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A publication of Westfield Presbyterian Church, New Castle, PA

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# Meals Return in March

The Deacons have considered the dark evenings, possible snow, limited parking and busy highway and have canceled the January and February Free Community Meal. We do not want to put our guests and trustees at risk. The next free meal will hopefully be in March.

## Young Life: Loving Kids

<u>Young Life</u> is a relational outreach ministry focused on introducing adolescents to Jesus Christ and helping them grow in their faith. Since 2017, volunteer leaders have been going to where kids are and loving them with the gospel.

Learn about the work God is doing in and through this organization—a mission in our neighborhoods in Lawrence County—by attending their fundraising banquet on March 14 from 6-8 P.M. at City Church in New Castle.

You can RSVP by calling Jackson Miller at 724-651-8031 by March 1.



Westfield Church supports Young Life Lawrence County through our mission giving. Take advantage of this great opportunity to learn more about the way Young Life is transforming lives.

# Annual Missions Garage Sale by Deborah Replogle

It is time to collect for the missions garage sale. It will be Memorial Day weekend, Friday and Saturday, May 24 and 25. You can leave donations in front of my garage by the white bench. A trailer is available if you have a larger amount to bring. Please, no upholstered furniture or TVs.

There is always a need for people to work the checkout table. If you are comfortable with numbers or a calculator, and enjoy talking to a lot of people, your help would be greatly appreciated.

All monies from this sale go towards a wide selection of missions. The list includes <u>Samaritan's Purse shoe boxes</u>, <u>Love Packages</u> (where your donated bibles go), <u>LATCOM</u>, our missionaries, <u>Young Life</u>, a house fire family, <u>Promise of Life Network</u>, <u>Scleroderma</u>, <u>East Palestine help fund</u>, sock/mitten tree, City

Rescue Mission socks, Seneca Hills, St. Jude, Shoes for Mohawk, Amelia's Closet, Mohawk's Warrior P.R.I.D.E. Program, and Samaritan's Purse Wounded Warriors.

If you have questions, contact me: Deborah Replogle, bpeep3@gmail.com, 843-822-7828, or see me at church.







Margie Benson Carriage Manor

Janet Davis at her residence

Bonnie Ernst Masternick Memorial

Ann Fox at her residence

Bob Kenny at his residence

Eileen Mateer The Grove, New Castle

**Hazel Pence**Quality of Life Services,
New Castle

## **Running On Empty?**

## Find Encouragement in the Book of Hebrews by Pastor Bobby

Have you ever felt like you're running on empty? Like the Christian life is a marathon, and you're just barely keeping up? If so, you're not alone. Many believers struggle with discouragement, doubt, and the feeling that they're just not cut out for this journey.

But there's good news! The book of Hebrews is a powerful letter written to encourage just those kinds of believers. It's a message of hope and perseverance, reminding us that we don't have to run this race alone.

### Why Study Hebrews Now?

In today's world, where faith is often challenged and tested, the book of Hebrews is more relevant than ever. It offers:

- Solid Grounding in the Basics:
   Hebrews reminds us of the core truths of the Christian faith, such as the supremacy of Christ, the sufficiency of his sacrifice, and the hope of eternal life.
- Encouragement for the Weary: The book is full of practical advice for living the Christian life, even when it's tough. It offers words of comfort and hope for those who are struggling.
- A Challenge to Grow: Hebrews doesn't sugarcoat the challenges of following Christ. It calls us to mature in our faith and to press on toward the goal.

In this study, we'll:

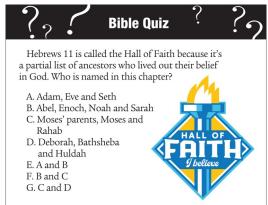
- Dive deep into the rich theology of Hebrews
- Discuss practical ways to apply its teachings to our lives

Encourage and support one another in our faith walk

In addition to the benefits above, here are a few other reasons why studying Hebrews is important:

- It helps us to appreciate the Old Testament sacrificial system and how it points to Christ.
- It teaches us about the priesthood of Christ and how he is our great High Priest
- It warns us about the dangers of apostasy and the importance of perseverance.
- It gives us hope for the future and the promise of eternal life.

So if you're looking for a challenging and rewarding Bible study, I encourage you to join us as we explore the book of Hebrews. If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to contact me.



Answer: F

### **Food Donations Needed**

During February and March please shop for the following items for Project HOPE:

Canned soup, crackers

Items always needed include coffee, juice, laundry soap, dish soap and cereal. Please leave your items in the labeled bins in the east coat rack.



# Family Bible Reading Schedule by Jennifer Griffith, Director of Children & Family Ministries

You know by now that the kids have been traveling through the Bible in a 3-year scope and sequence curriculum in Sunday School (The Gospel Project for Kids.) The goal for having all the kids on the same schedule is that families can learn the same lesson each week. Another way to encourage that is by reading at home. Below is the reading schedule for the next three months. I know some of us have started new Bible plans for the new year and this would be in addition to that, but I promise you that it's worth the time and investment. Plus, this is weekly reading, so it's different. The dates listed are the Sunday that we will be learning them, so you might find it beneficial to read the scripture before as an introduction, or read it after as a review.

February 4 – Matthew 15; Mark 8

February 11 – John 14

February 18 – Matthew 5

February 25 – Matthew 6

March 3 – Luke 15

March 10 – Matthew 13

March 17 – Matthew 22; Luke 14

April 7 – Luke 13

April 14 – John 11-12

April 21 – Ephesians 6

Coming in 2024!

Family Discipleship 101 – a seminar for families on how to talk about faith at home in a way that builds relationships with each other and God.



## **God-Shaped Hole**

Have you ever neared the completion of a jigsaw puzzle, only to discover that a piece or two is missing? That's an apt visual for what it's like to live without God. Blaise Pascal, a 17<sup>th</sup>-century philosopher, observed: "There is a God-shaped vacuum in the heart of each man which cannot be satisfied by any created thing but only by God the Creator, made known through Jesus Christ."

Centuries earlier, St. Augustine proclaimed "Thou hast made us for thyself, O Lord, and our hearts are restless until they find their rest in thee." And in the Old Testament, the writer of Ecclesiastes expounded on the meaninglessness of earthly striving and material pursuits. Only God's Spirit can fill our emptiness and satisfy our eternal longings.

"I have come that they may have life,

and have it to the full," says Jesus in John 10:10 (NIV). He alone provides the solution for emptiness. What comfort to be filled with — and to find our fulfillment in — our Sayior!





## A Prayer for Lent

Dear Christ, hasten to me. Release me from my sins. Free my arms from the chains of evil, that I may embrace you. Lift the scales of ignorance from my eyes that I may see you. Why do you delay? What are you waiting for? You are my God and my Lord, you are my refuge and strength, you are my glory and my hope. In you I put my trust. Dear Christ, hasten to me.

—Aelred of Rievaulx (12<sup>th</sup> century)

### **Sewing Day Planned**

Blankets for Babies Sewing Day is Saturday, February 24, from 9:30 to 3:00.

Come for the whole day or just an hour or two to make quilts for the Nurse/Family Partnership in New Castle. Soup and snacks will be provided. Please bring your own sandwich.

We have jobs for experienced and novice sewers including cutting, pressing, tying and folding. Machine sewers, please bring your own machine.



# **Hear His Word**by Jessie Yauch, Director of Senior Adult Ministries

Here we are once again in February. Time just flies by us so quickly! Some of us were stressed at Christmas with rushing around and after it's all done, we feel disappointed and let down that it's all over. The cold weather can be gloomy and depressing for a lot of us.

I suggest you cozy up to the Bible and spend time with Jesus and let the Holy Spirit guide your time. Start where Pastor Bobby will be preaching on February 4 "Loving Our Comfortable Neighbors" Matthew 12:44-50, Acts 2:42-47. This will be part of our WOW time discussion at the February 1 JOY meeting.

I'm hoping this year we have more discussions on what we are finding out about the Bible, and how every word can mean something different every time you read it. We will also be playing some games, a project for Acts of Kindness, and crafts.

I'm hopeful that 2024 will be a wonderful year for our JOY group and for new activities to be had. We welcome anyone 50+ years to see what we are all about—exercise at 11 am and lunch at noon followed by activities and fellowship.



# Reserve Your Spot for March 8-10 Man Camp is back at Seneca Hills!

This year's speaker is Chris Mathewson. He writes, "I am humbled for the chance to spend a weekend playing and worshipping with all of you as we examine the challenges we face as men...I will share the story of how God drew me out of the darkness of alcoholism and into the light of His love. God has designed us to be strong, courageous men, but that only happens when we are fully submitted to Jesus."

Use this weekend as an opportunity to grow in your faith and maybe introduce a brother in Christ to Jesus for the first time. All men 15 years of age and older are welcome.

Worship leader Brian Campbell desires to see heaven invade earth through the people of God. He has had the privilege of touring in both Europe, the United States, and New Zealand with bands like Jars of Clay, Sleeping at Last and others. Brian loves God's people and longs for the Church to step into the full identity of the perfect bride of Christ.

Weekend activities include paintball, shooting sports, great Chapel sessions and delicious food. Fee is \$135. Please inquire about available scholarships.

Visit <a href="https://senecahills.org/retreats/man-camp/">https://senecahills.org/retreats/man-camp/</a> to register.





- 2 Nicole Sperdute Claire Young
- 3 Heidi Shiderly
- 4 Isabella Breuer Alexander Osman Kasen Trotter
- 6 Linnea Byers Ed Clark
- 8 Kathleen Jolley

- 9 Wes Stoner
- 10 Janet Davis
  Hayley Koty
  Ava Ernst
  Julia McConahy
  - David Spieker
- 12 Robert Elder Gwen Harman Dillon Waller

- 13 Sue McCurley
- 14 Jill Trotter
- 15 Gerald Guido
- 18 Erik Stewart
- 19 Ben Breuer
- 21 Andrew Liggett
- 25 Joshua Good
- 26 Justin Young
- 28 Jean Workman



- 8 Michelene & Tom Dickson—60 years!
- 12 Lee Ann & Rick Martin
- 22 Mimi & David Gettemy