

Journeys

A PUBLICATION OF CARVERSVILLE UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST



XXXVI | No. 10

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



ponder these words (slightly edited) and consider their meaning for you—whether you are happy and celebrating or unhappy and angry or just plain scared.

— Pastor Fogal

The Gifts of a Simple Life

I have struggled with how to approach preparing a Pastor's Pen for November. By the time you read this, elections will have taken place but winners may not be known. Regardless of the outcomes, many voters will celebrate; many will be unhappy—even angry. Many will be frightened.

The widely read and highly respected Richard Rohr came to my rescue. He is a Franciscan priest who, following Francis of Assisi, exemplifies and advocates for a Christian faith that integrates our inner, spiritual selves with how we live our faith in and for the world.

One can read Rohr's words repeatedly and discover something rewarding each time. Please

My brothers! My brothers! God has called me by the way of [humility], and showed me the way of simplicity. . . . The Lord told me what He wanted: He wanted me to be a new fool in the world. God did not wish to lead us by any way other than this knowledge. —Francis of Assisi

When we agree to live simply, we put ourselves outside of others' ability to buy us off, reward us falsely, or control us by money, status, salary, punishment, and loss or gain of anything. This is the most radical level of freedom, but, of course, it is not easy to come by. . . .

When we agree to live simply, we have little to protect and no desire for acquisition, even for acquisition of any "moral capital." When we imagine that we are better, holier, higher, more important to God than others, it is a very short step to "justified" arrogance or violence toward those others.

Arrogance and violence are almost inevitable, in fact, and we are witnessing today how it manifests itself at every level of our societies. If we could eliminate such manufactured and desired superiority, religion might finally become nonviolent in thought, word, and deed. . . .

When we agree to live simply we can understand what Francis meant when he said that “a man had not yet given up everything for God as long as he held on to the moneybag of his own opinions.” Most of us find out that this purse is far more dangerous and disguised than any wallet and we seldom let go of it.

When we agree to live simply, we no longer consider immigrants, refugees, people in poverty, or anyone else on the margins of society as a threat. When we choose to relinquish our privileges, whatever they are, we have freely and consciously chosen to become “visitors and pilgrims” in this world, as Francis puts it (quoting 1 Peter 2:11). A simple lifestyle is quite simply an act of solidarity with the way most people have had to live since the beginnings of humanity.

When we agree to live simply, we have *time* for spiritual and corporal works of mercy, like prayer, service, and justice work, because we have renegotiated in our minds and hearts our understanding of time and its purposes. Time is *not* money anymore, despite the common aphorism! Time is life itself and we want to give our lives away freely as Jesus did.

When we agree to live simply, we have little energy to defend or protect our group, our ethnicity, our country, our money, and our religion. Our circle is no longer defined by these external and accidental qualities, because we now find the joy and beauty of the real essentials and the actual center, which is God.

SOURCE: <https://cac.org/the-gift-of-a-simple-life-2020-10-08/>



Dear Friends,

On behalf of the Hale/McKenna family, we would like to thank you for your expressions of sympathy following the death of our beloved Jack. The flowers, cards, donations, and telephone calls have truly given us comfort during a very difficult time. We are grateful for friends like you during this time of sorrow. Time may soften the pain, but we will never get over losing Jack and he will live in our hearts forever. Thank you for your continued support.

Nancy and Jim Hale





**OUR NEIGHBORS ARE HUNGRY AND
NEED OUR HELP**

BRIARLEAF ☽ NOV ☾ 2020

*“Letters are small angels
flying in between
All the houses of the town,
red, and gray, and green;
And the postman helps them,
shows them just the way,
As he walks along the street
smiling all the day.
Take the letters gladly—with
their white, white wings,
Blessèd little angels, telling happy things!”
Annette Wynne*

Briarleaf continues to remain closed to all visitors. In the meantime, we plan to send 30 notes to cheer the residents each month. A special thanks goes out to Sue Wulf for contributing cards during October. If you would like to write a short note to a Briarleaf resident on behalf of Carversville UCC, contact Catherine Halper at chalper@aol.com.

The small investment of your time will yield rich rewards!



Way to go Little Church with a big heart! Your response to our requests for food donations for the Doylestown Food Pantry has been outstanding. So far this fall we’ve donation over 500 pounds of food! That’s a lot of cans and boxes! Please keep up the good work as the need for food in our area is greater than ever. We are so pleased to have the Scouts of Troop 64 joining us in our effort to fill hungry tummies.

You can leave food donations in the hallway by the church office (preferably Tuesdays and Thursdays, 9:00-12:00 as well as Sunday mornings). Please make monetary gifts through the website or by check sent to the church, indicating “food pantry” on the memo line.

The Food Pantry requests the following items: coffee, sugar, peanut butter, jelly, cereal, canned fruit, canned tomatoes, pasta sauce, rice, brown rice, flour, canned beans, 100% juice and healthy snacks for kids.

Thanks for caring and sharing.



SUPPORT FOR PAINTING RESTORATION

As noted in last month's newsletter the church's painting of Christ by Charles Hargens is in need of restoration. However, there is the cost of \$5,549 for the project. Before the work can begin our trustees are asking for a commitment of 75% of the total cost (\$4161.75) from our members and friends. We know how much the Hargens' artwork means to all of us, so please consider prayerfully how much you can donate or pledge to this project. Please send your donation or the amount of your pledge to the church via our website or by mail or place it in the offering plate.

Thank you for your support. If you have questions, please contact the trustees or me personally. I can be reached at 215-862-5820 or by email janheebner@yahoo.com.



WHAT'S THE BOOK GROUP DOING?

Our September read was Rules of Civility by Amor Towles. It was fascinating to review a young George Washington's maxims on civility and descent behavior. We agreed we need more of this in our society today. Book Group usually provides some wonderful nuggets of information we did not previously know. We learned that in Washington DC the DC stands for "da capitol" and "Betty Ford" designed our first flag (based on Jay Walking info).

In honor of Halloween, our next book is a mystery by one of our favorite authors. We'll meet on Monday, October 26, to discuss All the Devils Are Here by Louise Penny. We'll gather at high noon for a brown bag lunch in the social hall. Halloween costumes are optional!!! Happy reading!



ALTAR FLOWER CHANGE

by Jeanne Brown

Cut & Dried of Bucks County, located in Carversville, will no longer be the church florist. Keith and Tom have made beautiful Sunday altar flower arrangements for us since September 2004. When we requested roses for special occasions and funeral arrangements, they also filled that need.

The shop had to close in March because of COVID -19. Now that they are allowed to work, Keith and Tom have decided to only do weddings and large parties.

Beginning in November, the new church florist will be Market Way Flowers & Gifts, located in Buckingham Green. Bob O'Brien is looking forward to making our arrangements.

The cost will be \$25.00 per arrangement effective November 1st.

If you have any questions, please call me at 215-348-3614.



CHRISTMAS POINSETTIAS

by Jeanne Brown

The Christmas Eve service will be different because of COVID-19. However, we want to keep some normal traditions.

The poinsettias have been ordered ~ although a lesser number than usual. The poinsettias will decorate your home or be a bright holiday gift for someone. Red, pink and white plants are available, as always. For the tenth year, the price remains the same: \$7.25 per plant.

A list of people who purchase the poinsettias will be in the Christmas Eve worship program. There will not be dedications this year. Please pick up your plants following the service.

The deadline for orders is Sunday, December 6th. Make checks payable to **Jeanne Brown**.

See me on Sunday mornings, or call me at 215-348-3614, to place your order. Please call me if you have any questions.

Thank you.

CONTACT INFORMATION:

Church Office 215-297-5166

Dr. Bob Fogal, Pastor 610-945-4955
Email: pastorfogal@gmail.com

Lynn Bullock, Organist 215-297-1569
Email: lynnbullock8@gmail.com

Chris Ochadlick, Office Admin. 215-297-5166
Email: carversvilleucc@gmail.com

Office Hours

Tuesday & Thursday, 8:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.

Website: CarversvilleUCC.org
3736 Aquetong Road, PO Box 26
Carversville, PA 18913



WITH SYMPATHY

Some of you will remember Christine Penglase who created and the built a creative nursery school program at Carversville Church until 2005. She passed away in August and we extend our sympathy to her family.

Lessons Learned



I was the first in my generation to attend Kindergarten. Although Canada's first public-school kindergartens were established in the late 19th century, we lived in the earliest suburb west of Toronto and kindergarten was not offered

when my older brother started school in 1954. In fact, the kindergarten classroom was under construction when I started school. Miss Eaton led our class in a tiny one-room library. If we were noisy, we were sent to stand in Paleontology.

By the time we returned to school after the Christmas holiday, the expansive kindergarten room was ready, and we gathered our coats & boots to parade across and down the hall to the new room.

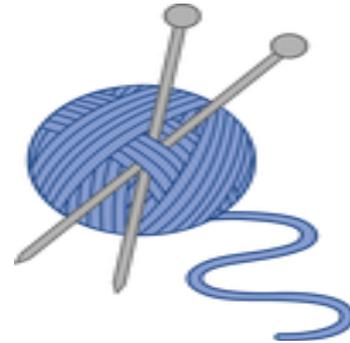
The winter walk to school involved many layers – starting with underwear and a woolen vest followed by over-the-shoulder elastic suspenders with supporters clipped to woolen stockings. This was followed by woolen bloomers that covered waist to knee, a woolen plaid kilt, white blouse, and woolen sweater – all these were the indoor layers. Before going outside, we added padded water-proof leggings, heavy socks & rubber galoshes, a woolen overcoat, mittens pinned to the coat, a toque (knitted wool hat) with pom-pom and a wool scarf to cover the face.

One memorable winter morning, I set stiffly off to walk down the street and across the creek to school. I was about half-way there when I could feel my stocking supporter pop and spring up to my shoulder underneath three layers of clothing. I went immediately into shock – unable to go forward to face the deep embarrassment of complicated re-dressing – scared to miss school. I returned home. By the time I got back, it was too late to return.

The next day, I discovered that the Fire Department, complete with Dalmatian puppies had visited the kindergarten in my absence.

This was the one and only time that I ever skipped school – never again wanting to miss anything!

Catherine Halper, Moderator



one warm scarf

DO YOU KNIT OR CHROCHET?

Volunteers Needed Year Round!



Our Mission is to provide warm hand-knit and crocheted scarves to homeless men in the Philadelphia area.



Our goal is to donate scarves to the following organizations:

Allentown Rescue Mission
Broad Street Ministry
Saint John's Hospice Homeless Shelter for Men
Sunday Breakfast Rescue Mission

For more information:

Meryl Russo 215-290-8420
onewarmscarf@yahoo.com



Troop 64 has been busy working on advancement and camping! So far they have completed a five mile hike, and this weekend they are spending the day canoeing in Lake Nockamixon.

Thank you to all who bought wreaths again this year!! We so appreciate your support of Troop 64.

We will have the wreaths at the church for delivery after service on both November 15 and November 22.

If you didn't get a chance to order in October we are still accepting orders until November 4th.

Please call our Fundraising Chair, Scott Russ. His email is scott.russ@farmersinsurance.com and his phone number is [\(215\) 713-4151](tel:2157134151).



HOLIDAY FESTIVAL OF FOODS

Since the Food Festival has been cancelled for 2020, we are doing something different to help our vendors this year.

Attached to this newsletter, you will find several pages of information from our vendors describing their products. They have also included contact information for ordering.

Let's support our vendors in this challenging year!

Thank you.

CUCC FAITH FORMATION

RUFFLED FEATHERS & STIRRED POTS

*“It’s the only way forward’ Amos seems to say:
to stand under that stream, to drown in it,
to be reborn ... Guilt & shame are dead ends.
What we need is a good spiritual exfoliation.”*
Maryann McGibbon Dana

The Hebrew scriptures are packed with poetry that readers often miss in modern translations. To our ears – used to rhyme and rhythm – the poetry is hidden.

Hebrew poetry relies instead on parallelism to communicate with power, drama, and nuance. It takes the form of two-line stanzas. The first line introduces an idea that the following line either repeats in a varied way, expands, or adds a contrasting idea.

Included among the readings for the first Sunday in November is Amos 5:18-24. This selection is immediately preceded by a lament generally composed to be sung over the dead. In this case, it is the Israelites who are hearing their own lament before they have died.

The reading opens with a good example of Hebrew poetry in describing “The Day if the Lord.”

*“Why do you want it, this Day of ADONAI?
It is darkness not light, as if someone were to run
from a lion, just to be met by a bear;
as if he entered a house, put his hand on the wall,
just to be bitten by a snake.”*

It was to this poetry of Amos that the Reverend Martin Luther King turned for inspiration, in what is arguably his most famous sermon: “*I Have a Dream*” that he delivered on 28 August 1963, at the Lincoln Memorial in Washington D.C.

In describing why citizens could not be satisfied while injustice replaced civil rights, he said:

*“No, no, we are not satisfied,
and we will not be satisfied until
'justice rolls down like waters,
and righteousness like a mighty stream.’”*

Compare this to Amos 5: 23-24:

*“Spare me the noise of your songs!
I don’t want to hear the strumming of your lutes!
Instead, let justice well up like water,
and righteousness like an ever-flowing stream.”*

Amos was a shepherd, not a professional prophet or scholar when God called on him to ruffle the complacent elite in the Northern Kingdom of Israel. It was during a period of material prosperity and spiritual decline – the kings are described as corrupt with sin eroding society. Yet a false sense of security pervades the kingdom – the elite maintain a luxurious lifestyle, while the poor suffer: Amos 5:12.

*“For I know how numerous are your crimes
and how outrageous are your sins –
bullying the innocent, extorting ransoms,
pushing the poor aside at the gate.”*

The solution is clear: Amos 5:14

“Seek good not evil, so that you will survive.”

The Hebrew verb here is not our modern idea of searching. It is *derash* – a method of interpretation to derive religious or social morals versus the plain meaning of the language.

How would Amos respond to the inequities that we face today? Would he denounce the protesters and bursts of violence? Would he close the borders to refugees seeking safety? Would he find our age of division, denial and increasing fiscal inequality all too familiar?

Prophets point to the ugliness that the rest of us tiptoe around. They stir the pot & make us squirm. We would rather soothe each other and feel good. We imagine our good deeds alone will save us.

Perhaps Amos points to God as our fulcrum: our balance – the source of all good things. If centered on Him, the waters of justice will strip us of that which separates us from Him and each other.

Amos ends with another poem at 9:11-15 that looks forward to another time:

*“I will plant them in their own soil,
no more to be uprooted from their land,
which I gave them.’ says ADONAI your God.”*

*Did you know? There Are Quiet Church
Angels Working Here*
By Lynn Simpson

Did you ever wonder how such a small church accomplishes so much? Do you know when the Christmas elves decorate the sanctuary and the social hall? How does the whole Oyster Pork Supper happen every year? Why do we have extra sides and cookies to pack for our Martin Luther King day of service? How do we afford special music at Jazz Vespers, on Memorial Day and for Christmas Eve? Why does the Harvest Breakfast always smell and taste so good? Who ever thought a Food Festival would work so well? How does this newsletter get produced every month? Why were you able to virtually attend church every week during the initial months of the pandemic when the church was shut down? How does the donated food get to the Doylestown Food Pantry?

Yes, the answers to those questions lie right here in the members and friends of Carversville United Church of Christ. People make the difference and do it one person at a time – quietly.

Someone comes up with an idea, talks about it with someone else and it turns into a reality. Another person decides they really want more music at church so they make a donation to the church specifically for more music. We get more music.

Do you have something more you want from your church experience? Is there an existing project or activity with which you would like to be involved? Talk to people and come join us. We need more Quiet Church Angels.

Do you have a special talent?
Do you have extra time?
Can you spare a few dollars?

Become a new Quiet Church Angel! We all need angels and so does our church.

Quiet Church Angels Needed Now!



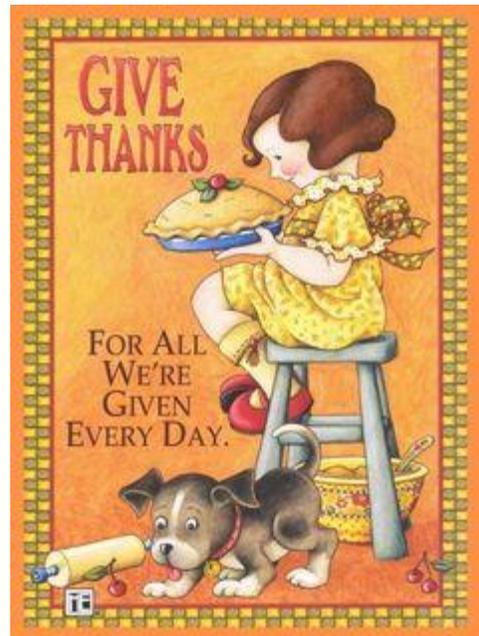
WOW ~ 60 YEARS!

Members who have remained active in the life of Carversville Church are traditionally honored at our annual Harvest Breakfast right before Thanksgiving.

Sadly this year, due to the pandemic, there will be no Harvest Breakfast.

We would like to thank and recognize the following people for 60 years of membership at Carversville United Church of Christ. **WOW!**

John Harrington ~ Timothy McCarthy ~ Blaine Price



60 YEARS!!



Blessings Mix

Bugles: Shaped like a cornucopia or Horn of Plenty, a symbol of our nations abundance.

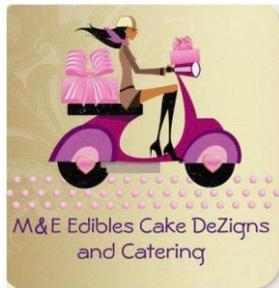
Pretzels: Arms folded in prayer, a freedom sought by those who founded our country.

Candy Corn: The sacrifices of the Pilgrims' first winter. Food was so scarce that settlers survived on just a few kernels of corn a day.

Nuts or Seeds: Promise of a future harvest, one we will reap only if seeds are planted and tended with diligence.

M&Ms: Memories of those who came before us to lead us into a blessed future.

Hershey's Kiss: The love of family and friends that sweetens our lives.



M&E Edibles Cake DeZigns and Catering.

We will be creating **cakes, cupcakes, pound, and bundt cakes** in the following flavors: Jewish apple, sour cream, eggnog, lemon, carrot, vanilla, chocolate, red velvet and coconut. We also offer a white chocolate raspberry cheesecake.

Our selection of **pies** includes: apple, cherry, chocolate pecan, pecan, pear cranberry, sweet potato, pumpkin and caramel apple.

We also offer assorted tins for your gift giving needs, along with other baked goods for the holidays, events, and just your pure enjoyment.

We are ready to cater your gatherings, for the holidays or just because. You create the menu and we deliver. We love to decorate too!!!

Please contact us at 215.356.1281 and we will be more than happy to help.

<https://www.facebook.com/mandeedibles>
<https://me-edibles-cake-dezigns-and-catering.business.site/>



Since 2002, we've been handcrafting our unique confections in small batches. Our award winning specialties include: Truffles, Toffee, Barks, Bars and Hot Cocoa Mixes. We are doing Chocolate & Wine/Beer/Spirit pairing events **virtually**. The next event is Friday the 13th November, which is sure to be a lucky day to stay home and log on to our Virtual Live guided chocolate tasting event!

We are also rolling out our new Gift Boxes just in time for all of the holidays. These boxes are easily shipped or picked up from our workshop in Buckingham.

Contact: Laurie Douglass, 215.756.3631.
 Email is Laurie@laurieschocolates.com
 Website: www.laurieschocolates.com



Pampered Chef is a company that offers a line of kitchen tools, food products, and cookbooks for preparing food in the home.

Website: www.pamperedchef.biz/nicole062013

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Rocky Hill, New Jersey 08553
Business Phone: (973) 647-4581

PRODUCTS:

All Edible Gingerbread Bird Houses ~ Small: \$25.00 ~ Large: \$50.00 [All encrusted and filled with birdseed]
~ Lebkuchen Honey Squares ~ Small square: \$7.50
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~ Lebkuchen with Decorated Paper ~ Small Santa: \$7.50 ~ Large Santa \$10.00 ~ Hansel & Gretel: \$10.00
~ Lebkuchen ~ Large decorated hearts: \$25.00
~ Lebkuchen Mug Huggers ~ 4 cookies: \$10.00
~ Anise Springerle Imprinted Cookies ~ Small: Lambs, santas, angels, acorn & other Christmas themes: \$2.25 ~ Baker's Dozen: \$25.50
~ Anise Springerle Imprinted Cookies ~ Medium: owls, nativity & other Christmas themes: \$8.00
~ Anise Springerle Imprinted Cookie ~ Large: Santa, reindeer, angel, Santa with tree: \$10.00
~ Handmade Santa Folk Art Doll with hooked rug face, dressed in vintage wools with vintage baubles attached to his belt: \$325.00
~ Hand Painted Pair of Ice Skates: \$225.00



The Apothecary Shop has an assortment of all natural herbal care products, soaps and gifts.

If you're looking for an herbalist to work with your foundational nutrition, support stress, or assist with ongoing chronic conditions, you can contact me through Glas Flora as well!

My website address for my online store is: <https://www.glasflora.com/apothecary-shop>
Ashley Gamarello, Proprietor

