



# Purpose.

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him from his journey to Jerusalem, and nothing could sway him from his purpose to die for our sin on the cross and give us eternal life through the power of his resurrection.

After he rose from the dead, Jesus gave his followers their own direction and purpose. He commissioned them to go into all the world to make disciples of all nations, to baptize and teach, and to be confident in his constant presence. He sent them first to Jerusalem, then further and further out into the world—Judea, Samaria, then to the ends of the earth. They knew their purpose, they kept their focus, and they transformed lives throughout the known world. Above all, the Holy Spirit led and empowered them in their work.

What about us? What purpose does God have for us? How does he want us to focus our lives? God's purposes for us revolve around Jesus' two great commandments (to love God and to love our neighbor) and his great commission (to make disciples).

Our first purpose is to love God with all of our being. God reconciles us to himself through the cross, and by his Holy Spirit enables us to worship him in spirit and in truth. We focus on God through praise and prayer, through worship, through scripture and study, through silence and fasting, and through anything else that strengthens our relationship with God. We focus on God as we love others, "for whoever does not love their brother and sister, whom they have seen, cannot love God, whom they have not seen." (1 John 4:20 NIV)

That's God's second purpose for us—to love our neighbors as ourselves—and everyone is our neighbor. I think our focus should first be on our own families—our spouse, parents and grandparents, brothers and sisters, children and grandchildren. But God also calls us to a special focus of love outside our families. For each of us the focus may be different, for we all have different gifts, graces, and interests. It's especially important right now, when

so many are suffering due to COVID-19. Whatever our calling, it's important to stay focused.

God's third purpose for us is to inspire others to follow Jesus Christ. Love is always our motivation. How can we experience the amazing love and grace of God through Jesus Christ without inviting others to join in that same amazing experience?

If we don't know where we're going, we will probably wind up somewhere else. Fortunately Jesus has a plan and purpose for each one of us—to focus on loving him, on loving others, on bearing witness—all in the wisdom and grace of the Holy Spirit.

Pastor Rick



## Prayer

Lord Jesus Christ, you have a plan and a purpose for each one of us. Grant us grace to love you with all of our heart, to love our neighbors as ourselves, and to make new disciples for you.

Guide us through these difficult times. May your light overcome the darkness that surrounds us and seeps into our souls. Bring healing and hope to all who need them.

We pray for our schools as they prepare to reopen. We pray for all students and all school workers. Keep them safe in your protection and grace.

Help us to live in the center of your will as we fulfill your purpose through our lives; through Jesus Christ our Lord Amen.

## Thank You

I wish to thank all of the members of the church who have called and sent me get well cards. They are very much appreciated.

— Barbara Evans

## Mission Central Needs

COVID-19 has brought a lot of changes to Mission Central. One of the key changes impacting School and Activity Kits is these items can no longer be shared. Now children need their own items to avoid sharing school supplies which, unfortunately, means we need more supplies than ever before! Rather than list one item per week, Mission Central has supplied a list of various donations that are needed:

These include:

- Scissors
- Paper (8.5 x 11 or composition book)
- Pencil sharpener
- Ruler
- Pencils
- Ink Pens
- Eraser
- Crayons

You can purchase them and bring them to the church on Sunday morning or during the week. Thank you!

## Weekly Prayer Concerns

Every week a list of recent prayer concerns will be included with this mailing. To add someone to the list, please call the church office.

This week's list (as of 8/11/2020) is:

Genny Reaver—recovering at home.  
Barbara Evans—recovering at home  
Rodney Truscott  
Ruth Anna Polley—Gettysburg Hospital  
Cathy Libera—recovering at home

Members in Assisted Living / Skilled Care Homes:

Edith Bulman (SpiriTust Lutheran, York);  
Kermit Carlson (Paramount, Fayetteville);  
Shirley Hammond (Morning Glory, Littlestown);  
Missy Legay (Moul Home, York);  
Bob Reed (Lorien, Mt Airy, MD);  
Peggy Reynolds (Quincy-cottage), Waynesboro);  
Gloria Swingler (Country Meadows-apartment), Mechanicsburg

Members with Limited Mobility:

Butch Carter, Betty Cook, Joyce Dye, Pearl Keckler, Raymond Koenig, Chuck Lutz, Ruth Anna Polley, Wilma Schaible, Betty Schulteis, June Spencer, Virginia White

## From Our Parish Nurse . . .

COVID infections are still in our area. And, with the start of the school year, we need to be even more vigilant in caring about each other.

If you have been in worship, and have become ill during the following week, and have had a COVID test that was positive, the church would appreciate being notified in order to do contact tracing. If you are positive and have been in close contact with anyone at church for a 15 minute conversation, that person could be at risk. Your reporting will be in confidence and will not be shared with anyone except the parish nurse and the pastor. That exposed person should have a COVID test and quarantine also, as a precaution.

The staff has been maintaining strict protocols in order to keep everyone safe so that we can remain open for worship.

The staff thanks you for adhering to these protocols.

# HYMN

## *Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee*

*Henry Van Dyke, Ludwig van Beethoven, arr. Edward Hodges*

1. Joyful, joyful, we adore thee,  
God of glory, Lord of love;  
hearts unfold like flowers before thee,  
opening to the sun above.  
Melt the clouds of sin and sadness;  
drive the dark of doubt away.  
Giver of immortal gladness,  
fill us with the light of day!

2. All thy works with joy surround thee,  
earth and heaven reflect thy rays,  
stars and angels sing around thee,  
center of unbroken praise.  
Field and forest, vale and mountain,  
flowery meadow, flashing sea,  
chanting bird and flowing fountain,  
call us to rejoice in thee.

3. Thou art giving and forgiving,  
ever blessing, ever blest,  
wellspring of the joy of living,  
ocean depth of happy rest!  
Thou our Father, Christ our brother,  
all who live in love are thine;  
teach us how to love each other,  
lift us to the joy divine.

4. Mortals, join the mighty chorus  
which the morning stars began;  
love divine is reigning o'er us,  
binding all within its span.  
Ever singing, march we onward,  
victors in the midst of strife;  
joyful music leads us sunward,  
in the triumph song of life.

Henry Van Dyke was born in Germantown, PA, in 1852, and died in Princeton, NJ, in 1933. He was a Presbyterian pastor who served churches in Rhode Island and New York. From 1899 to 1922 he was Murray Professor of English Literature at Princeton. He served as the U.S. Minister to the Netherlands, and was a Navy Chaplain during WW I. Ludwig van Beethoven (1770—1827) was the greatest composer of the early 19th Century.

The melody of *Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee* is taken from the finale of Beethoven's *Ninth Symphony*, which was the first symphony to incorporate the human voice. The text was inspired by the Berkshire Mountains and written in 1907 to be sung to this tune. The words and music unite to express the joy we find as we experience God's love for us and the wonders of creation. It may be found as number 89 in *The United Methodist Hymnal*.

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## Civil War Service

On August 30, at 10:30 a.m., the Rev. Dr. Nancy Hale will lead us in a Civil War Service. She will also lead a Civil War Service at the Amphitheater on September 6 at 8:00 a.m., and play "Taps" at the National Cemetery at 7:00 p.m. on August 25. Rev. Hale serves Canton United Methodist Church in Canton, NY.

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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