

THE HILLTOPPER

JUNE 2024

OFF THE COLLAR

Condensed from an article published in Crosswalk.com

“Is Ephraim my dear son? Indeed, as often as I have spoken against him, I certainly still remember him. Therefore my heart yearns for him; I will certainly have mercy on him, declares the Lord” ([Jeremiah 31:20](#)).

“How often I would have gathered your children together as a hen gathers her chickens under her wings, and you would not. Behold, your house is left unto you desolate” ([Matthew 23:37-38](#)).

Almost daily, I hear of churches firing their preachers, engaged in lawsuits, and struggling with inner conflict. I know churches that were strong a generation ago but are fighting to survive now. These are difficult days for churches, which makes these challenging days for church leaders.

Believers who are not grieving for the Lord’s church these days must not be paying attention.

Let us care for what is happening and pray for the Lord’s people...

Grievances for Today’s Church

- 1.** I grieve for the trendy church which draws people in from the smaller surrounding congregations and bursting at the seams but leaving the smaller ones to shrivel and die. The huge church may convince its members that they are doing big things for the kingdom since they deal with such large numbers. Churches can be so self-centered. *Pray your church will be loving toward other congregations.*
- 2.** I grieve for the smaller church, which turns an envious eye toward the growing congregations in its community and desiring to be like the others, dismisses its faithful pastor and worship leaders because “we have to stay current with modern trends.” Churches can be wrong-headed. *Pray your church will look to [Jesus](#) for affirmation and not at their neighbors.*
- 3.** I grieve for the church, which fears allowing musical instruments other than pianos and organ into their worship because accepting guitars, keyboards, and drums feels like they are succumbing to the world. Churches can be cowards. *Pray your church will be courageous and obedient.*
- 4.** I grieve for the church that thinks installing guitars and drums will solve all their problems. Churches can be caught up in tomfoolery. *Pray your church will be wise.*

Grievances for Today's Church cont.

5. I grieve for the church, which replaces monthly business meetings with an elder-led system allowing a few people to make all the important decisions for the congregation and to keep the church members in the dark. Churches can betray their calling. *Pray your church will be responsible.*

Pray for the Lord's Church, *Friend*

If you are a **follower** of Jesus Christ, take notice of all the churches in your community which honor Him. Pray for them and encourage their people. Do not compete with them but rejoice with the victories of each.

If you are a **disciple** of Jesus, join a church in your community and be faithful. Be present each time it meets for worship. Encourage your ministers and leaders. Get into a Sunday School class. Bring an offering. Volunteer.

If you are a **leader** of your church, ask God for wisdom in choices and programs, courage to ask the right questions and take the right actions, and integrity in everything. Speak the truth and love everyone.

If you are not a leader of your church, stay informed. Ask the right questions. Don't be afraid to speak up. Brag on leaders who do well.

Pray for the Lord's church, my friends.

So much depends on the Lord's churches being healthy, vibrant, and faithful.

Scheduled Worship Leaders

June 1/2	Pastor David Bowman
June 8/9	Pastor Scott Lingenfelter
June 15/16	Gary Mickle
June 22/23	Rt. Rev. Dr. Vince McLaughlin, Presiding Bishop and Bishop Ordinary, - Diocese of the East, Episcopal Church
June 29/30	Gary Mickle



BIRTHDAY WISHES TO:

June 1	Maxine Hale	June 17	Jeff Penrod
June 1	Jacob Zerby	June 20	Marsha Pauley
June 4	Ed Greene	June 20	Gayle Swartz
June 4	Hudson Pozun	June 23	Brenda Punako
June 6	Krista Miller	June 22	Anna Bower
June 7	Ralph Manotti Sr.	June 23	Pam Bittner
June 8	Sally Stewart	June 23	Pat Bittner
June 10	Kimberly Stayrook	June 25	Barbara Schrock
June 10	Christopher Swartz	June 27	Dee Dee Bailey
June 11	Jason Hite	June 28	Lilianna Swartz
June 11	Sharon Ashcraft	June 29	William Lonsinger
June 11	Kyle Lonsinger	June 29	Ruth Pawlowski
June 13	Barbara Miltenberger	June 30	Judy Stinebiser
June 15	Jessica Zada		

ANNIVERSARIES:

June 1	Leslie & Joyce Morgenstern	June 20	Bob & Marge Jeschonek
June 4	Jerry & MaryBeth Heinze	June 20	Jeffrey & Phyllis Nider
June 9	Edward & Ruth Pawlowski	June 23	Stephen & Laura Bower
June 15	Mike & Jaclynn Hauger	June 25	Donald & Carol Sauter
June 15	Mark & Shari McQuaide	June 26	Dan & Roberta Ream
June 16	Mark & Deborah Rychak		

Calendar of Events

June 11	Property Meeting	6:00
June 17	WGMC Meeting	6:00
June 18	Church Council	6:30

Thank you to Cindy and Sara Solarczyk for serving on Altar Guild for the month of June.



Our Prayer Chain

If you would like to put a name on the prayer chain, please call Mary Ann Mapes at 814-266-2185 or the church office at 814-266-4859. It is not necessary to give any information other than a name.

The Knot Prayer

Dear God,

Please untie the knots that are in my mind, my heart, and my life.

Remove the have nots, can nots, and the do nots.

Erase the will nots, may nots, might nots that may find a home in my heart.

Release me from the could nots, would nots, and should nots that obstruct my life.

And most of all, dear God, I ask that you remove from my mind, my heart, and my life all the "am nots" that I have allowed to hold me back.

Especially the thought that I am not good enough.

Amen.

Church News & Updates

Your church Council has decided to start a new Worship & Music Committee. If you would like to consider serving on this committee, please contact Todd in the office at 814-269-4859. We currently have 4 people and can always use YOU!

Congratulations to Michael and Rachel Zerby on the birth of their son Matthew Zerby. The proud grandparents are members Mike and Lori Zerby.

Sign up sheets will be in the Narthex to register your child for Sunday School in the Fall. They will be attending at 8:30 and returning to church following the Gospel. We give thanks for our wonderful teachers, Mike Kozak, Rebecca Daily and Erin Borodach.

Confirmation classes will also be starting up in the fall. If your child has not made their Confirmation, and is in Grade 5 or higher, please contact Ray Leverknight or the church to register before Labor Day Weekend.

First Communion classes will be starting in January of 2025. If your child is in 2nd grade or higher, please register them for these classes.

The Giving Tree for June & July will be used to collect items for local nursing homes. Some suggestions would be: Personal Care, Entertainment, Food/Snacks. A list of items is located in the Narthex.

Summer is beginning...School is out...Vacations are starting.

We pray you will continue to find some time to worship and support your church family throughout the summer season, as we continue to offer Christ's Word for all to hear!
Enjoy the summer!



CONGRATULATIONS!!

We offer congratulations to our Graduates of 2024.

Austin Foor
The Bridge Program

Levi Hockensmith
Forest Hills High School

Thomas Hockensmith
St. Francis Environmental
Engineering

Kaia Selepack
Richland High School

Luke Raho
Richard High School

Hayden Lingenfelter
Conemaugh Township High School

If you child was missed, please let us know.....



UPDATES FROM OUR COMMITTEES

- Greetings from the **Call Committee**,

Our search continues with the assistance from the Allegheny Synod and as previously noted, the services of Shepherd's Staff. The Call Committee receives weekly updates from Shepherd's Staff. Currently, there have been no new changes to the report. But the good news is, we have had several inquiries interested in filling the vacant position, considering we only posted this opening about three months ago with Shepherd's Staff. It may seem like a long time has passed since we lost our pastor, but a lot of growth and positivity continues to take place week after week. We are all very optimistic and confident that we are headed in the right direction.

Shepherds Staff continues to aggressively market for our next pastoral opening. We are all praying for a timely and successful search and remain at your service.

- Important information from the **WGMC Committee**,

Yellow Dot Program

Pennsylvania residents can take advantage of a voluntary program designed to aid motorists in emergency situations - the Yellow Dot program.

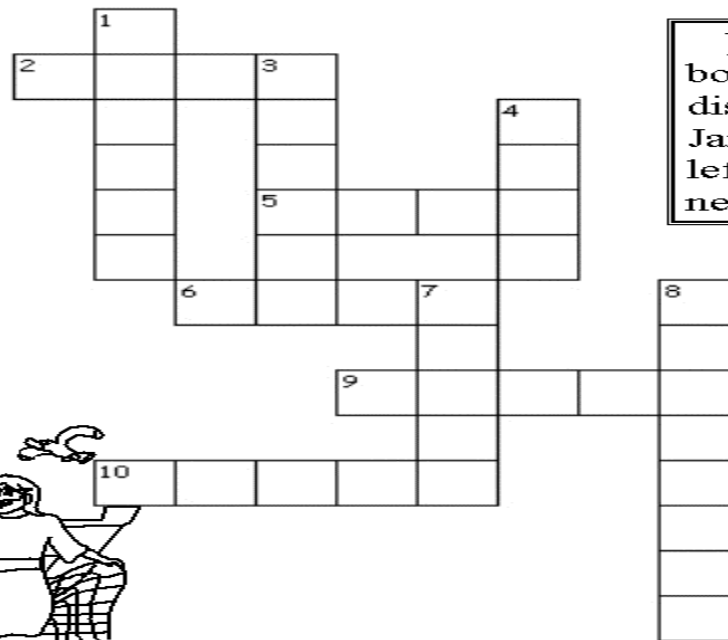
Participants enter medical and contact information in the Yellow Dot folder and then place it in their vehicle's glove compartment. A Yellow Dot sticker is adhered to the inside of the vehicle's rear window to alert first responders to check for the emergency information.

To learn more and to obtain your folder, visit YellowDot.pa.gov or call 717-787-6746.

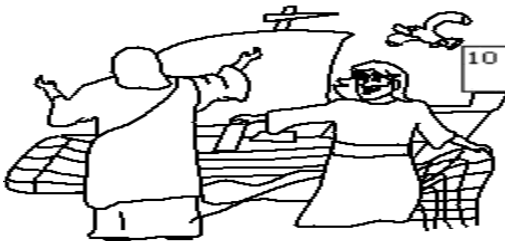
**No perfect Church,
No Perfect
Family,
No Perfect
People,
BUT we have
A Perfect
God.
*Amen!***

Youth page

Twelve Disciples Crossword



Word List:	
boat	follow
disciple	heal
James	learn
left	Simon
nets	twelve



Across

- Jesus sometimes taught from inside this.
- The disciples ____ everything and followed Jesus.
- Jesus gave the disciples authority to drive out evil spirits and ____ every disease.
- John's brothers' name.
- From this disciple's boat Jesus taught and performed a miracle with fish.

Down

- Jesus said, "____ me and I will make you fishers of men".
- This is the number of disciples Jesus chose.
- Jesus told the disciples to let down their ____ and suddenly were able to catch fish.
- We can be Jesus' disciples by trying to ____ all we can about Him.
- The name for follower of Jesus Christ.

Gemma's 1- Minute Vanilla Mug Cake Recipe



4 mins
PREP TIME



1 min
COOK TIME



5 mins
TOTAL TIME



1
SERVING

INGREDIENTS

- 4 tablespoons (1 ¼ oz/35 g) all-purpose flour
- 2 tablespoons granulated sugar
- ½ teaspoon baking powder
- 4 tablespoons (2 fl oz/60 ml) milk
- 1 ½ tablespoons vegetable oil
- ¼ teaspoon vanilla extract
- 1 tablespoon Funfetti sprinkles



INSTRUCTIONS

- In a microwavable mug, whisk together the flour, sugar, and baking powder.
- Add in the milk, oil, and vanilla and mix until just combined. Stir in the sprinkles.
- Microwave on HIGH for roughly 45 seconds - 1 minute, or until firm to the touch (timing is based on my microwave which is 1200 Watts so your timing may vary).
- Serve warm with frosting, ice cream or cream. Enjoy!

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						1 5:30p SATURDAY WORSHIP
2 8:45a SUNDAY WORSHIP	3	4	5	6	7	8 5:30p SATURDAY WORSHIP
9 8:45a SUNDAY WORSHIP	10	11 6:00p PROPERTY	12	13	14	15 5:30p SATURDAY WORSHIP
16 Fathers' Day 8:45a SUNDAY WORSHIP	17 6:00p WGMC	18 6:30p CHURCH COUNCIL	19	20	21	22 5:30p SATURDAY WORSHIP
23 8:45a SUNDAY WORSHIP	24	25	26	27	28	29 5:30p SATURDAY WORSHIP
30 8:45a SUNDAY WORSHIP						

