

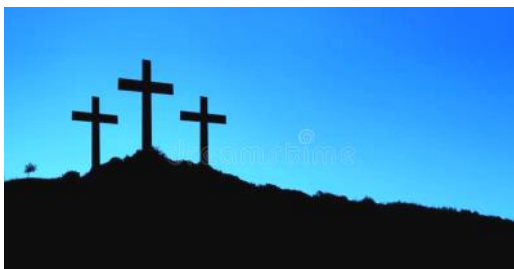
# Gettysburg United Methodist Church

March 17, 2021

## Psalm 26

*Of David.*

- 1 *Vindicate me, O Lord,  
for I have walked in my integrity,  
and I have trusted in the Lord without  
wavering.*
- 2 *Prove me, O Lord, and try me;  
test my heart and mind.*
- 3 *For your steadfast love is before my eyes,  
and I walk in faithfulness to you.*
- 4 *I do not sit with the worthless,  
nor do I consort with hypocrites;*
- 5 *I hate the company of evildoers,  
and will not sit with the wicked.*
- 6 *I wash my hands in innocence,  
and go around your altar, O Lord,*
- 7 *singing aloud a song of thanksgiving,  
and telling all your wondrous deeds.*
- 8 *O Lord, I love the house in which you dwell,  
and the place where your glory abides.*
- 9 *Do not sweep me away with sinners,  
nor my life with the bloodthirsty,*
- 10 *those in whose hands are evil devices,  
and whose right hands are full of bribes.*
- 11 *But as for me, I walk in my integrity;  
redeem me, and be gracious to me.*
- 12 *My foot stands on level ground;  
in the great congregation I will bless  
the Lord.*



## Meditation

Read Philippians 2:12-18

Doctors tell us that we should get a yearly physical—a health checkup to see how we’re doing. They check weight and blood pressure, do blood work, and perform a number of other tests to determine our current state of health. They let us know if we’re good to go, or if there’s a potential problem that should be addressed. It’s a good way to stay healthy.

Perhaps we should get a yearly spiritual checkup as well. Lent is a good time for it—a time to be alone with the Lord, maybe with a close friend, to see how we’re doing spiritually. We can see if we’re doing well, or if we need to change anything to maintain and grow our relationship with God. If you were to get a spiritual checkup, what areas would you look at? Here are some that I think are important.

How is your daily walk with God? It’s essential to spend some time with God every day through scripture reading, prayer, confession, and/or use of devotional materials (such as *The Upper Room*). Is this your regular practice? Is it a time of joy, or a duty that has become a burden to you?

How is your service to others? A key part of our life as Christians is sharing God’s love with other people. Sometimes we are involved with organizations or events that meet the needs of others; sometimes we reach out directly to help a family or individual going through hard times. God calls us to work for positive change in our society as we strive for freedom and justice for all people.

How are your personal relationships, especially within your family? We’re called to love others as Christ loves us, to forgive others as he forgives us, to let go of grudges and resentments, to try to see things from other persons’ perspectives, and to seek what’s best for others (sometimes at a cost to ourselves). COVID has put a lot of stress on relationships; perhaps we should be especially sensitive to this area at this time.

How is your worship experience? COVID has made things difficult, but we need regular worship (in per-

*Continued on page 2)*

# Is it well . . .

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*(Continued from page 1)*

son or online) to keep our faith alive. Worship should be a joyful experience that both lifts us up and challenges us. Receiving Holy Communion is especially important.

How is your generosity? It's been said that the best way to discern someone's priorities is to look at their calendar and their checkbook. God blesses us when we're generous with our time, our abilities, and our finances. Everything we give in his service is a blessing to us in this world as well as treasure laid up in heaven.

Are things well with your soul? God desires us to have inner peace and joy. We trust Jesus as our Good Shepherd, especially during difficult times. We share our burdens with others. There may be areas in our lives where we seek physical, spiritual, or emotional healing. God's grace enables us to give those areas to him. We learn to walk in the light of God's love despite any darkness we encounter.

You may have other questions you ask yourself as well. How do *you* measure the health of *your* walk with God?

In Philippians 2:12b-13 Paul says, "work out your own salvation with fear and trembling; for it is God who is at work in you, enabling you both to will and to work for his good pleasure." We ask the Spirit to examine our lives, and we cooperate with God's grace as he heals and transforms us.

If you had your spiritual checkup today, how would you do?

## Prayer

Examine our lives, Lord, with the wisdom and grace of your Holy Spirit. Show us those areas of our lives that are pleasing to you; show us those areas of our lives where we need to grow in our faith. May your Spirit mold us and remake us in the image of your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

We pray for the many needs of this world. We pray for peace with justice, for true freedom, and for your provision for the hungry, the homeless, and

the oppressed. Bring healing to those who are sick, especially those who are fighting COVID. Grant the comfort of your peace to all who grieve. Bless everyone who needs the touch of your hand.

Guide us with your wisdom and your love, that we may go wherever you lead us. Show us the needs of those around us, and help us to share your love with them. Give us thankful hearts as we remember all of your blessings; for we pray through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

## RURAL KING CHURCH WEEK March 14-27, 2021

<https://www.ruralking.com/churchweek>

Rural King is supporting Christian organizations by donating 10% of each valid Rural King receipt total after sales tax to the registered organization chosen by the customer. GUMC is registered! From March 14 -27, 2021, customers can upload their Rural King receipts to [www.ruralking.com/churchweek](https://www.ruralking.com/churchweek) and 10% of their receipt total after sales tax will go to the registered Christian organization of their choice. Instructions:

Go to this link: <https://www.ruralking.com/churchweek>. Under Church Week Heading, click on Search or Organization Search Select State: Select City: Select: our church (You should now see a picture of our church) Beginning on March 14th there should be a link for you to upload your receipt. All receipts dated March 14-27, 2021 must be uploaded by April 1, 2021.

All donations will be provided by our local Rural King. All Rural King stores are participating. Please share with your friends and be sure to say Thank You to Rural King management and associates when you shop.

If you're not able to upload your receipts, just bring them to the church. We can upload them for you. Our nearest Rural King store is located at 1155 Carlisle St. in Hanover.

# . . . with your soul?

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## March Mission Can

Our March Mission Can offering is designated for Ruth's Harvest. Ruth's Harvest provides backpack weekend meals for students in the Gettysburg School District who receive free or reduced lunch.

Donations may be mailed to the church and marked for "Ruth's Harvest".

## Soup Kitchen Update

Thank you for your generosity! Your gifts this month have provided over \$1,000 to be used for our share of meals at the Gettysburg Soup Kitchen. Your faithful giving is greatly appreciated!

## Bountiful Blessings

As the weather improves, our numbers for Bountiful Blessings are picking up as well. Also there have been changes in the supply of delivered items from the headquarters in Mechanicsburg. We've been getting supplies for about 20 for twice a month but we have been having 24-28 guests. If you wish to donate items, we could use the following (please place them in the box outside of the office): dish detergent, shampoo, tooth paste, cleaners and laundry detergent (\$1 items at Dollar Tree are fine). THANK YOU FOR YOUR GENEROSITY.

## Weekly Prayer Concerns

To add someone to this prayer list, please call the church office.

This week's list (as of 3/16/2021) is:

Rodney Truscott  
Penny Daugherty  
Scott Bowers  
Imogene Hunt's brother  
Jean Green  
Joyce Dye  
People trying to get a COVID vaccine

Members in Assisted Living / Skilled Care Homes:

Edith Bulman (SpiriTust Lutheran, York);  
Shirley Hammond (Morning Glory, Littlestown); Missy Legay (Moul Home, York); Peggy Reynolds (Quincy-cottage, Waynesboro);  
Gloria Swingler (Country Meadows-apartment, Mechanicsburg )

Members with Limited Mobility:

Butch Carter, Betty Cook, Joyce Dye, Barbara Evans, Pearl Keckler, Raymond Koenig, Chuck Lutz, Ruth Anna Polley, Wilma Schai-ble, Betty Schulteis, June Spencer, Virginia White

## In-Person Worship Suspension Continues

Due to the continued high COVID rates in Adams County, on Feb. 22 Church Council voted unanimously to continue the suspension of in-person worship. They set a target date of March 28 (Palm Sunday) to reopen in-person worship, if current trends continue. That decision will be finalized on March 22.

Online Worship Services continue to be available weekly on Facebook.

Sermon by Phone is now available at 717-200-2956

# HYMN

## *Lord of the Dance*

*Sydney Carter, Shaker Tune*

I danced in the morning when the world was begun,  
And I danced in the moon and the stars and the sun,  
And I came down from heaven and I danced on the  
earth.

At Bethlehem I had my birth.

Chorus:

Dance, then, wherever you may be;  
I am the Lord of the Dance said he.  
And I'll lead you all wherever you may be,  
And I'll lead you all in the Dance said he.

I danced for the scribe and the Pharisee,  
But they would not dance and they wouldn't follow  
me;

I danced for the fishermen for James and John;  
They came to me and the dance went on.

(Chorus)

I danced on the Sabbath and I cured the lame,  
The holy people said it was a shame;

They whipped and they stripped and they hung me  
high;

And they left me there on a Cross to die.

(Chorus)

I danced on a Friday when the sky turned black;  
It's hard to dance with the devil on your back;  
They buried my body and they thought I'd gone,  
But I am the dance and I still go on.

(Chorus)

They cut me down and I leapt up high,  
I am the life that'll never never die;  
I'll live in you if you'll live in me;  
I am the Lord of the Dance said he.

(Chorus)

Sydney Bertram Carter

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Sydney B. Carter was born in London in 1915. He was a schoolmaster and served with the Friends' (Quaker) Ambulance Service in World War II. After the war he became a freelance writer and broadcaster, as well as a lyricist and music critic. In the 1950's and 60's he wrote pop-style Christian songs to be used as an alternative to traditional hymns. Carter died in 2004. The Shakers were a Christian sect founded in England in the 1740's, and came to the colony of New York in the 1770's. Eventually they spread to about twenty communities in the U.S., primarily in New England. They were called 'Shakers' due to their ecstatic behavior during worship, which included dancing.

The words to *Lord of the Dance* were written around 1963, and were likely inspired by the seventeenth century Cornish Christmas carol *Tomorrow Shall Be My Dancing-Day*. The author slightly adapted the Shaker tune *Simple Gifts* to match his text. The hymn summarizes Jesus' life using the imagery of dance, and invites us to join him in his dance of life. *Lord of the Dance* is number 261 in our hymnal.

We greatly appreciate your continued faithful donations to GUMC during this time of change and crisis. Your faithfulness has enabled us to continue to pay all of our expenses, and we are very grateful for your continued generosity.

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