

May/June 2024

# The Shepherd

*I will bless the Lord at all times; His praise shall continually be in my mouth.*

*- Psalm 34:1*

Wow! This verse makes you think, doesn't it?

Do I really, always bless the Lord? Do I really praise Him continually with my mouth?

I wish I could answer with a definite, yes!

But if we are honest, I am sure we can find ourselves lacking in this area.

Sometimes we are tired, and we get ornery. Sometimes we are dealing with nagging pain, and we get ornery. Sometimes we would just like to have some time to ourselves, and we get ornery, because there isn't enough time in a day to have me-time.

All these things are earthly things, and when we focus on the earthly things, our life tends to get miserable, and we get ornery.

I challenge myself along with all of you, to read this verse every morning, and allow it to remind us to bless the Lord with our life and praise His name with the words of our mouth and the meditations of our hearts continually.

And I am sure we will notice a difference in our lives and our demeanor. Because we will intentionally be spending each day with our God.

This leads us to another Scripture from James 4:7-8 Humility Cures Worldliness

*7 Therefore submit to God. Resist the devil and he will flee from you. 8 Draw near to God and He will draw near to you.*

Blessings,

Pastor Cyndi



**Columbiana First  
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**Office Information**

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**Office Hours**

**Monday, Wednesday, & Friday**  
9:00am—1:00pm

**Our Staff**

**\*Pastor Cynthia Midlick**  
cmidlick@msn.com

**\*Financial Secretary**  
Eileen Laffarre

**\*Custodian**  
Bradley Moore

**\*Team Leader/Organist**  
Monica Detwiler

**\*Choir Director**  
Steven Burbick

**\*Music Consultant**  
Sally Bricker

**HAPPY BIRTHDAY**

(If we have missed your special day, please notify the church office to be added to the list! 330-482-2382)

**Betty Belding 05/04**  
**Tim Bortner 05/07**  
**Roberta Ridel 05/10**  
**Marilou Detwiler 05/11**  
**Donn Corban 05/16**  
**Vernon Burkey 05/19**  
**Suzanne Crowl 05/28**  
**Betty Ruppenthal 05/31**

**Linda Winters 06/22**  
**Phillip Nelson 06/27**  
**Emma Nappi 06/30**

**If your birthday is in March or April and it is not on the list we wish you also a very Happy Birthday.**



Dear Church family,

Thank you so very much for your prayers & beautiful cards. I really appreciated all of them. Recovery was more than I expected, but doing much better now. Thank you again so much.

Sorry this is late, it should have been in the last newsletter, but thank you so much.

In Christian love,  
Becky McMurray

I would like to thank Gabrielle for hearing the Call of God in her life to start a Children’s Ministry in our church.

What has been lacking is a Children’s Ministry on Sunday morning. But now we have a Children’s Message and a Jr. Church Lesson during our Message time in our Worship service.

Even though at this time we have one child, Victoria. I have already seen the fruit of this ministry. Victoria has been more in tune with God. Praying more and praising Him more.

Parents and Grandparents need help raising their children in Christ. I needed it with my children, and I need it today with Victoria and my grandchildren. And I am thankful for those who voluntarily show God’s love to them, so they will know true love.

Thank you Gabrielle for saying yes to Him. And thank you for sharing today.

If there is anyone who would like to share their testimony of how you have seen God in your life, you are welcome to do so here in our Newsletter, or during our Worship Services on Sunday morning. Reach out to me and we will figure out together the best way to share your story.

Blessings,  
Pastor Cyndi

## Kids' Club

In March we talked about Palm Sunday, Holy Week, and the resurrection. Thank you to Sam Gillespie for renting the pavilion at the park and all the decorations, eggs, and prizes for an awesome Easter egg hunt and party! Thank you to Sam's mother Tana for all her hard work in setting up and making our party look so festive!

In April the kids enjoyed doing chalk art in the circle outside our store. They also enjoyed playing tag.

In our most recent meeting, the kids enjoyed acting out "The Good Samaritan" and as always they enjoy playing in our game room.

Thank you again Ginny Neville for funding our Kids Club! With your help, we can feed our kids and enjoy special events!

- Karen Culp



## TRUSTEE NEWS

There has been a delay in getting our Window re-caulked in the Prayer Garden area do to the new leak of the roof above the Sanctuary. This leak has been taken care of, and so far we have not seen any other leaks, Praise God! The cost of fixing the roof was \$4900.

We are planning on Tri-State Glass to re-caulk the windows in the Prayer Garden area. This is a much-needed project, the cost for this part of the project will be \$1470.00. We would like to reach out, and ask if it is laid on your heart to help in the area, it would be greatly appreciated.

Our Elevator continued to cause us concern these past couple of months, as the phone was not working which is a requirement to keep our privileges to use the elevator in our facility. Praise God a new phone line has been run from the Elevator to the Pastor's office, and the phone is now in working order. This was done at a cost of \$1200. It is amazing how hard it is to find someone to run phone lines these days, but thanks to Sam Detwiler, he was able to find someone to do the work.

We do have new renters in the parsonage as of March 25. Praise God!

Grass seed will be planted in the area where the shrubs were removed at the end of last year.

Other future projects needed:

Lawn treatment by Wilms this spring, cost will be approximately \$75.

Parking Lot resealing and striping, cost will be approximately \$5200. This was planned to be done a couple of years ago but has been put off due to other much-needed repairs. We ask that you pray about this and if it is laid on your heart to give towards this expenditure, it would be greatly appreciated.

We are looking to clean out the Old Boy Scout room. It has become a catch-all room, and we would like to bring some organization to it. So, we would like to ask the congregation to take a look and see if there is anything in there you would if it is no longer needed by the church. Anything left in the room after June 1st, we will remove the things we find to not be of use to the church.

Thank to all for your continued support and help in advance.

Yours Truly,  
Bob Belding

## Good As New Shoppe

We are currently adding spring & summer items to our inventory.

“Springtime in Columbiana” will be held on May 4th with each participating merchants giving away a chance to win a hanging basket.

Marge has made a patriotic “Chunky” blanket and donated it to the shoppe to be given away on May 25th.

Thanks to all who do a part to make this store a success.

Blessings,

Marge and Linda

**Store hours Friday 10-4**

**Saturday 10-3.**

**Store Phone Number: (330) 831-0399**

## Church Women United

Our recent fellowship breakfast was held on April 17th.

The next breakfast will be on June 19th at 10 am.

We will be meeting at the Dutch House, no reservations necessary.

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

- **In person Worship Services are on Sunday's at 10:30am.**
- **Children's Message and Jr. Church takes place during our worship service. Led by Gabrielle Burbick**
- **Adult Sunday School class 9:30 am Sunday mornings.**
- **Bible Study Wednesday mornings at 11 am in the Pastor's Study. We are using Max Lucado's book They Walked with God. Each week we cover a Character of the Bible.**
- **Ham Dinners will be held on May 14th, and June 11th, from 4 to until sold out. \$10.00 each. Please let your friends know. We suggest calling the office to reserve at 330-482-2382.**
- **Anyone who can help with the Ham dinner please call Anne Brown at 330-831-1112. There will also be a sign up sheet available at the church, before and after Worship service on Sunday.**
- **Centers for Hearing Care would like to join us in helping the Christina House. They are going to collect Women's products and deliver them prior to Mother's Day. We would like to add to that donation of Women's products, collection boxes are found under the Mission Central tables, and there is a table in the Narthex where items can be placed.**
- **May 19th and June 25th we will have Chef Brad's Brunch after Worship Service.**
- **May 22nd deadline to order Geraniums in memory of your loved ones for Memorial Day. Call 330 482-2382. These flowers will then be planted around the church.**
- **May 20th @ 7 pm the Baccalaureate Program to honor seniors from Columbiana High School and Heartland Christian School will be hosted here at our church. If anyone would like to donate cookies for afterwards, please let us know by calling the church office 330 482-2382.**

## **Christina House**

**The Christina House is a safe place for battered women, and their children. Judy Stevens delivers donated items every month or so.**

**The following is a list of items needed for the  
Christina House in Lisbon:**

**Paper towels, Disposable Diapers, Baby Wipes, Tissues, Toilet Paper,**

**Women's products, Laundry Detergent, Bleach, Bath Soap,  
Cleaning Supplies, Towels/Washcloths, Underwear, Bras, Socks,**

**Baby Clothes, Pajamas (women's and children's), Shampoo,**

**Deodorant, Toothpaste, Toothbrushes, Hair Spray,**

**Disposable Razors, Boxed Food mixes & Snacks,**

**Children's activity items, stationary,**

**light bulbs, alarm clocks and AA & AAA batteries.**

## **Way Station**

**We are also collecting nonperishable foods for The Way Station.**

**There are boxes and baskets at church where these items  
can be collected.**

**Thanks to all that donate!**

## **THE COST OF OBEDIENCE**

God has rules/boundaries/requirements for His family.

I get that. Raising two sons, we had those in our small family too.

They were essential to facilitate the smooth, cohesive, healthy, safe functioning of this small nucleus of people living together.

Bottom line was "My house, my rules."

Who gets to decide how things run?

The one responsible for the nucleus.

Do we like all the requirements all the time? No. But as we grow & mature, we understand how necessary they are. We start to observe what goes 'wrong' when we disregard them.

But another interesting thing happens... we start to understand the need for boundaries & rules & we grasp the benefits & rewards that come to all of us as a result.

The gift of salvation, the opportunity for me to have a close & intimate relationship with the Creator of the Universe, the God of gods, the King of kings, came at a price. It cost Jesus his life. His obedience came at a cost. It cost him His own will & wants - perhaps wealth, adoration, recognition. It cost Him a future with his earthly family. It cost him the opportunity for marriage & children of His own. It cost Him physically when He was tired, emotional, anguished & depleted. It cost Him unimaginable pain when He knew he could call it all off with a word. It cost Him bearing the filth & shame, the hurt & rage of fallen people. It cost Him allowing every guilt & penalty to be poured on Him so He could pay the ransom for our souls.

He set the highest example of Obedience.

What does obedience cost me?

Luke 9v23: New International Version. (NIV)

"Then he said to them all: 'Whoever wants to be my disciple must deny themselves & take up their cross daily & follow me.'"

Luke 14:25-33 Good News Translation (GNT)

The Cost of Being a Disciple

25 Once when large crowds of people were going along with Jesus, he turned and said to them, 26 "Those who come to me cannot be my disciples unless they love me more than they love father and mother, wife and children, brothers and sisters, and themselves as well. 27 Those who do not carry their own cross and come after me cannot be my disciples. 28 If one of you is planning to build a tower, you sit down first and figure out what it will cost, to see if you have enough money to finish the job. 29 If you don't, you will not be

able to finish the tower after laying the foundation; and all who see what happened will make fun of you. 30 ‘You began to build but can’t finish the job!’ they will say. 31 If a king goes out with ten thousand men to fight another king who comes against him with twenty thousand men, he will sit down first and decide if he is strong enough to face that other king. 32 If he isn’t, he will send messengers to meet the other king to ask for terms of peace while he is still a long way off. 33 In the same way,” concluded Jesus, “none of you can be my disciple unless you give up everything you have.”

Can that be true? Is this REALLY what Jesus asks of me to be his follower, his protégé, his disciple, his adopted sister? I mean *Whaaaaaat*? Isn’t that too radical? Too extreme?

That means giving up my free will. It means submitting and surrendering to an ‘unknown’ path. Shouldn’t I be master of my own destiny? Captain of my soul? This teaching goes against everything I’ve been conditioned to do and be since I could start stringing sentences together.

“If you can dream it, you can achieve it!”

“If it’s to be, it’s up to me!”

“Dream the impossible, dream big!”

“You can be anything you set your mind to being!”

Why on earth would Jesus say this is what we need to do to follow him?  
And by the way, what’s in it for us?

In essence, that’s all He says. No promises, no lures, no carrots dangling from a string. “Either give up everything and follow me, or don’t.”  
Persuade me, Jesus. Give me something to hold on to, to know this will be worth it!.  
Sometimes eternity with You seems like an eternity away. I’ve gotta make it through today. I’ve gotta make it through THIS life first...

In Sunday School we are working through the book ‘Not a Fan’ by Kyle Idleman. The question that came up in today’s reading and discussion was ‘*What has following Jesus cost you? How has following Jesus interfered with your life?*’

Allow me to share with you what happened when I made the decision to follow Him – when I took that step towards Him in blind faith & submitted my will and my way over to His leading and direction...

He gave me a family – a spiritual family - bigger than I could have ever imagined. He brought people into my life who brought so much joy! They walked alongside me - to test me, to challenge me, to help me carry a load, to teach me to give, to teach me

to love and forgive.

He opened my eyes to how much He’s around me and how He takes delight in surprising me with little gifts throughout each day – no matter what circumstances surround me. He sees me. He hears me. He knows me. And if I stay tuned in to Him, I see how involved He is – even down to the innermost thoughts I have.

When I heed His direction & leading, He raises me up to shine better than I ever did when I did things in my own strength.

He didn’t take away the hard things, or the sad things, or the heartbreaking things, but He gets into the trenches - right alongside me - and helps me navigate through them. He softens my heart in the process and molds me, shapes me, matures me. And He grows His wisdom in me.

He heals my soul. He works ever so gently to peel away my defences to reach the deepest hurts & then He tenderly calls me to look at them. He has all the time in the world, so He has no need to rush this process. He’ll go as far as I am able, allowing me to rest awhile & then come back to continue the healing journey.

And through walking with Him long enough, I see His steadfastness, His loyalty, His faithfulness, His absolute commitment to me.

I begin to understand amazing Grace. I begin to understand unrelenting, unending Love. And I understand how important it is for others to experience Him too!

As I learn to let go of all that I want to fix, manage & control, I am starting to understand that to lose my life, for His sake, will help me find it...

Matthew 16 v 24 – 25 New International Version. (NIV)

*24“Then Jesus said to his disciples, “Whoever wants to be my disciple must deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me. 25For whoever wants to save their life will lose it, but whoever loses their life for me will find it.*

Yours in Christ,

Gabrielle