

Journeys

A PUBLICATION OF CARVERSVILLE UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST



June 2023

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

THOUGHTS FOR THE SOUL

from Pastor Fogal

Hope

As I write this month's Thoughts for the Soul, we approach (we hope) the end of the current debate about raising the limit on the federal debt. Most of us understand little about the topic, but if the matter is not resolved we will eventually feel a serious impact on our lives.

This is but one of the issues that contribute to the 24/7 news cycle and that make it easy to quote my father from decades ago when he frequently asked, "I wonder what this world's coming to?" (1)

News media and social media have a lot to do with how we feel about what's happening in our country and the world- and the feelings of hopelessness that dominate so many people's souls.

UCLA Professor Stuart Soroka studies "the psychology of negativity biases- the tendency for people to pay more attention to negative information than positive information- and the role it might play in shaping the news."

One reason for this bias, Soroka says, is that people believe "journalists were angry people and skeptics and they produced a bunch of negative content...Our suspicion [as scholars, however] was that the way news looked wasn't purely a function of what journalists

felt but more about what audiences responded to.” (2)

Neurologists provide evidence for this perspective. The human evolution as a species has incorporated attitudes and behaviors that help us see life negatively. Our reptilian brain controls fight-or-flight responses to external threats.

So our ancestors learned to pay more attention to what possibly portends danger. This provides the evolutionary foundation for seeing life in negative terms. This tendency, though, can lead us to see negative aspects of life that do not exist.

This is not to say that a negativity bias is all bad. Paying less attention to negative information (a storm is coming) than to good news (a dog rescued a youngster from a pond) is risky. Negative news can be helpful to our wellbeing.

When we live in a state of constant negativity, however, there too often seems to be nothing to be hopeful about. We can lose our ability to trust others- even God.

Those who personally experience life-threatening trauma or abuse of any kind have to learn (or re-learn) how to trust others. While their emotional or spiritual recovery results from specific kinds of help and support, their goals are essentially the same as the goals of those who are more generally despondent or hopeless. The Trappist monk Thomas Merton observed:

You do not need to know precisely what is happening, or exactly where it is all going. What you need is to recognize the possibilities and challenges offered by the present moment, and to embrace them with courage, faith and hope. (3)

Merton’s counsel calls to mind Paul’s letter to the early Christians in Rome (5:3-5)

... We even take pride in our problems, because we know that trouble produces endurance, endurance produces character, and character produces hope. This hope doesn’t put us to shame, because the love of God has been poured out in our hearts.

Such hope doesn’t ignore the complex problems of our world. It doesn’t soft pedal personal grief and loneliness.

But whatever our troubles, whatever our suffering, God still calls us to show God’s love for us in our relationships with others, in our values and attitudes, in our life commitments- in short, in the character and hope we demonstrate in our daily living.

A Prayer (4)

God, you call your servants to ventures for which we cannot see the endings, by paths we have not trod upon, through risks we do not imagine. May we trust you so that we go out with good courage, not knowing where we go, but only that your Spirit leads us and your Love supports us.

Curiously, the singer-song writer and social critic Woody Guthrie had a lot to say about politics during the 1930s and early 40s.

“When Guthrie visited Washington, D.C. in 1940, he managed to hear some Senate debates and provided his thoughts on their effectiveness.

“I gawthered the Reactionary Republicans was in love with the Reactionary Republicans; also that the Liberal Democrats was in love with th’ Liberal Democrats. Each presented a brief case of statistics proving that the other brief cases of statistics, was mistaken,

misread, misquoted, mislabeled, and mis-spoken,' he wrote in his column.

“And just what were politicians arguing over then? The national debt...

“He then compared their debates to ‘hearin’ the hens a cacklin’ - and a runnin’ out to the barn.’ Despite the scene’s being ‘loud, noisy, and plenty entertaining,’ the result was ‘no eggs.’”

SOURCE: Jackson, Mark Allan. “Mistaken, misread, misquoted, mislabeled, and mis-spoken’ - what Woody Guthrie wrote about the national debate in Congress during the Depression,” in *The Conversation* for May 17, 2023

(2) <https://www.latimes.com/science/story/2019-09-05/why-people-respond-to-negative-news>

(3) <https://www.goodreads.com/quotes/tag/hope?page=3&utf8=%E2%9C%93>

(4)Adapted from Morning Prayer” in Lutheran Book of Worship (1978), p. 137

AN IMPORTANT UPDATE

Cathy Price has resigned as church moderator, and after 15 years of discreetly and expertly recording the church giving, has also resigned from the position of our financial secretary. Many thanks to her for her dedication and time given to Carversville Church.

In accordance with Section 6 of our by-laws, vice-moderator Sue Wulf will preside in the absence of the moderator. Dave Gunn has graciously agreed to fill the financial secretary position. As of this date the position of vice-moderator remains unfilled.

Immediately following church on Sunday, June 4, a special congregational meeting will be held to confirm the new leaders.

Please send articles for the July/August newsletter to Cathy at cathyprice2@verizon.net and Sue at slsulf@comcast.net by Friday, June 16. Thanks!



JUNE COMMUNION SERVICES

CUCC will celebrate the Sacrament of Holy Communion on Sunday, June 4, during our regular worship service. If you are participating at home, please remember to have the elements ready for the live-stream service.



CARVERSVILLE DAY CRAFT SALE REPORT

from Jeanne Brown

The weather cooperated on May 13th. The day was cloudy, but free of the predicted rain. Some people came for the pancake breakfast and sale, others stopped in on their way to or from the Carversville Day activities.

I want to thank everyone who donated items for the sale. Many thanks to Audrey and Frank Taylor, Janice Heebner and Barbara Burger for helping me put out the crafts, and to Debbie Furst and Sue Wulf for organizing

all the jewelry. Debbie Furst, Audrey and Frank Taylor and Sandy Emmett were on hand to help pack up. Also, the baked goods were appreciated.

The crafts, jewelry and baked goods that were sold resulted in \$610 for the Women's Fellowship.

Thank you all. We will do it again next May on Carversville Day.

Editor's Note: Many thanks to Jeanne for organizing Craft Alley for the church. Well done, Jeanne!



Pancakes were flipping and sausage was sizzling at the church's first ever pancake breakfast on Saturday, May 13. All agreed the food was delicious, and we applauded the \$390 the breakfast raised.

Many thanks to Alison Simpson and Barb and Dave Gunn who chaired the event, and to all the other people who helped them.



COFFEE HOUR

Coffee hour fellowship will be held following the worship service on Sunday, June 11. Join us in the social hall for conversation and treats!



What do toothbrushes, Matchbox cars and trucks have in common?

That answer is **nothing** unless they become items to put in Christmas stockings! Now in its third year of our stocking project, our congregation and members of the Carversville community will be invited again to help fill 100 Christmas stockings that will include one of each of those items.

Once again, we have "adopted" a school for Navajo children serviced by Americans for Native Americans in New Mexico. The school is Lake Valley, and currently has only 26 students in Kindergarten through 8th grade. However more students are expected to enroll for the 2023-24 school year as Covid cases decline in that area.

Last year we shipped 85 stockings to children at Mariano Lake Community School in Crownpoint, NM, our adopted ANA school. The remaining 15 stockings were sent to children who live at Bethany Children's Home in Womelsdorf, PA that is affiliated with the Pennsylvania Southeast Conference of the United Church of Christ where children with a history of trauma such as human trafficking are provided counseling and support.

While the calendar tells us it is months until Christmas, we have to plan ahead and start now to collect items to fill the stockings. While our church's budget includes funding to be used for outreaches to those in need, our congregation and members of the community

have been very generous in providing items for the stockings.

We will wait for back-to-school sales in July and August to collect crayons, etc, but we are starting now to collect toothbrushes, and Matchbox cars and trucks. A collection box (dressed for Christmas) will be available at the door of the sanctuary for donations of toothbrushes, Matchbox cars or trucks.

Thank you for helping bring joy to children who in some cases will be receiving their “first ever” Christmas stocking.

Barbara Burger

Missions Committee Chairperson



WINTER WONDERLAND MARKET

UPDATE

from Cathy Price, Chair

Our committee has been working very hard these last couple of months! Ideas and suggestions abound!!!

As you can see, we’ve revised our event name from Winter Wonderland Shop & Pantry to Winter Wonderland Market. And a wonderful market it will be! We already have ten vendors (not including our Stocking Stuffer table and Thyme and Plate caterers) ready to sell their wares, with more to come.

It’s time to start looking through the attic and basement for “Vintage” items. When you find them, you can take them to the nursery at church. This was a very popular entry at the last festival (in 2019).

Once again we’ll be putting together our beautiful, themed raffle baskets. In addition, this year we’ll be asking for your help with two or three of them. More information will be in the July/August newsletter. Stay tuned!!

We’d also like your help with Scratch-offs and Gift Cards again. These were both very popular. We had enough Scratch-offs for two “trees”. We are not just about food this year and would like you to help us obtain gift cards. These can be from merchants and restaurants. You can give these items to Cathy Price at any time. Many thanks in advance!

We think this will be the best festival ever!!



CON “GRAD” ULATIONS

Our graduate, Gabrielle (Gabby) Razzi, graduates this June from Owen J. Roberts High School. She will be matriculating at James Madison University in the fall. Gabby's proud grandparents are John and Cathy Price.



PRAYING 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.

Card List for June

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 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
 Marta Strait- 6446 Fawn Lane, New Hope, PA 18938

Every summer has a story.

Write a good one!

Five Things You Never Hear in Church

1. "Hey! It's my turn to sit in the front pew!"
2. "I was so enthralled, I never even noticed your sermon went 25 minutes overtime."
3. "Personally, I find witnessing much more enjoyable than golf."
4. "I love it when we sing hymns I've never heard before!"
5. "Since we're all here, let's start the service early!"



CONTACT US!

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