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Journeys

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WHEREVER YOU ARE ON LIFE'S JOURNEY, WE WELCOME YOU HERE.

THOUGHTS FOR THE SOUL

The Soul (Part 2: Souls Today)

We ended last month's *Thoughts* by pointing out that the New Testament Greek word for soul is *psychē*. Modern English uses this term as the root for many words, e.g. psychology, psychiatry, psychoanalysis, and dozens more.

We commonly understand psychology as the science of the mind or of mental states and processes—why we think the way we do. This seems to be quite different from what New Testament writers meant when they used the Greek word *psychē* for what we today call *soul*.

For New Testament writers, “the soul is the seat and center of the inner life of the human, and the location of the feelings and emotions. . . . [It]

survives after the death of the body and receives the rewards and punishments of the afterlife. . . .”¹

Because the mind is so complex, psychology has become a very wide field with many subdivisions and branches of study. Major areas of psychology include:

- [clinical psychology](#), which involves diagnosing and treating personality and behavior disorders;
- [cognitive psychology](#), which studies mental processes such as memory, language, and perception; and
- [developmental psychology](#), which studies how our mental processes change as we age and experience more of life.

It may be hard to see today how *psychē* and *soul* were ever related without reviewing the history of western thought over the centuries.

There is a continuity between the terms, however, with this modern definition of *soul*: “the spirit or immaterial part of humans, the seat of human personality, intellect, will, and emotions, that many regard as an entity that survives the body after death.”²

Today we think of a soulful person as one who is full of deep feeling or expresses deep feeling—someone who is profoundly emotional. In contrast, a soulless person lacks such sensitivity—lacks the capacity to feel deeply.

Thus many feel they have found their “soul-mate” when they meet someone whose nature, point of view and sensitivities are similar to their own.

In Richard Rohrer’s view, our souls are more than a list of intangibles that define us. Rather, our souls are dynamic aspects of our identities that, at our best, enrich our lives and the lives of others.

After decades as a Franciscan teacher, . . . I find that many, if not most, people and institutions remain stymied in the preoccupations of the first half of life. By that I mean that most people’s concerns remain those of establishing their personal identity, creating various boundaries, and seeking security and success.

These tasks are good to some degree and even necessary. . . . The world would be much worse off if we did not do the important work of ego-development.

I believe that God gives us our soul—our deepest identity, our True Self, our unique blueprint—at our own conception. Our unique little bit of heaven is installed by the Manufacturer within the product, at the beginning!

We are given a span of years to discover it, to choose it, and to live our own destiny to the full. . . . The discovery of our soul is crucial and of pressing importance for each of us and for the world.

We do not ‘make’ or ‘create’ our souls; we just ‘grow’ them up. We are the clumsy stewards of our own souls. Much of our work is learning how to stay out of the way of this rather natural growing and awakening. We need to *unlearn* a

lot, it seems, to get back to that foundational life. This is why religious traditions call the process ‘conversion’ or ‘repentance.’ . . .

Following our *inner blueprint* or soul and humbly serving others is indeed of ultimate concern. . . . This is our life’s purpose, the deepest meaning of ‘natural law.’ We are here to give back freely what was first given to us! It takes both halves of our life to fulfill this calling.
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Those of us who have reached a certain chronological maturity are not “off the hook.” God still calls us to grow our souls as we seek to do what is right for others, practice kindness towards all, and pursue walking humbly each day with God.

—Pastor Fogal

¹ White, Sidnie Ann, “Human Person.” In Bruce M. Metzger and Michael D. Coogan, *The Oxford Companion to the Bible*. New York: Oxford University Press, 1993, pp. 295-296.

² Based on the Random House Unabridged Dictionary, © Random House, Inc., 2023

³ Rohrer, Richard. Downloaded from <https://cac.org/daily-meditations/the-further-journey-2018-03-28/>





Throughout Lent we have extinguished a candle each week on our journey toward the Cross.

On Sunday, April 2, **Palm Sunday**, we reflect on the experiences of the crowds over 2000 years ago who welcomed Jesus as he rode on a donkey into the city of Jerusalem. They waved their palm branches in homage and excitement.

Then on Thursday, April 6, we celebrate the Sacrament of Holy Communion, at our **Maundy Thursday** service which will be held in the sanctuary at **5 p.m.** Through readings, prayer and extinguishing of candles we are reminded that not only did Christ's disciples desert him, but we often do as well.

We look forward to the celebration of Christ's resurrection on **Easter Sunday**, April 9, at our 10 a.m. service when the message and music reflects our joy. Invite your family and your friends to share in this joyous celebration. Remember "**Christ the Lord is risen again, Alleluia!**"



TROOP 64

The Troop would like to thank all who purchased wreaths during the holidays! We so appreciate your constant support. We have now started our Spring flower sale. The Wreath sales support the Troop while the Flower sales support individual Scouts with camp costs. Forms are at the church, or you can just reach out to Samantha at SammieJo1@verizon.net.

The Troop has been busy the last few months: We competed in the Klondike Derby and one of our patrols earned 3rd place in the competition! The boys had the opportunity to attend Pack 3464's Blue & Gold ceremony at which we welcomed two cub Scouts who crossed over to our Boy Scout Troop!

Next month, the Troop will visit Washington, D.C. and stay at the Greenbelt National Park. The boys plan their own calendar, and this trip comes back year after year. The remainder of this year will include whitewater rafting and backpacking, then off to the Florida Keys for Sea Base High Adventure. The boys chose to live on a sailboat and enjoy a bit of glamping, for their adventure.

One of our Scouts has been developing a new website for the Troop which will go live next month. We'll let you know when it's live, be sure to check it out to keep up with the adventures of Troop 64! Happy Spring and thank you so very much for your support!



Saturday, May 13, is coming quickly.

Part of the social hall will be transformed into a craft sale area. We have many talented members and friends in our congregation who have donated their handmade items for past fall craft rooms. It is my hope that you will contribute to this first spring craft sale.

Food items always sell very well. Breads such as banana, cranberry and zucchini, chocolate covered pretzels, chocolate covered gummy bears, brownies, muffins and cakes (especially chocolate). We cannot sell cookies because of the cookie contest in the village. Please remember to label your food items and note whether any nuts are in the products.

New this year is the jewelry table. Ladies, if you have nice costume jewelry that you no longer wear, consider donating the pieces for our sale.

Let me know what you are creating, and I will add your name and the item(s) to my list. We do have some things leftover from past craft rooms. Please price your items. You made it, so you know the cost.

I will have a note in the May newsletter to advise when I will be at church setting up the sale, so you can drop off your contributions.

All proceeds go to the Women's Fellowship. They use the proceeds to purchase items for the church. Tell all your friends and neighbors about Carversville Day and our craft sale.

I'm looking forward to a successful craft sale. Please call me at **215.348.3614**, if you have any questions.

Thank you,
Jeanne Brown



Mark your calendars for *May 13th* because we're having a pancake breakfast!

Menu includes your choice of custom made plain, chocolate chip, or blueberry pancakes, sausages, coffee, and juice.

Come join us for breakfast with friends, then take a stroll down to Carversville Day. What a great way to start a May morning!

As always, volunteers are needed. Please look for signup sheets by the flower chart and add your name. This is the first community event we are sponsoring post COVID. Let's make it successful by joining together to keep our beautiful church a "family church - church family". We are hoping everyone will join us!

Alison Simpson, Dave & Barb Gunn
Chairpersons





*WHERE DID THE MONEY GO?
A MISSIONS' COMMITTEE UPDATE*

The budget of Carversville United Church of Christ has a line item designated as “Missions” to be used to fund our church’s outreach to those in need. I am writing to let you know where that money goes!

In September, we “adopted” 85 Mariano Lakes Elementary School students in Crownpoint, NM. The school is serviced by Americans for Native Americans (ANA). CUCC provided 12 blankets for students who board at the school Mon. through Thurs., 85 Christmas stockings, and 100 white boards. While our congregation was **very** generous in donating items to fill the stockings, CUCC Missions funds were used to purchase additional items to be sure every stocking contained the same items. Missions’ funds purchased blanket kits, stockings, lap boards with markers, and also covered shipping costs.

Before Thanksgiving, Mary Lee Reiff, ANA Chair requested help in filling a request for underwear and socks from the Principal of Bread Spring Elementary School with 61 students in New Mexico. CUCC Missions’ funds met this request with the purchase of 80 prs of socks and 76 briefs in various sizes with help from Amazon free shipping and sales at Kohl’s.

Our Christmas outreach expanded to include the children who reside at Bethany Children’s Home. While we filled 100 Christmas stockings intended for Mariano, only 85 students were enrolled at that time. The remaining 15 stockings and 10 blankets were sent to Bethany to bring joy to children, all of whom have a traumatic history. We also sent 80 Beanie Babies (donated by Dick Knowler), 25 white boards and markers, 3 footballs, 3 basketballs, and a badminton set as well as three \$100 gift cards to

Kohl’s, Target, and JoAnn so Bethany staff could purchase items from the children’s wish lists.

It is easy to account for expenses involved in the above scenarios, but our outreaches don’t always provide tangible items. Circumstances sometimes determine that providing money and/or volunteering will have a greater, perhaps even LIFESAVING impact. In May of 2022 we received an appeal from “Feed My Starving Children” for funds and volunteers to provide supplies and pack MantraPack rice packs to be sent to the children and elderly of Ukraine. The rice packs were forwarded directly to partners of the Feed My Starving Children organization for distribution to children and elderly inside Ukraine. CUCC donated \$100 to the organization, and Sue Wulf and family members volunteered at the “Crisis Mobile Pack “ for Ukraine at St. Anne’s Ukrainian Catholic Church event in Warrington.

Recently we received an appeal again from “Feed My Starving Children” requesting \$88 (plus processing fees) to provide food for one child for one year. We sent \$180 from our Missions funds to provide food for TWO children for one year. The war in Ukraine has been on-going for over one year and millions of people are going without food. Providing food for two children doesn’t seem like a lot, but it means a lot to those two children.

In February an earthquake devastated the border of Turkey and Syria. An appeal for donations was issued by the United Church of Christ conference to help with recovery efforts. Carversville UCC donated \$200 from Missions’ funds to be deposited into the International Emergency Fund designated for “Turkey and Syria Earthquake Response” to be used by our partners in areas of greatest need.

An email arrived from Mary Lee Reiff, ANA Board Chair, in February informing me the director of WIC who has a relationship with ANA had requested 60 fleece blankets. As of that date only 45 blankets had been provided. Cindy Bove, Cheryl Costello and her mother, Pam Price will be making blankets, but with the help of Missions’ funds for fabric, I have a shipment of 3 adult blankets, 5 infant/toddler blankets, and 10 burp cloths (left over

fabric) ready to ship to Zuni, NM. Note: WIC is “The Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants and Children up to age 5.

At times it seems that CUCC donations to others are small, but we are blessed to have Missions funds available no matter how small to help those in need. Following is a note from someone who at the time of his writing lived in Kyiv, Ukraine and relies on MannaPack meals. *“I got a pack of your rice and I made soup out of it. I would like to thank you for what you are doing. This pack has come a long way to me in Kyiv. My wife brought it to me from Poland where she received it as humanitarian aid. The war separated me from my family and sent us severe trials. I ate soup and thought why **some people send us missiles and want to kill us while other people send us food and want to support us.** Both of them do not know me personally but thanks to one I have no electricity, but I have the threat of freezing in the winter and thanks to the others I can eat delicious soup while I have lost my job. I want you to know that your efforts are getting there, even if you don’t see the millions of people eating your rice. God bless you for your deeds!”*

Reaching out to people less fortunate or who have been traumatized in unthinkable ways, includes a message that they are not forgotten. Whether it is donations of food, blankets, toothbrushes, or basketballs, the people of Carversville UCC representing the “little church with the big heart” are also sending love and hope.

Barbara Burger
Missions Committee Chair



PRAYING HANDS

Here is a list of those who would benefit from receiving cards this month. We encourage you all to reach out to these people as it will mean a lot.

Nancy and Jim Hale - 657 Spring Valley Road,
Doylestown, PA 18901

Catherine Halper- P.O. Box 564, Lahaska, PA
18931

Judy and Frank Le Vien- 6264 Point Pleasant Pike,
Doylestown, PA 18902

Sally Seeton- 1850 Lower Mountain Road West,
Furlong, PA 18925

Gordon Keckeissen- 555 N. Broad St., #508A,
Doylestown, PA 18901

Jack and Patsy King- 503 Windrush Bay Drive,
Tarpon Springs, FL 34689

DJ Kling- P.O. Box 195, Carversville, PA 18913

Jim Cleaveland- 26 N. Lafayette Ave., Morrisville,
PA 19067

Lon and Pat Pritchard- 1131 West Kings Highway,
Coatsville, PA 19320

CONTACT INFORMATION:

Rev. Robert E. Fogal, PhD.

Wednesday from 9:00 a.m. ~ 1:00 p.m. and by
appointment.

Email: pastorfogal@gmail.com

Cell phone: 610-945-4955

Lynn Bullock, Organist

Email: lynnbullock8@gmail.com

Cell phone: 215-260-1569

Chris Ochadlick, Office Admin.

Wednesday and Thursday ~ 8:00 a.m. ~ 1:00 p.m.

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