

Gettysburg United Methodist Church

August 19, 2020

Psalm 112

- 1 *Praise the Lord!*
Happy are those who fear the Lord,
who greatly delight in his
commandments.
- 2 *Their descendants will be mighty in the*
land;
the generation of the upright will be
blessed.
- 3 *Wealth and riches are in their houses,*
and their righteousness endures forever.
- 4 *They rise in the darkness as a light for the*
upright;
they are gracious, merciful, and
righteous.
- 5 *It is well with those who deal generously*
and lend,
who conduct their affairs with justice.
- 6 *For the righteous will never be moved;*
they will be remembered forever.
- 7 *They are not afraid of evil tidings;*
their hearts are firm, secure in the Lord.
- 8 *Their hearts are steady, they will not be*
afraid;
in the end they will look in triumph on
their foes.
- 9 *They have distributed freely, they have*
given to the poor;
their righteousness endures forever;
their horn is exalted in honor.
- 10 *The wicked see it and are angry;*
they gnash their teeth and melt away;
the desire of the wicked comes to nothing.



Meditation

Read Hebrews 11

There's been much talk of heroes during the last few months—and there should be. A hero is a “person who shows great courage”, or a person who is “admired for achievements or noble qualities”, or an “illustrious warrior” (from the Merriam-Webster online dictionary). We've always thought of police officers and firefighters and EMTs as heroes, as well as those who serve in the armed forces of our nation in the cause of freedom. During the pandemic we've recognized more heroes among us—medical workers (especially those who work directly with coronavirus patients) and people in other essential occupations who serve others at risk to themselves (such as grocery store workers). Heroes inspire us and serve as role models for us. We honor them for their courage and sacrifice, and we look to them as examples for us and for others to follow.

Hebrews 11 is a chapter that is filled with heroes—heroes of the faith. The chapter begins with a definition of faith. “Now faith is confidence in what we hope for and assurance about what we do not see.” (NIV). But the author of Hebrews realizes that a definition of faith is insufficient without human examples, so he describes a number of faith heroes

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Inspiration.

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from the Old Testament.

Hebrews speaks of Abel, whose faith was behind his sacrifice to God, and of Enoch, who was taken directly into heaven without seeing death because of his faith. By faith Noah began to build the ark long before it began to rain. By faith Abraham left home and family to seek the promised land. He did not hesitate to offer his only son Isaac as a sacrifice to God, trusting God to raise Isaac from the dead. By faith Sarah had a child in her old age in fulfillment of God's promise. By faith Moses led God's people out of slavery, through the Red Sea and the wilderness, and into the promised land. These are only a few of the faith heroes who are listed in Hebrews 11.

Who are your faith heroes? Who has inspired you through their faith? Who has been an example for you to follow in your walk with Christ? It may be someone from Hebrews 11, or someone else from the Bible. It may be someone from the history of the church. It may very well be someone you know personally, such as one (or both) of your parents (or your children), a Sunday School teacher, a friend, a member of your church, or a pastor.

Take some time to think about these persons. What is it in their lives that makes them heroes to you? What are the key qualities of their characters? How do they live their faith from day to day? As you think about them, think also about yourself. Ask God, by his grace, to make you more like your heroes—to emulate their character and to live your faith in the same way that they live theirs.

Take some time to think and pray about your own faith. Think about others who may look to you as an example, or even as a hero. What kind of model do you provide for their lives? Do you inspire them to grow in their faith? Ask God to guide your thoughts and your feelings, and ask him to work in and through your life to touch the lives of others. Focus on Jesus above all, who was the greatest hero who ever lived. "Therefore, since we are surrounded by such a great cloud of witnesses, let us throw off

everything that hinders and the sin that so easily entangles. And let us run with perseverance the race marked out for us, fixing our eyes on Jesus, the pioneer and perfecter of faith." (Hebrews 12:1-2a NIV)

We live in a time that needs heroes. Be thankful for our community heroes who do so much for others in these trying days. Be thankful for those heroes of the faith who have inspired you throughout the years. Above all, focus your life on Jesus, that others may see his light and love in your heart.

—Pastor Rick



Prayer

Lord God, we thank you for those who have walked this path before us. We are grateful for the many who have kept the faith, followed your light, and now shine as an example to us. Grant us wisdom to learn from them, and courage to stay on your path, now and for the rest of our lives.

Bless those who have lost hope, strengthen those who are weak, heal those who are sick, and comfort all who mourn. Protect students, teachers, and school workers as they prepare to return to class. Keep them safe in your loving arms.

Help us to live in your light, that our lives may serve as examples for others; through Jesus Christ our Lord Amen.

Example.

Mission Central

Thank you to everyone who provided items for the Mission Central School Kits. Your gifts will be a big help to children in need as they start back to school in the next few weeks (in whatever form that takes in their school districts). Your generosity is greatly appreciated!

Prayer Chain

Our Prayer Chain provides an opportunity to pray for people immediately during their time of greatest need. Prayer requests are first shared with Judy Woolston. Requests are then passed on down the Prayer Chain by phone.

We are looking for some new participants for our Prayer Chain. We could use three or four new members, and more are always welcome. If you are interested, please call Judy Woolston at (717) 337-3630.



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.

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 8/18/2020) is:

Genny Reaver—back in Gettysburg Hospital
Barbara Evans—recovering at home
Rodney Truscott
Ruth Anna Polley—home from the 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

In Loving Memory Bud Crews

Since we're not sure when a Memorial Service for Bud may be possible, Carol would like to share a video slideshow of his journey through life. It was prepared by her brother. Bud's birthday would have been August 19. Follow this link to see the video:

<https://youtu.be/sg628FyJTfc>

Please take time to view the video and give thanks to God as you remember Bud's life.

HYMN

For All the Saints

William W. How, Ralph Vaughn Williams

1. For all the saints, who from their labors rest,
who thee by faith before the world confessed,
thy name, O Jesus, be forever blest.

Refrain:

Alleluia, Alleluia!

2. Thou wast their rock, their fortress, and their
 might;
thou, Lord, their captain in the well-fought fight;
thou, in the darkness drear, their one true light.
[Refrain]

3. O may thy soldiers, faithful, true, and bold,
fight as the saints who nobly fought of old,
and win with them the victor's crown of gold.
[Refrain]

4. O blest communion, fellowship divine!
We feebly struggle, they in glory shine;
yet all are one in thee, for all are thine. [Refrain]

5. And when the strife is fierce, the warfare long,
steals on the ear the distant triumph song,
and hearts are brave again, and arms are strong.
[Refrain]

6. From earth's wide bounds, from ocean's farthest
 coast,
through gates of pearl streams in the countless host,
singing to Father, Son, and Holy Ghost:
(Refrain)

William W. How (1823-1897) was born in Shrewsbury, Shropshire, England. He was ordained Priest in the Church of England in 1847, and served several parishes in England. He became suffragan bishop of East London, where he was known as the "poor man's bishop", and later became bishop of Wakefield. Ralph Vaughn Williams (1872-1958) was the greatest English classical composer of the twentieth century. He wrote six symphonies and many other works of concert and church music. He was the music editor of *The English Hymnal* (1906) and *The Oxford Book of Carols* (1928).

For All the Saints was published in 1864. It was originally sung at memorial services, but became a popular hymn for use on All Saints Sunday as the celebration of All Saints became more common in the Protestant church. It was originally set to a different tune. Vaughn Williams wrote the current tune in 1906, and it was gradually adopted for use with this text in the 1950's. The hymn reminds us of the faith and inspiration of Christians who have lived before us, and celebrates their entry into the presence of God's eternal glory. It may be found as number 711 in *The United Methodist Hymnal*.

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.

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