

Pastoral Ponderings...

(with insights from Clarence L. Haynes, Jr. and Aaron J. Daigle)

As believers Easter is always a special time of the year. It focuses our attention on the most important moment in the history of mankind – the death and resurrection of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. Easter, or Resurrection Sunday, is a day of great celebration. However, before we get to the resurrection, we have to deal with the crucifixion and death of Jesus. So, what is crucifixion?

Crucifixion was one of the most agonizing ways a person could be executed. It was designed to inflict on its victims a slow, painful death, potentially stretching on for days. In fact, the word excruciating comes from the root word “crucify.” And the use of crucifixion had a two-pronged approach which was meant to deter people from committing crimes; it was extremely painful, and it was very humiliating (everyone is watching you because it was very public.)



The physiological responses the body undergoes when hanging from the wood are beyond what most of us even realize — and the results are more than grim. Although being crucified by having nails driven through your hands (wrists) and feet (ankles) would be extremely painful, death usually comes as a result of suffocation. The victim would support his weight by pushing up from the legs while simultaneously pulling up from the wrists. However, the nails driven into the wrists would pierce the main nerve running through the arm so that as the victim pushed up to breathe the wrists rotated against the nails, which would irritate the nerves and cause intense pain in the arms every time the crucified person pulled up to breathe. A similar thing would happen with the ankles. Thus, the combination of extreme pain, as well as arm and leg muscles tiring, would mean that eventually the person hangs limp while struggling to breathe. This

process continued until the leg muscles finally gave out completely, forcing the condemned to hang and suffocate.

In some circumstances, an executioner needed to end the crucifixion. To do so, the soldiers would break the victim's legs by smashing the femur bones with a large, heavy mallet. This prevented the person from being able to push up from the feet to reposition the diaphragm for breathing so that suffocation would occur sooner.

It has been said that a broken femur is one of the most painful things a person can experience. The initial physical pain of having both femurs shattered at the same time would be devastating. Even though the condemned may want to die because of the intense suffering of hanging on the cross for so long, the simple fact is that the human brain and body are designed for survival. Crushing the victim's legs forces him to suffocate to death while both the body and the mind instinctively resist the inevitable process of being forced to die.

Crucifixion was normally preceded by flogging (a beating with a nine-tailed whip that had metal tips and bone chips on the end of every strap.) This would tear into the flesh and then rip both skin and muscle away when retracted. The massive blood loss caused by the flogging often resulted in hypovolemic shock - the symptoms of which include nausea, profuse sweating, dizziness, confusion, and sometimes loss of consciousness. Victims would also frequently vomit, which, in some cases, hastened the speed of suffocation as bodily fluids choked and gagged victims who were already struggling to breathe.

Oftentimes the shoulders and the wrists become dislocated due to the weight of the person's body. When this happens, the body hangs in an extended, slumped position, which forces the chest cavity to protrude outward. The extended chest cavity allows for inhalation but makes exhaling nearly impossible. The effect from this is that carbon dioxide cannot be released from the body. The natural physiological response is to hyperventilate. However, not being able to do so

then causes the heart to pump harder, trying to compensate for the buildup of carbon dioxide and the lack of oxygen. The heart then goes into cardiac stress, which can even cause it to rupture inside the chest cavity. In addition, the symptoms of hyperventilation include fever and anxiety. Fever produces aches in the muscles, which are already under stress and strain, and can lead to additional cramping and spasms. The additional anxiety adds to the overall sense of nervousness and foreboding, and can lead to central nervous system shock.

This was the way Jesus died... yet, he wasn't a criminal who deserved to be executed (if indeed anyone truly deserves to die like this.) He didn't commit any offense or sin, but he was crucified as if he had. When you read Matthew 27:32-56 you get a picture of the road leading up to crucifixion. Imagine being Jesus - walking up a hill while carrying the very cross (or at least the cross bar) that you would eventually be nailed to; hearing people yelling insults and mocking you; knowing that you are suffering for crimes and sins you didn't commit; having to die between two thieves (or rebels) who 'deserve' their punishment - if indeed anyone 'deserves' to die in this way. And as you hang on the cross, dying, the taunts and mocking continue - from some of the passers-by, from some of the soldiers, and even from one of the criminals. What a terrible experience!

Only two of the Gospel writers, Matthew and Luke, include the stories and details about Jesus' birth (although John alludes to His birth in symbolic and theological terms); but all four of the Gospel writers include the stories of the crucifixion:

Matthew, chapters 26-28

Mark, chapters 14-16

Luke, chapters 22-24

John, chapters 18-20

Interestingly, this event playing out in the gospels was predicted long before that. In the Old Testament there are many types and shadows - as well as specific prophecies - pointing to the eventual death of Jesus. [A type or shadow is an

event in the Old Testament that points to something which will/does happen in the New Testament.] For example, in the Old Testament they would anoint with oil. This was a symbol that represented and pointed toward being anointed by the Holy Spirit in the New Testament.

One of the specific events which closely pointed to the crucifixion was when God asked Abraham to sacrifice his son Isaac. Here are some similarities:

Isaac was a son of the promise conceived miraculously by Abraham and Sarah who were well past their child-bearing years.

Jesus was a son of the promise and was conceived miraculously by the Holy Spirit through a virgin named Mary.

Isaac was going to be sacrificed on a mountain and carried the wood up the mountain that he would be sacrificed on.

Jesus was sacrificed on the mount called Golgotha and he carried the cross that he would ultimately be crucified on.

Abraham was giving up his son.

God was giving up his only begotten son.

Isaac was a willing participant and at no point did he resist what his father was about to do.

Jesus willingly laid down his life. He submitted to the will of the Father.

All throughout the Old Testament there are numerous types and shadows. Another comes from Isaiah 53 - a passage in which we can easily see a foreshadowing of the crucifixion of Jesus:

"Surely he took up our pain

and bore our suffering,

yet we considered him punished by God, stricken by him, and afflicted.

But he was pierced for our transgressions, he was crushed for our iniquities;

the punishment that brought us peace was on him,

and by his wounds we are healed.

We all, like sheep, have gone astray, each of us has turned to our own way;

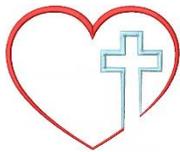
and the Lord has laid on him

the iniquity of us all."

And in verse 10 we read that it was God's will to crush him and to make his life an offering for sin.

Revelation 13:8 makes mention of *"the Lamb who was slain from the creation of the world."* The fact is - when God created mankind, he knew we would sin and need a savior. The sin of the first two people ever created (Adam and Eve) required a sacrifice – a shedding of blood that would cover their sin... God sacrificed an animal to make clothing to "cover their nakedness", their exposure, their sin. And, God promised that there would be a man coming who will crush the head of the serpent (the devil.) The devil would strike His heel – that's the crucifixion – but Christ would crush his head – that's the resurrection and the redemption of all mankind. Satan's fate and man's redemption were predicted from the very beginning.

It's hard to think that someone suffering such a horrific death as crucifixion would represent the depth of God's love. However, when you understand the purpose of Christ's death then it all makes sense. God loves you so much that he didn't want to leave you in your condition. The only way to win you back from your sin was that someone had to die *for you*. Jesus willingly became the sin substitution for you and me. The purpose was to win us back to the Father. This is God's love in action!



However, our salvation is not complete because of Christ's death. If all Jesus did was die, then he is just like everyone else – just another man who claimed to be divine but who ultimately just died. The reason we have hope, the reason we celebrate, **the reason our salvation is complete is because of the resurrection** – because Jesus conquered the power of sin **and death**. This is why we celebrate Easter!

The following verse is probably the most well-known in all the Scriptures. You can take all the facts that Christians should know about the crucifixion and resurrection and sum them up

with this one verse (which Martin Luther referred to as "the Gospel in a nutshell"):

"For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life." – John 3:16

Christ's death and resurrection, coupled with your belief, equals eternal life – and that surely gives us reason to celebrate!

Pastor Mark

Congregational News

FROM 12/1/19 TO 3/15/20
By Sadie Koser

Sunday, December 1st the congregation received a handy pre-Christmas gift from the Liller couple! Andi arranged plastic covered 2020 date book calendars on the narthex table so that everyone could receive them early in the season. The date books have the name and address of LWLC, and a Bible verse on the cover. This was so thoughtful, but not unusual of Scott & Andi, to remember us on the holiday. Thank you... we appreciate everything you graciously do for the members and our church!

Through the years of composing a newsletter I never had a title for it. When Pastor Mark did the last newsletter he came up with a title ... did you notice it? It was LIVING WORD'S WORDS! My thoughts – how clever and appropriate for our church. I appreciate Pastor Mark for getting Living Word's Words together on short notice. Marilyn Adam, who has been doing it for several years has been homebound with health problems for many weeks.

Scott Shumaker, son of Brenda and brother of Kari, has been in the Navy for 15 years. For many of those years it was always a mystery as to where he is located when he's out of the country. Scott holds the rank of Chief Petty Officer. The Shumaker family consists of two children, 9 year old daughter, Reece and 7 year old son, Hagan, and Scott's wife, Lisa. Brenda's grandchildren have been with her in church when they visit her. The family resides in Chesapeake, Virginia. At this time Scott is out of the



country, perhaps you could send a card to him. His address is: PSC 831 Box 5829 ... FPO, AE 09363.

Sincere sympathy to the family of Irene 'Reen' Hoyle who passed away Sunday, December 1st at the Western Maryland Regional Medical Center after being a resident at the Cumberland Health Nursing & Rehab. The youngest of 6 children, Reen is only survived by a sister, Shirley 'Net' Nolan, many nieces, nephews, cousins.

Reen was 86 years old on November 28th. Visitation was held in Scarpelli Funeral Home on December 6th with the service following with Pastor Mark officiating. Burial was in Greenmount Cemetery the next week.

During the worship service on Sunday, December 8th new members were taken into LWLC. Although they have been attending services for many months, we sincerely welcome the families into our membership. Those joining were Bobby Huff, Brenda Shumaker, (her daughter) Kari Shumaker, Andrew Troutman, (his sons) Branson, Bryson and Mason, and Cassidy Bible. Everly became a member when she was baptized.

Following the worship service on December 8th the annual congregational meeting was held with 44 members attending. It was lengthy with several problems being resolved. Council member, Tanya Palmer, provided a variety of donuts for the meeting served with milk and coffee.

The 2020 budget was approved by the congregation. We certainly appreciated the many hours the finance team had to come up with a realistic budget, the professional letter they mailed to members and the time spent with the financial advisor. The team is composed of Kay Chaney, Mary Fanelli, Tanya Palmer, Pat Keller, Bonnie Keller, Carol Lantz, Lori Squires and Eleanor Stotler ... we thank you!

After all reports and discussions, it was time to elect our council. Dick Keller and Dave Larrick desired to be replaced after their first terms. Those remaining on council are Gene Cave, Greg Lewis, Joe McIntosh, Mike McIntosh, Terry Robb, Don Squires, Lori Squires (treasurer) and Eleanor Stotler. Those elected at the meeting were Kim Henson, Bobby Huff, Kathy Rosenberger and Tanya Palmer (she was appointed in 2019). We now have a 12 member council. Congratulations ... new members!

The council officers were re-elected... Eleanor Stotler, president; Terry Robb, vice president; Tanya Palmer, secretary and our treasurer, Lori Squires.



By now everyone should have noticed that the sanctuary clock (which never seemed to have the correct time) has been replaced with a beautiful logo of the LUTHER ROSE ... thanks to Andi & Scott who located and purchased an appropriate item for the clock replacement. Our appreciation to the Squires couple (Jim & Lori) for doing the task of removing the large timepiece and replacing it with the Luther Rose gift. We are blessed to have these two couples as active members... they do so much for us!



Have you noticed the new restroom signs recently installed on the planter wall above the steps to the fellowship hall? Dick Keller provided the signs and Jim Squires mounted them. Thanks, guys, these signs were necessary!

Thank you LWLC members for filling 25 red bags (for needy children) for the Salvation Army. They were delivered on December 9th. Also, the 2 boxes of donuts that were left over from the congregational meeting, were taken to them for their afterschool program for the children, per Tanya's request. My sincere appreciation to you for filling the bags. We surely have a most giving and caring congregation, God bless you!

The children's Christmas pageant, under the direction of Kathy Rosenberger, was held Sunday, December 15th and it was a great performance. The children play so many instruments that I'm sure we'll be seeing them perform in our worship services in the future!

In the Christmas cantata were Reese Tabb—Mary, William Hughes—Joseph, Annabeth and Carolyn Hughes, and Caitie Rosenberger-angels. The adorable lambs were Adaline LaRue, Branson Troutman, Mason Bittinger, Gracie Rosenberger, Everly Troutman, Patrick Hughes and Beckett Robb with Handley Robb as their shepherd.

The instrumentalists were Handley Robb, piano; Reese Tabb, recorder; Annabeth Hughes, flute; Carolyn Hughes, saxophone; William Hughes, trumpet and Patrick Hughes, piano! Caitie, Annabeth and Carolyn also sang a selection being accompanied by Kristi Hughes on the flute.

They did a fantastic performance which was enjoyed by everyone. Our appreciation to Kathy and to all the talented cast members.

Our appreciation to Kay Chaney for having the hats/gloves/scarfs Christmas tree again this year ... and again our congregation came through on this project in true form. The breakdown was:



Girls: hats—22, hats/gloves set—12, gloves—21, earmuffs— 2 and scarf—1 (total: 58)

Boys: hats—14, gloves—9, scarf/hat/gloves sets—2 and hats/gloves sets—6 (total: 31).



The grand total of 89 items were delivered by Kay to John Humbird Elementary School just prior to school dismissal for the holiday. Thank you, Kay, for taking charge of this project for another year!



The 90 persons attending our Christmas eve service were impressed with our worship hour at 7 o'clock. The pew markers were a Christmas carol twisted into a funnel shape with a red ribbon/bow around the pew end. Inside the cone hymn were holly, pine cones and snow leaves.

At the close of the service with the sanctuary in darkness, except for the light from the candles held by the parishioners, angels floated near the ceiling in a circle around the sanctuary. It was a surprise for us and a joy as we celebrated the birth of Jesus!

The service was joyful and impressive. I wonder how the props in this hour can be topped in the future by Andi Liller. We sincerely appreciate the talent Andi has in creating beautiful items for LWLC!

With all the seasonal decor Andi & Scott had the help of two elves they can depend on ... Dick and Pat Keller. We thank them for their assistance, too!

Sincere sympathy to the family of Edward Keller who passed away unexpectedly on December 31st at the age of 56. Ed was the son of Dick's brother, Ed and Pat's sister, Charlyne that preceded Ed Jr's. untimely death. Among the survivors is his sister, Cindy Long and husband John. Ed's funeral was held in Scarpelli Funeral Home with Pastor Mark officiating. Burial was held privately at Rest Lawn Memorial Gardens.

Kari Shumaker, daughter of Brenda, became betrothed to 2nd Lt. Jamie Morozek during the Christmas holiday when he was home on leave. Kari is employed at Excel Youth in Hagerstown. Jamie is stationed at Biloxi, Mississippi for 6 months.

If you would desire to send a card to Jamie during this time his address is: 1017 Arbor View Circle, Apartment 1017, D'Iberville, Mississippi 39540—4844.

Jamie resides near his base.

Our congratulations to Kari & Jamie on their engagement!

The gray metal roof replacement on the building was completed on January 21st. We were fortunate to have a contractor who started the job in the winter. Our thanks to Dick Keller who came daily as the men worked to answer their questions or if they had a problem. Now with your donations it will be interesting to see when it will be paid in full. The total expense was \$14,200, and as of this newsletter the balance is \$8,218.34.

Sunday, January 19th our 2020 church council was installed by Pastor Mark. The officers and new inductees and members were noted in the article concerning the congregational meeting located near the beginning of this article. We thank the new members who volunteered to serve when asked for this important undertaking.

Our appreciation to the outgoing members ... Dave Larrick and Dick Keller; and to Eleanor Stotler and Joe McIntosh who volunteered for their second three-year term, as they worked diligently through their term. The ministry team liaisons are; Nurturing – Kathy, Sharing – Joe, Stewarding – Bobby, and Celebrating – Kim.

Moon Young had a dinner engagement on Thursday, January 23rd that he will never forget - and he has a photo to prove it. His daughter bid on a fundraiser auction at her place of employment for dinner with Ty Johnson! She knew her Dad would cherish this gift so she bid and BID... finally winning the prize. All of us

Fort Hill fans envied Moon as we have followed Ty's outstanding career at Fort Hill, the University of Maryland and now as a professional football player with the Detroit Lions! The dinner engagement was held at Patrick's Pub with Moon's two daughters, Ty and his mother. Moon could also take a guest and he graciously took his neighbor who has been going to the high school football games with him for years. Congratulations Moon... this treasured gift from your daughter could not have been given to a more dedicated Fort Hill football fan!!!



At a recent annual meeting in Baltimore of the Home Paramount Pest Control, where Mike McIntosh is manager of the Cumberland division, the local business repeated in taking 7 of the company awards. Mike was again named Employee Of The Year and received a ring several years ago for receiving this honor. This year they took the ring back as they were having a diamond mounted in his ring! Congrats, Mike!

Sunday, January 26th, a surprise brunch was held following worship in honor of Louise Gilpin's 90th birthday. The event was provided by her daughters, Jan (Sutton, WV), Kim (Pinto), and Kristi. The brunch buffet was prepared by our church chef, Mike.

Shades of lavender and purple were used throughout the hall, the honoree's favorite color, with balloons extending from the ceiling. The guest table centerpieces were made by Andi Liller with history memoirs of happenings in 1930. The dessert table featured a cake iced in lavender flowers and inscribed 'Happy Birthday, Louise', cut by Kathy Rosenberger and served by Gracie. Becky McIntyre made a platter of delicious chocolates.

The family table was centered with a large crystal vase holding a variety of lavender and purple flowers. Her sons—in—law: Wes Dobbins (Jan), Kurt Helmick (Kim), and Ray Hughes (Kristi) were also present, along with her 7 grandchildren and 4 great grandchildren.

Our thoughtful Becky McIntyre made a Valentine candy bag for each of the children. Usher Scott Liller presented the gift to each youngster following the worship service. Becky remembers the LWLC children many times throughout the year. Thanks, Becky!



Sunday, February 23rd, at 5 o'clock, a covered dish dinner was enjoyed by members of the congregation who were making the souvenirs for the 10th anniversary of LWLC which will be held this month. At 6 the crafters started to create the mystery gift. The craft was provided and under the direction of Scott & Andi. Those making the crafts were Andi & Scott

(craft originators since the beginning), Pat & Dick Keller, Kim & Lora Henson, Paul Eriksson, Pastor Mark, Susan and Dante. Our appreciation to the craft volunteers!

The second engagement in this issue was recently announced... Caitlin Squires, daughter of Jim & Lori, said YES to Ryan Diehl, son of Dwayne Diehl and Vicky Glass, who resides in Mount Savage. Ryan is a mechanical engineer for Rockland Manufacturing, Bedford, Pennsylvania. The couple are planning a November wedding.

Congratulations, Caitlin and Ryan!



The oldest daughter of Jim & Lori, Jessica, who has been engaged to Alec Long for over a year and a half, recently announced their wedding will take place on August 8th. For the remainder of 2020 it looks like it's destined to be a very busy time of the year for the entire Squires family!

Everyone at LWLC was in shock when returning home from church on February 23rd as they received an e—mail from Pastor Mark saying that Bob Chaney had passed away. Bob graduated from Ridgeley High School and after serving in the Army he graduated from Shephard College. Bob taught at Fort Ashby, Beall and ended his career at Fort Hill High Schools. Retire, BOB DID NOT! He founded and owned Chaney Insurance Agency until the second retirement. During his life he belonged to many clubs and organizations.

Bob was also a founding member of LWLC where he had been a member of the choir and the council. Bob is survived by his wife, Kay, and three children, Scott, Steve (Lisa) and Cindy Rudy (John), Chambersburg, PA; eight granddaughters and one great grandson; two sisters and one half—sister. A memorial service was held on February 27th at LWLC with Pastor Mark officiating with a luncheon following in the fellowship hall. Burial was held later for the family at Fort Ashby Cemetery. Our sincere sympathy to Kay and her family,



The Lenten Wednesday series began on February 26th, Ash Wednesday. For the first time there was a noon service (20 attended) and a 7 p.m. worship service. The Imposition of Ashes was observed at both services. A dinner was not held this evening.

The worship theme was entitled "The Wounds Of Blasphemy."

The second weekly service, on March 4th, was entitled "The Wounds Of Violating The Sabbath," Thirteen members brought covered dishes for the dinner at 6, with 13 attending. The worship service was held at 7 with 27 attending.

The third service was held Wednesday, March 8th, at 7 with 16 parishioners.

The 'bring a dish' dinner preceded the worship service with 7 members attending.

The sermon (all delivered by Pastor Mark) was entitled "The Wounds Of Dishonoring Authority". Several days later Pastor Mark sent an e—mail that the remaining Lenten worship services will continue, but the covered dish dinners have been discontinued for this year.

THOUGHT FOR THIS EDITION:

GOD does not give you what you can HANDLE...
GOD helps you HANDLE what you are GIVEN.

Our Younger Generation

FROM 12/1/19 TO 3/15/20

By Sadie Koser



The Allegany County Center for Career and Technical Education announced their honor roll students for the first nine weeks of the school year. Included in the A/B honor roll for the junior class was CAITIE ROSENBERGER, granddaughter of Carl & Kathy Rosenberger. Our congratulations, Caitie!

Congratulations LIAM ROBB who was listed on the A/B honor roll for the first marking of the school year

at Braddock Middle School! Liam, a member of the 6th grade, is the grandson of Terry & Peggy Robb.

Frost Elementary School recently announced the Principal's Choice Award winners for the second nine weeks of the year. Among the honorees was WILLIAM HUGHES, son of Kristie & Ray, who is a student in grade four. Congratulations, William!

Mount Savage Middle School recently announced its honor roll for the second marking period. Making the Straight A Honor Roll were the HUGHES sisters, CAROLYN (grade 6) and ANNABETH (grade 8). Congratulations, Annabeth & Carolyn!

Congratulations JORDAN CHANEY, daughter of Steve & Lisa, granddaughter of Kay, who was Allegany High School Student Athlete of the month in February for the Cumberland Times—News! Jordan is a sophomore and a member of the girls basketball team. According to coach Jim O 'Neal... Jordan has combined talent, hard work, and a great attitude to establish herself as one of Allegany's top three sport athletes. She has developed into one of our primary scorers and her ability to score from the 3—point line has made her a consistent threat on the offensive end of the floor. Jordan has a 3.6 GPA, and also plays soccer and runs track.



Mount Savage Middle School, placing second, will advance to the state finals of the Maryland Mathcounts Chapter. A member of the school's team is ANNABETH HUGHES who also placed fourth overall! The state finals, which are currently postponed due to Coronavirus, will be held at Johns Hopkins University. Congratulations, Annabeth!



HANDLEY ROBB is a new member of the acolyte & crucifer youth team for our church. He is in the 3rd grade at West Side Elementary School and grandson of Peggy & Terry Robb. Thank you, Handley, for volunteering for this important part of the worship service.



Information For Aging Adults

Based on conversations with community leaders across the US, many aging adults are unaware of the available care options and programs that can help maintain their independence and quality of life. So, we created a free resource that provides information on topics like financial support and care options that are available in Cumberland. What we are most excited about is our comprehensive database of senior living communities which also includes thoughtful and honest reviews from residents in your community.

You can read more about our work here:

- <https://www.caring.com/senior-living/assisted-living/maryland/cumberland>
- <https://www.caring.com/senior-living/assisted-living/maryland>

Sincerely,

Colleen Murray
Community Outreach and Senior Advocate
(800) 324-9349



*Caring.com is a leading senior care resource for family caregivers seeking information and support as they care for aging parents, spouses and other loved ones. We have been featured by AARP, The Administration for Community Living, The National Legal Resource Center, and Forbes, as well as referenced by many governmental agencies and organizations across the Internet.

Thank You Notes

I thank Pastor Mark for doing the last church newsletter since Marilyn Adam was unable to do it due to health problems. Pastor did an excellent job as the newsletter was full of pictures, upcoming activities and ... just a great newsletter! At this time he will continue doing it into the future as Marilyn (although she is beginning to feel better) has expressed a desire to discontinue her tenure as editor of the newsletter. I appreciate Marilyn doing this service for several years. We finally have a title for our newsletter "LIVING WORD'S WORDS - isn't that a clever name? The name was also suggested by Pastor Mark and it is most fitting for our publication! Another big THANK YOU Pastor Mark!

Sincerely, Sadie

Dear Members, Thank you very much for your donation for our resident's Christmas fund. We really appreciate it.

God's Blessing's, Egle Nursing & Rehab Center

Dear LWLC Members, Thank you for your gift of \$100.00 donation for Christmas to Burlington United Methodist Family Services, Inc. We appreciate the kindness that all of our supporters extend to the children and families that we serve, as well as to this agency. Without your support, it would be impossible for the staff at BUMFS, Inc. to carry on our Christian mission of changing lives by preventing harm and providing hope and healing to hurting children and families. Your contribution has made a difference in their lives, and for that, we thank you.

In Faith, Hope, and Love, Michael L. Price, Sr.
President/CEO

Dear LWLC, Thank you for your continued support of First Way Pregnancy Support Center. Thanks to your 2019 support we were able to help many families in the surrounding area. This has been another successful year of doing the Lord's work. We truly appreciate your prayers, time and donations. We look forward to partnering with you more in 2020. Your 2019 contribution is \$200.

God Bless, Jamie Echefu, Treasurer

Dear Church Friends, Thank you very much for the donation of hats and gloves you gave to our school. Our students will be a lot warmer during the winter months because of your kindness. Merry Christmas!

Love, John Humbird Elementary School
Staff & Students

Dear Pastor & Members: The Interfaith Community Pantry would like to thank your church and its members for your support. During 2019 your church and members gave \$240.00, 216 food items and 6 non—food items. During 2019 the pantry received 1,862 referrals, representing 5,258 people. They received 35,292 items of food and 9,220 miscellaneous food items with vouchers for perishable food amounting to \$29,785.00 and we also distributed 11,232 commodity food items. Again, thank you and your members for their continued support.

Sincerely, The Executive Board

Attached to this letter are excerpts from a second letter...

The pantry has been in operation since the early 1960s. There are no paid employees, yet we are able to operate the pantry five days a week from 10 a.m. until 3 p.m. with the help of volunteers. These volunteers from the area churches give of their time to keep the pantry open week after week.

We would like to invite more members of our supporting churches to help those in need of emergency food. We are reaching out to you as there is a need for more volunteers. Substitute volunteers work an average of six hours a month with regularly scheduled volunteers work an average of three hours a week. Please contact our Coordinator of Volunteers, Twylah Stewart on Wednesday mornings (10 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.) at telephone: 301-777-7882. Thank you for your consideration.

Linda Stewart, Secretary

Living Word Congregation & Pastor Mark, My Love & Thank You To All Of You...

The light of God's love shines through all of you, with your unconditional love, your support, your kindness, and most of all your prayers for me & my family.

Words cannot express how blessed I feel knowing I have all of you as extended family! Your cards, calls, text messages, Pastor's visits, and having so many helping and providing food was overwhelming with love. Thank you for the memorials that have been given to Living Word in memory of Bob. We feel so loved, we know we are surrounded by love, we thank all of you, God is good!

Kay Chaney & Family

Thanks From Me! Just a little line or two, To bring my warmest thanks to you! Thank you all that have prayed for me and sent so many cards, your prayers were my daily pleasures.

God Bless You All, Pat Counihan

Special Thanks To You... Kind hearts are the gardens, kind thoughts are the roots, kind words are the flowers, kind deeds are the fruits. Thinking of you and giving thanks for the wonderful people you are! Just wanted to thank all the ladies for a wonderful job for Bob's funeral. You all out did yourselves!

With Many Thanks, Pat Counihan

Birthdays

MARCH

- 23 Melva
Friedland
- 27 Eleanor
Stotler



APRIL

- 7 Ann Burkey
- 12 Scott Liller
- 13 Sondra Robertson
- 15 Steve Chaney
- 15 Dick Keller
- 20 Kim Jackson
- 23 David Robertson
- 24 Shirley Nolan
- 27 Andi Liller

MAY

- 4 Carl Rosenberger
- 4 Gracie Rosenberger
- 6 Sondra Cave

- 6 Bob McIntyre
- 11 Joe McIntosh
- 12 Marsha Squires
- 17 Terry Robb
- 18 Michelle Larrick
- 25 Don Squires
- 29 Gerald Arthur

JUNE

- 10 Becky McIntyre
- 14 Kim Henson
- 23 Bryan Palmer
- 25 Peggy Young
- 28 Jocelyn Chaney
- 29 Robin Gainer

Anniversaries



APRIL

- 2 Greg & Susan Lewis
- 10 Dick & Pat Keller
- 17 Dave & Vicki Larrick
- 29 Moon & Peggy Young

MAY

- 9 Scott & Andi Liller
- 14 Paul & Lori Eriksson
- 18 Tim & Carol Martin
- 20 Bob & Becky McIntyre
- 27 Gene & Sondra Cave

JUNE

- 3 Kim & Lora Henson
- 8 Adrian & Susan Weems
- 20 Johnny & Donna Morris
- 23 Bryan & Tanya Palmer
- 29 David & Robin Gainer

Mark Your Calendar

[All Calendar dates are dependent upon the future course of Covid19 and the postponements and closures associated with the virus.]

Midweek Lenten Services continue at 7 PM every Wednesday through April 1st.

Worship Services during Holy Week and Easter

- 4/5 10 AM Palm Sunday Worship
After Worship SS Easter Egg Hunt
- 4/9 7 PM Maundy Thursday Worship
- 4/10 7 PM Good Friday Worship
- 4/12 10 AM Easter Sunday Worship
- 5/6 7 PM National Day of Prayer Kickoff Worship Service @ Central Assemblies
- 5/7 8 AM NDP Breakfast @ Fairgrounds
- 5/7 11 AM NDP Gathering on the Downtown Mall
- 6/13-14 Heritage Days

Announcements

National Day of Prayer events on May 6 & 7 include the Wednesday evening kickoff worship service (7 PM at Central Assemblies Church), the Thursday morning Prayer Breakfast (8 AM at the Fairgrounds), and the Thursday gathering (11 AM – 1 PM on the Downtown Mall). The featured speaker this year is Steve Fitzhugh, former Denver Broncos defensive back. More information will be forthcoming through emails and bulletin announcements, or you can check out the “Cumberland Area National Day of Prayer” Facebook Page. Make plans now to attend some or all of these events, and to spend much of your time on Thursday, May 7 in prayer for “God’s glory across the earth.”

