

Journeys

A PUBLICATION OF CARVERSVILLE UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST



October 2022

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

THOUGHTS FOR THE SOUL OCTOBER 2022

Longing for Certainty by John M. Buchanan

One of the saints in my life died recently. I knew about Presbyterian pastor Harry Geissinger because of his prominence in the Pennsylvania town of my youth. But then one day I met him for a lunch meeting—one that I'll never forget.

I was trying to decide whether I would continue on the path toward ordained ministry.

Big questions loomed. Was I going to go through with this? Could I be certain that

the path I was on was the right one? Had I explored all the other possibilities?

I explained to my pastor that I wasn't sure about my decision. Finishing the degree, I reasoned, would lead to ordination and a "career path." Those ought to come with a degree of certainty, but I wasn't sure—and to say yes to this path was to say no to so many other possibilities. My pastor sug-



gested I talk with Harry Geissinger.

When I explained my struggle,

Geissinger told me that on the morning of his wedding day he looked at himself in the bathroom mirror and wondered if he'd made the right decision. He sat on the edge of the bathtub with his head in his hands, wishing he felt absolutely certain about the vows he was about to make.

He proceeded with the wedding, which turned out happily. He went on to say that over the course of his life he'd learned that the more important the decision, the more one must struggle with it and the less absolute certainty one is likely to have.

Ruth Burrows . . . puts her finger on one of the major conundrums for modern seekers who want Christianity to be a set of theological ideas that one knows to be absolutely true, or at least to provide a feeling of certainty.

Faith, Burrows says, is never "mere intellectual assent but always involves commitment—always in action, more a verb than a noun." And then she addresses a reality I've experienced over four decades of ministry: "Many people think they have no faith because they feel they haven't. They don't realize they must make a choice to believe, take the risk of believing and setting themselves to live out the commitment." The alternative may be waiting for a lifetime "under the cover of authenticity . . . for the kind of certainty we cannot have."

. . . I remind myself that Jesus did not ask Peter, James and John to subscribe to a set of theological propositions, nor did he want them to feel anything. He asked them to follow, to decide to get up from what they were doing and go with him. That's what Christian faith means.

As for our longing for absolute certainty, the late theologian Joseph Sittler would have pointed out that, just as hunger is evidence of the reality of food, so our questions, our struggles with vocation and our longing for certainty are all the evidence we need of the reality of God.

John M. Buchanan is a retired Presbyterian minister and the former editor and publisher of the *Christian Century*.

Original article downloaded from <https://www.christiancentury.org/article/2012-03/longing-certainty>.

- from Pastor Fogal



MARK YOUR CALENDAR

COMMUNION

Our Communion service will be held on October 2, which is also World Wide Communion. This Sunday was set aside back in 1936 by the Presbyterian Church and was adopted in 1940 by the Federal Council of Churches. The key word for World Communion Sunday is *communion*, or *unity*. It is a day when we mark the almost universal Christian practice of breaking bread with one another.

If you are participating from home, be sure to have the elements ready prior to the service.

COFFEE HOUR

Linger after the service on **October 16**, to enjoy some coffee and conversation. Rumor has it, it will be a BOO-tiful affair!



As part of our outreach to the Native American children at Mariano Lake Community School in New Mexico, we made 18 polar fleece blankets. These blankets are given to the children who board at the school. Look at all those Carversville smiles as we prepare to get those beautiful blankets on their way to the kids! Thanks, everyone!

CHRISTMAS IS COMING!
from Jackie Putman

Let's do lunch, ladies!

I know it's October, but it's not too early to think about holiday activities.

Last year, the Women's Fellowship only met once when about 15 of us gathered for a Christmas lunch at the Plumsteadville Inn. The highlight of the event was the Secret Santa gift exchange using a clever "pass the package" game. (We just needed to know which way was left and which way was right!)

Those of us who attended want to do it again and hope you do, too. So stay tuned for more information about a date in early December, and if you want to participate in the left-right package passing be on the lookout for the perfect gift in about the \$ 15.00 range.



Articles for the November newsletter should be sent to Cathy Price at cathyprice2@verizon.net and Sue Wulf at slswulf@comcast.net by Friday, October 15.



FILL SUE'S EMPTY CAR

You can make a difference in the lives of our neighbors who are hungry with your food donations of: canned potatoes, canned tomatoes, tomato sauce, pasta sauce, cereal, healthy school snacks and tuna.

When you shop, look for these products on sale to put aside for the Food Pantry. On Sunday, October 9, Sue's empty car will be by the door. Let's see if we can fill the car with food donations. Thanks, Little Church with the BIG heart!



CHURCH SIGN UPDATE

Tom Repas made a recent stop at Metalmasters to check on the progress of the new sign for the front of the church. Good news- barring any supply issues, the sign should be finished by the end of October. Keep your eyes peeled!



WHAT'S THE BOOK GROUP DOING? from Sue Wulf

Overflow parking and overflow seating, fabulous fall decor greeting us! What a great gathering we had at Cathy's to discuss *The Personal Librarian*. We felt Belle sacrificed a lot of happiness to keep her secret of being a very light skinned black woman who passed herself off as white to work for the powerful JP Morgan and climb the social ladder in a white world. Sadly, we cited many examples of racial discrimination that still exist today.

We took time to discuss the passing of Queen Elizabeth and share some of the stories we heard that highlighted her wonderful sense of humor.

Elephants are a hot book topic right now so to keep up with this trend, our next book will be *Memory of An Elephant* by Alex Lasker. The book is an epic saga told by an aging African elephant as he makes a last, perilous journey to find the humans who rescued him as an orphan some fifty years ago. We'll meet at Jackie's house on Monday, October 10, to discuss it, AND to meet her new kitten, Harley.

"Autumn, the year's last,
loveliest smile."



- William Cullen Bryant



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 October

- 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
- Jim & Sally Seeton- 1850 Lower Mountain Road West, Furlong, PA 18925
- Gordon Keckeissen- 555 N. Broad St., #508A, Doylestown, PA 18901
- Jack King- % Courtney King, P.O. Box 5823, Pagosa Springs, CO 81147



Autumn is a second spring when every leaf is a flower.

- Albert Camus

MODERATOR'S MINUTE

sharing thoughts from Maya Angelou

I'VE LEARNED ---

“I've learned that, regardless of your relationship with your parents, you'll miss them when they're gone from your life.

I've learned that if you pursue happiness, it will elude you. But, if you focus on your family, your friends, the needs of others, your work and doing the very best you can, happiness will find you.

I've learned that making a 'living' is not the same thing as making a 'life'.

I've learned that unless you take the time to make those pleasant memories with your family, friends, and loved ones... they won't be there to bring you the happiness, pleasure, and that wonderful “replay” of life that only memories can bring over and over again.”



LOOKING AHEAD

We're planning on holding a Harvest Breakfast on Sunday, November 20, with worship and recognition of long time members. We haven't enjoyed this event since 2019. It's a great time for fellowship so save the date.

LOOKING way ahead to 2023, the possibility of a pancake breakfast on Carversville Day, and a fall festival are being discussed. Stay tuned. We'll be looking for volunteers!

CONTACT US!

Rev. Robert E. Fogal, Ph.D., Pastor
- Tues. & Thurs.: Office- 9:00 AM-1:00 PM
and by appointment
Cell: 610.945.4955
Email: pastorfogal@gmail.com

Chris Ochadlick, Office Administrator
- Tues. & Thurs.: Office- 9 AM-1:00 PM

Email: carversvilleucc@gmail.com
Website: www.carversvilleucc.org
Church Phone: 215.297.5166



Why do demons and ghouls hang out together?

-Because demons are a ghouls best friend!

Why did the ghost starch his sheet?

-He wanted everyone scared stiff.

What does a panda ghost eat?

- Bam-BOO!



AUTUMN

*When the trees their summer splendor
change to raiment red and gold,
When the summer moon turns mellow,
And the nights are getting cold,
When the squirrels hide their acorns,
And the woodchucks disappear;
Then we know that it is autumn,
Loveliest season of the year.*

-Charlotte L. Riser

HAVE A "BOO"-TIFUL MONTH!

