

# The Church Mouse

First Presbyterian Church

401 Main Street

Watsonstown, PA 17777

July 2021

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Serving Christ, Community, and One Another Since 1872



## GOD'S GARDEN

by Rev. Rebecca Mallozzi

*'He also said, "The kingdom of God is as if someone would scatter seed on the ground, and would sleep and rise night and day, and the seed would sprout and grow, he does not know how. The earth produces of itself, first the stalk, then the head, then the full grain in the head. But when the grain is ripe, at once he goes in with his sickle, because the harvest has come." - Mark 4:26-29'*

My partner is growing some giant pumpkins. I had no idea what a competitive sport giant pumpkin growing is, but as he grows these vines, I get to watch them (I'm not actually allowed to touch them because I can't be trusted with living plants). It started in May when he set up two large plastic planters. Soon, a little sprout came up. We named it Sprouty. He set up a time-lapse camera to take a video of the second seed sprouting, which we named Jack-O. Now the vines are growing and growing. This process always amazes me. I know there is science behind it, but there's also a kind of magic. Isn't it amazing how God makes things grow even when we aren't paying attention?

It makes me sometimes wonder what we would notice if we did pay attention. If I always waited for the God-sightings, those moments when God shows up and makes

something grow, I wonder how much more I would see. Over and over again, Jesus uses gardening as a metaphor in his parables. Given all those metaphors, I don't wonder how Mary could mistake him for the gardener after the resurrection. She wasn't entirely wrong, after all.

We struggle with the idea of growth sometimes because we often go to a quantitative place. When we talk about "growing," we think of numbers. Dr. Rick Chromey, who works in children's ministry, has a saying I quite like. He says, "Don't count the kids. Make the kids count." Imagine what it might look like to put that into practice. Imagine what it would look like to celebrate the ones who are there rather than lament the ones who aren't. Don't count the people in the pews. Don't count the views on your live stream. Make the ministry count. Let the people who are there know you see them and love them.

When we think we should be doing more, or doing something different, or doing something better, remember to pause and ask what God is growing in us right now, in this moment. If there's a place God wants us to improve, God shows us the way. But we miss God's gardening if we focus too much on numbers.

Our call in ministry isn't clearly defined. We do an incredible number of jobs we never learned to do in seminary (Like how to properly jiggle the key to unlock a basement door no one was supposed to lock or how to navigate a pandemic.) So,

what we do is our best. What we do is faithfully show up to fulfill the vow about serving the people with imagination, intelligence, energy and love. We do that in so many different ways, and some of those ways are so routine we might not even think about them anymore. But you are tending to God's garden, and you're doing a great job. We do the best we can with what we are given, and we pray God takes care of the rest.

And God does take care of the rest, in one way or another. Sometimes when we're looking – and often when we're looking the other way – God shows up and tends to the garden right alongside us.

*Rev. Rebecca Mallozzi serves as pastor at Faith Church in Emmaus, Pa. She graduated from Waynesburg College (Pennsylvania) with her Bachelor of Arts in English and Communication and worked as a newspaper reporter before starting seminary. She graduated with her Masters of Divinity from Princeton Theological Seminary.*



**Bible  
Readings for the Month**

**Sunday, July 4** - 2 Samuel 5:1-5, 9-10; Psalm 48; 2 Corinthians 12:2-10; Mark 6:1-13

**Sunday, July 11** - 2 Samuel 6:1-5, 12b-19; Psalm 24; Ephesians 1:3-14; Mark 6:14-29

**Sunday, July 18** - 2 Samuel 7:1-14a; Psalm 89:20-37; Ephesians 2:11-22; Mark 6:30-34, 53-56

**Sunday, July 25** - 2 Samuel 11:1-15; Psalm 14; Ephesians 3:14-21; John 6:1-21



**We are always looking for a fresh voice for the opening letter of the newsletter. If you would like to help out, please contact Sherry.**



**Our prayers are with:** Jim Day, Lu Reed, Joe Mallach, Paula Fisher, Ruth Eshenaur, Erika Bryson, Shirley Yost, Harriet & Richard Smith, Kate Shade, Frances Tovar, Gary Umstead, Jennifer Hughes, Rick's friend Mark, George Sherry, Terri Hauck, Mark Trutt, Rhonda Snyder, Linda Zarzecki, Donna Walker, Roxie Trutt, Don Gresh, Alex Bartlett, Cliff Elmore, Pat Groover, Sandy Pick, Betty & Vergie Heim, Norma Bower, Ellen Malloney, John Marshall, Bonnie Catherman, Margaret Walker, Paul Berger, Ace Elmore

**Our Special Care List:** Bob Bartlett, Jeanne Becker, Jane Bergman, Reba Dotson, Gladys Klapp

**Ministries:** Missionaries-Doug Orbaker, Juan & Shirley Ocasio; Neighbors Helping Neighbors; Presbyterian Disaster Assistance; Haven Ministries, Snack-Pack Program

✦ **Please give updates on the status of those on the list to Sherry.**



**SPEAKERS FOR July**

**July 4 – Dr. Warren Fisher**  
*Worship Leader – Wally Fairman*

**July 11 – Rev. Sally Dries**  
*Worship Leader – Sandie Fairman*

**July 18 – Rev. Bob Andrews**  
*Worship Leader – Carl Bower*

**July 25 – Pastor Bryan Holmes**  
*Worship Leader – Karen Houser*



  
**ANNOUNCEMENTS**  
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Crazy Bingo is on Sunday, July 11<sup>th</sup> at 6:00 pm. Bring a wrapped "white elephant" prize.



**Session Meeting**  
**Thursday, July 22<sup>nd</sup> at 7:00pm in the Social Hall**



**Join the Men's Breakfast for food and Bible Study each Wednesday at 7:00 am.**



*Thanks to everyone that baked cakes for the Fire Department Carnival  
 Our church donated 14 cakes this year*

**A LITTLE HUMOR**

A man had been shipwrecked on a remote island in the Pacific, and was alone for 20 years. When a ship finally arrived, his rescuers were impressed with the three buildings he had built and asked him about them.

"Well," the man replied, "this is my house, and that building over there is my church. It's a wonderful church and I hate to leave it."

"And what is the third building yonder?" a rescuer asked.

"Oh, that is the church I used to go to," the man replied.

— via Palmer Stiles, Melbourne, FL



God has caused the flowers to blossom at certain specified times during the day. Linnaeus, the great botanist, once said that if he had a conservatory containing the right kind of soil, moisture, and temperature, he could tell the time of day or night by the flowers that were open and those that were closed!



**BIRTHDAYS**

- July 3 - Judy Bergman
- July 5 - Lu Reed
- July 6 - Betsy Lombardino
- July 9 - Anne Griffin
- July 11 - Steve Armstrong
- July 15 - Cecelia Brown
- July 25 - Nancy Stahl
- July 31 - Emily Ayers
- Emma Podobinski



**ANNIVERSARIES**

- July 4 - Paul & Laura Smith


**SESSION**



Moderator – Rev. Steve Cureton

- |                     |              |
|---------------------|--------------|
| Clerk - Ruth Brouse | 570-490-0302 |
| Stephan Armstrong   | 570-768-6906 |
| Carl Bower          | 570-713-7374 |
| Vicki Egli          | 570-428-3644 |
| Wally Fairman       | 570-814-8193 |
| Emilie Hogg         | 570-437-2392 |
| Gwen Holmes         | 570-651-0855 |
| Karen Houser        | 570-538-2557 |
| Janet Kling         | 570-506-3217 |

# JULY 2021

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>4</b> Dr. Warren Fisher Communion AA-7p	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b> AA-7p	<b>7</b>  MEN'S BREAKFAST 7a	<b>8</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>10</b>
<b>11</b> Rev. Sally Dries CRAZY BINGO - 6P AA-7p	<b>12</b>	<b>13</b> AA-7p	<b>14</b>  MEN'S BREAKFAST 7a	<b>15</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>17</b>
<b>18</b> Rev. Bob Andrews AA-7p	<b>19</b>	<b>20</b> AA-7p	<b>21</b>  MEN'S BREAKFAST 7a	<b>22</b>  Session Meeting 7P	<b>23</b>	<b>24</b>
<b>25</b> Ptr. Bryan Holmes AA-7p	<b>26</b>	<b>27</b> AA-7p	<b>28</b>  MEN'S BREAKFAST 7a	<b>29</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>31</b>

# Make Egyptian Paper Beads

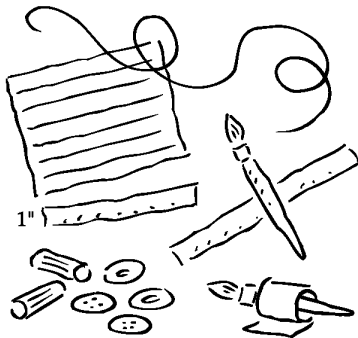
The people of Egypt have been making beads for 5,000 years!

## You will need:

- Brightly colored magazine pages
- Yarn
- Metal washers, buttons or macaroni (optional)
- Paintbrush handle
- Glue
- Scissors

## How to make:

1. Cut magazine pages into 1" strips.
2. Spread glue on each strip. Lay the paintbrush handle at the end of the strip. Roll it up around the handle.
3. Pull the brush handle out. Let beads dry.
4. When dry, string beads on yarn. Add metal washers, buttons or macaroni if you'd like.



# Celebrate Your Citizenship!

When we look at a globe or map, we see many different cities and countries. We are citizens of the place where we live. But we also hold another citizenship! Where?

Fit the names of these Bible-time places in the puzzle.  
Write the circled letters on the lines below, in the order found.

Read the words!

Tyre  
Cana  
Rome  
Gaza  
Sidon  
Berea  
Lycia  
Athens  
Kedesh  
Sychar  
Galilee  
Ephraim  
Ephesus  
Corinth  
Iconium  
Damascus  
Bethlehem  
Phillippi  
Jerusalem

