

# The COMMUNITY MESSENGER

## *A Message from Pastor Ed*

Autumn is About to Be-FALL Us

As I sit here contemplating what to expound upon. (Pretty fancy wording, right?) The passage of time. No! No! Not the political pontification of someone who shall not be mentioned in this article.

I sit here on this very blustery day. Autumn is fast approaching. All of nature, all of the world, all of the universe, all of time is subdued by God, the creator of everything!

I think back to my youth when time seemed to move so slow. To now, in my “golden” years (not sure where that term came from!) Time seems to move at breakneck speed. Even the seasons appear to be going faster and faster!

So what have we done with the time we have on this earth? Have we made a difference? Do I have a good job, a nice house, a nice car, boat, good friends, etc. None of these things are bad in and of themselves. But have we made a positive impact in someone’s life? Are we building a legacy? And, if we are. Is it my legacy? Or is it a legacy of the one that matters! Jesus Christ.

Whether you’re young or getting up in years. Every moment of our life counts, and every moment of our life should point to Jesus. Everything we do, everything that we are is because of Him.! We have a great responsibility as believers in Jesus Christ and followers of him. May we take that responsibility seriously and show his love everywhere we go and in Jesus’ name! Amen?

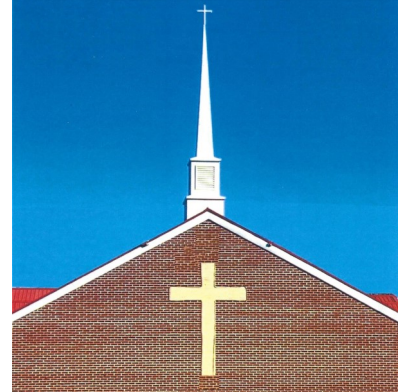
Love in Him,  
Pastor Ed

P.S. The evil one will not be happy with us. He will try to cause disagreements between us anyway he can! Let’s defeat him with the armor of God as the kids learned about in Vacation Bible School!

Love God and love each other! ♥  
Ephesians 6:10 to 12



Where Friends Become Family...



Community Church of Oak Orchard  
32615 Oak Orchard Road, Millsboro, DE 19966



*Do not judge, and you will not be judged; do not condemn, and you will not be condemned. Forgive, and you will be forgiven.*

**- Luke 6:37**

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# Faith, Food, Fellowship



FELLOWSHIP  
LUNCHEON  
AUGUST 4th

I'll bow my head and ask  
God to bless this chicken  
to the nourishment of  
my body. Yum!







## ODYSSEA: A SPIRITUAL JOURNEY

### Scales of the Faithful

By Art Schmidt

*For in the same way you judge others, you will be judged, and with the measure you use, it will be measured to you.* Matthew 7:2 NIV

He who believes in Jesus Christ shall not be judged—unbelief is a force that will condemn the unbeliever to eternal judgement, and he shall not enter the Kingdom of God. Ah, but scripture also tells the *believer* to be very careful not to judge others for fear that they will be judged with equal measure.

If we are totally honest with ourselves, we'd have to accept the fact that we tend to judge others far more often and too quickly than we would want to admit. How easy is it to do? Well, if we were able to end each day by reading a transcript of our thoughts and spoken words, we would be very surprised how frequently we say or think judgmental things. Sometimes it seems judgmental thoughts pop into our heads automatically no matter how hard we try to prevent them. Our "blink" kicks in and we tend to "sum-up" a person at first glance. Consider this: have you ever noticed someone walk into church on a Sunday dressed in a manner that you think is inappropriate for a worship service? "Look at how that person is dressed!" Isn't it more important that they were there to worship than how they are dressed? God won't care, so why should we?

In his book, Blink, Malcolm Gladwell<sup>1</sup> reveals his viewpoint of human judgement: "The reality is that we go through our daily life instinctively judging people within the first two seconds of contact no matter whether we know them or not." As the book title proclaims, Gladwell labels that process – when our mind makes a series of conclusions about a person based upon our instinct, sight, and experience in about two seconds – as "blink". Our mind quickly passes judgement, and then we react accordingly. Gladwell then justifies those instant conclusions by calling them powerful, important, rational, and often accurate. But when are those snap judgments good and when are they not? Could we be wrongfully misjudging people? According to Gladwell: "Less is more. The less we know about a person, the better our initial judgement will be." I disagree—from my own past experience, I formed a snap judgement about a person only to discover I was wrong after I got to know them.

As faithful members of the Community Church of Oak Orchard, we strive to maintain our outreach approach, connect with our community, and grow in our faith. Our annual Community Day held this month has augmented our church's outreach. What better way to share the love of God than to welcome our community to join us for food, fun, and fellowship. To love God is to love people. That is the message from our church and from our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ.

*Oh Lord, teach me to feel another's woe, to hide the fault I see; That the mercy I show to others, also be shown to me. Amen.* —Alexander Pope

<sup>1</sup>Malcolm Timothy Gladwell is a Canadian journalist, author, and public speaker. He has been a staff writer for The New Yorker since 1996. He has published seven books.



### GOD IS LOVE ☿

Love is blind, the phrase runs. Nay, I would rather say, love sees as God sees, and with infinite wisdom and infinite pardon. —Ouida





**VBS**



Sanctuary Wall Artwork by Linda Miller





# Faith, Fun, & Fellowship

Like a soldier with no armor, I was broken  
It was only getting darker in the valley, I was hopeless  
I was searching for a reason to believe I could matter  
I was hoping, I was reaching, I needed a savior  
Then Christ came, changing everything  
He took my sin and shame away  
Now every song I sing will be for Him  
He told me I'm worth it, Hallelujah! \*



\* Excerpt from "Then Christ Came" recorded by Mercy Me; songwriters: David Leonard / Bart Millard

# Understanding Prayer

*By Sandie Wysocki*

What is prayer? Why should we pray? Who should we pray to? Will there be an answer?

Prayer, your conversation with God. He knows your need, but why does He want you to pray? God wants you to realize your need of Him. He wants you to get to know him. He wants you to know that He loves you with never-ending love. More importantly, He wants you to know His son, Jesus Christ, your link to everlasting life.

We pray quietly in our spirit or audibly in our humanity. Either way, He hears us and listens to our every word.

God is our supreme being and creator who directs our path. But Jesus is our voice who relays to God our needs and wants. He is the advocate that God provided to connect us to Him. Jesus is the name above all names, use it to open doors of communication with our Father.

Father God never leaves us without an answer. But, the answer is not always what we would like to hear. He knows what we need and what is best for us. The answer to our prayers can come in many different ways; by reading the Bible, by hearing the Word preached, by a friend, acquaintance, a stranger, and even a person you may not particularly like. It may take more time than what you counted on, but He will answer in some way. He knows our needs and wants, but He wants us to seek Him and speak to Him.

## *Listen to the Word of God~*

*And this is the confidence that we have toward him, that if we ask anything according to his will he hears us.* - 1John 5:14

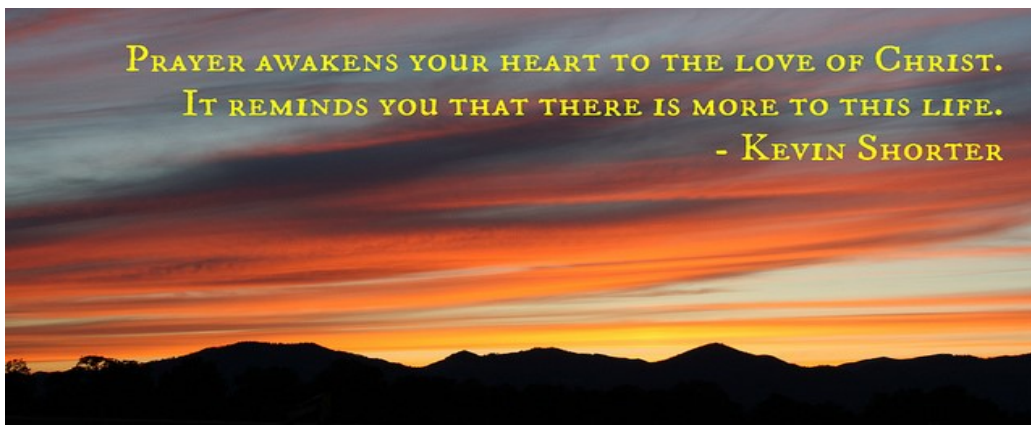
*Then you will call on me and come and pray to me, and I will listen to you.* - Jeremiah 29:12

*Be joyful in hope, patient in affliction, faithful in prayer.* - Romans 12:12

*Rejoice always; pray without ceasing, give thanks in all circumstances, for this is the will of God, in Christ Jesus for you.*—1Thessalonians 5:16

Note from the writer:

I wrote this piece as I sat in the waiting room at Beebe Hospital while my husband Lenny was undergoing a biopsy. We already knew Lenny has lung cancer and this test would determine the type of cancer, the stage of progression, and the prognosis.





## CONTAGIOUS FAITH

This month's Contagious Faith spotlight is Millie Charnick. In this article Millie will share her journey as a child of the one true King.

I was born and raised in Oak Orchard and have been a member of the Community Church of Oak Orchard since childhood. Initially attending primarily during Easter and Christmas for gifts and candy, my mother stated if you don't go every Sunday, you cannot attend Christmas or Easter at the church, so we went every Sunday. As part of the church's youth group, we engaged in Bible study, enjoyed roller-skating with our youth counselors, and collectively fundraised for the church steeple installation, a project we took great pride in. A couple years ago we held a reunion with former youth group members and realized some have changed their beliefs.



Currently, I serve as the VP of Operations at the Boys and Girls Clubs of Delaware, overseeing clubs across Sussex and Kent County. My journey began as a program director at the Oak Orchard club, where we annually organized a Christmas play involving the children. I recall instances where some participants questioned the inclusion of Jesus in our play, which presented an opportunity to explain the true meaning of Christmas to them, a concept they had not previously understood. We maintained a collection of Bible stories in our club library, invited children to Sunday school and vacation Bible school, and witnessed touching moments such as a young girl's sadness that she did not know this friend some of the other girls were talking about named Jesus, prompting heartfelt discussions and explanations. Seeing the heartache children were going through every day at the club made me realize how blessed I had been growing up with a father and mother. Some of these children don't have food at home, some have been abused, a life I knew nothing about.

While my role now focuses less on daily club operations, my Christian faith remains integral to my identity, known and respected by colleagues. Under the leadership of Erica, our new director, we continue to foster a relationship with the church, welcoming preschoolers to learn songs and stories of Jesus. Additionally, our annual Christmas concert at the church attracts numerous families, further strengthening community bonds. This year, we facilitated the transfer of 11 children from the Boys and Girls Clubs to Vacation Bible School.

Personally, I cherish my family, including one son, three grandchildren, two stepchildren, three step-grandchildren, and one great-grandchild. Family is paramount to me; while not all share my faith, I pray daily for their salvation, hoping for an eternal reunion."

Did I mention that I am Pastor Allens favorite sister-in-law! LOL

Sincerely Millie Charnick

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As the associate pastor, it has been my privilege to be responsible for the contagious faith person of each month. Millie is a great blessing to this church and a great blessing to the children of our community and nearby communities. Children have come to know Jesus because of her boldness in sharing the love of Christ. And just as Millie has shared, the contagious faith experience continues because there were youth leaders and parents before her that made it possible for her to become the contagious person she is! Amen!

May God continue to bless the children of the Boys Girls Club, C.C.O.O., and Millie as she continues to live the life of a contagious Christian.

In Christ,  
Pastor Ed



*“Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly, teaching and admonishing one another in all wisdom, singing psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, with thankfulness in your hearts to God.” Colossians 3:16*

### **Pianist: Karen Coleman**

At age 3, I’d sit at my grandmother’s grand piano and play on the keys. After I turned 8, that piano was given to us so I could begin piano lessons. At age 12 ½, I was referred to a former concert pianist and teacher, Helen Ryad Vinograd, who had escaped from Poland during the Nazi occupation. Even though my initial audition was weak, she agreed to be my teacher as long as I practiced 1 hour each day. She transformed my piano playing skills as I studied the works of the masters.

In my teens, I was exposed to some outstanding hymn music played in what was called the “evangelistic style, such as Rudy Atwood and Ted Smith. My heart yearned to be able to transform a written hymn into music, so I asked God in prayer to give me the gift to do that. So, one summer night I dreamt about the hymn, “Trust & Obey”, and that dream started my journey to improvising the printed page.

I continued to learn and play the piano through high school, college, and beyond. I played the classics, church, and Broadway music. I accompanied soloists, choirs, and choruses and had the privilege of accompanying the vocalist, Dave Boyer, and the great opera bass singer, Simon Estes, a friend of our family. I preferred accompanying others because I feared playing solo, but the Lord helped me overcome that fear. I give God the glory for all my achievements in competitions and performances not only playing the piano, but also in my other endeavors in drama, and ballroom dancing. I play at our church because I know the Lord wants me to.



### **Guitarist: Brent Parsons**

I’ve lived here in the area just east of Millsboro all of my life. I got my first guitar for Christmas when I was 12 years old, and I’ve been playing and collecting guitars ever since. This Christmas (2024) will mark 30 years since I first picked up a guitar. I first started playing in a church at Mary Mother of Peace in Oak Orchard when I was 16, and was a member of the music group there for many years. In 2014, my family and I made the move to the Community Church of Oak Orchard and in 2015 I asked Karen if I could join in and play guitar during the service. I’ve enjoyed being a part of the worship service ever since. I hope that the addition of my playing has been as much of a blessing to the congregation as it has been for me.

During the week I work as a designer and project manager for a company in Selbyville that does landscaping and hardscaping, as well as commercial site work.







**Church of the Covered Dish** by Thom Tapp



"Our family is trying one of those old-fashioned churches, with preaching, the Bible, and all that stuff."

## LOVE GOD LOVE PEOPLE

I've been running in circles  
 Jumping the hurdles  
 Getting caught in that rush of doing so much  
 I'm feeling kinda worn out  
 All this checking the boxes  
 Trying to be flawless  
 Has me spinning my head, catching my breath  
 Too afraid to slow down

I tell myself to keep this up  
 That God wants more than just my love  
 But I've been complicating things  
 It's just like me to overthink

Gotta keep it real simple, keep it real simple  
 Bring everything right back to ground zero  
 'Cause it all comes down to this  
 Love God and love people (people)  
 We're living in a world that keeps breakin'  
 But if we wanna find the way to change it  
 It all comes down to this  
 Love God and love people

Oh, this is freedom (this is freedom)  
 The keys to the Kingdom (hey)  
 Knowing life will be found when love can be loud  
 'Cause love is what it's all about

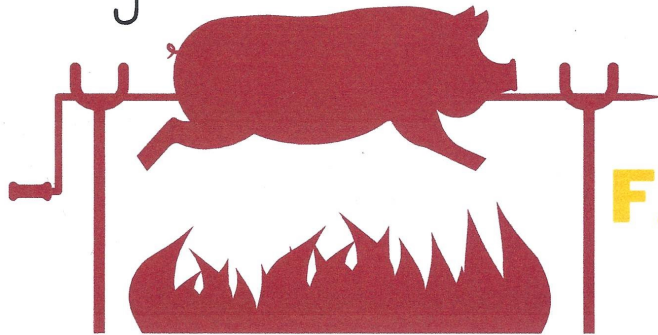
Keep on loving, keep on loving (oh)  
 Love God and love people (people)  
 So keep on loving, keep on loving  
 It's all about love  
 It's how we change the world  
 Love God and love people



Songwriters: Ben Glover, Danny Gokey, Jeff Sojka, Colby Wedgeworth, Riley Clemmons  
 Performed by Danny Gokey at the Promise Keepers 2020 Virtual Event

# Community Church Of Oak Orchard

**FREE  
FOOD**

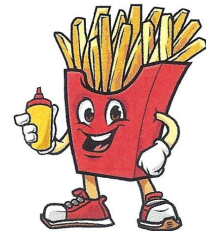


**FAMILY  
FUN**

Community Day 2024  
*September 7th*



Yard Sales: 7am



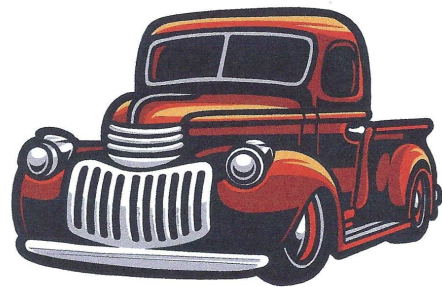
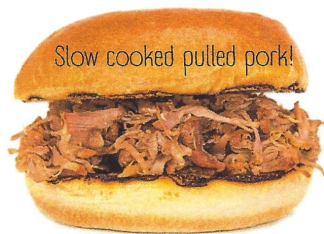
Hotdogs, French Fries, Deep Fried Oreos & Popcorn 10am

Pulled Pork, Cupcakes & Chips 12-1:30



Bouncy House

*delicious!*



Classic Car Show

32615 Oak Orchard Rd., Millsboro, DE 19966

Please contact Kayla if you have questions about this event.



# Kids Korner



T'was the night before school,  
when all through the town,  
the parents were cheering  
- a robust sound!!

By nine, kids were washed  
& tucked into bed where  
memories of homework  
filled them with dread!

New pencils, new folders,  
new notebooks too!  
New teachers, new friends -  
their anxiety grew!

The PARENTS giggled  
when they learned of this fright  
and shouted "GO TO BED!!!!  
IT'S A SCHOOL NIGHT!!!

Annette Melner



## SEPTEMBER BIRTHDAYS

- 2 Faye Holley
- 2 Pat Conley
- 3 Mike Koly
- 4 Phyllis Lowman
- 6 Dillon Newport
- 8 Cyndee DeForest
- 18 Martha Lins
- 20 Amelia Conley
- 25 Veronica White
- 29 Olivia Wheeler
- 29 Peggy Rossington

## HERITAGE SUNDAY

August 4

We honored the memory  
of those who have had an  
effect on our spiritual  
development with a  
special donation.

GIDEON GIFT

\$2,502

## Community Church of Oak Orchard

*Where Friends Become Family!*



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### NEWSLETTER STAFF

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Pastor Ed, Ted Brown  
Design: Art Schmidt



### ONLINE DONATIONS

Use the portal on  
our website:  
[oakorchardchurch.com](http://oakorchardchurch.com)

Scroll down to the  
bottom and click on  
the "GIVE" button.

Thank you  
for supporting our  
mission and for your  
faithfulness in giving!

Scan the QR Code below  
to visit our website.



### UPCOMING EVENTS

9/1 *James Bible Study Class 9*  
9:30am with Pastor Ed

9/1 *Fellowship Luncheon*  
Following the 11am Service

9/3 *Church Group Night Out*  
Georgetown Pizza Palace  
6:30pm, RSVP to Kayla

9/7 *Community Day*  
7AM-1:30PM

9/11 *Board Meeting 3pm*

9/15 *James Bible Study Class 10*  
9:30am with Pastor Ed

9/16 *Dinner & Discussion*  
Dinner 5:45pm; Discussion 6:30  
Video: "Now We Live Series"

9/22 *Serv Safe Class*  
10am for all Kitchen Volunteers

9/27 *Women's Conference*  
Hershey, PA

**Community Day**



### CHURCH BOARD of ELDERS

Pastor Allen Miller  
Chair: Ted Brown  
V/Chair: Steve Miller  
Assoc. Pastor: Ed Vidzicki  
Dave Hammer  
Kurt Hepler  
Mike Koly



### SUNDAY WORSHIP

8:00 or 11:00 AM  
in person or online.

Bible Study 9:30 AM  
Prayer 6:00 PM

Watch our services on:  
Facebook—  
[@oakorchardchurch](https://www.facebook.com/oakorchardchurch)

YouTube—  
[@CCOakOrchard/streams](https://www.youtube.com/@CCOakOrchard/streams)

BIBLE STUDY  
Tuesdays 6:30 PM  
Zoom Bible Study

Wednesdays 9:30-11 AM  
AGAPE Bible Study

### ACTIVITIES

Tuesdays @ 10:00 AM  
T.O.P.S. Meeting  
(Take off Pounds Sensibly)

Wednesdays 8 PM C.D.A.

Fellowship Luncheon  
1st Sunday of the Month  
at 12 Noon