

**Devotions and Stories**

**The Heart**



“Tomorrow morning,” the surgeon began, “I’ll open up your heart...”

“You’ll find Jesus there,” the boy interrupted.

The surgeon looked up, annoyed. “I’ll cut your heart open,” he continued, “to see how much damage has been done...”

“But when you open up my heart, you’ll find Jesus in there,” said the boy.

The surgeon looked to the parents, who sat quietly. “When I see how much damage has been done, I’ll sew your heart and chest back up, and I’ll plan what to do next.”

“But you’ll find Jesus in my heart. The Bible says He lives there. The hymns all say He lives there. You’ll find Him in my heart.”

The surgeon had had enough. “I’ll tell you what I’ll find in your heart. I’ll find damaged muscle, low blood supply and weakened vessels. And I’ll find out if I can make you well.”

“You’ll find Jesus there too. He lives there.”

The surgeon left.

The surgeon sat in his office, recording his notes from the surgery, “...damaged aorta, damaged pulmonary vein, widespread muscle degeneration. No hope for transplant, no hope for cure. Therapy: painkillers and bed rest. Prognosis:” here he paused, “death within one year.”

He stopped the recorder, but there was more to be said. “Why?” he asked aloud. “Why did you do this? You’ve put him here; You’ve put him in this pain; and You’ve cursed him to an early death. Why?”

The Lord answered and said, “The boy, my lamb, was not meant for your flock for long, for he is part of My flock, and will forever be. Here, in My flock, he will feel no pain and will be comforted as you cannot imagine. His parents will one day join him here, and they will know peace, and My flock will continue to grow...”

The surgeon’s tears were hot, but his anger was hotter. “You created that boy, and You created that heart. He’ll be dead in months. Why?”

The Lord answered, “The boy, My lamb, shall return to My flock, for he has done his duty: I did not put My lamb with your flock to lose him, but to retrieve another lost lamb.”

The surgeon wept...

The surgeon sat beside the boy’s bed; the boy’s parents sat across from him. The boy awoke and whispered, “Did you cut open my heart?”



“Yes,” said the surgeon.

“What did you find?” asked the boy.

“I found Jesus there,” said the surgeon



YOU'VE PERFECTED YOUR SWAN DIVE INTO A PERFECT BELLY FLOP.

Picnic/Swim Party

It doesn't matter how you look in your bathing suit! COME! The annual swim party will be held on August 2nd from 6:30-9:00 at the Middleburg Community

pool. Bring a covered dish, dessert and/or drink to share (hot dogs and buns will be provided). This is a great way to invite your friends to a church function so they get to know some of the people at Church. It may plant a seed and they may decide to come to church some Sunday! Invite as many friends as you would like! We'll see you there.

United Methodist Women Picnic

Don't forget our family picnic held at Tom and Audine's Snyder's garage on August 19th at 6:30. Bring a covered dish to share and "white elephant" (a mystery gift to be auctioned off).

Stewardship Initiative

Americans throw out enough glass bottles every two weeks that it would fill both former towers of the World Trade Center. My point? We recycle all of this! It is upsetting to learn that people don't practice good recycling habits. Mission Central strives to thwart this by making it one of our larger stewardship initiatives. So, yes, we will take your recycling as well.

God put us here on earth to serve and love each other. Wouldn't we be remiss if we didn't take care of where we live too? Stewardship is a big part of service and recycling and reusing is simply using this practice wisely. Bring in your plastics, your metals, your glass, and even your glasses and we will dispose of them how God would see fit. If we are already paying "rent" through service, then let us at least try to clean up the place while we're at it. Paxtonville U.M. Church is a Hub for Mission Central.

Youth Fishing Event

Cast out your line and wait...OH! You would have had that one if someone hadn't run up behind you yelling your name, and scaring the fish away! Bring your rod to Leroy and Bonnie Hibbs' pond on August 9th. Check with youth leaders for time. Snacks for you and the fish (worms) will be provided. Come and have some fun.

Youth activity room will be open on August 30th from 7:00-9:30. Snacks will also be provided on this evening.

Mini Golf

FORE! Now that I got your attention: Family fellowship will be holding a mini golf evening of fun! Join us on August 14th, 7:00 at the Susquehanna Sports Place. Family Fellowship is designed to help the members of our congregation have a good time of fellowship and get to know one another better. Anyone is invited to come!



Looking Ahead

The United Methodist Women are inviting anyone in the church who wishes to go to the Dutch Apple Theatre with them to see the play "Smoke on the Mountain" to join them. The trip will be on October 17th. On that date we will be leaving the church at 8:30 Tickets are \$45 and there will be an addition transportation fee for anyone who wishes to go. Reservations and money are due by September 20th. Please see Marge Smith for questions and/or reservations!

**Happy Birthday to**

- 8/4 Anna Mitchell
- 8/5 Patsy Krouse
- 8/7 Dennis Krouse  
Ronald Reich
- 8/8 Mia Havasi
- 8/9 Hunter Smith  
Yvonne Herbster  
Kim Dreese
- 8/10 Kelly Herbster
- 8/12 Evan Johnson
- 8/13 Jacob Ax
- 8/14 Joel Hauck  
Scarlett May
- 8/15 Kassidy Ressler
- 8/16 Alesia Brooks  
Carvel May
- 8/17 Jeff Bowersox  
Quinn Smith
- 8/18 Lilyanna Strocko
- 8/21 Marissa Ewing
- 8/22 Terry Buckley
- 8/24 Shari Dunn  
Janice Shambach
- 8/27 Shirley Catherman  
Thelma Houtz  
Carla Kerstetter
- 8/30 Brent Pyle  
Lorraine Yarger
- 8/31 Juanita Newman  
Tricia Yoder

**Happy Anniversary to:**

- |                              |   |
|------------------------------|---|
| 8/6 Earl & Judy Hollenbach   | 8/17 Carl & Lynn Keister                        |
| 8/10 Shawn & Daphyne Ressler | 8/19 Tony & Cathy Dauberman                     |
| 8/11 Tim & Kay Bachman       | 8/22 Tom & Audine Snyder<br>Brad & Angie Weaver |
| Don & Maddy Walter           | 8/23 Mark W. & Becky Harris                     |
| 8/15 Richard & Cheryl Walter | Ray & Janice Stoneroad                          |
| 8/16 Galen & Karen Smith     | 8/29 Tim & Gail Krouse                          |

**From Where I Sit...**

By : Tom Salsgiver—Lewisburg District Superintendent

The cabinet spent two days at a work camp in Altoona working with folks from that district. There were several jobs that we did. Four of us, Tim and Ann Baer, Debbie Heisley—Cato and I one day were assigned to paint an outside wall for Nellie. Nellie is very proud of the fact that she is 90 years old and has been a member of Second Ave UM Church since she was in the primary department—that’s a long time!

As we worked, Nellie loved to talk with us. In the midst of our talking with her, Tim asked her two questions. He said, “Nellie, you’ve seen a lot of changes at the church since you’ve been a member. What’s one of the best changes you’ve seen?” Nellie quickly responded, “all the young families who are coming with their children.”

Tim then asked her, “Of all the changes, what’s one that you didn’t like?” She thought a minute and said, “The new music we’re singing—but if it’s bringing young families, it’s ok with me!”

Nellie knows that church isn’t about her or what she necessarily likes. It’s about bringing the unchurched to a relationship with Jesus Christ.

I think too often we view church and worship from what we like or don’t like—what feeds us or doesn’t. Paul Borden uses the illustration that often we are like Olympic skating judges after worship. We rank it on whether we like it or not, whether we like that song, whether we think it’s too long. At the end of worship, we hold up signs, at least in our minds giving the music a 2.4 if we didn’t know the songs, or 8.9 if we “got out on time”, or a 9.4 if the pastor made us laugh or made us feel good.

But the reality is it’s not about us. It’s about worshipping God and make Disciples.

I worked with a church that was so concerned about keeping all the members happy. The common cry was, “what will it take to make you happy.” Our job is not to make us happy, it’s to make God happy. What makes God happy, I believe, is when we truly worship and bring people into a saving relationship.

It’s important to ask ourselves—who are we making happy by our worship—are we more concerned about making God happy by having relevant worship that attracts the unsaved? I pray that we in the Lewisburg District are always more concerned about pleasing God than pleasing our members.

Please Pray for:

**Pray for our Nursing Home Residents**

Henry Reich.....Penn Lutheran  
Cathy Shrawder.....Bloomsburg  
Cora Master.....Zendt's  
Lura Courtney.....Riverwoods

**In the care of family**

Peg Gilbert

**Please pray for our Shut ins**

Scott Smith

**Pray for our Extended**

**Family**

Rick Shipe  
Ethel Stuck  
George Swineford  
Mary Sulouff  
Vance & Virginia Thompson  
Warren C. Johnson

**Recent Surgeries/Procedures**

Mervin Royer  
Kay Bachman  
Maverick Smith  
Harry Stroup

**Recent Hospital Stays**

Mervin Royer  
Lura Courtney  
Eve Smith

**PLEASE REMEMBER TO PRAY FOR OUR SCHOOL STUDENTS AS THEY RETURN TO CLASS THE END OF THIS MONTH. SCHOOL AND SCHOOL BUSES ARE NOT ALWAYS THE SAFEST PLACES TO BE ANYMORE. MAY GOD WATCH OVER OUR CHILDREN, THEIR TEACHERS AND ADMINISTRATORS.**

“Our prayer and God’s mercy are like two buckets in a well. While one ascends; the other descends.”

**Our College Students**

Amy Bowersox                      Alyssa Royer  
Stephanie Brouse                  Zach Royer  
Kim Dreese                              Katie Stuck  
Yvonne Herbster                      Amanda Waite  
Becky Hibbs                              Casey Wendt

\*\*\*Please let Hollie Johnson or Angie Weaver know if we are missing anyone or have someone added who is not in college.

**Our Sympathies**

To Bonnie Weirick and family following the passing of her mother. Betty Rice passed away on June 25th. Please continue to keep the family in your prayers.

To the family of Anna Billheim, member of our church through the merge of St. Luke’s. Anna passed away on June 27th. May God comfort her family.

To Stephanie Beaver and her family on the death of her grandfather, Harold Solomon. “Whitey” passed away on July 13th. May God be with you in your time of sorrow.



Please remember the many in our congregation who are going through tests, or having issues that have not required them to have a hospital stay or surgery.

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*...to proclaim the love of God to all people.*

“Moments spent with God reap benefits that last a lifetime.”

At Sunday School they were teaching how God created everything, including human beings. Little Johnny seemed especially intent when they told him how Eve was created out of one of Adam's ribs. Later in the week, his mother noticed him lying down as though he were ill, and she said, “Johnny, what is the matter?” Little Johnny responded, “I have pain in my side. I think I'm going to have a wife!”

**School Prayer**

— written by a 15 year old school student in Ohio

Now I sit me down in school  
Where praying is against the rule  
For this great nation under God  
Finds mention of Him very odd.

If Scripture now the class recites,  
It violates the Bill of Rights.  
And anytime my head I bow  
Becomes a Federal matter now.

Our hair can be purple, orange or green,  
That's no offense; it's a freedom scene.  
The law is specific, the law is precise.  
Prayers spoken aloud are a serious vice.

For praying in a public hall  
Might offend someone with no faith at all.  
In silence alone we must meditate,  
God's name is prohibited by the state

We're allowed to cuss and dress like freaks,  
And pierce our noses, tongues and cheeks...  
They've outlawed guns, but FIRST the Bible.  
To quote the Good Book makes me liable.

—continue to right

We can elect a pregnant Senior Queen  
And the 'unwed daddy', Senior King  
It's 'inappropriate' to teach right from wrong  
We're taught that such judgments don't belong.

We can get our condoms and birth controls,  
Study witchcraft, vampires and totem poles.  
But the Ten Commandments are not allowed,  
No word of God must reach this crowd.

It's scary here I must confess,  
When chaos reigns the school's a mess.  
So, Lord, this silent plea I make:  
Should I be shot; my soul please take!  
Amen

