



# UPPER PATH VALLEY PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

## October 2018 Newsletter

Dear Covenant Partners, Active Supporters, and Friends,

It is wonderful to be in touch with disciples serving as Gospel missionaries all over the world. Each month we receive prayer updates through email, through the mail, or over Facebook from those God has led us to support. One of the missionaries that we support sent the following story/devotion to encourage us. I think it is worth passing on to all of us as we move into a season of heightened ministry opportunities. In this story a teacher is sharing with his student about the mantle of Elijah from 1 Kings 10:19-21. Let's listen in on the conversation between the teacher and the student.

“...The mantle that was passed from the prophet Elijah to Elisha...made of camel's hair ... signifying that Elisha would follow in his footsteps as a prophet of the Lord. Can you imagine being Elisha and feeling Elijah's mantle coming over you?” ‘It must have been overwhelming. He must have felt totally inadequate.’

‘Undoubtedly,’ said the teacher, ‘but so did all the others who received their mantles. From Moses to Isaiah, to Jeremiah, to Peter, they all felt unworthy of the mantle given them, and with good reason ... the mantle was too big. It didn't fit. But that's the nature of the mantle. In Hebrew the mantle is called the *aderet*. *Aderet* means large, big, wide, powerful, excellent, noble, mighty, and glorious. You see, the mantle is bigger and greater than the one it's given to. And so too it is with you.’ ‘With me?’

‘With all his children. Each one is given a mantle, a calling. And you will be given yours. But remember, your mantle is your *aderet*, and the *aderet* always speaks of greatness. So your calling will be too big for you. It won't fit. It won't match who you are. And there will be times when you'll struggle with that, with its magnitude in comparison to who you are ... It will always be greater, more powerful, more noble, more excellent, and more glorious than the one who wears it and to whom it was given.’

‘But why? Why does God give us mantles that are too big and don't fit?’ ‘Your mantle is not meant to fit who you are. It's meant to fit who you are to be, who you are to become ... so too your mantle must be beyond you, that you can grow into it, that you can rise to it ...’”

Friends, to what is God calling you to rise? What have you been resisting? Do you not know that resisting God's calling on your life (for any reason) brings a heavy heart and steals the joy that God wants for you and those around you? 1 Thessalonians 5:24 says, “The one who calls you is faithful, and he will do it.” Indeed! He will do his work through you when we rise into the mantle he lovingly places on our shoulders.

May we have our eyes wide open to the opportunities to serve. May we not allow our fears, feelings of inadequacy, petty jealousies, or the ever-present excuses to hinder what God wants to do through us. Children, youth, and adults alike can serve. All we have to do is be willing, be ready, and be obedient!

*Speak, O Lord, and renew our minds; Help us grasp the heights of Your plans for us—  
Truths unchanged from the dawn of time that will echo down through eternity.  
And by grace we'll stand on Your promises, and by faith we'll walk as You walk with us.  
Speak, O Lord, till Your church is built and the earth is filled with Your glory.*

With love,  
Rev. Meagan

## BIRTHDAYS AND ANNIVERSARIES!



Pray a prayer of thanksgiving and blessing over each person/couple as their special day arrives:

### Birthdays

10/1, Steve Ruby, Neva Neil  
10/2, Daulton Seibert  
10/3, Carl Magee, Kriste Shoop  
10/5, Marvin Adams  
10/6, Andrea Cauffman  
10/7, Joyce Carbaugh  
10/8, Neil Hill  
10/9, Beth Bair  
10/10, Bonnie Cornelious, Amy Thatcher, Gary Rosenberry  
10/11, Maggie Daniel  
10/12, Kay Ile  
10/13, Barb Ramsey  
10/14, Kathy Carbaugh, Lori McClure  
10/16, John Mitchell  
10/18, Robin Coons  
10/18, Gabriella Sabatino  
10/21, Peggy Browning  
10/29, Hubert Burns  
10/31, Keri Daniel

### Anniversaries

10/1, Marty & Lisa Parsons  
10/2, Mark & Jacki Cook  
10/3, Brad & Crystal Gamble  
10/4, Wally & Bev Hoffmann  
10/8, Doug & Tammy Adams  
10/9, Jon & Leslie Baker  
10/9, Jim & Teresa Miller  
10/9, Josh & Kelsey Zeigler  
10/10, Kevin & Adaria Woodward  
10/16, Aaron & Brittney Rupert  
10/21, Wyatt & Marissa Flood



"Door  
Holders"  
Gary Rebok

Over the past months, Pat and I have been getting acquainted with our new church family here at UPVPC, and what a joy it has been to develop new

friendships in the love of Christ. It takes time to learn new names and faces. However, I feel confident God has a plan. As we spent time in the journey to becoming members here, I heard the term "hinge" on numerous occasions leading up to your financial and spiritual support of my seminary education. As a reply to your elders concerning being a "hinge," I believe that you as a church are more than hinges, but "door holders."

For many years I led college students to Passion Conferences in Atlanta Ga. The term "Door Holder" is defined as "One who takes great pleasure in opening the door for others to experience Jesus," is how I see this church as disciple-makers. In your support of my seminary studies, you are door holders for me to experience Jesus more deeply and intimately, helping me on my journey to become ordained in the Covenant Order of Evangelical Presbyterian movement. The term door holder is borrowed from Psalm 84:10, which speaks of a doorkeeper in the house of God. *"Better is one day in your courts than a thousand elsewhere; I would rather be a doorkeeper in the house of my God than dwell in the tents of the wicked."*

As of today, I am excited to be on my way, starting a new journey with you like my door holder in the ordination process. I have been a student at Regent University School of Divinity for the past two years, enrolled in the Master of Divinity program, concentrating in Biblical and Theological studies. All of the classes are through the online program, the first of its kind accredited by the Association of Theological Schools. The road is not comfortable working during the day and studying at night and on weekends, but it is God's plan for my life. I am so grateful to be here and to be under our Pastor Meagan and the leadership overseeing the church, and Pat and I both thank you for everything. We are all Door Holders preparing the way for others to experience Jesus, believing that God can use all of us as his instruments. May the blessings of our Lord and Savior be with you all as we journey together to be healthy and productive as friends and family in the house of God.

In Christ, Gary Rebok

### **Children, Youth, & Family Ministry**

October is fast approaching and with it includes our annual Trunk or Treat on Saturday, October 27<sup>th</sup> from 4:00-6:00 p.m.! Did you know that this event is our largest children and family outreach event of the year? Last year we had over 80 children from the community and their families join us! This year I want us to be even more intentional on how we can share the gospel to the children of our community through this event.

What could this look like? It could be more Biblical themed decorated trunks from a "Treasures in Heaven" Pirate Ship, to a "Tis So Sweet to Trust in Jesus," to a particular Bible story. For more trunk ideas, you can come talk to me and I can send some links your way. It could also mean handing out scripture verses attached to your hand out. The possibilities are endless! Let us not miss out on this wonderful opportunity to connect with the families of our community!

If you are interested in helping plan or set up for this year's Trunk or Treat please let me know! Many hands make light work!

Blessings, Laurie Ruby



### The Work of the Trustees

The work of the trustees is ongoing as the property God has given us to care for is aging. We want to do our very best to keep everything in good working order to enable the work of ministry. The trustees appreciate your prayers as they make decisions that will impact the generations of disciples that come after us.

In September the sanctuary roof was repainted for the first time in 25 years. Some of the woodwork around the roof was also repainted. That's one roof down! The Assembly Room roof is still on the "to do" list. We have received donations of \$7500 towards the total cost of \$12,000. We will be replacing the shingles with white tin. As we move towards the end of the year, if you would like to donate towards the final \$4500 needed, please mark your donation "Assembly Roof." Thank you!

The trustees also made the decision, as affirmed by the elders, to have the stained-glass windows re-cemented and replace the protective covering for 7 of our 8 windows. The window inside the foyer does not need a new covering. This work will cost \$3,000 per window for a total of \$21,000. It is necessary for us to make this investment to preserve the rich colors of our beautiful windows. Again, if you would like to donate towards this important project, please mark your donation "Windows." Thank you!

## THANK YOU!

Thank you so much for thinking of me and praying for me. I love my blanket so much and it is so special because it was made for me.

Love  
Brynn



Brynn is the 7-year-old daughter of one of Missy Ruby's co-workers. She has irregularities with her heart. Please pray doctors will be able to determine the cause and bring healing and wholeness.

## WHAT IS HAPPENING ON WEDNESDAY NIGHTS?

**Our mission for Wednesday nights is to connect people of all ages to Christ and to one another through table fellowship, conversation, Bible-engagement, service, and prayer.**

- † **Homework help for middle and high school students in classroom 3 right after school until dinner is served at 5:30 p.m. Students may be dropped off at the main back door and may stay through the evening for the meal and for youth group until 7:30 p.m. Speak with Laurie Ruby for more information or for help with transportation.**
- † **A fellowship meal will be served continually as people arrive from 5:30-6:15. At 6:15 everyone chips in to help clean-up so we are all ready for ministry groups by 6:30 p.m.**

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- ✓ **Childcare is available in the nursery for infants through preschoolers.**
- ✓ **Children’s ministry will meet in the basement for elementary school-age students using a new curriculum called Summit! In SUMMIT 1 children will learn all about God – who He is, what He is like, and what He can do. They will follow trails that lead to Bible knowledge, Godly character, and Christlike conduct.**
- ✓ **Middle/High School Youth group will start together with large group games/activities then break into middle and high school groupings for Bible-driven conversations, support, and prayer.**
- ✓ **Women’s Study: Led by Kriste Shoop and Becky Gerlach, we will be reading the book, Sensible Shoes, by Sharon Garlough Brown. Sensible Shoes is a story about 4 women who become friends. We will walk with them as they figure out who they are in Christ... where they are on their spiritual journeys... and how they can grow in God’s grace through a fresh look at scripture and by participating in various prayer practices. In essence, this is a study about YOUR STORY! Psalm 107:2 proclaims *“Let the redeemed of the LORD tell their story!”* Women of all ages, discover and affirm:**
  - ✓ **Who you are in the LORD**
  - ✓ **Where you are in your spiritual journey**
- ✓ **What you will become as you GROW in God’s grace through self-reflection, the reading of the Word and Prayer**
- ✓ **Please join us on Wednesday evenings from 6:30 -7:30 as we embark on this journey together. 2 Thessalonians 3:5 *“May the Lord direct your hearts to the love of God and to the steadfastness of Christ.”***
- † **Men’s Fellowship/Study: Led by Brett Hostler and John Boozer, the group will start with a study to build connections and grow us as disciples of Jesus around the Word. *“As iron sharpens iron, so one man sharpens another.”* Proverbs 27:17**



## OCTOBER DATES TO NOTE!

- Oct. 2: Deacons, 6:30 p.m.
- Oct. 3: GROWing Together Begins! Please notice the article in the newsletter for details!
- Oct. 4: Community Prayer Meeting, 6:30 p.m. Carrick United Methodist
- Oct. 7: Worship at 8:30 & 11 a.m.; Small groups, 9:45-10:45 a.m. Weather permitting, group hike after worship. Pay attention during announcements in worship for more information.
- Oct. 8: Session, 6:30 p.m.
- Oct. 9: Worship Committee, 6:30 p.m.
- Oct. 10: GROWing Together!
- Oct. 14: Worship at 8:30 & 11 a.m.; Small groups, 9:45-10:45 a.m.
- Oct. 16: Mission Committee, 6:30 p.m.
- Oct. 17: GROWing Together!
- Oct. 19: Minium/Ash Wedding Rehearsal, 5 p.m.
- Oct. 20: Minium/Ash Wedding, 12 p.m.
- Oct. 21: Worship at 8:30 & 11 a.m.; Small groups, 9:45-10:45 a.m.
- Oct. 22 – 27: UPVPC Week at Lifeway! Anyone who attends our church and goes into Lifeway on Wayne Avenue on these dates will get 20% off their entire purchase. Simply tell the cashier you are in for UPVPC Week! There will also be a table with information about our church in the front of the store. ☺
- Oct. 23: Fun & Fellowship, 5 p.m.; Trustees, 6:30 p.m.
- Oct. 24: GROWing Together!
- Oct. 27: Trunk or Treat, 4 – 6 p.m.
- Oct. 28: Worship at 8:30 & 11 a.m.; Small groups, 9:45-10:45 a.m.
- Oct. 29: Handcrafters Prayer Ministry, 6:30 p.m.
- Oct. 31: GROWing Together!

Every Monday and Wednesday morning from 9 – 10 a.m., join in the Strong Women exercise class led by Dr. Bonnie Cornelious in the Assembly Room.

## Looking ahead...



### Saturday, November 3 Apple Butter Boil with Earl Custer!

UPVPC Kitchen Area

Bring a breakfast treat to share  
8 a.m.: Gather to peel apples!

Take your turn stirring!

Fellowship!

Label and fill jars!

This apple butter boil is being done in memory of Floyd and Dottie Hammond (Dawn Johnson's grandparents), longtime supporters of the UPVPC Turkey Supper. Dottie used to make the noodles! All proceeds from selling the jars of apple butter (\$4) will be given to the community meal mission.



**The Annual Turkey Supper  
Saturday, November 17  
Serving from 3 p.m.  
Help from everyone  
is needed, noticed,  
and appreciated!**

### Christmas Dates to Note:

Sunday, December 2: The Penn State Mont Alto Chorale Concert, 6:30 p.m. in our Sanctuary!  
Reception with Penn State Creamery  
Ice Cream will follow! YUM ☺

Sunday, December 16: Annual Children/Youth Christmas Pageant, Party, and Caroling!

Friday, December 21: 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Non-Geographic Live Nativity Flash Mob!

Monday, December 24: Christmas Eve Worship, 4:30 and 7:00 p.m.



Upper Path Valley  
Presbyterian Church

Saturday, October 27th

4:00-6:00 p.m.

Family fun for all ages featuring  
Trunk Stops, a petting zoo, hay ride, cake  
walks, and more! This is a free event for the  
families of our community.

For more information,  
contact Laurie Ruby at 717-349-2603

