, invite God to remind you of the many ways God has acted before. In your silence, invite God to show ways God is present in your current struggle. In your silence, invite God to claim you as God's beloved child.

May we practice this month being still before God, so that we declare with the psalmist, "the God of Jacob is our refuge."

-Pastor Randy



Recent & Upcoming BIRTHDAYS

Abigail Zeo	9/3
Aimee Gourley	9/7
Christian Zeo	9/8
Susan Bartels	9/17
Janice Wyble	9/20
Ben Swartley	9/21
Donald Heckler	9/24
Betty Good	9/28
Glenn Wyble	10/6
Dean Bartels	10/6
Heidi Swartley	10/8

September ANNIVERSARIES

Kirk and Jenni Garrido	9/5
Robert and Suzanne Schwabe	9/25

KAREN'S PLACE

October 5- Julianna Schnee. Also appearing: Lisa Reiff

Julianna is a 22 year old singer/songwriter who is all about jazz and Jesus. Hailing from Lancaster, she taught herself on piano and ukulele and wrote her first song at age 11. At 14 she seriously began song-writing and by 16 released her first CD, "Dance in the Rain". She has competed locally, nationally and worldwide in various competitions for voice and original song and won several prizes and scholarships over the years.

Women's Bible Study

Beginning this fall on September 12, meeting every other week on Thursday afternoons, 1:30-3 pm, at Louise Beyer's home. This year the study will be on the book of Acts. Contact Louise with any questions and to sign up for the study.

A LEARNING OPPORTUNITY -

Relationships: "What was I thinking?!"

For four Sundays, September 15 - October 6, the Care Team has arranged for a study led by John Drescher-Lehman on the blessings and challenges we face in our relationships with family, friends, co-workers, neighbors, etc., thinking about awareness, acceptance, forgiveness and love.

This will meet during the Sunday School hour in the basement fellowship hall. John has 25 years of experience working with individuals, couples, families and groups to help them discover strengths and resources to address the emotional, physical, social and spiritual complications of life.

There is no charge to participate, and feel free to attend as many as you can. You can sign up for this series by contacting the church office.

SAVE THE DATE: Community Pig Roast

On Saturday, September 21st, from 3-7 pm, we will welcome the community groups who use our building and land, and join together for good food and fun! Bring a dessert to share and a lawn or table game that you enjoy.



FROM THE PRAYER CORNER

Listening prayer meets together to practice listening to God for ourselves, our families, our congregation and our community. You are invited. We meet in the second floor prayer room on the second Wednesday evening of the month; September 11 is the planned meeting for this month.

The second floor prayer room is a space set aside for you to use, for personal prayer and to practice being still and to wait on God. There are Do Not Disturb signs available, prayer resources and a CD player. Consider taking advantage of this space to spend time with God. If you need a key to use the prayer room when the church building is locked, please check with the office.

Here are some additional prayer opportunities in our congregation that might be helpful to you:

1. The prayer ushers are available every Sunday during worship (they sit out during the sermon) to pray confidentially with you about anything on your heart: a need, a praise, a decision, etc.

2. The prayer chain is a way to invite prayer from the congregation for a specific need. Please contact Sandy Landes to share a prayer need or to join the email list so you can receive prayer requests.

3. The bulletin prayer guide is updated every week and you are invited to share a need or concern with the congregation by contacting Sandy Landes by Thursday evening to have it included in that week's bulletin.

Learning to pray is learning to know God.

-Sandy Landes, Prayer Minister

FROM THE CHURCH LIBRARY

THE GOD WHO SEES by Karen Gonzalez is a current look at immigration issues. She delves into Bible characters like Abraham, Ruth and Naomi, Hagar, Joseph, Jesus and his family plus the Syrophoenician Woman who begs for help from Jesus. Karen Gonzalez tells her own story: her family's immigration from Guatemala to Los Angeles and the suburbs of south Florida. The author uses Hagar's words for God in her title and notes that God is looking out for the slave and the foreigner who is mistreated. Her discussion questions would make this a good book for group study.

FIRE BY NIGHT by Melissa Florer-Bixler helps us see what we might learn from some troubling accounts in the Old Testament. In her chapter on God of Victims she refers to Sodom and Gomorrah. Abraham bargained with God for their salvation and eventually God offers mercy by rescuing Lot and his family. The author sees herself sometimes in Lot's wife who was leaving a difficult world. Going away from what she had known was frightening and she turned back. The Bible is "a story of humans making sense of God's redemptive action in the world while at the same time wrestling with our desire to control God, to make God do our bidding, to make God into our image." The author offers some new ways to see the value of Leviticus, which is more about God's justice and care for the neighbor than separation.

- Freida Myers, Librarian

SUMMER PICNICS

August 4 was our day to gather at Lost Acres for the 10 a.m. service, followed by a potluck picnic, with opportunity to enjoy the pool and several games. As always, the food was plentiful and delicious. The younger crowd enjoyed their time in the pool, watched over by some adults, and everyone enjoyed visiting and being outdoors in the lovely weather.





A week later, many of our seniors enjoyed a potluck lunch at the home of Lois and Freida Myers. There was plenty of space at the table for 32 people and all the delicious food. It stretched out along a good portion of the driveway. We had perfect weather to linger for fellowship.



LEARNING ON SABBATICAL

As I thought about what to share with you all about my sabbatical, the first thing that came to mind is how grateful I am to you for the extra time to rest, to visit other churches and to do some painting and repair around our house that I had been neglecting. Sabbatical is a generous gift.

As I visited other congregations, I realized how deep and rich our worship services are, with the gifts that our worship leaders bring, the presence of our prayer ushers, and the way our congregation participates in worship in a variety of ways. I often felt like more of a spectator than a participant in other churches. It feels good to be home again with my church family!

A spiritual focus of my sabbatical was on rest. I'm pretty good at resting physically—I'll work for a while and then take a break and then get back to work again. A more challenging thing for me to learn is to rest my mind, my heart, my spirit. I'm constantly thinking about the things I should be doing, making lists of tasks and errands and goals. I feel good when things are finished, and I feel anxious when things are unfinished and tasks are piling up. These things can nag at me when I'm trying to pray and listen to God.

I spent a lot of time with the story of Elijah this summer, and his experience with God in the cave...how he met God not in wind or earthquake or fire, but in the still and small voice that spoke to him. I asked myself, what is the whirlwind in my life that distracts me? What is the fire, the earthquake? How can I practice naming these things and giving them to my Loving Father's open hands? How can I grow in trusting Him and resting only in Him rather than resting in what I accomplish? What is He whispering to my anxious heart?

A prayer that became helpful to me is this one, written by a French Jesuit priest many years ago. Perhaps you will find it meaningful, too:

"Above all, I will trust in the slow work of God. I am, quite naturally, impatient in everything to reach the end without delay. I like to skip the intermediate stages. I am impatient of being 'on the way' to something unknown and new. And yet it is the law of all progress that it is made by passing through stages of instability. And it may take a very long time. So it is with me, dear Lord. You mature in me gradually. Help me to let my spirit grow, let my ideas shape themselves without undue haste. May I not try to force them on as though I could make tomorrow. Only You can say what this new spirit gradually forming within me will be. I believe Your hand is leading me. I accept the anxiety of feeling in suspense and incomplete. I trust in the slow work of Your Spirit. Amen."

Thank you again for this opportunity to slow down and seek God intentionally and be refreshed. I'm excited to see what God has for me and for us as a congregation in this next season.

-KrisAnne Swartley, minister of worship
and administration

REFLECTIONS ON MY SUMMER

by Heidi Swartley

In the beginning of this summer, I left our Sunday morning service to ride with my family up to Spruce Lake Wilderness Camp. I had been hired as an LIT (Leader in Training) for the first three weeks of the summer. Camp always had a very special place in my heart, though that didn't quite quiet my anxieties. I had a few simple concerns; about the meals served at camp, about whether I had packed everything I would need, and also about much deeper insecurities...Is this what God is calling me to do, or is this just something I want to do? Am I qualified to do this? How will I get along with my fellow LITs, my LIT leaders, and all of the staff? What if I'm too weak to handle all of the work and the long days?

On the whole ride to camp I had a stomach ache and a nervous energy that I'm sure almost drove my family up a wall. But, I distinctly remember that the minute I stepped on the ground at camp, I knew I was exactly where I needed to be. I'm not sure I have the right words to explain the summer I have had, but I do want to thank you for all of your prayers and loving support, and give you a taste of all of the ways God moved in these past few months.

The first few days of camp, I picked a verse I wanted to focus on for my LIT session. God gave me Psalm 86: 11-12. **"Lord, teach me how you want me to live. Do this so that I will depend on you, my faithful God. Give me a heart that doesn't want anything more than to worship you. Lord my God, I will praise you with all my heart. I will bring glory to you forever."** In the midst of scrubbing shower stalls, moving wooden tables, washing dishes, and prepping for meals, I often reminded myself that the work I do is a form of worship; the goal is not to receive validation or just to "feel good". I often laughed to myself, with my battle anthem: "I clean toilets for the glory of God!!"

"God doesn't call the qualified; God qualifies the called." This was a phrase one of the counselors passed along to me this summer. I will be the first to admit that I experienced quite a number of situations I was not qualified or prepared for this summer. There were days when I really fought with God, unsure why I was the one he chose to do this work. I was unsure how to handle a camper's behavior, or unsure how to lead a particular activity, or unsure about why I was paired with a specific counselor. It was a lesson in

trust. Do I trust God to equip me to do his will? Do I trust God to make things possible? Do I trust that when I speak the Word of God, it has power? Do I really believe that I cannot get in the way of God's plan for my life? Do I know that I am not powerful enough to do that? I also made an intentional effort this summer to discover why God placed certain people in my life. What can I learn from that person? What can I offer that person?

"Instead of seeing people as the possibility of getting hurt, see people as the potential to be loved." This is also a quote that was passed along to me this summer. These words hit me like a ton of bricks. Even though I don't have the words to express it, before that moment, it was a lesson I had been learning for the past year. Cards on the table, it's a lesson I'm still learning and relearning every single day. The camp community is a group of some of the most loving people you will ever meet, and yet, the first week of camp, I didn't trust them to truly love me. I felt the need to prove my worth, prove my capability, and prove that I deserved to be there. I felt like I was under a microscope. I had to learn to let these people see me, flaws and all, and trust that I would be loved. Looking back. I couldn't be more glad that I opened up. When I named that fear, and when I named that pressure, I found a community that said, "yep, I've felt the same way". It was a community that asked to pray for me, that wrote me notes of encouragement, and gave me cool quotes and scriptures to comfort me and challenge me.

The community I experienced this summer blessed my life beyond words. They even blessed me enough to bring me back. At the end of my LIT session, I said "goodbye" but only for a week. I came back to camp as a volunteer in the Wilderness Camp kitchen for one week, and I was a volunteer counselor at Day Camp for two weeks. In the ensuing weeks, I had campers run away from me and into the woods, I had campers mutiny and follow a ten-year-old around instead, I had campers tackle me in the pool, and I had campers cry angrily at me. But I know that this summer, I had an awesome job. I had the opportunity to bring these campers into the camp family, to love them, to support them, to teach them about life, faith and the gospel, and to be "Jesus with skin on". Our head counselor, Leeah, said **"You might be the only Jesus this person will ever meet."** So, we love. We try our best, And we trust God for the rest. He is enough.

PEACE WORKS CAMP

Another Peace Works Camp for children in grades K-5 was held during the last week in July and the first week of August. It was planned by A Woman's Place and sponsored by Doylestown Presbyterian Church. The program works to build self esteem, promote healthy relationships and encourage teamwork in the lives of the young people who attend. It was our privilege to host this event for members of our community.

ENJOYING THE OUTDOORS

It is already two years ago that our congregation dedicated the new walking path leading out by the cemetery and returning along Sandy Ridge Road. It passes by the thriving and productive community garden.

During the past few months a new pavilion and playground were erected and are already being used. On Sunday, September 1, we ended our worship service with a prayer of blessing for the new space. We gathered around and dedicated it to God as a place to serve our church and community and bring glory to his name.



FROM SUSIE CHURCHMOUSE

It was an interesting month around here even without Sunday School. They said it was called "A Woman's Place Peace Works Camp." Women and children came here for a couple of weeks with plenty of things for the children to do. I'm always glad to see people around here! I would have loved all the picnics, too, but they never invite me.

DEADLINE for submitting items to October News & Views: October 1

PARTING THOUGHT—

The Lord, the Holy One of Israel says, In returning and rest you shall be saved, in quietness and in confidence shall be your strength. -Isaiah 30:15

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