

MAY 2023

The CORNERSTONE

What's INSIDE

- 2 Pastor Bobby
- 2 Special Friends
- 3 Kids & Families
- 4 Adopt-a-Highway
- 4 JOY (Senior Ministry)
- 5 YO! (Youth Ministry)
- 6 Pentecost Geraniums
- 6 From the Archives

A publication of Westfield Presbyterian Church - An ECO Congregation

Celebrating Our Graduates

Graduation Sunday at Westfield is May 21. All our high school and post-high graduates will be recognized during worship at 11 A.M. and celebrated during Coffee & Conversation.

The Cornerstone would like to feature each of our graduates in upcoming issues. Please send a photo and paragraph about your accomplishments and future plans to the church office by **May 7:** office@westfieldchurch.org.

A Baccalaureate service for Mohawk graduates will be held at the High School at 6 P.M. on May 21. Featured speaker is John Paul Robbins, Episcopal Priest and 1999 Mohawk graduate. Please join our community in praying for our students.



New Cookbook in the Works by Phyllis McCullough

Everyone loves a good recipe and Westfield cooks are known for some great ones! It's been 20 years since our last collection was printed so it's time to create a new, updated version. You are encouraged to submit your recipes for your favorite soups, salads, appetizers, main dishes, desserts, breads & muffins, or anything else you'd like to share! We would love to include some diabetic and gluten free recipes as well. The more recipes we collect, the better variety we will be able to publish.

You can submit your recipes in two different ways. First, you can do everything online at www.typensave.com

The username is Westfield and the password is pudding492. If you prefer to write out your recipe, please pick up a form by the box in the Narthex area and place it in the box provided. Please be sure to include all ingredients and directions. When submitting in writing, please print neatly. If you have a favorite recipe from our previous cookbook, please submit it online or place the name of the recipe and the page # in the box provided and we will copy it for you.

We will collect recipes during the month of May. You are encouraged to submit multiple recipes in a variety of categories. Feel free to include a line or two if your recipe has a special story behind it or you have a helpful hint.

Remember, cookbooks make great gifts! More information on ordering will be coming once we get all the recipes compiled.

If you have any questions, please contact me at psmudder@yahoo.com or at 724-651-6285.





Margie Benson
at Carriage Manor

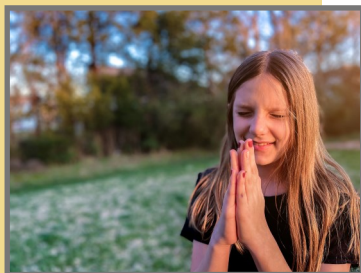
Hazel Pence
at *Quality of Life—New Castle*

Janet Davis
at her residence

Pearl Jolley
at her residence

Bob Kenny
at his residence

Mary Lou Trotter
at her residence



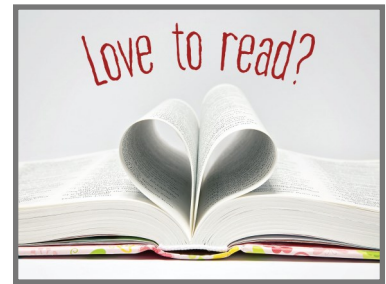
Book Recommendations

by Pastor Bobby Griffith, Jr.

Summer time will be here before we know it. It's weird to say that even though we are in the throes of spring! But, nicer weather means more time outside and maybe time outside to read. I have a few recommendations for summer reading.

In one of my emails, I recently recommended the book, [*Seculosity: How Career, Parenting, Technology, Food, Politics, and Romance Became Our New Religion and What to Do About It*](#) by David Zahl. I think this is a well-written, accessible book that helps us navigate some of the fast-paced and even burdensome issues we face today. Zahl approaches this from a grace-filled perspective that gives hope.

I also recognize sexuality is something people talk a lot about on the news. It is an issue that, it seems, folks want to make into a culture war. If you want a good, biblical easy read on current issues with respect to sexuality, Mark Yarhouse, who teaches at Wheaton, is someone I trust.



I love his book, [*Understanding Sexual Identity*](#) and read it to have a better connection with youth culture. He talks about all the "hot topics" without the charged rhetoric and applies the Bible well with his own expertise as a psychologist of human sexuality.

Tim Keller's [*Walking with God Through Pain and Suffering*](#) is always worth reading. Keller approaches the topic of pain and personal suffering with hope and a deep trust in Jesus. If you are going through a hard time, this book can help give you a good perspective from a Christian understanding.

Fixed Hours of Prayer

As summer approaches, you may look forward to a more relaxed routine. But don't discard all your good habits and commitments! For soul care, try fixed hours of prayer. Simply expand the concept of praying at set times (such as before meals and bed) into praying regularly each morning, midday and evening. Set an alarm on your watch or phone and commit to engaging with God at the specified times. You can do this on your own or with family or friends.

You can pray using Scripture verses, devotional guides, the [*Book of Common Prayer*](#) or a resource such as [*ExploreFaith.org*](#). (When I'm tired or overwhelmed, it's helpful to pray someone else's words.) You might want to pray the same prayers morning, noon and evening for a week or a month. This practice isn't meant to replace spontaneous prayers. Instead, use fixed hours of prayer to nurture a consistent habit of conversing with God.

—Janna Firestone

Bible Quiz

According to Peter, at what time of day did the Holy Spirit come upon the disciples on Pentecost?

- A. 9 A.M.
- B. Noon
- C. 3:30 P.M.
- D. 9 P.M.

Answer: A (See Acts 2:15.)



Kid Stuff

by Jennifer Griffith, Director of Children & Family Ministries

God Keeps His Promises

"Where is God?" God is in all places, at all times, and is always with His people.

That is our current big question and answer for this unit for Sunday School. Ask your kids, I'm sure they know it well!

If you visit the church nursery, you might hear a baby crying because they didn't want their mommy and daddy to leave. Even though parents promise they'll come back, the baby continues to look for and anticipate when the parents will return. When they do, the baby is overwhelmed with joy because they kept their promise.

This is an ongoing lesson throughout the Old Testament. The people of God often did not listen and continued to sin, so God allowed them to experience hard times, and they had to be patient. But God did not abandon his people. God kept His promise and saved them. And He promised to save us, through His son, Jesus. God always keeps His promises and we can know that His plans for us are good. We can ask Him to help us seek Him with all our heart and trust that He will do all that He promises.

I am so glad the kids were able to participate in the beautiful music compilation on Easter Sunday. They shook their instruments with enthusiasm and sang their little hearts out.

Stellar VBS is June 12-16

Use the QR code here to register now! Decorating Days start this month! If you want to be on the crew, please let me know.



Summer Serve and Wonderful Wednesdays

Be on the lookout for a form that will be distributed soon regarding how you can serve our kids over the summer. We give our hard-working Sunday School teachers the summer off, so we need you! Teachers are needed for our little kids (age 3-kindergarten) and elementary age kids (grades 1-6). We also need substitutes for our high school class.

Additionally, if you'd like to help with our midweek program, please contact Jennifer Griffith at 405-824-8992. Which means... Wonderful Wednesdays will be coming back in July! Stay tuned for more details.

You shouldn't go through life with a catcher's mitt on both hands; you need to be able to throw something back.

—Maya Angelou



Pray for America

The first Thursday of May each year is designated as a day for the people of our country to pray. Yes, there is separation of state and church in America, but religious people in our nation would never vote for the separation of America from God. This country surely will always remain, "one nation under God." Therefore we are right to set aside a day for national prayer — a day when we can beseech God's guidance regarding our nation's policies and actions, and pray for the general welfare of all citizens, especially for the helpless and those suffering injustices.



Life Immortal

At the end of May, Americans honor those who've died for our country — and remember all deceased loved ones. These times of reflection, often in cemeteries, can make us ponder our own mortality. Even some Christians may fear the unknown of death.

Yet because of our faith, followers of Jesus can aim to make productive use of whatever earthly time we have left. We know the grave isn't the end. Consider this poetic description of life everlasting from Henry Wadsworth Longfellow:

“Dust thou art, to dust returnest / was not spoken of the soul.”

To our death-defying, death-defeating God we pray: Eternal God, empower us to take hold of the eternal life to which Christ calls us, and to boldly testify of it to anyone who asks the reason for our hope. To the immortal King of the ages, who abolished death and brought life and immortality to light through the gospel, to him be honor, glory and dominion forever and ever. Amen.

Season of Possibility

by Jessie Yauch, Director of Senior Adult Ministries

“If you can?” said Jesus. “Everything is possible for one who believes.” (Mark 9:23)

During the Lent Self-Reflection Exercise, we learned how to meditate in prayer and to see what God was and is doing in our lives. We learned that during times of loneliness and adversity God was working those situations into a lesson that turned into blessings. He showed us firsthand how his grace is upon us when we search and ask him for it.

Having just celebrated Easter and the coming of our Savior Jesus Christ, we find May upon us and a clear changing of the seasons. The word *may* is defined as: 1. To express possibility; 2. To express wish or prayer; 3. To express opportunity or permission. *May* also means yielding; submit. Just as winter submits to spring, submit yourself to God and his words. Let God lead your way to endless possibilities


and don't miss your season of opportunities.

At JOY we will continue the Wow Circle Time. It is such a great way for us to share our stories and stay connected. We also will be planning a collection of items for the Mission Team to take to Hannibal, Missouri.

More details to be announced. Thank you to all who donated snacks, baked goods, drinks and time to Coffee and Conversation on April 16. We will be hosting Coffee and Conversation again in May.

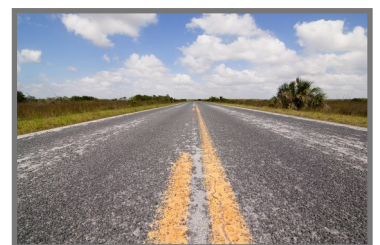
JOY (Just Older Youth) meets every Thursday and features exercise at 11 am, lunch at noon, followed by fellowship and activities. All 50 and over are welcome!

**BUT BY THE
GRACE
OF GOD
I AM WHAT I AM,
AND HIS
GRACE
TO ME WAS NOT
WITHOUT EFFECT.**
1 CORINTHIANS 15:10, NIV



Highway Clean-up Day

Join us in our upcoming road clean-up on Saturday, May 6. Bags and gloves will be provided. We will pick up trash between Beatty's Market and Tic Toc. Please meet at the church at 9 A.M. and participate in keeping our area beautiful. You must be at least 8 years old to participate and anyone under 17 must have parental permission. Rescheduled if it rains.



Youth News

by Jennifer Griffith

One day God will bring ultimate freedom, healing, and restoration to His people. That was the main point in a recent Sunday school lesson from Jeremiah. Things were awful in Jerusalem and God’s people were sent into exile. It might have seemed like this low point was the end of their story, but beyond the destruction, embarrassment, and shame, God provided hope. The question was asked in class, “What is one tough situation you’ve faced recently? And why is it sometimes hard for us to believe things will get better??” This is where restoration comes in. When God restores us, He doesn’t bring us back to the best version of what we were in the past, He makes us better than ever! Our world can feel pretty wrecked and beyond repair sometimes, but God promises restoration for everything – a new heaven and new earth where we will dwell with Him forever. That is very good news!

In April, the Brenners organized a bowling outing for YO! and the 13 of us that went had a lot of fun. Turns out that Heather is a good bowler! In addition to bowling nearly 3 games, we played bowling Bingo which involved rolling the ball backwards, through our legs, and throwing gutter balls on purpose. (That came easier to some, more than others! Haha) Then we all had a late dinner at Coney’s where prizes were handed out. Do not ask me why my house smells of citrus all the time now!! Thank you, Brenners!

Plans are being made for the summer – look forward to meeting every other week for Bible study, pool parties, movie/mini golf/ice cream outings, and maybe more. There will be a parent/youth volunteer meeting later this month.



At MoCo in May

Marigolds for Mom

May 2,3,4 @ 6pm
weather permitting
A 1-hour hands-on marigold planting experience in the community garden
\$5, includes a smoothie

Get to Know MoCo Grows

May 6,11-1
Check out the garden, hear about future plans and how you can be a part of this community garden space

Java Jog!

May 29 @ 7:30am
10th annual Memorial Day
5K & 2 mile walk
\$25 to register

Mohawk Coffee House
Reaching out to our community
one cup at a time

Christian Symbol



TONGUES OF FIRE — Reminiscent of the Pentecost account in Acts 2 when “tongues of fire” rested on the disciples’ heads as the Holy Spirit birthed the church, images of flame symbolize the Spirit. Sometimes a tongue of fire is paired with a dove and set on a red background — other symbols of the Holy Spirit. Fire may also indicate spiritual fervor and zeal in a Christian’s life.



Jokes Only a Mother Could Love

Why is a computer so smart?
It listens to its motherboard.

Why did you chop the joke book in half?
Mom said to cut the comedy.

Why do mother kangaroos hate rainy days?
Because their kids have to play inside!

What did the mother rope say to her child?
"Don't be knotty."

Honor Your Mother

Anna Jarvis, the woman who first suggested a national day to honor mothers, had an incredible mother to honor. Her mom, Ann Reeves Jarvis (1832-1905), was a Sunday school teacher and activist who helped lower infant-mortality rates in Appalachia and promoted friendship among families of Civil War soldiers.

At a memorial service for her mother, Anna Jarvis distributed carnations — her mom's favorite flower — to attendees. Her idea to set apart one day each year for moms gained traction, and in 1914,

President Wilson proclaimed the second Sunday of May Mother's Day. It was customary by then to wear white carnations in honor of departed mothers and red carnations to honor the living.

Of the white flowers, Jarvis said they "symbolize the truth, purity and broad-charity of mother love; its fragrance, her memory, and her prayers. The carnation does not drop its petals, but hugs them to its heart as it dies, and so, too, mothers hug their children to their hearts, their mother love never dying."

From the archives

How Much is Your Pew Worth?

Originally appearing in a special Bicentennial issue of The Cornerstone in 2003, this bit of Westfield history was written by Don Fox.

Church records as early as 1848 show that the pews were rented as a means of raising the necessary funds to pay the minister.

At the annual meeting in 1873, just a few days after our present sanctuary was dedicated, a motion was made to sell the pews the next Thursday. The Deacons were instructed to put prices on the 80 pews that would total \$1500. Apparently some were considered more valuable than others.

First the Pastor, Rev. Taylor, was to select a pew for his own use, then the rest were to be sold to the highest bidder, but none below the minimum price put on them. A Mr. N. D. White was elected "crier" for the auction. Seventy-one were sold for a total of \$1,449.

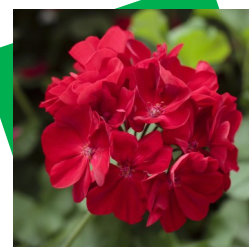
The money so raised was to pay the Pastor and the sexton, so after the meeting the "keeping of the house" was sold to the lowest bidder. Mr. White won that job, bidding to be sexton for the next year for \$114.

Each year thereafter the owners of the pews paid rent on them. And there was a collector appointed annually to collect that rent! I assume there was a method of reselling them as people came and went over the years. Pew rental continued into the twentieth century. After rental was discontinued, families still had assigned pews. Later, no official assignments were made but generations of families continued to sit in their customary seats. In the 1950's a motion was passed specifically declaring that no seats were assigned to anyone. But nobody had to move, and few did.

Only with remodeling and new pews in 1975 did change really occur. I bought the pew my family had used for more than 50 years and took it home.

Geraniums for Pentecost

Pentecost Sunday will be observed on May 28. As part of the celebration we will share in the sacrament of Holy Communion at one 11 A.M. service, our chancel will have red cloths and you are encouraged to wear red clothing. We will decorate the sanctuary with red geraniums. If you would like to purchase a geranium, please see the order form in the bulletin or contact the church office. Plants are in a 4-inch pot and are \$2.50 each. Orders are due by May 21.





- 6 Heather & Eric Brenner
- 12 Tammi & Parke Harman
- 13 Angela & Mark Hogue
- 16 Joann & Tom Drane
Taylor & Nick Osman
- 18 Michelle & Brian Kerr
- 20 Mandi & Mike McBride
- 21 Bonnie & Evan Ernst
- 23 Evelyn & James Boots
- 24 Amy & David Juang
Cyndee & Rich Patton
- 25 Kay & Wendell Harman
Diane & Andy Shillingburg
- 26 Joelene & Jim Bingham
- 28 Leilani & Jeremiah Shillingburg
- 29 Marian & Greg Spieker
Abby & Andrew Stambul

- 1 Rev. Bobby Griffith
- 2 John Long
Natalie McBride
Alexander Scott
- 3 Cara Itle
- 4 Jennifer Downs
Dennis Raines
- 6 Huxin Burkett
- 8 James McDowell
- 9 Nicholas Wigg
- 10 Rachel Sellers
Hannah Koty
- 12 Jim Boots
Bob Hammond
- 14 Evan Bracken
- 16 Doug Rossi
Cyrus Jones
- 17 Jayde Harman
Bob Kenny
Ashley Rossi-Hopper
- 21 Grace Byers
- 22 David Clark
Lyle Hogue
- 23 Mark Hogue
- 24 Kristy Bailey
Megan McConahy
- 27 Eileen Mateer
Dessie Murberger
- 29 Paul Matsukas
- 31 Victoria Blakeman

