

JANUARY 2022

Journeys

A PUBLICATION OF CARVERSVILLE UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST



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

Thoughts for the Soul ~

Resolutions

My father's humor often involved word play. For example, he would come to the kitchen on January 1st, after he finished milking the cows early that morning, and announce, "I feel like I haven't eaten all year!"

Others might get through New Year's day lunch without eating any Christmas candy, and brag about the perfect record in sticking with their new health diet all year so far. You get the point.

But January 1st is followed inevitably by January 2nd and January 3rd. And all those well-intentioned resolutions? Most get packed away with the Christmas decorations.

The problem with most of our resolutions is that they are too safe, too sensible and too self-centered. We resolve to make tiny changes in our lifestyles, but refuse to consider restructuring our lives and changing the paradigms by which we live.

The anonymous gospel writer we call Luke tells how the boy Jesus offers us an example of what a real resolution means – what one writer calls the Mother of all Resolutions: Jesus informs his parents that he must be "about my Father's business."

Joseph and Mary, their friends and relatives had all made the required pilgrimage to Jerusalem for the Passover feast. But as soon as the allotted time for the holiday was over, they hit the road. Like most of us at the end of an extended time away, they were probably looking forward to getting back home. Besides, Nazareth is some 70 miles north of Jerusalem – a long walk!

The north-bound folks had gone quite a way when they realized Jesus was missing. His parents finally found him hanging out in the temple instead of doing what everyone else expected of him.

What does it mean to be about God's business, rather than other people's business, or even other people's definitions of God's business?

Jesus discovers at this early age that answering God's expectations can get you in trouble – even with your own family. In fact, focusing on God's business may put an unexpected crimp in the family business. "Business-as-usual" may not be the way God does business.

The ultimate New Year's resolution does not challenge us to cut fat grams, or quit smoking or get to aerobics class twice a week. The ultimate resolution a Christian can make is to live in the light of God's intentions, not human inventions.

The New Year's resolution to end all resolutions is to know God's expectations and make it our business to be a part of God's business. What might that business be?

An electric transformer takes high voltage and transforms it into energy that we can use in our everyday lives. Without a transformer, there would be no refrigerated food, no air conditioning. There could be no light in the darkness, no safety in the storm.

In the Christmas story, God comes to us and gives us Christ Jesus, whose life transforms the love and power of God into the grace and compassion that the world desperately needs.

What if instead of only resolving to lose 10 pounds this year, we also resolve to eat according to a diet that could sustain the whole world?

What if instead of only resolving to get more exercise this year, we also resolve to exercise some spiritual muscles with study, meditation and prayer?

What if instead of only resolving to spend less time in front of the TV and more time reading some good books, we also resolve to teach those struggling with illiteracy to read those books to you?

Our commitment to the ultimate resolution empowers us to transform the world with God's love. What can we resolve to do and be on January 2nd and for the days and months – even years – that follow?

— Pastor Fogal

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JANUARY COMMUNION

We will celebrate the sacrament of Holy Communion on Sunday, January 2, at the 10 a.m. worship service. If you are participating via Live Streaming, please have your juice and bread/cracker available.





CELEBRATION OF EPIPHANY

On Sunday, January 9, our congregation will celebrate Epiphany Sunday. It has been our custom to have each family bring a candle from home to the worship service. During the service, the members will each bring their candle to the front of the sanctuary and light the candle from the Christ candle. The candle will then be placed on a table in front of the altar. It is a beautiful sight to see all the candles glowing as we share the light with each other and the world. Please remember to bring a candleholder from home.

A Reminder ~

If you are the head of an organization or board within our church, please remember to **submit your report to the church office by January 4.** Kindly send your report in Times New Roman or Cambria. These reports have to be compiled prior to the Annual Meeting which will take place on January 30, so please be prompt.



AN EARLY CHRISTMAS PRESENT ~

Beau Hunter Dunbar was born on Tuesday, December 14 at 8:27 p.m. He weighed in at 8 lbs. 12 oz. and was 19 ¼ “ long. He is the son of Candayce Livezey and James Dunbar. He is also the grandson of Brad and Moira Livezey.

Congratulations and best wishes to the family.



OFFERING ENVELOPES

For several years we have been paying several hundred dollars each year to purchase specialized offering envelopes. The minimum order was for 100 boxes with 52+ envelopes in each box. Given the small number of these envelopes that we have been using, we have decided to stop using the specialized envelopes and eliminate that expense. Instead, we will always have available in the pew racks generic offering envelopes for those who want to use them. We ask those who make cash gifts to use the pew envelopes, providing your name on the envelope so we can record your giving. Those who give by check can use the pew envelopes on Sundays or mail your gifts to one of the addresses below. For those who contribute through direct deposit or online, offering envelopes are not an issue. Checks may be mailed to the church: PO Box 26, Carversville 18913, or to our financial secretary, Cathy Price, 687 Stryker Avenue, Doylestown 18901.

We are grateful for the continuing generosity of everyone as we learned new ways of "doing" church during the pandemic. If you have any questions about this change, please contact Cathy Price.



The annual church meeting is scheduled for Sunday, January 30 immediately following the church service.



CONTACT INFORMATION:

Rev. Robert E. Fogal, PhD.
Tuesday and Thursday from 9:00 a.m. ~ 1:00 p.m.
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The church was beautifully decorated for the Christmas season. A BIG thank you to Jeanne Brown, Sandy Emmett, Barb and Dave Gunn, Walt Livezey III and Walt Livezey IV for making our church look so beautiful and festive for the holidays.



It wouldn't be Christmas without music, and we thank our organist, Lynn Bullock; soloist Nick Camorote; and harpist Becca Simpson for sharing the gift of music with us during this Christmas season.



WHAT'S THE BOOK GROUP READING?

Hopefully Santa brought you some new books to get you through the winter months inside!
Our January book will be The One Hundred Years of Lenni and Margot by Marianne Cronin. We'll meet at Chris Ochadlick's on Monday, January 10, at 9:15 am to share our thoughts about the book. Start your new year right and join us! Happy reading!



CHURCH CANCELLATION INFORMATION

When we are experiencing bad weather or possible loss of power, a message will be left on the church phone indicating a cancellation of the church service. Please take a minute to call the church (215.297.5166) before venturing out, only to find out there will be no service. ***(Individual phone calls will no longer be made.)***