



UPPER PATH VALLEY PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

September 2020 Newsletter

Dear Covenant Partners, Active Supporters, and Friends,

Waiting is hard: Waiting for a ride, waiting in a long line; waiting for a much-needed break, waiting for a baby to come; waiting for a wedding day or a new job to start; waiting for test results, or for the storm to pass by. Waiting is hard.

Right now, all of us are waiting for COVID-19 and its effects to recede. We are waiting for businesses and schools to fully reopen. We are waiting to travel freely again. We are waiting to visit our family members and friends in hospitals and care facilities, and we are waiting to be able to attend doctor's appointments with our loved ones. We are waiting to gather without precautionary distancing measures on the UPVPC property again. We are waiting, and waiting is hard. Just say that out loud. "Waiting. Is. Hard."

But here's the thing: Waiting should not be equated with the mindless 'spinning of our wheels' or the 'twiddling of our thumbs.' Waiting, for the follower of Jesus, is about God's transforming work happening IN us. Are we waiting patiently or impatiently? Are we waiting gently and humbly in heart? In our waiting are we bearing fruit for the LORD or are we somehow restricting the spiritual nourishment of the Holy Spirit? Let's look at what the Bible says about waiting:

- **Lamentations 3:25:** "The Lord is good to those who wait for him, to the soul who seeks him."
- **Psalms 27:14:** "Wait for the Lord; be strong, and let your heart take courage; wait for the Lord!"
- **Isaiah 40:31:** "But they who wait for the Lord shall renew their strength; they shall mount up with wings like eagles; they shall run and not be weary; they shall walk and not faint."
- **Psalms 37:7:** "Be still before the Lord and wait patiently for him; fret not yourself over the one who prospers in his way, over the man who carries out evil devices!"
- **Psalms 130:5-6:** "I wait for the Lord, my soul waits, and in his word I hope; my soul waits for the Lord more than watchmen for the morning, more than watchmen for the morning."
- **Micah 7:7:** "But as for me, I will look to the Lord; I will wait for the God of my salvation; my God will hear me."
- **Isaiah 30:18:** "Therefore the Lord waits to be gracious to you, and therefore he exalts himself to show mercy to you. For the Lord is a God of justice; blessed are all those who wait for him."
- **Psalms 39:7:** "And now, O Lord, for what do I wait? My hope is in you."
- **Psalms 62:5:** "For God alone, O my soul, wait in silence, for my hope is from him."

What are you waiting for right now? For me, as hard as it is, I am waiting for a dear friend to finally find his way home to Heaven. In my opinion, he has suffered long enough. But my opinion doesn't matter. My opinion is just that: MY opinion. God doesn't need my opinion. He doesn't need my advice. So, what do I do while I wait so that I am faithfully exercising patience and bearing fruit for Him?

I trust. I listen. I trust & listen to God. I trust & listen to God fully. Is He the God of my salvation? Yes! Is He a God of justice? Yes! Is He good to those who wait for Him? Yes! Is there something in this delay that I can learn from Him? Always.

Renew your trust in Him, church! Seek Him. Seek His heart, His ways, and His will for you and for your family. Do not neglect or reject the fruit that can be borne in the waiting. Blessed are all who wait for Him.

With love, gratitude, and prayers,
Rev. Meagan

WORDS TO PONDER FROM DR. BONNIE CORNELIOUS

One of the most basic and most important techniques in counseling is questioning. The counselor's job is to help the client to get to the root of a problem and to help that person develop strategies to cope or to improve what's happening. More often than not, this involves questions.

Most of the questions that are asked are not primarily for the benefit of the counselor, but some are. Questions like the following are necessary and helpful to provide information for the counselor:

- Who referred you to me?
- Have you seen a counselor before?
- How do I contact you?
- Where do you work?

These are called close-ended questions because they are answered with a few words or yes/no. They provide basic factual information for beginning the counseling relationship.

Answers to open-ended questions are much more important to the client for expressing feelings and identifying areas that need their examination. They help the counselor to know what the issues are that need to be confronted. They require longer, thoughtful answers. Some examples follow:

- What is the problem from your viewpoint?
- How does it make you feel?
- What would make things better?
- How would you describe your outlook on life?

In order to benefit the client, the answers can help the counselor to see patterns and to follow up on the information presented. Also, when what was said is restated to the client, he or she is able to agree or disagree with the summary and sometimes also sees/hears if the answer was rational or irrational.

There is so much more to a counseling relationship, but the basis tactic is questioning. Jesus certainly knew that even though he wasn't technically counseling. Some Biblical examples of questions are as follows:

Close-ended:

- "What is your name: Legion is my name because we are many." (Mark 5:9)
- "Will you give me a drink?" (John 4:7)
- "Do you believe?" (Matthew 8:26)

Open-ended:

- "Why do you call me good?" (Luke 18:19)
- "Why are you so afraid?" (Matthew 8:26)
- "Who do men say that the Son of Man is?" (Matthew 16:13)

In the examples above, Jesus already knew the answers. The questions were asked to improve the understanding of the answerer. While I (or no other counselor) knows

the answers, the goal is the same: to improve, clarify, or help the client's insight and understanding.

May it be so!

Father God, to serve you is my goal. To bring praise and honor to Your Name is what I'm called to do. As with all other circumstances in this life, Your Word gives me direction to do this work as a counselor. I am greatly blessed by You. Amen

BIRTHDAYS AND ANNIVERSARIES!



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

Birthdays

| | |
|---------------------|--------------|
| George Baker | September 2 |
| Bobby Allison | September 3 |
| John Boozer | September 3 |
| Nancy Coons | September 6 |
| Addaleigh Daniel | September 7 |
| Molly Daniel | September 7 |
| Travis Minium | September 7 |
| Bobbie Wible | September 8 |
| Abigail Frazier | September 9 |
| Brad Gerlach | September 10 |
| Wayne Treible | September 11 |
| Gayle Parks | September 12 |
| Don Umbrell | September 12 |
| Carson Beaumont | September 14 |
| Marissa Flood | September 15 |
| Seth Hart | September 15 |
| Royce McGee | September 15 |
| Donnie Allison | September 16 |
| Bill Harris | September 16 |
| Sharryl Hockenberry | September 16 |
| Jonathan Baker | September 17 |
| Matthew Peppernick | September 17 |
| Emmalynn Felmlee | September 17 |
| Laura Copenhaver | September 18 |
| Betty Wenger | September 18 |
| Ray Coons | September 19 |
| Brenda Hart | September 19 |
| Trish Naugle | September 21 |
| Mike Parks | September 21 |
| Donna Adams | September 21 |
| Pam Beaston | September 23 |
| Crystal Gamble | September 23 |
| Brittney Rupert | September 24 |
| Rena Barry | September 24 |
| Rylan Felmlee | September 24 |
| Sarah Robinson | September 27 |
| Betty Campbell | September 28 |
| Maegan Snyder | September 28 |
| Mark Cook | September 29 |

Anniversaries

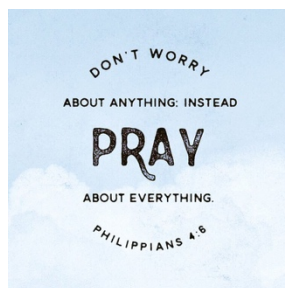
| | |
|--------------------------|--------------|
| Brett & Kendra Hostler | September 1 |
| Mike & Robin Coons | September 6 |
| Ray & Nancy Coons | September 6 |
| Drew & Dawn Johnson | September 6 |
| Butch & Dee Flood | September 6 |
| Bob & Jill Parsons | September 9 |
| Wayne & Wanda Harry | September 12 |
| Bob & Lori McClure | September 13 |
| Von & Kristin McGee | September 13 |
| Dave & Shiela Parsons | September 16 |
| Preston & Kathy Carbaugh | September 17 |
| Darryl & Shelly Boggs | September 18 |
| Wayne & Carrie Anderson | September 19 |
| John & Emma Byers | September 21 |
| Zac & Kristie Hall | September 22 |
| Eric & Beth Bair | September 23 |
| Cole & Keri Daniel | September 25 |

AND SPEAKING OF PRAYER.... Please pray for those in post-high school education:

Post-high school students: Taylor Coffman (Shears Cosmetology School), Morgan Frazier (Penn Tech), Jen Harris (Penn State), Robert McClure (Ship), Emily Metcalfe (Wilson College), Bailee Parson (Ship), Elizabeth Parsons (Penn State Mont Alto), Jonathan Parsons (Penn State University Park), Billy Peppernick (Messiah College), Sarah Robinson (Eastern Gateway Community College), Alyssa Rotz (Slippery Rock), Becca Rotz (Westchester University, schooling at home), Kriste Shoop (Wilson College), Jaelee Stouffer (Penn State Mont Alto). Seminary: Gary Rebok, Regent University; Laurie Parsons, Gordon-Conwell.

THANK YOU TO JEN HARRIS for serving as our church custodian over the past several years. With 4 children doing cyber-school and Jen herself taking fulltime courses online at Penn State, Jen wasn't able to continue to clean the church property. Thank you, Jen (and family) for your ministry to all of us through your care of the building!

Starting the week of August 23rd, UPVPC has partnered with **OCCUPATIONAL SERVICES, INC.** in Chambersburg for the cleaning of the church. This is a great opportunity for us to minister to those who need job experience and meet a staff need at the same time. Both Gary Rebok and Marissa Flood work for OSI and so we will have personal help achieving a healthy partnership with these clients!



Children, Youth, & Family Ministry

As school begins both online and in-person, families are again transitioning to new learning environments and new schedules. The school year brings a lot

of challenges and a lot of stress for many during a season when there have been already many challenges and cancelled events and programs. Please continually be in prayer for the families of our congregation and our community. Pray for students, teachers, administrators, school staff, and parents as they adjust to new learning environments. Pray they will be filled with peace, patience, wisdom, kindness, gentleness, and self-control every single day. School in a normal situation can be tough so we pray that God would strengthen and sustain families, teachers, and staff during this school year.

A quick note on ministry on and off campus for the Fall. **Rooted Youth** will once again meet from 7-8 p.m. on Wednesdays starting on **September 16** for middle and high school students. For families with elementary and Pre-K students, a meeting was held on August 26th to discuss how we will move forward to re-engage your families in ministry on and off campus. We want to make sure we put everything in place to minister to your students as well as provide you with the resources you need for your family. Know that you are continually being prayed for!
~Love & Prayers, Laurie Parsons

Seminary Update: Laurie Parsons

On August 24 I finished my two summer courses and my fifth semester at Gordon-Conwell Theological Seminary. I'm thankful to be able to continue my education and it has been quite interesting learning and discussing current events with my fellow seminary students. On September 8th, I will start my fall classes: Biblical Theology of Leadership and Ministering to Emerging Generations. A potential end date for my degree is December 2021. Thank you for your support and prayers! ~ Laurie

Upper Path Valley Presbyterian Church
P.O. Box 128
Spring Run, PA. 17262
www.upvpc.org
717-349-2603

**From John & Ruth Mitchell –
Path Valley Children's Missionaries!**

Bible Release – School Good News Club

Another school year has started and normally we would be planning our Thursday program to share the Good News with the elementary children. This year we are on a hiatus – a short hiatus we hope. *Please pray for a path forward* for not only the program in Path Valley but the School Good News Club program all over the US. In this ever-changing world our children need to hear the Word of God – they need to be comforted by these words; they need to know they have a Savior. As part of the local team – we hope to gather together in the month of September like we have every other year, except this year instead of sharing teaching schedules and lesson plans we will be sharing ideas of how to reach the children here in the valley with the Good News. Thank you for your prayers, support and words of encouragement. God knows what the future holds – we just have to hold on. 😊

Operation Christmas Child

Did you know National Collection Week is the third week of November for Operation Christmas Child? Wow- it's time to start collecting and packing items for your shoebox gifts. A lot of changes have occurred throughout this year, but one thing has not changed – the children of the world need to hear the Good News of Jesus Christ and one way is through a Shoebox gift.

If you are not sure how you can be a part of the program this year – the Shoebox Supply House, 208 Lurgan Ave, Shippensburg has an option. For your convenience, they can pack shoeboxes for you at the warehouse! For \$15.50 they can fill a

shoebox, include the shipping, and make sure it gets turned in to the Collection Center this fall. For those of you having to travel a great distance to the warehouse or are limited by Covid-19, this is a great alternative. Rick at jbradford01@comcast.net is your contact if you are interested. Also, if you are looking for a great selection of items for in your boxes the Shoebox Supply house is open September Sat- 5, 10, 14, 19, 21, 24 and 28, from 9 to 12 noon. (Cash or check only)

Collection week may look a little different this year. It is quite possible this will be a drive-thru event rather than a walk-in event. But we will be collecting, processing and distributing the precious gifts, sharing the Gospel with all the children. If you need a shoebox, label, brochure or have a question, contact Brenda Hart or John and Ruth Mitchell.

Path Valley Shoebox Project

It has been a busy season for the Shoebox Project in the valley. Everything looks different this year and our packing parties may be a little different but – we continue to be faithful to the call to share the Good News through a simple shoebox gift. We have not had the same opportunities this year as before, but the Lord has provided for us in different ways. We are excited to see what happens over the next few months. We are planning on having a least 3 packing parties in the valley. The dates and places will be announced soon.

The main packing party is tentatively scheduled for **November 8** at Brindle's Auction in Willow Hill. Our storage area is open at Val- Med the last Saturday of the month from 9-12 to receive items collected for the packing parties. Thank you all for your continued support of this project. God has richly blessed us, and we are blessed to share what we have been given.

The Dining Room Renovation Project!

A wonderful project that has brought workers together during the pandemic has been our dining room renovation! We have been so blessed to be able to work together safely, enjoying fellowship, laughter, and the accomplishment of a common goal during a very challenging time. Thanks be to God!

During the week of August 23rd, we are finishing the drywall and getting ready to paint. Once we finish the painting, the heating and cooling contractor will come back to mount the units in the dining room (one is already fully installed and operating in the kitchen). Finally, Kenny Wenger will install the carpeting before we bring the tables and chairs back into the room from Brad Gamble's barn!

Thank you to the following people who have helped so far (I hope I don't forget anyone): Eric Bair, Karl Barry, Cale Book, John Boozer, Gene Carbaugh, Brad Gamble, Jack Hall, Mark & Brenda Hart, Clay Johnson, Phil Lakjer, Jim Miller, Scott Naugle, Laurie & Nick Parsons, Marlene Shearer, Bob Shoop, Rodney Walters, Ken Weikel, and Ken & Betty Wenger.



Looks like Rodney is getting ready for a dunking booth!



If you are able to continue to offer your tithes, gifts, and offerings to the LORD, even if you can't worship in person with us right now, you can mail them to UPVPC Treasurer, P.O. Box 128, Spring Run, PA. 17262, or you can donate from our website (www.upvpc.org) and hit the **donate** button. It is so true that where our treasure is, there our hearts will be also. (Matthew 6:21)

Seminary Update: Gary Rebok – Regent University School of Divinity

It's hard to believe summer classes have come to a close, and now, the fall semester has arrived. But this fall is different, in that, it is the final fall semester of my seminary journey. During the summer, I took Church History and Unity of the Bible. After a week off, I began the fall semester jumping into the study of Old Testament Theology, a class learning about the message, themes, and content – the theology – of the Old Testament. The Old Testament remains a portion of the authoritative Scriptures for the Christian church. In the global context of this course, its study examines God's love for humanity, which in itself plays into the center of Christian thought and action. Again, as in most of my seminary courses, the exegetical study (critical explanation or interpretation of scripture) of biblical texts plays an essential role for me as a student to understand the meaning and message of many selected biblical texts. There are five textbooks to read, and so, I know what I'll be doing.

Finally, the last class beginning in October will cover the Pentateuch, the first five books of the Bible. This class focuses on understanding its theological message and relevance for godly living in all ages and cultures. This year presents an exciting time for me as I close out ten consecutive years of higher education. But the journey does not and will not end at the close of 2020. Starting in January 2021, I will embark on a four-month internship here at the church (while still working full-time at OSI). What comes after graduation? That's up to God.

Patti and I are grateful for the continued support of the church, and we look forward to that day of celebration with you by our side as we look toward May 8th, 2021. May the peace of Christ dwell within each one of you. In Christ's love, Gary.

IN-PERSON WORSHIP FOR 8/30 AND THE MONTH OF SEPTEMBER (WEATHER PERMITTING)

In our deep-rooted hope to connect (or reconnect) our whole church family (as much as is safe & possible), we are offering one service of worship at 9:30 a.m. on Sunday mornings on the front lawn (followed by the Assembly Room small group).

Please bring your own chair!

If the weather report looks 'iffy' by noon on Friday, due to technological changes that will need to be made ahead of time, we will make the decision to be inside for two services at 8:15 and 10:30 a.m. with the Assembly Room small group in between from 9:25-10:15. We will post on Facebook and send emails with updates. If you need clarification, feel free to call or text Rev. Meagan at 717-360-4878.