

# Community Presbyterian Church

1100 College Avenue

## September 2022

### Pastor's Corner



I got a phone call from my daughter the other day. She had been in a car accident, and she was frantic. It was only with great effort that I was able to determine that she was OK, because her mind was already looking ahead to the difficulties she would encounter not having her car available. As a working single mom, there is not a lot of margin for unexpected difficulties in her life. And of course, this wasn't just any car, it was her brand new car...one which she had worked very hard to find and buy.

She wanted me to pick her up but, as luck would have it, I was not in a position to be much help, because it happened on a day when I was in St. Maries. In reality, I think she just wanted someone there with her, which I understand. Accidents are always stressful, and she carries a lot on her plate.

Thankfully, I was able to get her to just focus on one step at a time. The only thing she needed to do at that moment was to wait for the police to get there so they could make a report. I knew that they would help her determine what the next steps were, and by then Shelly would be able to be there with her.

For the rest of the afternoon my thoughts centered on two things. The first was how quickly an otherwise normal day can turn stressful, and even present true crisis. The second was how frustrating and somewhat agonizing it was for me to know that I could not be there to help her.

Such are the challenges of life, and those situations in which it feels like, to paraphrase Psalm 139, it feels like the darkness is closing in around us, and the light seems to be rapidly

disappearing. And one of the most difficult lessons I have had to learn as a parent is the realization that I will not always be there to protect my children or to fix things for them.

Thankfully, our faith does not leave us stranded when the way forward is difficult or impossible to see. Psalm 139, in a uniquely powerful, honest, and beautiful way assures us that even when we cannot see the way forward, God can. "Even the darkness is not dark to you; the night is as bright as the day, for darkness is as light to you." Even when crisis strikes—large or small, real or imagined—God is with us.

"You hem me in, behind and before, and lay your hand upon me. Such knowledge is too wonderful for me; it is so high that I cannot attain it....I praise you, for I am fearfully and wonderfully made." (Psalm 139: 5-6, 14)

Each of us is, indeed, fearfully and wonderfully made in the image of the Creator, and loved and cherished by that same God. It is important to remember that when we are in crisis, and when those we love are in crisis, and to cling to that assurance in faith, even when we don't feel it.

"The Savior has come," a friend once told me.

"You are not him."

Thanks be to God for both of those reminders!

—Pastor John—

~ ~ ~ ~ ~

Me yelling at squirrels  
in the street to move  
so they don't die  
is probably the same feeling  
God has watching me live  
my life most days.



## SEPTEMBER BIRTHDAYS



Jaxson (Barbour) Moore	9/08
Dee Johnston	9/14
Kathy Martin	9/14
Clark Carpenter	9/24
Bobbie Smith	9/28

~ ~ ~ ~ ~

“The cruelest paradox of life is that an inordinate pursuit of happiness leads to misery.”

-Marc Foley

~ ~ ~ ~ ~

## Directory Additions/Changes

Please add the **DeBoer** family to your directory - **Dave, Leola, Emma and Sky**

Address: 15 Koshney Rd.  
St. Maries, ID 83861

Phone: (208) 245-7374  
(208) 255-0349 (Leola cell)

Email: [leolaatsea@gmail.com](mailto:leolaatsea@gmail.com) (Leola)

Birthdays:	Dave	10/04
	Leola	06/28
	Emma	12/28
	Sky	10/22

Anniversary: 05/24

### Maxine Hutchinson's new address

Maxine Hutchinson  
c/o Christine Davis (daughter)  
37380 CR 25  
Oxbow, NY 13671  
Phone Number: (352) 427-7726

### Gary & Miriam Foster Correction

Delete Home Phone Number  
Gary's cell number is (208) 691-5250

~ ~ ~ ~ ~



Candle Lighters needed to light candles before worship. Sign-up at the bulletin board.

We will be holding our annual 41st Bazaar on December 2, the first Friday of the month. It may be challenging with



Covid 19 and it's "variants" still around but we'll do it! I know you all love this church as much as I do, and that love will bring us a very successful Bazaar! We will have our first planning meeting in the latter half of September. More information on that will be coming soon. All who would like to participate can join the committee anytime. The Country Kitchen, the Sweet Shoppe, the Christmas Nook, the Silent Auction, the Raffle all need volunteers to step up! Men and women are welcome.

Penny  
Bazaar Comm Chairman

~ ~ ~ ~ ~

## GRACE

Part 2  
Grace to You  
By Ethan Raath  
(PCUSA.ORG)

### Justifying grace — God's saving love

The God who pursues us is also the God who saves us. Covenant grace is the work of God calling us into a relationship prior to the moment of salvation. Justifying grace is the work of God at the moment of salvation.

To justify means to put right, to vindicate. When we feel we have been wrongfully accused, we may try to "justify our actions." We want to set the record straight, to put things right.

We experience justifying grace when we are restored to a right relationship with God. This does not happen by our own effort, but through God's favor revealed in Jesus Christ, in the death of Christ on the cross. Scripture reminds us of the total inability of humankind to prove acceptable to God. In the Old Testament we read about repeated rituals of atonement for sin and attempts

to keep the Law of God by following religious custom and teachings. But human effort was never enough.

The prophet Isaiah declared: "All we like sheep have gone astray; we have all turned to our own way, and the Lord has laid on him the iniquity of us all" (53:6). And the Apostle Paul says the Law simply made people more aware of sin and of the powerlessness of human effort to remain sinless (Romans 7:7-13).

We are justified, or brought into a right relationship with God, through the grace of a loving God. Because of God's love for us, Jesus Christ took sin upon himself—became the full and final sacrifice for the sins of the world. We are saved by God's justifying grace.

*Jesus was crucified,  
suffering the depths of human pain  
and giving his life for the sins of the world.  
God raised this Jesus from the dead,  
vindicating his sinless life,  
breaking the power of sin and evil,  
delivering us from death to life eternal.*  
— A Brief Statement of Faith

This saving grace is powerfully expressed in the simple, familiar statement of John 3:16: "For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but may have eternal life."

A friend of mine, a very committed Christian, lives his faith every day. He is faithful to the church through good times and bad. He goes to the church every morning to have his devotions alone before he goes to work, and each Wednesday morning he stops work in his small manufacturing plant to share a time of worship with his workers. They are like a family, bringing their needs and concerns before the group to be prayed for and to be supported in practical ways.

But for all the evidence of my friend's faith, he still struggles with the question of his own worthiness before God. His worship and service is as much an attempt to keep earning God's favor as it is a genuine expression of love for his Lord and Savior. "Stop trying to earn God's favor by your own efforts," I tell him. "God loves you. Just rest in the

grace of the Lord."

It is God in Christ who does the transforming work of salvation. We cannot do it. "By grace you have been saved through faith, and this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God — not the result of works, so that no one may boast" (Ephesians 2:8-9).

In faith and trust we respond to the relationship of love that God offers to us. But even that faith is not ours, it is the gift of God, Paul said, so that no one can boast of having earned God's favor. God does it all. That is why we call it "amazing grace."

It was the reality of justifying grace that gave birth to the Protestant Reformation, the foundation of so much that we believe as Presbyterians. The Reformers recognized that no religious practices could earn salvation for anyone. God offers a covenant relationship of love in Jesus Christ, which we receive by God's gift of faith.

But aren't we supposed to please God by the way we live our lives and practice our faith? Yes, but not in order to earn God's favor. We are the products of God's handiwork, "created in Christ Jesus for good works" (Ephesians 2:10). The life of faith and the good we do are a loving response to God's love for us. This response is the product of sanctifying grace.

~ ~ ~ ~ ~

## **Pastor Nominating Committee (PNC) Update as of August 24, 2022**

### **Recap:**

Since the PNC received initial orientation on February 27th the Committee has met 23 plus times.

First tasks were the completion of the Church Mission Statement and Ministry Information Form (MIF). In April the MIF was approved by Session and the Committee On Ministry (COM) and submitted to the Church Leadership Connection (CLC). The CLC does a computer match of Leadership Competencies list on our MIF and on the Pastor Information Forms (PIF). This gave the PNC a list of 25 PIFs to review. Also, the PNC received 4 self referral PIFs.

Below is a breakdown of the **29** PIF's that were made available to the PNC:

6 Candidates had accepted a call; were not interested or withdrew PIF from consideration.

7 Candidates did not reply to emails and/or return phone calls to confirm interest in St. Maries or the request for additional information.

16 PIFs reviewed and evaluated by committee.

8 Non Fit

6 Evaluated, watched sermons. Moved to no further consideration.

1 On hold. Most likely will move to no further consideration.

1 Held a preliminary Zoom interview with a candidate on August 18<sup>th</sup>.

August 4th the PNC requested that CLC do a rematch and send a new list of candidates. The new list had 28 PIF's. Of the 28 listed the Committee had taken some type of action on 22. That left 6 new PIF's for review. Emails were sent to all 6 candidates to confirm interest in the SM position. As of Wednesday, August 24th, 2 of the candidates are no longer available and 4 candidates did not reply to the emails sent out on August 14th and 18<sup>th</sup>.

**Frustrations:** The number of candidates that do not respond to emails or phone calls.

**Big Issue:** Supply & Demand: There are far more open positions than there are candidates to fill the openings. Churches and Presbyteries are not sponsoring students to go to seminary. Many of the new graduates from seminary are not taking jobs in churches. They are taking positions with non-profits, going to the mission field or other christian related organizations. The PNC did not receive one PIF from a recent seminary graduate.

Please continue to pray for the PNC and the future pastor for our church.

– Submitted by: Bill Cowin, PNC Chair

~ ~ ~ ~ ~

### *September*

"By all these lovely tokens  
September days are here,  
With summer's best of weather  
And autumn's best of cheer."

– Helen Hunt Jackson,  
1830-1885

~ ~ ~ ~ ~



~ ~ ~ ~ ~

"God's coming in Jesus shows us that God is willing to enter into our messiness, into our suffering, alienation, and pain in order to restore, renew, and reconcile us. Though God has not caused our suffering, God redeems it, transforms it, and recreates it so that we can become more like Jesus - more filled with hope, more able to be agents of God's reconciling power, no matter what season we are in, no matter what season the world is in."

– Juan Carlos Huertas

~ ~ ~ ~ ~

God,  
Keep my anger from becoming meanness.  
Keep my sorrow from collapsing into self-pity.  
Keep my heart soft enough to keep breaking.  
Keep my anger turned towards justice, not cruelty,  
Remind me that all of this, every bit of it, is for love.  
Keep me fiercely kind.  
Amen

– Laura Jean Truman

The Compassion Child still needs a Birthday volunteer! Step up and sign up.

## APOLOGIES

The June Bible Word Search list was minus the word "Bewildered." Made the solution a little tricky, didn't it? My apologies.

– Sandy

~ ~ ~ ~ ~

I've sure gotten old! I have outlived my feet and my teeth

I've had two bypass surgeries, a hip replacement, new knees, fought prostate cancer and diabetes

I'm half blind, can't hear anything quieter than a jet engine,

Take 40 different medications that make me dizzy, winded, and subject to blackouts.

Have bouts with dementia.

Have poor circulation; hardly feel my hands and feet anymore.

Can't remember if I'm 85 or 92.

Have lost all my friends. But, thank God,

I still have my Idaho driver's license.

Contributed by Marjorie Martin

~ ~ ~ ~ ~

**WE ARE GOD'S CHILDREN** The "Team Up for God" after school program for kids grades K-6<sup>th</sup> begins September 28<sup>th</sup>. If you'd like to be a part of this program, please let Jen Miller, Kay Cowin, or Sharon Armstrong know.



~ ~ ~ ~ ~

Potlucks resume Sunday, September 18 (after church, of course).



~ ~ ~ ~ ~



The psalm says make a joyful noise. It does not say you have to sing on key or be able to harmonize. The choir needs you! Practice is Sunday mornings at 9 p.m.

**AND** remember



~ ~ ~ ~ ~

Please sign up to provide goodies for coffee hour. Share in the fun!



~ ~ ~ ~ ~

We need people to read Scripture during worship. It's painless! Sign up sheet is on bulletin board.

And the sanctuary flowers? We need them, too. Celebrate milestones by signing up.

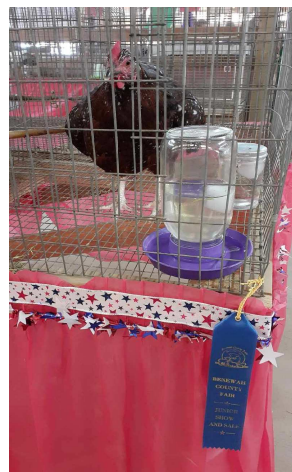
# OUR TALENTED YOUNG PEOPLE'S SHOWING AT THE 2022 BENEWAH COUNTY FAIR



**Emma DeBoer** Grand Champion - Crocheting  
Blue Ribbon - Creative Writing



**Nisha Banjao** Grand Champion - Cooking  
Blue Ribbon - Cake Decorating



**Sky DeBoer**  
Reserve Grand Champion - Creative Writing  
Blue Ribbon Hen, Selvie

So proud of Sky for taking the leap and showing Selvie.

**Adysen Osborn** (picture unavailable)  
Grand Champion - Open Poultry Class  
Blue Ribbon - Market Chicken \$300 at auction  
Blue Ribbon - Family Flock Chicken  
Blue Ribbon - Pet Rabbit

## BIBLE WORD SEARCH - EPHESIANS 5

S	R	E	T	A	L	O	D	I	C	T	O	M	G	K
S	K	I	D	E	R	T	A	H	O	N	D	N	I	L
E	G	N	I	R	E	F	F	O	V	E	O	N	M	A
L	R	H	A	S	M	O	T	H	E	R	G	O	W	T
E	A	E	D	H	R	N	C	R	T	D	F	I	A	Y
M	F	R	H	M	T	E	G	S	O	L	O	T	L	L
A	I	I	M	T	Y	F	S	M	U	I	L	C	K	L
L	L	T	Y	O	A	T	O	A	S	H	L	U	I	I
B	T	A	S	E	R	F	I	G	E	C	I	R	N	S
R	H	N	T	E	C	O	A	R	N	L	W	T	L	W
O	I	C	E	H	B	I	F	R	U	I	P	S	O	I
N	N	E	R	E	N	A	V	G	O	P	V	N	V	F
O	E	I	Y	T	I	L	A	R	O	M	M	I	E	E
H	S	A	C	R	I	F	I	C	E	D	A	I	G	M
T	S	R	O	T	A	T	I	M	I	S	L	A	V	E

All the words are in the puzzle - left, right, down or diagonally. Find each word and circle its first and last letter, drawing a line between. After you have found all the words, take the leftover letters in the correct order to form the mystery answer.

- |              |              |                   |                  |
|--------------|--------------|-------------------|------------------|
| ARMOR OF GOD | AROMA        | BLAMELESS         | CHILDREN         |
| COVETOUS     | FATHER       | FILTHINESS        | GIVING OF THANKS |
| GREED        | HATRED       | HONOR             | IDOLATER         |
| IMITATORS    | IMMORALITY   | IMPURITY          | INHERITANCE      |
| INSTRUCTION  | MEN PLEASERS | MOTHER            | MYSTERY          |
| OBEY         | OFFERING     | SACRIFICE         | SERVICE          |
| SILLY TALK   | SLAVE        | STRONG            | WALK IN LOVE     |
| WIFE         | WILL OF GOD  | KINGDOM OF CHRIST |                  |

\_\_\_\_\_

**July - August answer - LIKE A GAZELLE**

# COLORING PAGE

