

It is safe to say that because of COVID-19 most of us, if not all of us, are glad to see 2020 come to an end and start looking at this virus in our rearview mirror. Even now as this article is being written, vaccines have begun to be distributed among our citizens in the United States. Therefore, we look ahead to 2021 with hope.

Yet, we should not be too eager to move forward if we are not willing to take a moment and reflect so that we can learn from the past. A lot can be revealed in the rearview mirror. None of us like it when a car is tailing our rear bumper, but we cannot know the danger that the car behind us is causing us unless we look in the rearview mirror. Then we can respond to the danger that is there.

COVID-19 is a living virus and it is not going away. We simply have to learn to manage it as it mutates, to respond to the danger that it imposes. We have to learn how to live with it in the years to come as it tails us. The health professionals tell us that a vaccine is the best way for us to do this, as is healthy life practices. Once it is under control, we then move to a position to stay ahead of the virus, so that we can look at it our rearview mirror.

Managing a virus is a little like the way that we manage our spiritual life in Christ, from a certain perspective. 2 Corinthians 3:18 says, "And we all, who with unveiled faces contemplate the Lord's glory, are being transformed into his image with ever-increasing glory, which comes from the Lord, who is the Spirit."

When we look at our lives over the past year, we conduct a review. We ask ourselves, "What practices, or the lack thereof, in my life have caused danger in my walk with Jesus Christ? Am I loving like Christ? Am I forgiving like Christ? Have I allowed sinful behaviors in my life cause me to stray from my relationship with Christ?" These are fair questions to ask of ourselves so that we can learn from our past, build upon what is good, and put what is not in our rearview mirror.

2 Corinthians 3:18 is a Bible passage about how we are forever changing in a good way, more and more into the image of Jesus Christ. We can stay ahead of what should be in the rearview mirror of our lives by building upon our Christ-like ways and allowing God's Spirit to work in us. This way, we stay ahead of the dangers that are always trying to distract us from our walk with Christ. Remember, the Holy Spirit is like our vaccine helping us to stamp out the virus of hate and sin, because "love covers a multitude of sin." (1 Peter 4:8)

May 2020 teach us to be evermore dependent upon our relationship with Jesus, so that we can allow His glory to shine through us as we participate in His ministry and mission in the world, giving hope, and love, and peace, and joy to all others around us.

Happy New Year!

Your Co-Pastors,
Michael and Aaron

Health Note

Health Ministry Team tip for December 2020:

"Strengthening our immune systems is important to fight off illnesses and infection. A lot of people are unaware of the effects that their mind can have on their physical bodies and emotional health. A negative emotional state can lead to physical ailments. Having to cope with negative thoughts and emotions in life is inevitable. But it is important to think positively, no matter how difficult the situation may seem. Studies have shown that good emotions, such as joy and happiness release hormones responsible for strengthening the immune system. Here are some unhealthy habits which may weaken our immune systems:

1. Lack of sleep - restful sleep helps the body repair itself from attackers.
2. Anxiety - constant stress makes it harder for the body to fight off viruses.
3. Low vitamin D - this vitamin combined with sunshine boosts the immune system.
4. Low intake of fruits and vegetables - plant fiber strengthens immune response.
5. High fat diet - hinders white blood cell production.
6. Certain medications - wide range, including steroids lower immune response.
7. Not spending enough time out of doors.
8. Smoking.

(Taken from Natural Health and Wellness, Jeanie Anderson, RD, CNHP)

Spending time with God and releasing our fears and anxieties in prayer also strengthens us, as well as reading Scripture and meditating with thankfulness.



"And the peace of God, which passeth all understanding, shall keep your hearts and minds thru Christ Jesus." Phil 4:9.

Stewardship & Finance

2021 Offering Envelopes are available for pick-up in the Narthex. Please note that all 2020 contributions must be received or post-marked by **December 31, 2020**. Anything received after that date will be considered a 2021 donation. Thank you for your generosity to the mission and ministry of Clen-Moore Presbyterian Church.

~The following are new members to the church and we would like to take this opportunity to welcome them.
We are so glad they have chosen us to worship the Lord together and have fellowship:

**Jordan & Samantha Bessell, Jill McConnell, Jane & Murray Towle,
Linda & Bob Turner and Paul Wozniak.**



MESSENGER DEADLINE FOR FEBRUARY IS JANUARY 15th

DAILY BIBLE READINGS

JANUARY, 2021

- 1 Psalm 19
- 2 Psalm 42
- 3 Psalm 41
- 4 Psalm 43
- 5 Psalm 44
- 6 Mark 1.1-15
- 7 Mark 1.16-45
- 8 John 2.1-24
- 9 John 3.1-36
- 10 John 4.1-30
- 11 John 4.31-54
- 12 John 5.1-29
- 13 John 5.30-47
- 14 Mark 2.1-28
- 15 Mark 3.1-35
- 16 Mark 4.1-25
- 17 Mark 4.26-41
- 18 Mark 5.1-20
- 19 Mark 5.21-43
- 20 Mark 6.1-29
- 21 Mark 6.30-56
- 22 Mark 7.1-37
- 23 Mark 8.1-26
- 24 Mark 8.27-9.13
- 25 Mark 9.14-50
- 26 Mark 10.1-31
- 27 Mark 10.32-52
- 28 Psalm 77
- 29 Psalm 78.1-39
- 30 Psalm 78.40-72
- 31 I Corinthians 1.1-31



A NOTE FROM THE OFFICE:



Reports for our Annual Congregational meeting are due no later than **January 8, 2021**. Your cooperation in this matter is greatly appreciated!



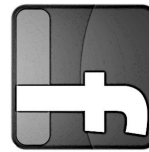
The 2021 Per Capita apportionment is **\$40.41** per member. The breakdown is as follows:

Presbytery of Shenango	\$29.06
Synod of the Trinity	2.40
General Assembly	8.95
Total	\$40.41

Please make checks payable to Clen-Moore Presbyterian Church and clearly designate it is for **Per Capita**.

Thank you!

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HAPPY
NEW
YEAR
2021



YOUTH CORNER



C.2G.S. - We will begin to talk about what real discipleship is, what it looks like, and why it matters for Christians of all ages.

KFC & FlipSide - As we continue to navigate these COVID-19 times, we will not plan anything in stone yet. Please stay tuned to your emails. We hope to get a snow tubing in and some other activities.

ATTENTION

Our **Annual Congregational Meeting** is scheduled for **Sunday, January 24, 2021** immediately following worship in the sanctuary. All members are invited to participate as we review the 2021 budget, go over ministry reports, and vote on the co-pastors terms of call.



Deacons for the month of January:
Lois Henneman & Becky Reese

