

Week of February 4, 2024

The problem with miracles is that it is hard to witness them without wanting one of your own. Every one of us knows someone who is suffering. Every one of us knows someone who could use a miracle, but miracles are hard to come by.

Barbara Brown Taylor

Like a good novel, maybe the Gospel writers highlight the ‘over the top’ stories of Jesus’ ministry for the sake of the reader. The disciples must have witnessed Christ telling someone he could not take away their pain but would sit with them until they fell asleep. Perhaps there were moments when Jesus pulled up a chair at the kitchen table, sat with a grieving family and laughed and cried as they told stories of their recently deceased. Nothing miraculous. No bringing them back from the dead. Just his presence, tears, and laughter. There is healing in these moments too.

Although we do not know much about Simon’s mother-in-law, there is something curious about the language chosen to highlight what happens after she experiences Jesus’ touch. One minute she was in bed, then Jesus was “raising her up!” Immediately she jumps out of bed starts cooking and serving him and the others within her home.

Peter’s mother-in-law is an unlikely icon. All we know about her takes place within two verses of Mark’s Gospel. No name, no station, no family mentioned, but what we do know is that after Christ’s touch, she is raised to a higher calling of serving others. Her story invites us to ask how we are called into service. How will you “rise up”? In our own way, we all rise up to follow Christ.

I look forward to talking with you all soon. I have begun my visitations and if you have not yet heard from me, no worries, I will be calling soon!

Many Blessings!
Pastor Fred

Announcements

~Ash Wednesday opportunities (February 14th):
12PM at Grace by Pastor Fred
7PM at Grace by Amy Fawks and Patti Miller
7PM at Trinity UCC Gettysburg by Pastor Fred

~Thanks to Erica Messenger for her special music this morning.

~We are working to update the directory. Please check your information (if available) and update/add using the Change of address/phone number forms on the little table.

~In case of inclement weather, updates will be made to Facebook and The Prayer Line

~Movie viewing opportunities in Fellowship Hall:

- Monthly film on Fri, Feb 9th at 3pm
- Bible Study group on Wed, Feb 28th at 1pm

~Reminder: We are not using printed envelopes for offerings in order to save money and paper. You may pick up a packet of envelopes in the Gathering Place for either monthly or weekly contributions.

~To be good stewards of God's earth, we are recycling paper and plastic. Please look for the recycling paper containers at both entrances. Feel free to put any unwanted bulletins in these containers. The container for plastic bottles will be in The Gathering Place.

Grace Outreach Activities

~February 25, immediately after the worship service, there will be a gathering for anyone interested in signing cards for any Grace off site saints, college students and those serving in the military.



ISAIAH 40:31

Flying High

Grace United Church of Christ
100 Fourth Street
Hanover, Pennsylvania 17331
717-632-1146

In case of inclement weather, please check Facebook or call the Prayer Line 717-634-8865

Welcome/Announcements
Westminster Chimes
Prelude ~ Erica Messenger

** Song: "Be Glad" ~ Cody Carnes*

** Call to Worship

Lector: Let us praise and worship the Lord.

Congregation: Let us remember the mighty deeds of our Lord:

Lector: The works of God's hands, the miracles of Jesus Christ, and the abiding presence of the Holy Spirit.

Congregation: We stand in awe of God's glory.

Lector: You are a wonder-working God who has redeemed us.

All: Let us remember that we are your people and the creation of your almighty hand. Let us be renewed and refreshed. Thanks be to you, Oh, Lord.

** Opening Prayer:

Dear Lord, Creator God, You are an awesome God who loved the world so much that you gave your son Jesus Christ to show us how to live and to redeem us so that we can have eternal life. In this life as well, you inspire and renew us and help us soar like eagles. Let never forget your many blessings and mercies. Let us live the lives you have planned for us and be the people you have created us to be. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

** Sharing the Peace of Christ

Joys and Concerns
Prayer of Confession/Praying for Others
Lord's Prayer (debts/debtors)
Silent Reflection/Assurance of Grace

Poem: "Renewal"

Special Music ~ Erica Messenger

Thank you for sharing your tithes and offerings

** Doxology 62

** Prayer of Dedication

Scripture Readings: Isaiah 40:21-3 (The Message)
Mark 1:29-39 (The Message)

Time for the Young at Heart

Hymn: "How Sweet the Name of Jesus Sounds" 94

Message: "Flying High"

Video: "God Uses Little Things"

** Song: "All the People Said Amen" ~ Matt Maher *

** *Final Blessing*

Please remain standing to sing "A Choral Benediction"
(Inside front of hymn book or on screen).

Postlude

*On the screen ** Please stand, if you are able.

Renewal

“...those who wait upon God get fresh strength.
They spread their wings and soar like eagles.” Isaiah 40:31

Life can sometimes weigh us down,
And faith can wane and fade.
We're tied to earth and hopeless ground,
Broken, lost, and frayed.
Yet we have reason to rejoice
And should not be distressed.
For solid faith can be a choice;
Through grace we have been blessed.

The Lord is faithful, steadfast, strong,
Forgiving of our sins.
We are his children; we belong.
With God all life begins.
God's love and mercy have no ending.
God's grace will never cease,
Blessings on us each day descending
To fill our hearts with peace.

When we can learn in God to trust,
We'll leave our fears behind.
We'll shake off cares like pesky dust;
Renewed, new hope we'll find.
Each broken heart will heal and sing,
And blue will be life's sky.
Our spirits then will soar with wings
Like eagles flying high. Patti Miller

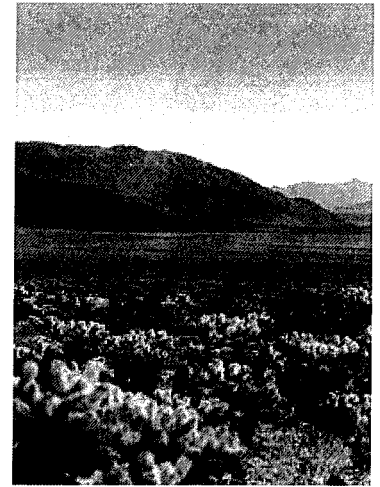


The power of persistence in sharing Christ

So let's not get tired of doing what is good. At just the right time we will reap a harvest of blessing if we don't give up.—Galatians 6:9

A young boy was invited to Vacation Bible School by some kids in his neighborhood. He loved it. And for 400 Sundays after that, he went back to the very same church for Sunday School class, faithfully picked up each week by the same bus driver.

Week after week, he attended church without making a commitment to Christ. Finally, during his senior year in high school, after being picked up more than 400 times by the bus driver, the boy committed his life to Christ. That boy, Norman Geisler, grew up to be one of the most influential Christian thinkers of our day.



What if the bus driver had given up on Geisler after 395 rides to church? What if he thought, *"This kid is going nowhere spiritually. Why waste any more time on him?"*

Stories like Geisler's illustrate a very powerful truth: As believers, we can't give up hope that someone may turn their hearts to Christ, even if it seems hopeless. That's because we never know when and how God may reach a person and grant him or her the gift of faith.

Perhaps today, there are people in your life who seem like they may never turn to Christ. Don't give up! Pray for them, continually share Christ, and show them God's love. Stay persistent in ministering to others because God may just bend the most unlikely knee to Himself!

Prayer Challenge

Pray and ask God to give you persistence in praying for, sharing Christ with, and loving those who seem least likely to turn to Him.

Questions for thought

If you were to think of people who you believe are unlikely to ever turn to Christ, who would you place in that category?

How does the truth that God is the one who draws people to Himself give you hope for even the most hardened person?

Sunday, February 4, 2024

Scripture Reading: Isaiah 40:21-31

Nothing will work unless you do. —Maya Angelou

Here's a parable that has been used to scold "the younger generation" about how to succeed in life. See what you think.

A certain farmer told each of his children when they were young that there was a "secret" of life, and it was a mystery that he'd reveal when they reached their 12th birthday. "I will tell you the secret of life then," he said.

On the day that the eldest turned 12, the nervous daughter approached her father and said, "So, tell me the secret."

He said, "Fine, but you must promise not to reveal the secret to your younger brothers and sisters."

The girl promised.

He said, "The secret of life is this: *The cow does not give milk.*"

His daughter was nonplussed. "Wait. What?"

"You heard me. The cow does not give milk; you have to milk it. You have to get up at 4 in the morning, go to the field, walk through the corral full of manure, tie the tail, hobble the legs of the cow, sit on the stool, place the bucket and do the work yourself.

"This is the secret of life: the cow does not *give* milk. You *milk her or you don't get milk*. There is this generation that thinks that cows *give* milk. That things are automatic and free. The mentality of this generation is that if 'I wish, I ask ... I obtain.'

"It is used to getting whatever it wants and getting it the easy way. But no, life is not a matter of wishing, asking and obtaining. The things that one receives are the cumulative effort of what one does. Happiness is the result of effort. Lack of effort creates frustration."

The original fabulist of this story then adds the moral: "So, share with your children from a young age the secret of life, so they don't grow up with the mentality that the government, their parents, or their cute little faces are going to give them everything they need in life."

Isn't it closer to the truth to say that this lesson is not generation-specific, but that it is a valuable truth every generation learns in its own time? Our parents learned it; we learned it; our children learned it; and their children will, too.

—Timothy Merrill

Prayer: Dear God, thank you for all those who work hard every day, and who do so with a smile on their faces. Bless them, O God. In Jesus' name. Amen.



HOME TOUCH® Activity Page

Week of February 4, 2024

Daily Bible Readings

Sunday: Job 21-24
Monday: Job 25-27
Tuesday: Job 28-31
Wednesday: Job 32-34
Thursday: Job 35-37
Friday: Job 38-42
Saturday: Psalms 10-12

Verse to Remember

For I know that my Redeemer lives, and that at the last he will stand upon the earth; and after my skin has been thus destroyed, then in my flesh I shall see God. —Job 19:25-26

Mini-Sudoku

Each of these two puzzles has four squares. By studying the numbers given, write a number between 1 and 4 in the empty boxes so that each row, column and diagonal have four different numbers, and each of the four boxes has the numbers 1 to 4.

1	2		
4	3		
			3
3		1	2

		1	
3			4
			1
1	3	4	2

VOWEL HUNT

Can you identify these New Testament books that are missing vowels?

1. JD, 2. TTS, 3. PTR, 4. JMS, 5. LK, 6. RVLTN, 7. CTS, 8. TMTH, 9. GLTNS, 10. PHLMN.

Answers to Vowel Hunt:
 1. Jude, 2. Titus, 3. Peter,
 4. James, 5. Luke,
 6. Revelation, 7. Acts,
 8. Timothy, 9. Galatians,
 10. Philemon.

Riddles to Share:

- What month of the year has 28 days? *All of them!*
- To what question can you never answer yes? *Are you asleep?*
- David's parents have three sons: Snap, Crackle, and what's the name of the third son? *David.*

1	2	3	4
4	3	2	1
2	1	4	3
3	4	1	2

4	2	1	3
3	1	2	4
2	4	3	1
1	3	4	2

Isaiah 40:21-31

G	F	W	J	G	R	L	A	Z	F	S	T	V	Q	P	X	G	L	U	W
A	J	J	Y	W	U	Y	Y	C	Z	W	P	S	G	B	F	W	M	A	C
B	B	Y	W	S	R	E	L	U	R	R	W	S	B	H	L	Q	F	C	F
C	L	O	W	J	D	Z	M	C	V	I	B	R	M	M	Y	D	S	W	A
R	P	B	V	Q	D	E	W	E	N	E	R	A	B	U	P	C	Y	Y	X
Y	E	H	N	E	Z	W	Q	D	G	Q	K	T	X	T	S	K	Y	D	F
Q	J	S	V	D	U	K	E	A	E	S	H	S	B	B	B	S	W	D	W
R	N	Y	U	U	C	A	N	Z	W	N	A	N	E	F	H	F	P	V	Y
S	B	C	E	M	Q	M	J	K	U	K	Y	I	K	T	M	V	L	C	D
E	A	P	N	W	J	P	W	W	P	R	D	T	Z	G	L	G	E	E	H
C	R	Z	O	Q	Y	Z	V	G	L	X	S	Y	F	U	D	L	Y	S	X
T	G	L	R	B	H	X	D	O	P	F	S	C	F	B	X	R	K	T	I
N	B	I	H	P	I	R	F	K	J	Z	P	R	T	F	T	U	L	R	M
L	J	Y	T	J	B	X	D	X	L	F	E	Y	F	F	E	K	O	E	H
E	V	F	L	Z	Z	Y	T	R	U	W	O	R	L	D	E	S	R	N	E
H	G	K	W	S	Q	F	V	R	O	I	D	G	A	I	D	G	D	G	D
P	L	E	A	R	T	H	H	P	C	Z	P	M	X	Z	U	W	S	T	Z
U	U	E	R	E	P	Y	C	U	G	O	C	V	B	S	W	K	S	H	X
K	Z	P	T	W	P	D	M	N	T	K	Y	S	H	V	Y	Y	T	U	B
G	T	W	S	I	K	N	A	E	V	I	I	Q	P	X	J	C	A	S	X

Above
Earth
Powerful
Sky
Strength
World

Began
Lord
Renewed
Stars
Throne

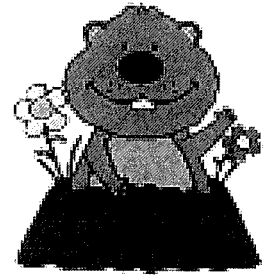
Blow
Made
Rulers
Straw
Wind

Psalms 140: 1-11

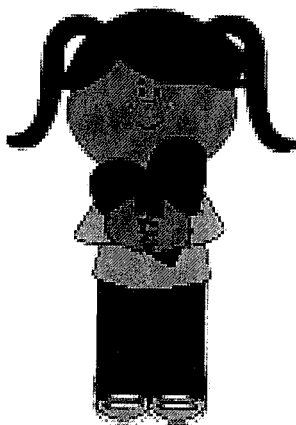
I	G	U	P	K	Q	W	W	R	O	N	G	Y	F	S	A	V	N	Z	Y	Evil
P	I	L	X	Q	I	M	N	I	B	S	Q	B	M	W	J	F	T	Y	Y	Feast
C	P	X	D	W	G	N	V	D	C	Y	S	Z	I	T	N	S	E	S	Y	Guard
U	Q	K	W	U	B	J	D	C	Z	K	C	O	Y	H	E	Z	C	Q	M	Joining
A	Z	Q	H	J	R	E	F	N	G	I	E	R	E	V	O	S	L	V	E	Keep
P	B	C	Q	O	N	U	A	B	E	H	W	D	N	L	Y	A	F	G	V	Kindness
J	C	E	Y	V	I	F	P	M	B	S	U	W	N	J	B	F	U	G	I	Listen
T	N	D	H	L	A	F	F	E	M	L	S	C	U	E	L	E	U	U	E	Me
N	C	D	L	M	C	Y	W	G	E	Y	P	U	L	W	S	A	D	M	C	Prayer
V	S	N	L	F	V	W	P	B	U	K	Z	P	M	Y	R	S	Q	A	E	Punish
L	E	Y	P	F	N	G	Y	C	J	N	M	L	E	D	Z	T	Q	D	R	Rebuke
F	C	B	L	Z	F	J	D	J	O	I	N	I	N	G	A	M	I	O	E	Receive
O	I	L	I	S	T	E	N	P	F	N	M	F	O	C	F	M	W	Q	B	Sacrifice
J	A	Y	O	V	S	X	U	J	P	V	C	T	D	G	V	Y	C	P	U	Sovereign
C	J	B	I	A	Z	N	O	S	J	K	P	E	U	P	X	E	V	N	K	Uplifted
V	S	A	C	R	I	F	I	C	E	R	H	D	T	U	E	L	J	F	E	Wickedness
X	L	L	A	S	M	P	R	F	A	W	K	E	Y	I	G	O	N	K	V	Wrong
U	D	V	H	E	S	C	E	Y	T	F	C	X	P	M	S	V	J	D	I	
X	F	R	N	C	R	X	E	R	G	V	G	J	G	B	O	H	W	W	L	
J	S	X	A	B	E	R	C	O	E	G	C	J	B	G	W	T	T	F	Z	

FEBRUARY

WORD SEARCH



O	F	G	R	A	U	U	M	V	C	U	P	I	D	U
G	R	Z	U	C	E	W	D	L	A	P	I	R	G	O
P	I	N	K	L	X	U	G	A	T	F	Z	F	E	W
C	E	F	P	S	Q	B	D	C	A	N	D	Y	K	V
D	N	Z	S	Z	F	L	O	W	E	R	S	Z	O	C
R	D	Y	H	F	E	I	X	S	C	A	R	F	B	A
W	S	K	A	Z	T	J	B	P	N	N	F	Q	M	R
I	B	B	D	E	W	L	H	C	U	K	M	S	Y	D
N	C	J	O	V	K	E	R	K	H	E	A	R	T	M
T	O	P	W	B	B	W	P	L	F	E	H	I	P	L
E	L	O	V	U	W	V	A	L	E	N	T	I	N	E
R	D	K	P	O	S	A	R	Y	R	E	D	U	X	J
Z	O	Y	G	R	O	U	N	D	H	O	G	I	P	Q
E	E	G	J	R	Q	Y	M	D	R	G	T	X	V	T
U	Y	Q	P	G	E	K	M	I	K	A	R	T	V	A



Candy
Card
Cold
Cupid
Flowers
Friends
Groundhog

Heart
Pink
Red
Scarf
Shadow
Valentine
Winter