

Dear church family,

As we make our way into October, we find ourselves halfway (or further depending on when you are reading this) into our BASIC teaching and preaching series, based on the video series by Francis Chan. As you would guess, it covers the basics of our faith, while also adding challenges to think more deeply about faith, church, and the way we put all of our beliefs into practice. Hopefully by the time we complete this series, it will also help to answer the question of WHY we do what we do. Why follow Jesus? Why commit to service, worship, and mission? Why enter into life together with those we call brothers and sisters in Christ?

Regardless of how one might answer these questions, if you are going to commit your life to Christ, you might as well give it 100%. Of course, Jesus says as much, that we cannot split our allegiance between God and anything else, and we must fully surrender our lives to find them. Also, if you have chosen to receive the gift of grace offered to you, you might as well enjoy it...right?

Maybe it is just the stereotype Presbyterians have been given over the years (the 'frozen chosen') or maybe we have taken too seriously the old saying that "Anything in life that's any fun is either immoral, illegal or fattening." But sometimes we forget that while following Jesus is hard, it should also fill us with His joy. Sometimes we mistake happiness for joy. Happiness is when circumstances can control whether what we experience is good or bad. Joy is not dependent on circumstance. It is a gift that comes from following the Lord Jesus.

Jesus is often questioned about his actions, and on one such occasion the Pharisees try to nail him for not fasting like other Jews were doing as part of their faith. In Mark 2:19 Jesus responds in this way, "The wedding attendants cannot fast while the bridegroom is with them, can they? As long as they have the bridegroom with them, they cannot fast." Through the power of the Holy Spirit, we have the presence of Jesus in and around us in a way the apostles and first disciples could not even imagine. This should infuse us with so much joy that nothing can contain it!

The Pharisees are often blamed for being hypocritical, but they really were just trying to help people live faithfully for God in the best ways they knew possible, by following the rules to a "T". They were concerned with Jesus' actions, while Jesus' concern was with their motives. A life where our greatest concern is "getting it right" robs us of joy. Remember why we do it—to the glory of God, with songs of joy, shouts of acclamation and praise. If we are lacking joy, it might be because we have become so concerned with getting all the motions right that we forget why we are doing them in the first place. Our lives are a constant response to the grace of Jesus freely given to us.

The way Christians express their joy comes in all different forms—some raise their arms high in praise, while others quietly soak it in. No matter how you express it, be sure to live into it. It can be easy to sink into an attitude of gloom and doom. Living in the light of Christ is exactly that: LIGHT! Celebrate and live life with joy, and most of all with the heart and love of Jesus.

Grace and peace,
Aaron and Michael

Health Note:

This month the Health Ministry Team will be focusing on healthy vision. Don't take your eyes for granted—Take these easy steps to maintain healthy vision:



1. **Eat Well**—good eye health starts with the food on your plate. Nutrients like omega-3 fatty acids, lutein, zinc, and vitamins C and E might ward off macular degeneration and cataracts. These include green leafy vegetables, salmon, tuna, eggs, nuts, beans, oranges, other citrus, oysters, and pork.
2. **Quit Smoking**—smoking makes it more likely to get cataracts and macular degeneration.
3. **Wear Sunglasses**—too much UV exposure also increase chances of cataracts and macular degeneration.
4. **Use Safety Eyewear**—for hazardous work or sports like ice hockey, racquetball, or lacrosse.
5. **Look Away From Computer Screen**—can cause eye strain, blurry vision, dry eyes, headaches, neck, back and shoulder strain. Rest your eyes every 20 minutes and get up and walk around.
6. **Visit your Eye Doctor**—everyone needs a regular eye exam, even young children. Eye exams find diseases, like glaucoma, which have no symptoms and must be treated early. (Taken from WebMD)

Thank God every day for healthy eyes but we also believe what the Bible says in 2 Corinthians 5:7 that **"we should walk by faith, not sight ."**



C.2G.S.—Our Junior and Senior High Sunday School Class will continue to meet with the combined class in The Parlor until **Sunday, October 23**. Following that we will reconvene in the Youth Room to start a series on the Old Testament Book of Esther.

FlipSide

~**Sunday, October 2** - We are participating in the all church hayride at Rodger's Tree Farm. We'll have food, fire, s'mores, corn hole and of course a hayride. 4:30 - 7:00ish.

~**Sunday, October 16** - Possible movie night, pajamas, & popcorn.

~**Sunday, October 30** - RETREAT!!! We will have an all day retreat with our friends from Lebanon Church. We'll drive up to Seneca Hills Bible Camp near Franklin. Our retreat will include worship, lunch and dinner, zip line, paintball, and some other fun activities in the mountains of western PA. You can bring a friend if you want, but there will be a deadline to sign up by, with signed permission forms, waivers, and money due one week in advance. Check your emails for more details.

Deadline for November Messenger is October 21st.

DAILY BIBLE READINGS

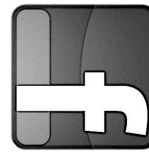
OCTOBER 2022

- 1 Esther 1.1-22
- 2 Esther 2.1-23
- 3 Esther 3.1-15
- 4 Esther 4.1-17
- 5 Esther 5.1-14
- 6 Esther 6.1-14
- 7 Esther 7.1-10
- 8 Esther 8.1-17
- 9 Esther 9.1-19
- 10 Esther 9.20 - 10.3
- 11 Nahum 1.1-15
- 12 Nahum 2.1-13
- 13 Nahum 3.1-19
- 14 Haggai 1.1-15
- 15 Haggai 2.1-23
- 16 Exodus 35.1-35
- 17 Exodus 36.1-38
- 18 Exodus 37.1-29
- 19 Exodus 38.1-31
- 20 Exodus 39.1-42
- 21 Exodus 40.1-38
- 22 Psalm 37
- 23 Leviticus 1.1-17
- 24 Leviticus 2.1-16
- 25 Leviticus 3.1-17
- 26 Leviticus 4.1-35
- 27 Leviticus 5.1-19
- 28 Leviticus 6.1-30
- 29 Leviticus 7.1-38
- 30 Psalm 64
- 31 Lamentations 1.1-22



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FALL HARVEST PARTY

OCTOBER 30TH

Mark your calendar for Sunday, October 30th.

Come and share the bounty of our church garden again this year. Stay tuned for more announcements in October, including the menu.

Communion will be served on the following dates:

+

October 2nd

November 6th

December 11th

+

From the fullness of his grace
 we have all received one
Blessing
 after another. John 1:16

Happy Halloween

Mission Spotlight!

OCTOBER—Promise of Life

Thank you for your support of Promise of Life Network! Through Clen-Moore's mission grant we were able to get windows and siding for our New Castle location. This improvement was very needed, and it has been such a blessing to have a lovely building and windows that open. We also appreciate your regular support that makes our ministry possible. You are an incredibly important part of our team!

2022 has been a great year for Promise of Life Network. We began the year by investing in a new marketing campaign and since then have increased our medical clients by 44% compared to last year. Our parenting program has also increased, and even though prices for many items have risen we have never had to turn a family in need away. Even during the formula shortage, every family who came to us for help left with the formula and other items they needed. Our international ministry also continues to grow, and this year we have spoken to over 4,000 international mothers. Many lives have been saved and changed this year, thank you for being part of their stories!

The "Not So Youth Group" will meet on:
Sunday, October 15th