

Gettysburg United Methodist Church

September 2, 2020

Psalm 86:1-13

A Prayer of David.

- 1 Incline your ear, O Lord, and answer me,
for I am poor and needy.*
- 2 Preserve my life, for I am devoted to you;
save your servant who trusts in you.
You are my God; 3 be gracious to me, O
Lord,
for to you do I cry all day long.*
- 4 Gladden the soul of your servant,
for to you, O Lord, I lift up my soul.*
- 5 For you, O Lord, are good and forgiving,
abounding in steadfast love to all who
call on you.*
- 6 Give ear, O Lord, to my prayer;
listen to my cry of supplication.*
- 7 In the day of my trouble I call on you,
for you will answer me.*
- 8 There is none like you among the gods, O
Lord,
nor are there any works like yours.*
- 9 All the nations you have made shall come
and bow down before you, O Lord,
and shall glorify your name.*
- 10 For you are great and do wondrous
things;
you alone are God.*
- 11 Teach me your way, O Lord,
that I may walk in your truth;
give me an undivided heart to revere
your name.*
- 12 I give thanks to you, O Lord my God,
with my whole heart,*

and I will glorify your name forever.
*13 For great is your steadfast love toward
me;
you have delivered my soul from the
depths of Sheol.*



Meditation

Read Exodus 20:1-3, 8-11; Deuteronomy 5:6-7, 12-15

Tightrope walkers have always amazed me—perhaps because my own sense of balance has never been that good. I'm lucky if I can walk on a curb for more than a few steps at a time without falling off. Tightrope walkers have an incredible sense of balance. Not only can they walk on a narrow wire, they can do so on a windy day across a deep canyon—it's truly amazing!

We need balance in our lives—not just physical balance (though that's important), but balance in all areas of life—especially the way we spend our time. Without balance we slip and fall; with balance we can do amazing things and go amazing places.

God's commandment to remember the Sabbath and keep it holy challenges us to find balance in our use of time. It frees us from the tyranny of time. It reminds us that time does not control us, but rather that God controls time for our own benefit. On one hand, it prevents us from making work our master. On the other hand, we're reminded of the dignity and meaning of work. We have six days to labor and do all of our work, to be creative and productive as we work for ourselves and for God's glory; but the seventh day we rest. We balance worship and rest on one side, and meaningful work on the other.

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To find balance in life . . .

(Continued from page 1)

Balance is key in many areas of life. We seek balance in our spiritual lives between our inner life and our service to others. Both are essential. We need time spent in God's presence through worship, prayer, Bible reading, study, and spiritual disciplines. God also expects us to serve others in his name. Our inner life gives us strength to serve; our service completes our inner life. Faith and works are two sides of the same coin.

We seek balance between time we spend alone, and time we spend with others. That balance is different for each one of us, depending on where we fall on the introvert-extrovert continuum. We balance our need for sleep with the time we spend in other activities. We try to balance our time between family and work. We balance time spent with new things and time spent with familiar activities, to maintain our sense of adventure as we remain true to our roots. Good balance is important for true joy in life.

Crises can disrupt our sense of balance. The COVID pandemic has altered the ways we spend our time. We're probably spending more time at home (or even working from home) and less time outside the home. We readjust the time we spend with family and by ourselves. We may walk more outdoors but can no longer attend live sporting events or concerts. We look for new ways to maintain balance in our faith through online worship and Zoom Bible studies, even as we miss gathering together as we once did. It's no wonder that life feels a little (or a lot) out of balance these days.

How do we recalibrate our sense of balance and equilibrium? I believe we turn to one area where our life is always unbalanced—our faith in God. Faith in God is all or nothing. "You shall have no other gods before me." Either God has all of us, or he has no part in us. God calls us to follow him and him alone. We can't serve both God and idols (money, self, etc.). There's a reason that the first commandment is first—it provides the foundation for all the others.

If we give our time and our lives fully to Christ, he will help us to renew our balance in life. We ask him for wisdom and strength, we follow his example, we let love for God and others rule our hearts. We ask God to lead us in our use of time, and seek guidance from others who also focus on him. If Christ is our center, we delight in finding in him the balance between work and rest, between the inner life and serving others, between togetherness and aloneness, between roots and wings; we seek balance in all areas of life. May God lead all of us to a new sense of balance and joy in the days ahead.

Pastor Rick



Prayer

Lord God, help us to find balance in our lives. May we work for your glory, worship you in spirit and truth, and find true relaxation on our days of rest. Help us to focus our lives entirely on you, that we may find new balance in the midst of a changing situation.

We pray for those affected by COVID-19—for healing, for comfort, for peace. We pray for those affected by the injustice and racism of our world, that they may find 'a new birth of freedom'. We pray for our schools and colleges as classes resume this fall.

May we worship and praise you in all things through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Center in Christ

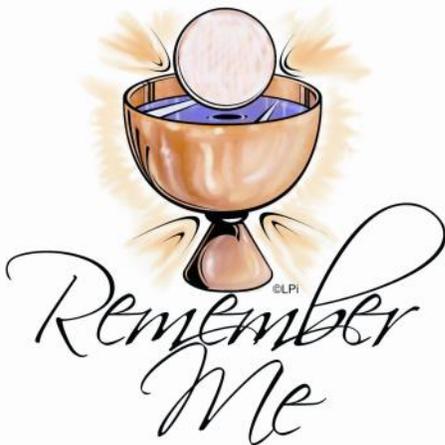
Mission Central

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.



Holy Communion

We will celebrate the Sacrament of Holy Communion at our regular worship service this Sunday (Sept. 6) at 10:30 in the sanctuary. Holy Communion will also be celebrated in this week's online service.

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 9/1/2020) is:

Genny Reaver—recovering at home
Barbara Evans
Rodney Truscott
Cathy Libera—recovering at home
Sandy Speck—had surgery on Sept. 1
Pam Giles (Vic Reale's stepdaughter—on ventilator)

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 Swinger (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

Amphitheater Services Extended through Oct. 4.

The National Park Service has granted permission to continue Sunday worship services at the battlefield Amphitheater through October 4 this year. The services begin at 8:00 a.m. every Sunday.

HYMN

I Surrender All

Judson W. Van DeVenter, W. S. Weeden

1. All to Jesus I surrender;
all to him I freely give;
I will ever love and trust him,
in his presence daily live.

Refrain:

I surrender all, I surrender all,
all to thee, my blessed Savior,
I surrender all.

2. All to Jesus I surrender;
humbly at his feet I bow,
worldly pleasures all forsaken;
take me, Jesus, take me now. [Refrain]

3. All to Jesus I surrender;
make me, Savior, wholly thine;
let me feel the Holy Spirit,
truly know that thou art mine. [Refrain]

4. All to Jesus I surrender;
Lord, I give myself to thee;
fill me with thy love and power;
let thy blessing fall on me. [Refrain]

5. All to Jesus I surrender;
now I feel the sacred flame.
O the joy of full salvation!
Glory, glory to his name! [Refrain]

Judson W. Van DeVenter (1855-1939) was born in Dundee, MI. He studied art in Europe, and taught art and penmanship for ten years before entering the ministry as a local pastor in the Methodist Episcopal Church. As an evangelist, he conducted services in America, England, and Scotland. He was influential in the early development of Billy Graham as an evangelist. Winfield Scott Weeden (1847-1908) was born in Middleport, OH. He taught singing before entering evangelistic work as a song leader. For many years he ministered together with Judson W. Van DeVenter.

The words for *I Surrender All* were written in 1896 at an evangelistic meeting in East Palestine, OH. They reflect an earlier time of struggle when the author surrendered his life in Christian service. The tune was written to go with this text. It may be found as number 354 in *The United Methodist Hymnal*

Civil War Service

On September 6, at 8:00 a.m., the Rev. Dr. Nancy Hale will lead a Civil War Service. at the Amphitheater on the battlefield. This service will be very similar to the service she shared with us last Sunday at the church.

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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