

# Journeys

A PUBLICATION OF CARVERSVILLE UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST



XXXVI | No. 9

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

## *FROM THE PASTOR'S PEN*



### **FREEDOM**

Summer is the season of freedom—the freedom of vacations as well as the freedom we celebrate with patriotic holidays. Memorial Day is the warm-up observance. Then we really let loose for the 4<sup>th</sup> of July.

Whether with vacations or patriotic holidays, we celebrate this freedom as personal freedom. I recall in decades past how people expressed this individual freedom as being able to do whatever you wanted, as long as you didn't hurt anyone else in the process—sort of a “do no harm” mantra.

We don't hear much about this kind of freedom anymore. Many have probably not ever heard the phrase! Instead, a kind of driven egoism predominates: I can do whatever I please as long as it benefits me, myself and mine.

This attitude has become the foundation of an American tragedy on which many strive to construct mighty fortresses. The tragedy lies in the ultimate destruction that accompanies such values—destruction for the individuals who hold that value,

and for all who live beyond the boundaries of me, myself and mine.

The sadness that accompanies this tragedy is that most who perpetuate me, myself and mine have no awareness of—they are not conscious of—the destruction they likely inflict upon others, as well as themselves.

The disruption caused by COVID has laid bare the depth and breadth of this tragedy. The fight between me/myself/mine and the common good is increasingly intense.

“In every personal ‘Covid,’ so to speak, in every ‘stoppage,’ what is revealed is what needs to change: our lack of internal freedom, the idols we have been serving, the ideologies we have tried to live by, the relationships we have neglected.”<sup>1</sup>

Richard Rohr points to this menu with these words: “We need both personal liberation and liberation from unjust and harmful systems. . . .

“We all think we are freely and consciously making our own choices when . . . most people live most of their lives unconsciously! . . . We are basically sleepwalking, going through the motions on the surface of life, which is why spiritual teachers like Jesus and Buddha tell us to ‘wake up.’

“When our ego or small self is in charge, we are not free; we are being ordered about by our preferences, our likes and dislikes. Is it really liberating to believe the world revolves around us—or conversely, that we must hold it all together?

“As we . . . allow [the Holy] to transform us through great love and great suffering, we are reminded of our inherent connectedness. We are liberated from thinking of ourselves as somehow separate from everyone and everything else, including God.”

Rohr goes on to point out how “Pope Francis recognizes this freedom in the healthcare professionals who have risked their lives and worked so hard for so many months.

““[Healthcare workers] are the saints next door, who have awoken something important in our hearts. . . . They are the antibodies to the virus of indifference. They remind us that our lives are a gift and we grow by giving of ourselves: not preserving ourselves but losing ourselves in service.”<sup>2</sup>

Rohr again references Pope Francis to reinforce how authentic freedom comes only as we consider the rights and well-being of others along with that of ourselves [You shall love your neighbor as yourself —Leviticus 19:18; Mark 12:31]. “Looking to the common good is much more than the sum of what is good for individuals. It means having a regard for all citizens and seeking to respond effectively to the needs of the least fortunate.”<sup>3</sup>

With God’s help, we can live this way.

<sup>1</sup> Pope Francis, *Let Us Dream: The Path to a Better Future* (Simon & Schuster: 2020), 36.

<sup>2</sup> Pope Francis, 13.

<sup>3</sup> Pope Francis, 27.

Richard Rohr comments from <https://cac.org/authentic-freedom-2021-01-19/>



CUPCAKES AND REAL SMILES

It was wonderful to see your real smiles again as we enjoyed decadent cupcakes and smiles outside in front of the church! Remember we're open on Sundays. Wear a mask, no singing and we have an area marked off by the windows for those needing more separation. Come back and share your smile!



## HUNGER DOESN'T GO ON VACATION

Please remember to bring your food donations to church during the summer. Kids are not in school so they aren't receiving lunch. Suggested items are: cereal; pasta sauce; granola bars; salad dressing; rice; coffee; sugar; canned tuna and chicken. Drop off outside the church office Sunday from 9-11:30 am and Tues. and Thurs. from 8:30-11:00 am.

Thanks for caring and sharing!



**PRAYING HANDS**

A card can make somebody's day brighter. Please remember these people with a card this summer.

Pearl Howard - c/o Future Care Chesapeake, Room 208, 305 College Parkway, Arnold, MD 21012

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

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





**RICE'S GREENHOUSE CLOSING**  
by Jeanne Brown

Rice's Greenhouses closed permanently at the end of May. The older of the two brothers decided that it was time to retire.

They have supplied the poinsettias for our Christmas Eve worship service and the impatiens plants in celebration of Mother's Day for the past 17 holiday seasons – since December 2004. It was a pleasure to deal with Daryl and Phil for so many years.

I contacted Ray's Greenhouse in Telford. We have purchased our Easter flowers from them for the past three years. Fortunately, they will be able to fill our order for poinsettias and impatiens plants.



Staff members of A Woman's Place were very appreciative to receive the playground equipment that "lived" behind Carversville UCC for many years.

Moving day became a Burger family event as the equipment was loaded on our son's trailer. Even Art's leaf blower got into the act as he removed the accumulation of dirt and leaves before loading.

We all had a good feeling after we unloaded the equipment at the shelter knowing children who are displaced from their homes will be able to enjoy it.

Thanks to Dave, Sue, Ryan and Art for making the move possible.

Hugs to all,  
Barbara

And hugs and a huge Thank You Burger Family for finding such a good home for the equipment for other children to enjoy!!



**CONTACT INFORMATION:**

Rev.Dr. Bob Fogal, Pastor  
Tuesday and Thursday from 9:30 a.m ~ 3:00 p.m.  
and by appointment.

Email: [pastorfogal@gmail.com](mailto:pastorfogal@gmail.com)  
Cell phone: 610-945-4955

Lynn Bullock, Organist  
Email: [lynnbullock8@gmail.com](mailto:lynnbullock8@gmail.com)  
Cell phone: 215-260-1569

Chris Ochadlick, Office Admin.  
Office phone: 215-297-5166  
Email: [carversvilleucc@gmail.com](mailto:carversvilleucc@gmail.com)

Catherine Halper, Church School Supt.  
Cell phone: 215-285-0551

Email: [carversvilleucc@gmail.com](mailto:carversvilleucc@gmail.com)  
Website: [CarversvilleUCC.org](http://CarversvilleUCC.org)  
Facebook.com/[carversvilleucc](https://www.facebook.com/carversvilleucc)

3736 Aquetong Road, PO Box 26  
Carversville, PA 18913  
Office phone: 215-297-5166



## MODERATOR'S MINUTE



### THE LONG SAULT RAPIDS

*““Oh, Eeyore, you are wet!” said Piglet, feeling him. Eeyore shook himself and asked somebody to explain to Piglet what happened when you had been inside a river for quite a long time.”*

— A. A. Milne

I have reached the age of outliving my parents and husbands – but not yet their collections left behind. Each box I uncover brings memories. It is the letters and books that take the longest to go through.

This morning I came across a volume that is one of a vanished breed – a hard cover, 384-page copy of the 1913 findings of the “Committee on Waters and Water-Powers, Conservation Canada Commission” complete with 30 Appendices, 21 photo-engraved illustrations and four fold-out maps & diagrams.



The book concentrated on a proposal to re-engineer the Long Sault rapids. It was the last obstacle in the creation of the St Lawrence Seaway (Great Lakes Waterway.) That system of locks, canals and channels that link the Great Lakes and the St Lawrence River with the Atlantic Ocean is now considered one of the most vital shipping routes on the planet.

In April 1660, the journey from Ville-Marie (modern day Montreal) through the waterways to the Long Sault rapids took a week to get past the strong current just off Montreal Island. Then the

route passed through the Lake of Two Mountains, and down the Ottawa River.

Begun as early as 1783, a complete network of shallow draft canals now allows uninterrupted navigation from Lake Superior to Montréal by 1900. The project described in the dusty book that I found was over 40 years in the making but it only took four years to build. During her second of 22 Royal Visits to Canada, a formal "Seaway Opened" ceremony was attended by Queen Elizabeth II and Prince Philip, Duke of Edinburgh, President Dwight Eisenhower (Ike) with the American Secretary of State Christian Herter and Mrs. Eisenhower.

Viewed from above, today's Long Sault Parkway crosses 11 islands strung like green fuzzy pearls along its length. They were created from the high points of land left after the flooding caused by Seaway's construction in the 1950's.

Beneath the waters lie eleven villages settled in the late 1700s by United Empire Loyalists and eight Mohawk villages. More than 6,500 people were relocated, their lifestyles irrevocably changed.

The rapids were silenced and stagnant. Oxygen that the bubbling rapids infused into the water disappeared. The once clear river cannot now be used for drinking water without treatment.

A passage cut through Cornwall Island and other river islands flooded, shredding open lower marshes, and destroying spawning beds of fish that sustained the Mohawk of Akwesasne and their children. Burial sites were flooded. Hundreds of butternut, hickory & hazelnut trees were cut down and buried. Sturgeon are now disappearing from the Great Lakes system.

The ships coming through continue to erode shoreline at the rate of one foot per decade. Invasive zebra mussels, carried in by overseas freighters, clog water filtration pipelines, render beaches unusable, and damage native mussels & boat keels throughout the entire Great Lakes ecosystem.

It turns out that we are not as 21<sup>st</sup> century as we think we are.

*Catherine Halper*

# BRIARLEAF ∞ JULY/AUG ∞ 2021

## BED IN SUMMER

*'In winter I get up at night  
And dress by yellow candle-light.*

*In summer, quite the other way,  
I have to go to bed by day.'*

*by Robert Louis Stevenson*



Briarleaf continues to remain closed to all visitors, but we still reach out once per month with a 'Shower of Cards' to remind the residents that they are not forgotten. Bring the joy of summer to those who are isolated from visitors!

If you would like to write a short note to a Briarleaf resident on behalf of Carversville UCC, contact Catherine Halper [chalper@aol.com](mailto:chalper@aol.com) or just drop them off at the church office.

We target completing them by the 15<sup>th</sup> of each month. This month you have the choice of writing in July or August.



Articles for the September newsletter should be sent to Cathy Price at [cathyprice2@verizon.net](mailto:cathyprice2@verizon.net) and Sue Wulf at [slswulf@comcast.net](mailto:slswulf@comcast.net) by Sunday, August 15<sup>th</sup>. Thanks.



## Op Dinner

Hello All ~

I hope you are all well since I haven't seen some of you for a while.

The Trustees have decided not to have the Oyster and Pork Supper again this year. It's always a gamble on how much to order, how many people will come, will it rain, and will we have enough help staff. Given the many uncertainties about what the next few months will bring it did not seem prudent to take this risk now.

Things are starting to open up, but I don't know how much to order. We talked about doing takeout only and downsizing what we order. At the last supper, in 2019, we served 440 sit down and 253 take outs totaling 693 dinners. I think Solebury Trinity only served about 250 (takeout only) dinners at their Lobsterfest this year. They did not have sit down at all. We will see what next year brings. We clear about \$10,000.00 a year on the supper. Any and all donations given to offset not having the supper, would be greatly appreciated.

Brad Livezey  
Chairman, Trustees



## CUCC FAITH FORMATION

### PESTILENCE & PLAGUE

*“During these times there was a pestilence, by which the whole human race came near to being annihilated.”*

*–Procopius, 542*

*C.E.*

In the year 166 C.E., the Roman legions defeated their Parthian enemies on the eastern border of the Roman Empire. On their march home to Rome, they carried more than the spoils of plundered temples. Along the way, they seeded the Antonine Plague across the Roman Empire.

Over the following twenty years, what was probably smallpox spread like wildfire throughout the crowded legions. It reached every corner of the empire, claiming up to 2,000 lives daily, eventually reaching 7 to 10% of the population. It claimed the lives of co-emperors Lucius Verrus & Marcus Aurelius. As if that was not enough, the plague coincided with the end of an optimal climate cycle. The impact on the Roman Empire was devastating. Civic building projects across the empire that had previously powered their economy were halted. Military recruitment spread farther afield and began to include the sons of soldiers. Retirement discharges were reduced. Within five years, the ruling council had to loosen its requirements for membership to accommodate the shrinking upper-class. Egyptian tax records of the time record significant population losses.

Religious practices shifted. As civic architectural projects were halted, the building of sacred sites and ceremony intensified. Scholars speculate that the plague influenced the rapid spread of Christianity at the end of the second century.

Two more plagues rocked the empire. It recovered, but never regained its previous dominance. In the mid-third century, a mysterious affliction of unknown origin called the Plague of Cyprian sent the empire into another tailspin. By 285, the emperor Diocletian had to partition the empire's administration into eastern and western halves.

The emperor Constantine used Christianity as part of his strategy to reunite both the Empire and the Church. In 325 CE., he invited bishops to attend a meeting in Nicaea to define the relationship between God and Christ. The result was the Nicene

Creed, God and Christ were of the “same essence,” both participated in creation, and therefore monotheism was maintained; God was one, with three manifestations.

It was not until 482 CE under the reign of Byzantine emperor Justinian I that the empire rose again. Justinian reconquered much of the former Roman Empire while establishing lasting legal codes and cultural icons. This included building the Hagia Sophia, the world's largest cathedral which has stood for nearly 1,000 years.

However, his reign was scarred by the spread of the Justinian Plague, which claimed the lives of tens of millions of people in the 540s. Justinian himself was a victim. While he was able to recover, much of the Byzantine population did not, and the plague's spread shaped world history for centuries to come. It halved the European population and weakened the Byzantine Empire, making it vulnerable to the Arab conquests of the seventh century.

The Justinian plague was caused by the same bacterium (*Yersinia pestis*) as the Bubonic plagues' pandemics of the modern era: the mid-14th century Black Death that led to a decline in the confidence and faith of the Christian laity towards the Church and the 1855 pandemic that spread to all inhabited continents, one of the deadliest pandemics in history.

**Catherine Halper**

FAITH FORMATION STORIES & READINGS	
DATE	ORDINAL TIME
07/04/21	Mark 6:1-13: <i>The Carpenter</i>
07/11/21	2 Sam, 6:1-5, 12b-19: <i>Celebrate</i>
07/18/21	2 Sam. 7:1-14a: <i>Build Me a House</i>
07/25/21	2 Sam. 11:1-15: <i>Temptation</i>
08/01/21	2 Sam. 11:26 - 12:13a <i>Temptation</i>
08/08/21	Psalm 130: <i>Out of the Depths</i>
08/15/21	1 Kings 2:10- 3:14: <i>Discernment</i>
08/22/21	1 Kings 8: <i>The Most Holy Place</i>
08/29/21	Song of Solomon 2: <i>Singing Time</i>
09/05/21	Psalm 125: <i>Trust in the Lord</i>