

# Journeys

A PUBLICATION OF CARVERSVILLE UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST



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

JUNE 2022

## THOUGHTS FOR THE SOUL

### *Happiness*

Happiness may seem to be a strange theme for our times. Images of happiness range from a laughing toddler splashing water in a wading pool to crowds cheering their favorite winning teams to alcohol-lubricated happy hours late in the day.

None of these (or similar) images mirror how His Holiness the Dalai Lama envisions happiness. Early in *The Book of Joy*, which conveys the wisdom of both the Dalai Lama and Archbishop Desmond

Tutu, he urges that we consider the quest for happiness our primary purpose in life.

“One great question underlies our existence: . . .

What is the purpose of life? After much consideration, I believe that the purpose of life is to find happiness.

“It does not matter whether one is a Buddhist like me, or a Christian like the Archbishop, or any other religion, or no religion at all. From the moment of birth, every human being wants to discover happiness and avoid suffering. No differences in our culture or our education or our religion affect this.

“From the very core of our being, we simply desire joy and contentment. But so often these feelings are fleeting and hard to find, like a butterfly that lands on us and then flutters away.

*“The ultimate source of happiness is within us [emphasis added]. Not money, not power, not status. Some of my friends are billionaires, but they are very unhappy people. Power and money fail to bring inner peace. Outward attainment will not bring real inner joyfulness. We must look inside. “Sadly, many of the things that undermine our joy and happiness we create ourselves. Often it comes from the negative tendencies of the mind, emotional reactivity, or from our inability to appreciate and utilize the resources that exist within us.*

*“The suffering from a natural disaster we cannot control, but the suffering from our daily disasters we can. We create most of our suffering, so it should be logical that we also have the ability to create more joy.*

*“It simply depends on the attitudes, the perspectives, and the reactions we bring to situations and to our relationships with other people. When it comes to personal happiness there is a lot that we individuals can do.”*

Happiness hasn't been a major theme for most of us. In fact, church teachings may even ask the question: *Is being happy a worthy goal?* Most of us want to be happy, but we may have a sneaking suspicion that happiness is something a little too self-centered to be a divinely blessed pursuit. But perhaps we haven't read our Bibles carefully, because scripture, far from being down on happiness, touts it. The word often translated in our English Bibles as "blessed" can just as correctly be—and sometimes is—translated as "happy." (Compare Psalm 119:1 in the NRSV and NIV; compare Matthew 5:3 in the NRSV and CEB.) For centuries, church theologians, including such notables as Saint Augustine and Saint Thomas Aquinas, wrote in praise of happiness, considering it a blessing from God on the righteous.

In the 18th century the Anglican Joseph Butler and the Methodist John Wesley, began promoting happiness as a legitimate goal for Christians. Butler contributed to the conversation about happiness because he said that we can find pleasure in doing the things that the Christian faith calls us to do. Wesley understood the Bible to say that *the way to be happy was to be holy*. According to these theologians, *happiness is a feeling that comes from doing what pleases God*.

So instead of depending on Bobby McFarrin's "Don't Worry, Be Happy," let's strive towards "Be Holy, Be Happy."

*Pastor Fogal*



## SHARING CLOTHING DONATIONS

The first week of our Women's Summer and Fall clothing drive found the collection tent bulging with donations! The success of our clothing drive in the first week means delivering donations to only one thrift store would find volunteers who sort and inventory the donations overwhelmed.

With three weeks remaining in our clothing drive, we have decided to share donations with another non-profit organization. Our first commitment will continue to be "In Full Swing", a thrift store in Doylestown that benefits A Woman's Place. However, donations will be shared with NOVA-Network of Victim Assistance- Bucks County that supports victims of crime.

Founded in 1974, NOVA was the first and continues to be the only rape crisis center in Bucks County. NOVA Thrift Shop, located at the corner of Route 313 (Swamp Rd) and Broad St, is one of the largest revenue sources to support the organization's programs and services.

**Please note, the inventory of new children's books and puzzles at IN FULL SWING does not need donations at this time.** Donations of Women's Summer and Fall clothing continues through Sunday June 19<sup>th</sup>. Bagged donations should be placed in the tent (on loan from Boy Scout Troop 64) located in the parking lot of Carversville UCC.

Barbara Burger, Missions Coordinator



## WITH SYMPATHY

Our heartfelt condolences to the family of Jackie Adinaro Putman at the untimely loss of her niece, Elizabeth Adinaro. Our prayers go out to you and your family.



## PRAISING HANDS

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

Catherine Halper- PO Box 564, Lahaska, PA 18931

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

Judy and Frank LeVien-6264 Pt. Pleasant Pike, Doylestown, PA 18902

Jim & 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 Dr., Tarpon Springs, FL 34689

**NOTE:** Pearl Howard will turn 101 on June 21. Help her celebrate by sending her a birthday card at the address above.



## CONTACT INFORMATION:

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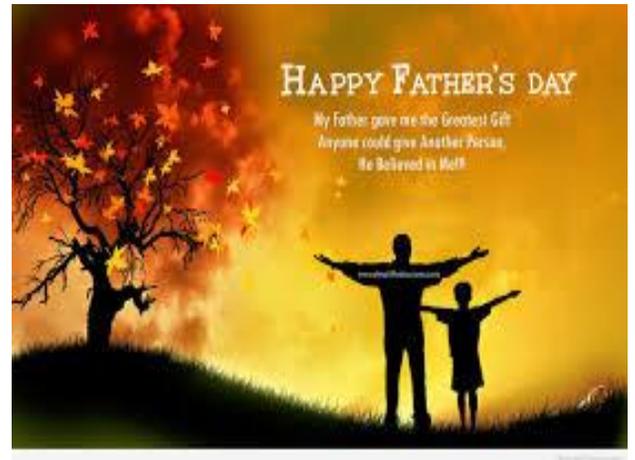
Office phone: 215-297-5166





## Remembering our Fathers

Sunday, June 19th



### WHAT'S THE BOOK GROUP DOING?

By Jackie Putman

We were a small but lively group, meeting at Barb Gunn's cozy "doll house." Both Smokey and Baxter made an appearance and allowed us to stay.

Lisa Scottoline's book was a collection of some of her older columns from the Inquirer, and we all enjoyed her way with words, sense of humor, and observations.

So many books, only so much time ... so we'll read *The Last Chance Library*, by Freya Sampson next. Cathy Price will be our host on Monday, June 20, @ 9:15.

Happy travels, Sue and Debbie, and happy reading everyone!



### GRADUATES

Cooper Price Razzi has graduated with honors (National Honor Society, National Social Studies Honor Society and National Science Honor Society) from Owen J. Roberts High School. He will matriculate in the fall at Fordham University with a major integrative neuroscience.

Cooper is the son of Paige Razzi and the grandson of John and Cathy Price who are extremely proud of him!

Congratulations to all the Graduates of the Class of 2022!

