



THE BEACON

SEPTEMBER 2021



TRUST BY JOHN SPILSBURY

Bad news. We've all received it. Sometimes I see it coming, rolling in like an approaching storm. I hear the distant thunder, and I see and feel the gusts of wind before the storm hits. But there are other times bad news arrives unexpectedly with no warning. I don't see it coming. It's the bolt or shot that comes "out of the blue" as the expression goes.



Suzanne and I had just reconnected with friends old and new over lunch a couple of Sundays ago. It was delightful. We were feeling really good. Then during the car ride home, we received a phone call out of the blue and learned that a friend had an accident and was hospitalized with serious injuries. The condition of our friend occupied our thoughts and conversation the remainder of the day. We worried, and worried, and worried.

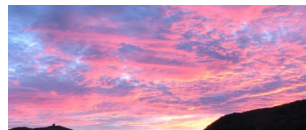
The next day, Monday, I woke up and was considering if I should exercise. I was still worrying about our friend, and the thought of a chance to clear my head gave me the incentive I needed to go for an early morning walk. I walk to music (thank you Spotify), but my usual selection didn't grab me. I remembered that I had created a playlist of well-known hymns that I was supposed to use at a devotional that ended up not happening, but I hadn't erased it. It was still there, and it seemed the appropriate selection considering my mood at the time.



There is no singing of the hymns. It's a selection of instrumentals played by guitar or piano with no other accompaniment. I started playing the songs and starting walking my usual route. The first hymn was "This is God's Wondrous World," probably more familiar with some of you as "This Is My Father's World."

My route starts by walking a few blocks due west for a block. As I walked I looked towards the west and noticed rain clouds moving in. Not quite the view I was hoping for considering my mood. I remember thinking to myself something along the lines of, "Just what I need to look at now, storm clouds."

At the end of a block I turned right and walked north up a slight hill for one block. As I reached the top I slowed down. I couldn't decide if I wanted to continue north and cross the street, or turn left and head west. I decided to head north so I stopped and looked east to check for traffic. I couldn't help but notice the eastern sky. There were no rain clouds to the east. The sun was about to rise, but its light turned the eastern sky and the wispy clouds beautiful shades of pink and red. I stayed to take a longer look, while "This is God's Wondrous World" played. I couldn't recite the lyrics, but I remembered something about not being sad because God is present. I felt Holy Spirit's reassurance that God would not leave our friend, or Suzanne, or me alone.



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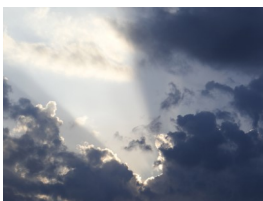
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Here are those lyrics I was thinking of:

This is God's wondrous world;
Why should my heart be sad?
Let voices sing, let the heavens ring;
God reigns, let earth be glad!

I headed west to continue my walk. In time, I reached the halfway mark and turned back, basically east, to head home. As my walk drew to the end I arrived at the spot I had been and first looked up to notice the dawn sky. But it was now sprinkling. Grey rain clouds had taken the place of what had been those beautiful shades of pink and red.

But I felt better. I knew that the sun was there! I found comfort in knowing that behind those



grey clouds the sun shone brightly. Again, I found comfort in Holy Spirit's

reassurance that our friend wasn't alone (and me neither). The word "Trust" came to my mind. In the reign of God, God is present, and God's love is present, no matter what. Trust.

Then just to make sure I got the message, it came again. I think it was that Monday morning's 8:30 am Seeking the Still Point worship. Ron Starnes shared how he had made a trip to the local airport at sunset the day or so before. As he was driving he noticed how beautiful the sky looked. White clouds with red underbellies. It reminded me of that beautiful dawn sky I had just seen, and Holy Spirit's reassurance. Trust.

We have been struggling with COVID and its effects upon us individually and collectively as family, friends, communities, congregations, and as a nation for far too long. A couple of months ago I thought I saw light at the end of the tunnel, but it appears to have been just more oncoming traffic. Difficulties still abound. There are storm clouds around. Yet the sun shines, and

God reigns.

Let us continue to reach out to each other in love and care. Let us continue to support each other, and be kind to each other.

I have been blessed by kindness shown to me as our mission center and congregations have

determined our response to the pandemic. It shouldn't surprise anybody to learn that there have been different perspectives shared as we've figured out our response, but we've worked together and supported each other. May we continue to do so. More challenges are on the way. There always are.

Trust. Trust. Trust.



FALL 2021 MISSION CENTER CONFERENCE - SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 11, 2021

Sisters and Brothers,

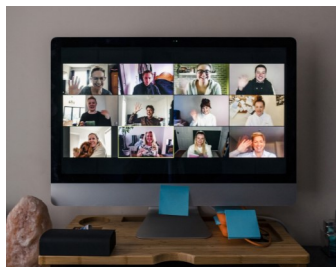
We had been planning a hybrid in-person/online conference for Saturday (9/11), but it seems that COVID just isn't cooperating. We feel it prudent to proceed with just an online conference this time around. Thanks to Barberton-Akron for being willing to host us, and we look forward to the day when we can gather there in person.

We'd like to get started at 9:30am with a brief worship together, and then have the business meeting. We'd anticipate the business meeting last 2.5 to 3 hours.

Please be on the lookout for other information to be sent very soon. The minutes, budget and congregational support information has been sent out via email, if you did not receive this information please contact Sandy at the Mission Center office at 440-256-1441 or sdavis@eglmcc.org.

Peace,

John and Nina



NEWS FROM SOUTH HILLS BY KATHY ROSS

Pittsburgh South Hills Community of Christ had their grand reopening on July 4th and hope to continue to have in-person meetings at least twice month.



Heidi Myer and Nate Winne were married on July 31, 2021. They will be residing in their home in Upper St. Clair, PA. with their two dogs, three guinea pigs and a frog.



PEOPLE NEWS

Blessings:

Elijah Thomas Majsterek from Barberton Congregation, infant son of Erin R. Higgins and Jeffery T. Majsterek was blessed August 8, 2021 by Elder Carolyn DeHart and Elder Joyce Harmon.

Marriages:

Heidi Myer married Nate Winne on July 31, 2021, they attend Pittsburgh South Hills congregation.

Welcome To EGLMC:

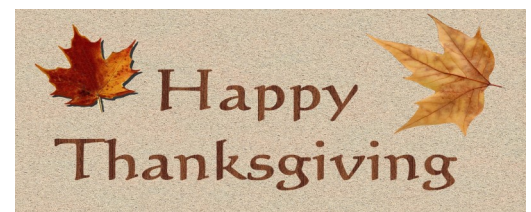
Bruce & Gloria Crockett
Kirtland Congregation
Erin Higgins & Jeffery Majsterek
Akron/Barberton Congregation

Moved:

Bruce & Gloria Crockett
moved to Mentor
Kathy Fallon moved to Canonsburg
Ed Fisher moved to Kirtland
Dale & Kay Patterson moved to
Kimberton

Deaths:

Betty Ewell—
Pittsburgh Beechview



WOMEN'S RETREAT 2021

SEPTEMBER 10-12, 2021

GUEST MINISTER
RUTH GOODWIN

FREE TO ATTEND

ALL SESSIONS
HOSTED ON ZOOM

Beauty in Brokenness



Community of Christ | MID-ATLANTIC MISSION CENTER

The women of the Mid-Atlantic MC would like to invite the women of the Eastern Great Lakes MC to join them again this year for our Women's retreat via Zoom.

Here's the registration link: https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSeU_oaQ1BBxlxchqJ3zVLhfgNi4xEGtrVzv

Your steadfast love, O Lord, extends to the heavens,
your faithfulness to the clouds.

Your righteousness is like the mighty mountains,
your judgments are like the great deep; —Psalm 36:5-6

ONLINE MINISTRIES

Greetings from Mid-Atlantic and Eastern Great Lakes MC Leadership! After having some time to reflect on all of the exceptional feedback regarding on-line ministries we have revised the plan for moving forward. Please share this information with others. The following is our recommendation at this time:

Weekday Ministries

Monday mornings @ 8:30 am Eastern Time - Seek the Still Point

Tuesday - Friday mornings @ 8:30 am Eastern Time - Daily Bread

The same zoom link will be used Monday-Friday and will be an open zoom room. This means that a zoom host will not be required and participants can feel free to log in at the designated time to meet and share in the gathering.

Seek the Still Point/Daily Bread **** THIS LINK WILL BECOME ACTIVE STARTING WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 18TH

Join Zoom Meeting

us02web.zoom.us/j/89815312296

Meeting ID: 898 1531 2296

Passcode: Morning

One tap mobile

+19292056099,,89815312296#,,,*,8384818# US (New York)

Monday evening @ 7:00 pm Eastern Time - Church Nedz Unite and Book Club

These activities will alternate weeks, but will utilize the same zoom link.

Church Nedz Unite/Book Club

Join Zoom Meeting

us02web.zoom.us/j/198642186

Meeting ID: 198 642 186

Passcode: 414058

One tap mobile

+16465588656,,198642186#,,,*,414058# US (New York)

Wednesday evening @ 7:00 pm

Eastern Time - Prayer Service

Join Zoom Meeting

us02web.zoom.us/j/880680943

Meeting ID: 880 680 943

Passcode: 020169

One tap mobile

+16465588656,,880680943#,,,*,020169# US (New York)

Sunday Ministries

1st Sunday of the month @ 11:00 am

Eastern Time - Communion Worship Service

3rd Sunday of the month @ 11:00 am

Eastern Time - Alternative Worship Gathering

2nd Sunday of the month @ 7:00 pm

Eastern Time - Spiritual Formation Gathering

4th Sunday of the month @ 7:00 pm

Eastern Time - Mission Matters Gathering

NEXT SUNDAY, AUGUST 19TH WILL BE A TRADITIONAL WORSHIP AT 11:00 AM EASTERN TIME.

THIS NEW PLAN FOR WORSHIP/ GATHERINGS WILL BEGIN ON SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 5TH

All of these will utilize the same link.

Join Zoom Meeting

us02web.zoom.us/j/83581968187

Meeting ID: 835 8196 8187

Passcode: 725139

One tap mobile

+16465588656,,83581968187#,,,*,725139# US (New York)

5th Sunday of the month @ 11:00 am Eastern Time - Open Room Fellowship

On the occasional 5th Sunday, an open zoom room will be available for people to gather and enjoy fellowship. As stated above, an open zoom room means that a host will not be required. Participants can feel free to log in at the designated time and meet to visit.

OUR FIRST FELLOWSHIP SUNDAY WILL BE AUGUST 29TH

Join Zoom Meeting

us02web.zoom.us/j/82095367413

Meeting ID: 820 9536 7413

Passcode: Fellowship

One tap mobile

+19292056099,,82095367413#,,,*,726715463# US (New York)

****We need your help****

"Many hands make light work. " ~

John Heywood

"Teamwork

divides the task and

multiplies the success. " ~

Unknown

"No one can

whistle a symphony. It takes a whole orchestra to play it. " ~ H.E. Luccock

"Alone we can do so little; together we can do so much." ~ Helen Keller

You are invited to offer your support for these on-line ministries in one of the following ways:

-Volunteer to be a part of a team to coordinate Worship Services, Spiritual Formation Gatherings, Mission Matters Gatherings or Wednesday Evening Prayer Services

-Offer to be a zoom host

-Offer to participate in an activity (reading, prayer, sermon, testimony, music, etc.)

-Other

Please contact one of us if you are willing to support on-line ministries in one of the ways mentioned above.

Peace,

Ryan, John & Nina



NEWS FROM AKRON/BARBERTON
BY DEBBI HOOD

Priest Janice Burns has dedicated herself to implementing the tools that were purchased just before the pandemic shut us down. The new laptop, mounted television and sound bar, and the updated speakers and microphones, are being utilized every Sunday.

The hope is to invite various speakers to address the congregation via Zoom on a regular basis, and to video our own worship services each Sunday for those who cannot attend in person.

Our very successful inaugural Zoom experience on June 27, featured Apostle Ron Harmon, Jr., who shared an inspiring and heartfelt message. He was also able to see and greet his parents, Ron, Sr. and Joyce, during the virtual meeting. We were blessed to have had the opportunity to learn from Apostle Harmon, and to hear his son perform the hymn "Do They See Jesus in Me?", supporting the worship message.





Thank you, Elder Mark Hundley, for FIFTEEN MONTHS of weekly worship videos that helped nourish our spiritual lives during our COVID quarantine. It was especially nice to actually hear Mark's voice share the scriptures with us.

Further thanks to Barberton's music minister, Vicky Popp, who shared her personal testimonies and cherished hymn selections with us via email for many weeks during our separation from one another. Vicky has a gift for choosing the perfect hymn to support the written word of worship or testimony, and for relating her own experiences with humor and grace.



Priesthood members submitted their Sunday worship messages via email for those with internet access. Our dear late sister, Elder Kathy Jessee, took it upon herself to print those sermons and mail them to the several church members who have no internet access.

The "Connection Corner" was initiated during the 2020 holiday season. This daily email offered the opportunity to share favorite Christmas recipes, stories, memories, and hymns. Kathy was instrumental in continuing the "Corner" into 2021, and it evolved into an everyday email featuring inspirational quotes, jokes, stories, and cartoons. Our gratitude to Kathy will last always. How deeply she is missed.

*Collectively and individually, you are loved
with an everlasting love that delights
in each faithful step taken.*

—Doctrine and Covenants 163:10a

Community of Christ

EASTERN GREAT LAKES MISSION CENTER

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Meadville
Mon Valley
New Hamburg
New Philadelphia
Niagara Falls
Pittsburgh Beechview
Pittsburgh North Hills
Pittsburgh South Hills-Bethel Park
Sharon

WE'RE ON THE WEB!
WWW.EGLMC.ORG

Where God's love is,

there is no fear, because
God's perfect love drives
out fear.

1 John 4:18

UPCOMING EVENTS

OCTOBER

16 *Children's Sabbath*

NOVEMBER

1 *All Saints Day*

7 *Daylight Savings Time Ends*

25-26 *MC Office Closed for Thanksgiving*

28 *First Sunday of Advent*

DECEMBER

5 *Independence Temple Advent Service Live Webcast (Tentative)*

24-1/1 *MC Office Closed for Christmas & New Year*

