



VOL. XLIII NO. 5

MAY 2019

Tools for Bible Study

One of the questions I like to ask people is “Do you have a favorite Scripture verse or a favorite Bible story?” Those who answer “yes” often describe learning it in Sunday School or hearing it in church. But if I ask “when is the last time you read that verse or story in your personal devotions?” the answer is often “I don’t know.” For some reason, many people give up reading the Bible once they become adults. It’s as if they put the Bible away with Dr. Seuss and other childhood stories.

While there are many people who absolutely love to read God’s Word as part of their own spiritual practice, or enjoy studying the Bible with other Christians, many others simply aren’t interested. People sometimes tell me that they know they “should” read their Bible, but they don’t. Others only care to read certain favorite parts, the Psalms or the gospels for example. Even the busiest people who find time to read other books sometimes avoid the Bible. The reasons (excuses?) are many.

Have you ever found yourself saying one of the following about your own Bible reading, or lack of it?

It's too hard.

It's too confusing.

It's contradictory.

I'm not sure where to begin.

How is a collection of old stories relevant today?

And yet, we find these words spoken by Paul to Timothy as he taught him the importance of carrying on the work of mission and ministry. He said,

All scripture is inspired by God and is useful for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness, so that everyone who belongs to God may be proficient, equipped for every good work.

2 Timothy 3: 16-17

In the coming months we’ll look a little more in depth about what this means. In the meantime, when you hear the Scriptures read in worship, or in your own reading or devotions, perhaps you might think about how God’s Word does one or more of the things that Paul described. And then, offer a short prayer with the words we say together each week upon hearing the reading of God’s Word in church “Thanks be to God.”

May God bless the hearing and the reading of the Word,

—Rev. Deb

All scripture...

- is inspired by God
- and is useful
 - for teaching
 - for reproof
 - for correction
 - and for training in righteousness
- so that everyone who belongs to God
 - may be proficient
 - equipped for every good work.

Thanks be to God!

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Echoes of Easter

The Resurrection wasn't a "one-off"; it was a spark that lit a flame that continues burning even today, especially where people minister in the Risen One's name. One such outreach, Camp Noah, serves children traumatized by disaster. Nationwide, volunteers offer week-long experiences of kindness, love, listening and safety to kids who've recently survived a tornado, flood, hurricane, wildfire or shooting. Kids often open up for the first time to share their "storm stories" and begin a journey of healing.

Leaders at Camp Noah attest to God's power to bring joy out of sorrow, trust out of fear and life out of death. A boy who initially was aloof dances with another camper at the closing worship; kids who arrived with uncertain expressions leave with smiles and regained confidence. Mental health counselors are part of camp teams, and referrals are made to continue care afterward.

Resurrection often happens in steps, not overnight. But wherever "ordinary" daily ministry takes place in Christ's name, extraordinary echoes of the first Easter are evident.

—Heidi Mann

The living Word

Many know of teacher Annie Sullivan helping young Helen Keller break through barriers of blindness and deafness to discover language: how Sullivan placed one of Helen's hands under running water, spelling water in sign language over and over into the other. In Keller's words: "Suddenly I felt a misty consciousness as of something forgotten — a thrill of returning thought; and somehow the mystery of language was revealed to me. I knew that w-a-t-e-r meant the wonderful cool something that was flowing over my hand. That living word awakened my soul, gave it light, hope, joy, set it free."

God's living Word, working through the waters of baptism, also awakens us — to a life of faith anchored in God's unconditional love. Baptism revives in us a "misty consciousness" that we are safe in God and reveals "the mystery of language" that is prayer. In baptism, as water washes over our bodies, the living Word gives us light, hope, joy and true freedom.

Dear Christ, which part of your body would you have me be today, or this week: feet to walk with those in need, ears to hear another's story, eyes to see beauty in others? Show me what to do.

The Newsletter



Finance Update

Status of the Budget as of the End of March

	Income	Expenses
YTD Budgeted Amounts	\$38,119	\$40,313
YTD Amounts Received/Disbursed	\$38,183	\$38,776

Summary of the Major Income Lines as of the End of March

	2019 Budget	YTD Budget	YTD Actual
Current Year Pledges	\$118,476	\$29,619	\$30,780
Unpledged Offerings	\$ 8,000	\$ 2,000	\$ 1,373
Interest Income	\$ 14,000	\$ 3,500	\$ 3,944

Corned Beef Dinner

Net proceeds from the Corned Beef Dinner held March 16th are \$1,028.81.

Thank you to everyone who assisted in any way. Donations of food and cash, as well as all the time of many folks made this dinner a great success.

Those who attended enjoyed a delicious meal and wonderful fellowship.

—Anne Coughenour, for your Finance Committee



Thanks So Much!

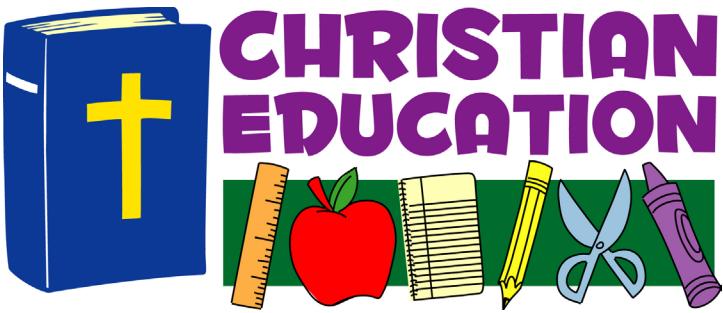
As many of you know, I had my head shaved to raise funds for the St. Baldrick's Foundation.

Thank you so much to those who made donations on my behalf. I truly appreciate your contributions to support research to find cures for childhood cancers.

By the Grace of God, I raised over \$700.00, exceeding my goal of \$250.00, for this worthy cause. I am overwhelmed!

Peace and Blessings to all.

—Anne Coughenour



I am not sure I ever quite get in sync with the church calendar. It seems I always started my school year in September and went from there. But then as we move past Thanksgiving into advent, the Christian year seems to kick into high gear. We go through Christmas, then the epiphany and the arrival of the Magi with the traditional New Year's celebration thrown in there too. By the time we regroup we are usually getting ready for Ash Wednesday, Lent and on through to Easter, with the arrival of spring and St. Patrick's Day thrown in for color. Phew... so what happens then?

Which of course brings us to the Weyer family. Now most of the !st United family know Barbara, a God fearing, wonderfully kind and considerate young lady I have been privileged to know for longer than either of us want to admit! But this is not about Barbara, it relates more to her oldest son, Harry. You see, after Easter, we go into what the church calls: 'Ordinary' time. And no, this is not to suggest that Harry is in anyway 'ordinary' - at all. But I was slogging through the book of Jeremiah in which he describes what will happen to Israel for the next 70 years of being taken and held as captives in Babylon. From there the Hebrews would be returned to the promised land and given a new chance at fulfilling their portion of the covenant with God.

The people were left to wonder what was to happen to them in the intervening days. With that in mind, I was contemplating the same, what should we be during this 'ordinary' time of ours on our church calendar. I was listening to the cd's that Barbara's son Harry made with his quartet of singers from his church in North Carolina (Gideon's Torch). That is when it hit me. It was so quick and obvious that I was almost taken aback. For the song that was playing is titled: "I have seen the light" and the line in the lyrics that was playing was the following:

"We must tell the world, what
we've seen today in Bethlehem".

Instead of us relaxing now that the Easter eggs have been found, and our holiday finery washed and put away, it is time for Christians everywhere to get busy and spread the good news. Our God is alive and well, even in these difficult times. Like the

people of Israel in the book of Jeremiah, we have not always done as our Lord has taught. We too have found ourselves separated from God in our thoughts and actions all too often. So we get a choice: we can wait until God's time is ready for us to come back, or we can repent and come back to our proper ways and try to make this time an 'extraordinary' time!

As I drive up James Street towards Kinne, I see the beauty of the trees budding and blooming. I am reminded of God's promise: just like spring and its glories always returning, God is always there, just waiting for us to return and continue in the loving presence our Lord provides. This is not 'ordinary' time; it is truly extraordinary. Just the right time to choose to follow our God and share how blessed that choice can prove. Amen and enjoy the spring - it is time indeed!!

—Dale Greabell, for the Christian Ed. Dept.

MAY meanderings

- 5 - communion
- 12 - Mother's Day
- 19 - flower planting, if possible and weather permitting
- 26 - Memorial Day weekend – no Christian Education classes

Joys of motherhood

- A hug for no reason.
- Belly laughs.
- The light-bulb moment when your child understands something you've been trying to teach them.
- Smiles and giggles.
- Mud pies.
- Arms raised in the air after a big accomplishment.
- Hearing Scripture and prayer from your child's lips.
- Quiet moments on the couch.
- Reading aloud together.
- A family meal filled with conversation and laughter.
- Watching your child be kind to another.
- Recognizing a moment you'd like to freeze in time.
- A child's look of surprise and joy.
- A quiet conversation that heals a wounded heart.
- The words "I love you" — and a sticky kiss.

—Unknown

Special dates

- National Day of Prayer, May 2, 2019
- Mother's Day, May 12, 2019
- Armed Forces Day, May 18, 2019
- Victoria Day (Canada), May 20, 2019
- Memorial Day, May 27, 2019
- Ascension, May 30, 2019



BIRTHDAYS & ANNIVERSARIES

In May

- 9. Fred Knowlton
- 10. Josiah Yakubu
- 13. Keith Ernst
- 15. Ryan Patrick Fox
- 21. Tom Sweeney,
Angela Somers
- 22. Jael Knowlton,
John O'Mara
- 23. Justin Matthew Gorman
- 25. David Lansing,
Diane Bova,
Lorna Harding (in memorium)
- 26. Victoria Fudak,
Daniel & Rev. Debra Thomas' anniversary
- 28. Griffin Evans,
Donna Metz,
Cyndi & Tom Sweeney's anniversary
- 29. Lorie (O'Donnell) Finger
- 30. Susan Spero,
David & Suzanne Green's anniversary
- 31. Gregory Rossi



Congratulations to Zachery and Mallory (Green) Burnham on the birth of Alexander Nolan on April 5th.

Proud grandparents are David and Suzanne Green.

Our congratulations to Brandon and Danica (Spero) Blincoe on the birth of Dahlia Elaine on April 13th.

Proud grandparents are Paul and Susan spero.

Prayer and Personal Concerns



In Hospitals, Nursing Homes, Assisted Living

Nancy Bregard – Morning Star Care Center - Oswego

Juanita Coleman – Elderwood – Diane Shafer's mother

At Home

Chuck Baker

Daniel Camp – friend of Christy Knowlton

Jean Troy & Debbie Kelly – Shancy Gorman's cousins

Betty Hickox – Lynn Jacques' mother

Chuck & Madeline Kieb – Horton family friends

Tim Krezmien – Nancy Miller's grandson

Mary Pat Lavigne – Chuck & Marsha Provo's daughter

Barbara Manley

Heather Miles – friend of the Provos

Mary Mol – Horton family friend

Christine Opera – Shancy Gorman's niece

John Novak

Mark Radley

Bob Stanton – Terri LaVergne's uncle

Judy Walters

Serving in the Armed Forces:

Tina Bearup - US Navy -Joan O'Donnell's niece

Bret Gratien - US Air Force – Dover AFB - grandson of Peggy & Ray Haynes

Jamie Jarmacz - US Air Force - Dick & Diana Law's son-in-law

Andrew Metz – California

Austin Miller – US Navy – Linda Graves grandson

Beth and Nate Roczen – US Army - Horton family friends

Eric Spero – US Navy

*Ryan Fox – studying in the Czech Republic

Please notify the office of any changes so this list may be kept current.

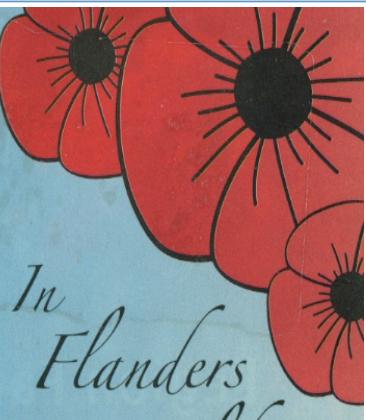


We've Lost a Friend

He was a long-time member and active for many years. He was on the Building Committee at the time of our merger.

Condolences may be sent to Joyce and the family at P. O. Box 86, East Syracuse, NY 13057.

Healing hospitality



In Flanders Fields

*In Flanders fields
the poppies blow
Between the crosses,
row on row,
That mark our place;
and in the sky
The larks,
still bravely singing, fly
Scarce heard
amid the guns below.*

*We are the Dead.
Short days ago
We lived, felt dawn,
saw sunset glow,
Loved and were loved
and now we lie,
In Flanders fields.

Take up our quarrel
with the foe:
To you from failing hands
we throw
The torch; be yours
to hold it high.
If ye break faith
with us who die
We shall not sleep,
though poppies grow
In Flanders fields.*



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The poem "In Flanders Fields" was written by Lt. Col. John McCrae in 1915.

Since that time, the poppy has come to be closely associated with our veterans.

I will be offering poppies in the Narthex on May 19th, the day after Armed Forces Day.

Thank you for your generous support of this program.

—Diane Bova

Repeated headlines about violence can make us "feel like locking our doors and never entering society again," writes pastor and author Max Lucado. After another mass shooting, he penned an online opinion piece that urged people to do the exact opposite by opening their doors, their hearts and their circles.

"It's no accident that hospitality and hospital come from the same Latin word," Lucado writes, "for they both lead to the same result: healing. When you open your door to someone, you are sending this message: 'You matter.'"

Because daily life is filled with rejections, extending an invitation — even to a simple meal — can be life-altering, Lucado contends. What you think is a messy house might be a sanctuary to someone else, "and to those who eat alone every night, pork and beans on paper plates tastes like filet mignon." Our kitchen tables are "God's secret weapons in the war on fear," Lucado says. "We never know what one meal will do."

Puzz[e]!

Search for words found in Romans 8.

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

Abba	elect	Jesus	adoption
family	justifies	angels	firstborn
Lord	bondage	flesh	love
called	freedom	peace	Christ
fruits	powers	condemnation	glorified
predestined	conquerors	good	purpose
creation	hardship	redemption	decay
died	intercedes	Spirit	heart

May 2019

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		Pastor Deb will be on Study Leave the week of May 13th, and on vacation Sunday, May 19 - Sunday, May 26th. Rev. Ed Veaudry will be preaching both Sundays.				
5 Cinco de Mayo 10:00 AM Worship & Christian Ed. 2:00 PM Girl Scouts, (Lounge)	6	7 1:00 PM Red Cross Blood Drive (FH 'til 6)	8	9 5:30 PM Girl Scouts (FH)	10	11 12:30 PM Ladies Tea, Fashion Show & Silent Auction
12 10:00 AM Worship & Christian Ed.	13 7:00 PM Girl Scout Service Unit (Lounge)	14 6:30pm Parish Council – Lounge	15	16 5:30 PM Girl Scouts (FH) 6:30 PM Finance Comm. Mtg. (Lounge)	17	18 9:00 AM PEO Mtg. in FH 'til noon)
19 10:00 AM Worship & Christian Ed. 11:15 AM Sandwich Making 2:00 PM Girl Scouts, (Lounge) 3:00 PM Mission Comm. @ Onondaga Center	20	21	22	23 5:30 PM Girl Scouts (FH)	24	25
26 10:00 AM Worship & Christian Ed.	27	28	29	30 5:30 PM Girl Scouts (FH)	31	

First United Church of East Syracuse Events





HEART-SHAPED *breakfast*

Treat Mom with this yummy, beautiful yogurt parfait.

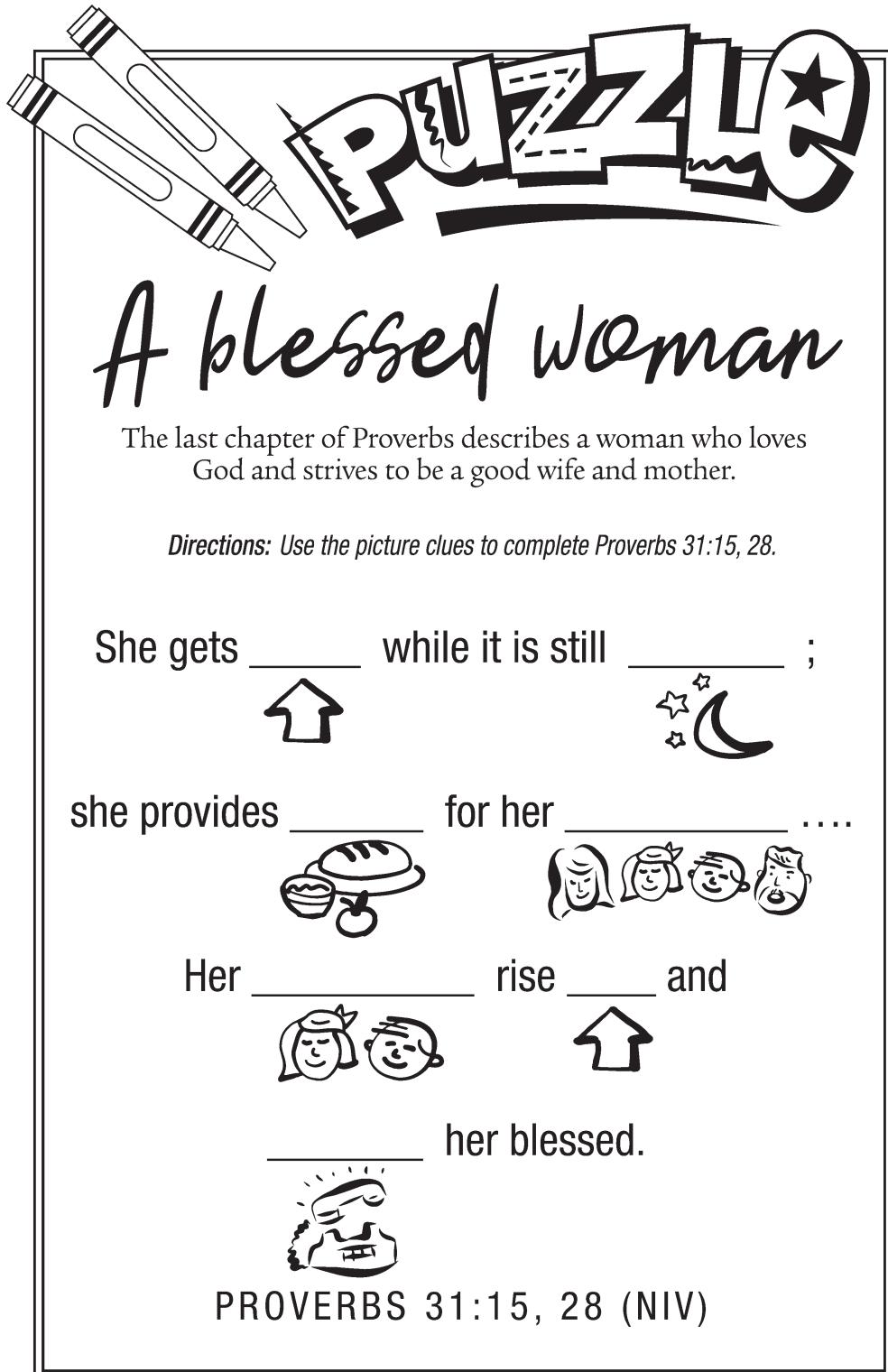


What you need:

- Large heart-shaped cookie cutter
 - Greek yogurt (any flavor)
 - Toppings (mini chocolate chips, granola, shredded coconut, chia seeds, oats, slivered almonds, blueberries, sliced strawberries, raspberries, bananas)
 - 2 teaspoons maple syrup

What you do:

1. Place cookie cutter on a plate. Spoon in yogurt, spreading it to the edges of the cookie cutter.
 2. Add toppings, making a nice design. Remove cookie cutter.
 3. Drizzle syrup around the edge of the plate.
 4. Serve to your mom on Mother's Day!



Answer: up, night, food, family, children, up, call

*First United Church of East Syracuse
823 Franklin Park Drive
East Syracuse, New York 13057*

A Ladies Tea and Christopher & Banks Fashion Show



was held on May 11th from 12:30 to 4PM.

Finger sandwiches, fruit, and dessert were served.

A Silent Auction also was held.

A special thank you to the ladies who hosted the tables. The decorations and place settings were spectacular! (see below)

Thanks also to the ladies who modeled the fashions provided by Christopher & Banks.

And thanks to all who prepared the food, decorated the room, and brought their friends and neighbors to another fabulous event at the First United Church of East Syracuse.

