

August Link

August 2022

This is the Day that the Lord has made; Let us rejoice and be glad in it.

This week I began to witness advertising for “Back to School” and I wanted to loudly protest. Not yet! It is much too early for that. Okay, I understand the need for preparation and anticipation of seasons to come, but I just want to savor summer while we still are able. We seem to ignore the day we are experiencing in order to ready ourselves for what is to come. We look to the future and forget to be present in the present. Why do we do that?



Even in what has been recently oppressive heat and humidity, I want to enjoy each day of the season of summer on its own merit, with all its nuances, including the negative aspects. Perhaps it is a sign of aging too fast, but I don't want to miss a precious moment of any day.

This is the day the Lord has made; Let us rejoice and be glad in it.

How are we to rejoice in each day the Lord has given us?

Do you have each day a list, or maybe I should say “lists” of all the things you need to do. There is laundry, shopping, fixing, calling, arranging, working, writing, etc.

Perhaps at the top of the list should be,

- 1 Breathe in the day and rejoice in the glory of God
2. Be amazed that the sun came up and we have another day.
3. Rejoice and be Glad
4. Share the gladness with all you encounter

Okay, now we can return to all those tasks and duties. Things that need to be done are indeed inevitable, but they would all be easier if we first are aware of the gift of each day that God has made for us. Rejoice and be Glad!

Blessings,

Pastor Barbara



Many folks have requested that we return to receiving communion with bread and cup at the railing. For so many of us, this is a more meaningful celebration of the Lord's Supper than the prepackaged cups that was necessitated by the prevalence of Covid.

So that we are mindful of everyone's need, the Administrative Council has opted to the following procedure: Precut bread will be served, so there is less handling of elements, along with prefilled cups, at the front of the church. For those who are less comfortable receiving in this fashion the prepackaged cups and bread will still be available, either at the front of the church or at the entrance before worship begins.

If you are unable to walk to the front but would like to receive communion, please let an usher know and you will be served at your seat. I pray this will accommodate everyone's need and be a blessing to all.

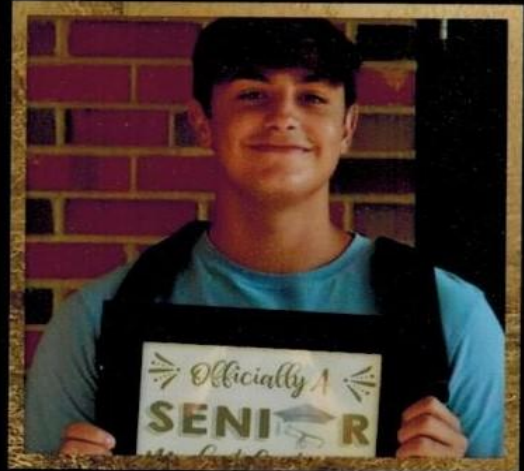


We sadly note the passing of two faithful and beloved members of our Church. Ted Church was received into Christs' arms this week. His memorial service will be held in our church on September 10th at 10:00 AM.

Linda Winstead also received heavenly reward and a memorial service will be held here at the church on August 20th at 3:00 PM following a private family internment.

Both families have requested that a coffee hour follow the service. If you would like to contribute refreshments, or organize the event, please let the office know.

Our prayers for comfort and peace go out to both families.



Thank you

*Thank you for supporting
Project Graduation!
The Gilbert School Class of 2022*





Sunday School will begin again on September 11th. We will be celebrating back to school and back to church with a potluck lunch. Save the date with more details to come. Anyone interested in organizing this event, see Pastor Barbara.



UMCOR - United Methodist Committee On ReliefField notes from Romania

"What makes a church? 'Two or three gathered.' And the presence of the Holy Spirit. We visited a church that rents a former hotel, giving rooms to those who need them. When the war in Ukraine began, the church, through a grant from UMCOR, was able to provide free rooms to refugees and hire a Ukrainian refugee with psychologist credentials to conduct therapy circles for fellow refugees. The church also provided space for Ukrainian businesspeople with a mailing address to keep their operations running, like a group of women with an embroidery business."

Jack Amick, UMCOR director of global migration, on his recent trip to Eastern Europe to connect with local partners.

Photo: Mike DuBose, UM News

Gospels for August

August 7: Luke 12:32-40
August 14: Luke 12:49-56
August 21: Luke 13:10-17
August 28: Luke 14:1, 7-14

August Schedule

****We are holding back on the schedules until we know more about when and how services will resume in person. However, if you'd like to do something please reach out to Pastor Barbara at barb_drew@hotmail.com**

August 7 August 14 August 21 August 28	<u>Nursery Care</u>	<u>Cleaners</u> Barbara Sherwin Barbara Sherwin Barb & Steve Bailey Barb & Steve Bailey	<u>Ushers</u> Barbara Sherwin & Shirley Green Bonnie & Darlene Slater Dawn Renfrew & Shelley Bailey Steven Shaw & Judy McKay
August 7 August 14 August 21 August 28	<u>Greeters</u>	<u>Lectors</u> Suzanne Gerber Janet LaGrange Jonah Hurley Kathy Loomis	<u>Coffee Hour</u>
August 7 August 14 August 21 August 28	<u>Acolytes</u>	<u>Children's Message</u>	

****Because of the COVID-19 virus all meetings and Church Schedules are tentative. Please call or email me to confirm.**

August

<u>SUN.</u>	<u>MON.</u>	<u>TUES.</u>	<u>WED.</u>	<u>THUS.</u>	<u>FRI.</u>	<u>SAT.</u>
	1 6:00 – 8:00PM Food Bank	2 10:00AM Prayer Group 7:00PM Trustees Meeting 8:00PM AA	3	4 2:00 – 4:00PM Food Bank 6:45PM AA	5	6 8:00AM - UMM
7 10:00AM Worship Service with Holy Communion	8	9 10:00AM Prayer Group 7:00PM Admin./Finance Meeting 8:00PM AA	10	11 6:45PM AA	12	13
14 10:00AM Worship Service	15 6:00 – 8:00PM Food Bank	16 10:00AM Prayer Group 8:00PM AA	17	18 2:00 – 4:00PM Food Bank 6:45PM AA	19	20 3:00PM Memorial Service for Linda Winstead
21 10:00AM Worship Service	22	23 10:00AM Prayer Group 8:00PM AA	24	25 6:45PM AA	26	27
28 10:00AM Worship Service	29 6:00 – 8:00PM Food Bank	30 10:00AM Prayer Group 8:00PM AA	31			

6 Surprising Times You Are Actually Quoting the Bible

“A House Divided Against Itself” In Matthew’s Gospel, Jesus tells an impudent crowd, “Every kingdom divided against itself is brought to desolation; and every city or house divided against itself shall not stand.” However, the phrase didn’t enter the modern lexicon until it was quoted by Abraham Lincoln in his famous nomination acceptance speech of 1858. Addressing the contentious issue of slavery in the United States, he told an audience of Republican politicians that “a house divided against itself cannot stand. I believe this government cannot endure, permanently half slave and half free.”

“Escape By the Skin of One’s Teeth” This is one of the many proverbs that owe their origin to the colorful language of the Book of Job. The tormented hero Job is complaining about his woes. He has become, he says, so emaciated that “my bone cleaveth to my skin and to my flesh, and I am escaped with the skin of my teeth.” The proverbial meaning is that he has missed death by a tiny margin—as narrow as the (nonexistent) skin on a person’s teeth. But biblical scholars have argued endlessly about what the phrase originally signified. Some argue for a more literal interpretation: Afflicted with sores from head to toe, Job is left with only the thin porcelain “skin” of his teeth unblemished.

“Gird One’s Loins” Two archaic words come together in this phrase. Gird, from the Old English *gyrdan*, means to put a belt (or girdle) around something. Loins, from the Latin *lumbus*, originally described the flanks of an animal and, from the fourteenth century, those parts of the human body that, as medieval writers primly put it, “should be covered.” In biblical times, when long robes were still in fashion, anyone embarking on strenuous physical activity or going into battle ran a serious risk of tripping on a trailing hem and falling flat on his or her face. The solution? To tuck one’s robe into one’s belt and get ready for action (i.e., to gird one’s loins).

A “Behemoth” The behemoth is a mysterious animal mentioned in the Book of Job. With bones “like bars of iron” and a tail “like a cedar,” this mighty beast was said to be able to suck the whole river Jordan into its mouth. Biblical scholars have long debated whether the behemoth is a mythical creature or just an exaggerated description of an ordinary animal (the most popular candidate is a hippopotamus). Whatever the original “behemoth” may have been, the name has become a metaphor for anything that reaches spectacular size.

A “Scapegoat” The Book of Leviticus describes the proper ceremonies to be observed on the Jewish Day of Atonement, when the land of Israel would be ritually cleansed of its sins. The procedure was that one goat would be offered to God as a sacrifice, while the other—the “scapegoat”—would be symbolically loaded with all the misdeeds of the nation before being driven into the wilderness. This ceremony was said to have been carried out since the Israelites’ exodus from Egypt.

“The Ends of the Earth” Like most other ancient cultures, the ancient Israelites thought it obvious that since the earth was flat, it must have limits. “The ends of the earth” therefore appears repeatedly in the Old Testament as a way to describe the farthest reaches of the then-known world. When, in the Book of Job, God is said to “directeth ... his lightning unto the ends of the earth,” it’s just a poetic way of saying that God is in charge everywhere.

August Announcements

We are reaching out to let you know that we have been having some issues with Internet/Phones for a while now. This has also prevented us from doing a few live broadcasts of the Sunday Service. If you are trying to reach out to us – and feel that we are not getting back to you in a timely manner – please call one of us on our cell phones. Re's cell phone number is 860-307-8565 and Pastor Barbara's cell phone number is 203-623-3754. We are hoping these problems get rectified soon.

Our tag sale last week made over \$800 for the church and the figure is still rising. Thank you to everyone who helped-- whether it was advising us on pricing, laying things out, helping with signs, spotting potential customers wandering outside, bringing in more items to sell from nearby dumpsters, making coffee for everyone, moving stuff to better locations, cleaning up or just being there to help us keep an eye on everything and chat with customers. The Baum's went above and beyond to even help us consolidate the remaining items on Tuesday, so our tag sale can continue after church each Sunday.

--Ticia and Harry

If you, or someone you know, is in the hospital in need of a visit please call either Pastor Barbara or the Church office to schedule a visit. Because of privacy laws, hospitals can no longer give out this information.

Children's Message

If you would like to volunteer to give a Children message during worship, or if you would like to volunteer to be a liturgist (Reader) let Pastor Barbara know.

Church office hours are Monday, Tuesday, and Friday from 9:00AM to Noon. If there is a Monday holiday, office hours for that week will be Tuesday, Wednesday and Friday from 9:00AM to Noon.

Pastor Barbara will be in the office Monday and Tuesday from 9:30AM to 1:00PM, or by appointment.

Church contact info:

Visit us online at: pleasantvalleyumc.com

Church Office: 860-379-2157

Church Kitchen and Food Bank: 860-379-0346

Church email address: pvumc181@gmail.com

Pastor Barbara's email: barb_drew@hotmail.com

Pastor Barbara's phone number: 203-623-3754