



If you then, who are evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will the heavenly Father give the Holy Spirit to those who ask him!

Luke 11:13

I met Stacey when I was in third grade. She was our neighbor's niece, and although we went to different schools, we soon became good friends and had regular sleepovers at each other's homes. I especially loved when it was my turn to spend the night at Stacey's house. Stacey's family was very different from my own. While my family was small, quiet and reserved, hers was large, loud and boisterous. While I had just one younger brother at the time, Stacey was the fourth of six children. I had my own cozy bedroom. But Stacey shared a large bedroom with her two older sisters. While my mother was always home in the evening, Stacey's mom worked as a waitress at night.

Evenings in my house always included a sit-down dinner at the kitchen table, made by one or the other of my parents, usually my mother. In Stacey's house, the kids took turns making dinner for themselves which they ate in the finished basement that included a kitchen just for them.

Although I had a few chores that I was expected to do, Stacey and her siblings did all of the cooking, cleaning, laundry and yardwork. They followed a

rotating schedule of housework responsibilities for which they were paid, and often traded jobs and pay with one another. To an 8-year old observer, this seemed like high finance! Her older siblings even worked part time jobs after school to pay for their own clothes, dates, and activities which seemed to me like a very grown up thing to do. I simply did my assigned chores as told by my parents without negotiation and relied on them to provide for my needs.

I remember at one particular sleepover, it was Stacey's turn to clean up after lunch. I was happy to help so that we could get back to the very important business of playing with our Barbie dolls. We had just finished the dishes when we heard Stacey's mother calling her sister. "Joyce, I've got some friends coming over for coffee. Here's some money. Go take the kids out for ice cream and get them out of my hair." Woo-hoo! We were getting ice cream!

Joyce was the eldest of Stacey's sisters—a high school senior. She seemed very glamorous with her make-up, boyfriends, teenage authority. And she had her own car! Before I knew it we were piled in the back of Joyce's car with Stacey's younger brothers in the back and her other sister in the front with Joyce at the wheel. It was something I will never forget. Not because of the ice cream or the fun of going somewhere with no parent supervision, but because of the car. It was a bright orange, Camaro convertible. Very stylish back then in the 1960's. As I sat in the back seat with the wind blowing through my hair, I thought to myself "Someday

PUBLISHED MONTHLY BY THE FIRST UNITED CHURCH OF EAST SYRACUSE

PASTOR: REV. DEBRA L. THOMAS SECRETARY: LINDA HORTON

PHONE NUMBERS: CHURCH: 315-463-6833 FAX: 315-463-0612

COPY PREPARATION—LINDA HORTON, DEBRA THOMAS, DALE GREABELL, ANNE COUGHENOUR, RICH GREABELL & OTHERS
CONTACT PRODUCTION—BILL JACQUES, <WJACQUES@VERIZON.NET>

I'm going to be like Joyce, get a job and buy myself a convertible, just like this one."

I held onto that dream of owning a convertible for my whole life. You can imagine my excitement when I first dated Dan and discovered he drove his family's old Mustang convertible. You can also imagine my disappointment when, after we married and it was time to buy our first car together, he told me he didn't actually like convertibles and never intended to buy one. My heart sank. And yet, I held out hope that maybe he would change his mind or at least be supportive if at some point we could afford to buy a convertible just for me to use as a summer "fun" car, even if he didn't want to drive it himself.

I held out that hope for 37 years. Every time I would ask Dan about buying a convertible for me to use he would say "No." Aside from reasons involving expense and practicality, at its core, the discussion always centered around want vs. need. I wanted something that Dan saw no need to have.

In recent weeks, the lectionary passages for worship have had a theme of "want vs. need" and also persistence and patience. Jesus says, "Ask and you shall receive." Be persistent in prayer and God will answer. But that doesn't mean we always receive what we want. Yet, God will always provide for our needs.

So is wanting something we don't actually need wrong? This is a question I struggled with for 37 years.

Over those years, it brought many other questions to mind. Why would we be given desires, if we aren't meant to have them? Is it wrong to spend money on ourselves when there is so much need in the world? Are "luxury" items wasteful or a blessing for which we should be grateful? What constitutes a luxury—does that include vacations, a nice home, a summer camp, any item you have more than one of (shoes, jewelry, coats...)???

What motivates us to work? Is it simply to earn money to provide only for our needs and never to buy something we simply want? If we happen to be blessed with abundance, is it our duty to save it for a rainy day—or is that hoarding our treasures? Are we not meant to enjoy the blessings of the bounty with thanksgiving for what God has given to us? Is that selfish? Is this a "white privilege" issue and should I feel guilty about it? And let's not forget the question that plagues many married couples—how does this fit in with the Bible's teaching we are to submit to one another? Was I wrong to want something my husband did not? I

confess, I still struggle with all of these questions.

Three years ago Dan said to me, "I know you've wanted a convertible for a long time so if you can find a good used one at a reasonable cost, I think we could do that this summer." It was an unexpected answer to prayer and a reminder of both grace and love.

Grace is to receive an undeserved gift. My husband's love for me allowed him to see the desire of my heart, and made him willing to make it possible that I could have it. God's love for us gives us the desire of God's own heart—that is, God's desire to restore the relationship with humanity that was broken because of sin. God's grace gives us exactly what we need—the gift of forgiveness for sin and reconciliation with the One who loves us.

There's a saying "Good things come to those who wait." It comes loosely from Isaiah 40: 31: "Those who wait on the Lord shall renew their strength..." I waited a long time for the Lord to answer whether God would either take away my desire for a convertible, or cause Dan to have a change of heart. I was both patient and persistent. I had done a fair amount of asking, seeking, and knocking. I had waited for this "good thing" for many years. And now, every time I drive my convertible, I think of God's grace, my husband's love, my undeserved blessings in life, and I am grateful. To God be the glory!

Peace and grace to you in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ,

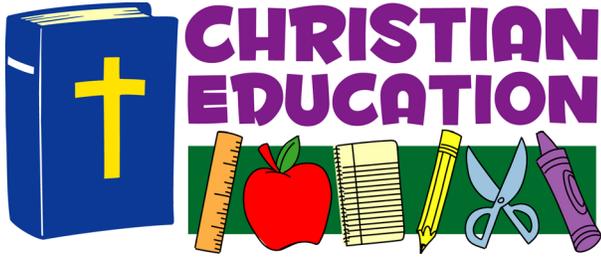
—Rev. Deb

FOOD COLLECTION

Please bring to church non-perishable food for our pantry. Please note dates on any items. Items with expired dates **cannot** be used.

A basket for donations is in the narthex every Sunday. Food will be used for our holiday basket distribution.





The good news is, I finished Ezekiel. After Isaiah, Jeremiah, and Ezekiel, I was looking for a more uplifting series of stories or parables. Enter Daniel. Instead of belaboring the failures of God’s chosen people over and over again (ad nauseum or ad infinitum - take your pick; although let’s be honest, too many people still don’t seem to change their ways), we now read in the Bible of some people of virtue. These stories in Daniel often became part of our cherished memories from early Christian Education classes, pastor sermons or camp reflections. In them we find Daniel and other exiles (didn’t you always love to try and say: Shadrach, Mischach and Abednego) refusing to accept fancy food and drink, promotions or all the acclaim and pleasures of the flesh that the Israelites were so often giving in to!

So there I was, at Aldi’s (product placement issues, I know; sorry) and the couple in front of me, with the adorable curly haired infant, were pricing items from their cart. At first I was annoyed because of the speed at which their things were being processed. But I saw the poor couple was being careful not to go over the limits of their budget. When they finished their \$\$\$\$ they still had several goods left in their cart but could not afford them. So looking for a chance to do some good in the world (I always thought the idea of PAY IT FORWARD sounded so cool) I coughed up the last couple of bucks for them.

It seems so simple and I am sure so many people do this on a regular basis, but it was such an incredible rush for me. I came home on an adrenaline high, just euphoric, having trouble catching my breath. This suggests to me that I am woefully out of shape, either physically or spiritually, if not both. We are told to care for our brothers and sisters, and most of us give that some nominal adherence. But it is not a one shot deal; it’s not I did it this in July so that should cover me for a week, or a month or whatever. That is what we are supposed to do on a regular basis; interpret the signs (like Daniel’s the writing on the wall if you will), brave the lions’ den of snares that today’s temptations bring, and then help others on their faith journey as well. Daniel helped Nebuchadnezzar, who will we help

today? tomorrow? and on again. If we do it so often, I doubt that it will beget that feeling I had at Aldi’s, but wouldn’t it be great to find out if it could? What a world this would be if we all attempted to help each other, not outdo them? As Micah says: *‘Do justice, love kindness and walk humbly with the Lord’*. It feels great and is so easy and who knows, maybe habit forming?

Enjoy August!

Peace,

—Dale H. Greabell for the Christian Education dept.

Grooving for God



Fifty years ago this summer, at the Woodstock Festival in upstate New York became a symbol of the countercultural movement, another groundswell was occurring: the Jesus Movement. In 1970, teenager Greg Laurie was baptized after a bunch of “Jesus freaks” introduced him to

the Savior. The lost kid whose mom had been divorced seven times finally felt part of a family.

Laurie, now pastor of a megachurch and author of *Jesus Revolution* (Baker Books), says the Millennial generation is ripe for another major faith movement. During a time of division and unrest that mirrors the late ’60s, people are longing for what’s “real” and relational, he writes. Our “weary, chaotic, selfe-saturated culture” needs “a big, ravishing, transcendent, and transformational vision of who God really is,” adds Laurie. “That’s what happened fifty years ago. It can happen again today.”

The Newsletter

Donate Your Old Glasses



Did you know that your old glasses can make a world of difference for someone in a developing country? Lions Club desperately needs your old glasses to continue their program of international optical missions.

There is a donation box located on the lower shelf of the table in the narthex.

“You can do what I cannot do. I can do what you cannot do. Together, we can do great things.”
—Mother Teresa



PARISH COUNCIL

The Parish Council met on July 16, 2019 and standard motions were approved.

Fairbanks Tree Service has cut down 7-9 dead trees on church property behind the garage and along the parking lot. Removal of the trees was not included in the quote. The trees have been left in the wooded area. The expense for this was paid from the Building Fund.

Pastor Deb will be on vacation August 11. Lynn Jacques will lead the Worship service that day.

Our church picnic on July 14th was well attended. 35 members gathered for food and fellowship.

The Memorials Committee is considering new Hymn Boards and to replace the tables/chairs in the Fellowship Hall.

Forty one names have been removed from our membership role. This will aid the church in paying the appropriate per capita to the Synod.

Presbyterian denominational representative, Lynn Jacques, reported that there is new Presbytery leadership that will be starting at the August Presbytery meeting.

Anne Coughenour, PC chair, reported that quotes are being obtained for a new phone system and handicap spaces off the front circle.

Rev Thomas is meeting with the Sunday morning adult class using the sermon scriptures as a guide. In the near future she will be starting a morning bible study that will meet at 11am. In the fall Pastor Deb would like to start a short after church children's program.

Our next meeting is September 10th.

Respectfully submitted,

—Lynn Jacques

Office Hours

Linda Horton will be in the office Monday, Wednesday and Thursday. Hours will vary due to physical therapy.

Messages may be left on the church answering machine (315-463-6833). **If you have a pastoral emergency please indicate that.**

Messages are picked up twice daily.

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

Kari Briggs - Sandy & Bob Briggs daughter

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

Shirley Venterea – Shancy Gorman's aunt

Judy Walters

Serving in the Armed Forces:

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

Bret Gratien – US Air Force – son-in-law of Cindy Jackson

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

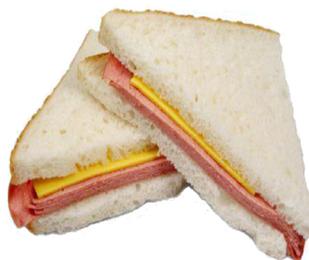
Eric Spero – US Navy

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

Sandwiches

for the Samaritan Center arei made **the 3rd Sunday of each month.**

If you can help please come to the kitchen immediately following the worship service on those Sundays.





Birthdays & Anniversaries

In August

4. Lisa Combs
5. Megan Gribble Lloyd,
Kaitlyn Mahns (Stooks)
8. Edward J. Gorman, (in memoriam),
Don Snyder
10. Matthew Weyer
12. Alan Eufinger
13. Fred & Christy Knowlton's anniversary
14. Linda & Fran Polcaro's anniversary
16. Camryn Marie Greabell
17. Dawn Bukowski
18. Amber Savilla-Jean Hill
19. Suzanne Green
20. Luke Sweeney,
Michele & William Printup's anniversary
21. Douglas Green
23. Bill Evans
24. John R. Stooks
26. John Novak,
Janet Worden
28. Sean Lansing
30. Linda Polcaro

Puzzle!

Draw lines to connect the biblical figures with the locations associated with them.

Abraham
Amos
Ananias
Cornelius
Daniel
Dorcas
Esther
Jesus
Jonah
Joshua
Lydia
Martha
Moses
Naaman
Ruth
Saul
Zacchaeus



Moab
Canaan
Babylon
Caesarea
Nineveh
Jericho
Ur
Tarsus
Joppa
Aram
Tekoa
Bethany
Egypt
Philippi
Nazareth
Persia
Damascus

Answer Key on Calendar Page

School Supplies are being collected
during August for the elementary schools in our district.

Please bring new items and place them in the collection box in the Narthex.

Thanks for your support.

Campbell.

"And you thought you were having a bad hair day."

August 2019

Sun

Mon

Tue

Wed

Thu

Fri

Sat

Puzzle Answer Key

Answers: Abraham - Ur, Amos - Tekoa, Ananias - Damascus, Cornelius - Caesarea, Daniel - Babylon, Dorcas - Joppa, Esther - Persia, Jesus - Nazareth, Jonah - Nineveh, Joshua - Canaan, Lydia - Philippi, Martha - Bethany, Moses - Egypt, Naaman - Aram, Ruth - Moab, Saul - Tarsus, Zacchaeus - Jericho

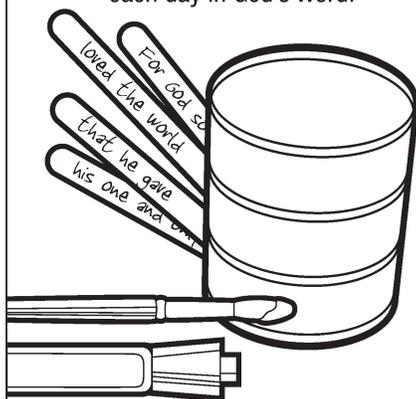
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7 Pastor Deb on vacation	8	9	10
Worship						
11 vacation	12	13	14	15	16	17
Worship 10:00 AM Lynn Jacques Preaching						
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
Worship 11:15 AM Sandwich Making 3:00 PM Mission Comm. @ Onondaga Center						
25	26	27	28	29	30	31
Worship						

First United Church of East Syracuse Events



WAKE-UP WORDS

Play this memory game to start each day in God's Word.

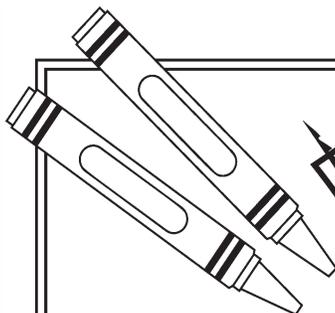


What you need:

- Paint and paint brushes
- Stickers
- An empty, clean tin can
- Permanent marker
- Bible
- Wooden craft sticks

What you do:

1. Paint and decorate the outside of the can.
2. With marker, write a Bible verse on several sticks (only two or three words per stick).
3. Put the sticks in the can, and set it in a spot you'll see daily. As you eat or brush your teeth, practice unscrambling the verse and placing sticks in the correct order.
4. When you've memorized the verse, repeat with a new one.



PUZZLE

GOD'S MORNING ROUTINE

Every new day, we wake up to blessings from God.

Directions: Use the clues to fill in the words. Then write the boxed letters in order below to complete Lamentations 3:22-23, NIV.

Brush these daily

___ _ _ _

Do this to your shoes

___ ___

This rises in the east

Cold breakfast food

___ _ _ _

Hot breakfast food

___ ___

Talk to God

___ _

Morning meal

___ _ ___ _ _

Extend your limbs

___ _ _ _ _

Fruit drink

___ ___

Waffle machine

Eat these scrambled or fried



Because of the LORD's great love ...

never fail. They are new every morning; great is your faithfulness.

LAMENTATIONS 3:22-23, NIV

Answer: teeth, tie, sun, cereal, oatmeal, pray, breakfast, stretch, juice, iron, eggs; his compassions

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

Let
the Peace
of Christ
Rule
in Your
Hearts...
Colossians 3:15

A day away in a quiet place

Maya Angelou said, “Each person deserves a day away in which no problems are confronted, no solutions searched for. Each of us needs to withdraw from the cares which will not withdraw from us.” Similarly, when Jesus’ disciples were consumed with ministry, he urged them, “Come with me by yourselves to a quiet place and get some rest” (Mark 6:31, NIV).

The late days of summer might be just the time to seek “a day away” not only from problems but even from ministry. While serving God and others can be energizing, we must balance work with rest. God set that example, resting after creating the world; Jesus set that example, calling his disciples away — not just alone, but with him — to be refreshed.

Spend a relaxing day at a lake. Go on a scrapbooking retreat or a leisurely hike with a friend. Find a monastery that welcomes guests, and experience 48 hours of prayer and silence there. Invite Jesus into that time and space. And remember another message he shared: “Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest” (Matthew 11:28, NIV).