

Gettysburg United Methodist Church

September 9, 2020

Psalm 16

A Miktam of David.

- 1 *Protect me, O God, for in you I take
refuge.*
- 2 *I say to the Lord, "You are my Lord;
I have no good apart from you."*
- 3 *As for the holy ones in the land, they are
the noble,
in whom is all my delight.*
- 4 *Those who choose another god multiply
their sorrows;
their drink offerings of blood I will not
pour out
or take their names upon my lips.*
- 5 *The Lord is my chosen portion and my
cup;
you hold my lot.*
- 6 *The boundary lines have fallen for me in
pleasant places;
I have a goodly heritage.*
- 7 *I bless the Lord who gives me counsel;
in the night also my heart instructs me.*
- 8 *I keep the Lord always before me;
because he is at my right hand, I shall
not be moved.*
- 9 *Therefore my heart is glad, and my soul
rejoices;
my body also rests secure.*
- 10 *For you do not give me up to Sheol,
or let your faithful one see the Pit.*

- 11 *You show me the path of life.
In your presence there is fullness of joy;
in your right hand are pleasures
forevermore.*



Meditation

Read 2 Corinthians 3:1-6

Listening is more difficult than we think. Maybe you remember one of your parents saying, "If I've told you once, I've told you a thousand times . . . !" When we're growing up we have selective hearing. And I'm afraid selective hearing doesn't change when we become adults.

There are more channels of communication now than ever—TV, email, cell phones, the internet, social media, texting, twitter—the list can go on. But our talent for selective hearing has greatly improved as well. We've become experts at ignoring TV commercials—we change channels or mute the volume. We screen our phone calls in self-defense against spam. We block emails we don't want. We're good at filtering out anything we don't want to hear or see.

What do we pay attention to? What really gets our attention? There's no substitute for in-person, face-to-face communication. It's much more difficult to

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Jesus is . . .

(Continued from page 1)

tune out a person who is right in front of us. That's why we remember those times when our parents said "If I've told you once, I've told you a thousand times . . ." It was personal. It was immediate. We knew there would be consequences if we didn't listen.

God speaks with us in person. He shares himself with us through the living Word, Jesus Christ his Son. "In the past God spoke to our ancestors through the prophets at many times and in various ways, but in these last days he has spoken to us by his Son, whom he appointed heir of all things, and through whom he also made the universe." (Heb. 1:1-2 NIV) God reveals his message of love and grace and forgiveness to us in the person of Jesus. In Jesus we see the heart of God. Jesus tells us how to live and shows us what God is like—Jesus is both the message and the messenger. With Jesus it's personal and it's immediate.

We can't see Jesus physically as the disciples did. Yet I believe that he is present to us spiritually in a real and powerful way. As we read about Jesus in the scriptures, the Holy Spirit makes him come alive for us. The Spirit brings us into the living presence of Christ. Christ dwells in our hearts by faith. We know him personally, feel his presence in our lives, and have a vital relationship with him. (see 1 Corinthians 2:10-16) Spiritually, we "see" him face to face. Jesus himself is God's love letter to us and to the world.

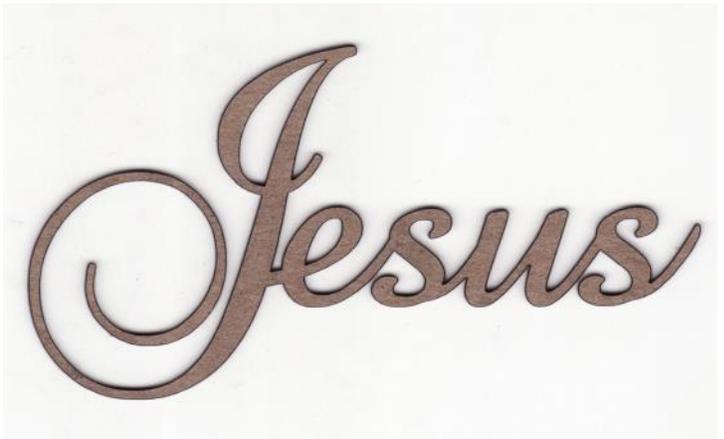
If Jesus is God's love letter to us, then we are Jesus' love letters to others. God sends us in person to share his grace with other people. The Spirit works through us to speak God's word of love to those around us. We are living letters, with a message from God written upon our hearts.

It's been a great joy to me over the years to know people who tell others about God's love, grace, and forgiveness as living letters from God. The Holy Spirit writes his message on their hearts through a life of faith and devotion. What a blessing it is to see how all of you at GUMC are showing God's love to our community and our world! As you reach out

in love, as you work for freedom and justice for all, you make a great impact on people's lives. Through you they know the love of God through Jesus Christ. You are God's personal letter to them. In you they see the face of God.

There's a saying that's been attributed to St. Francis of Assisi: "Preach the gospel at all times; use words if necessary." There is a time when we must use words to share the gospel, but we remember that the most powerful message is the one written on our hearts.

—Pastor Rick



Prayer

Lord God, teach us to hear and listen to your Word. Draw us closer to your Son, Jesus Christ, that he may abide in us and we in him. Enable us to bear much fruit for him and for his kingdom. May his light shine in our hearts and his grace animate our lives to your greater glory.

Hear us, Lord, as we lift up those in need. We pray for the sick, the sorrowing, the hungry, the homeless, and all affected by COVID-19. We pray for your justice and righteousness to prevail in this world, that all may enjoy equal freedom and dignity. Make us instruments of your grace.

May we be faithful witnesses to your love. Write your Word on our hearts, that we may be letters of joy to everyone we meet.; this we pray through Christ our Lord. Amen.

. . . The Word of Life.

Crisis Hotlines and Helplines

During these trying times, it's good to be aware of some of the positive resources available in our community. Many people are under extraordinary stress because of the ongoing situation. Please feel free to share this information with others as you feel appropriate.

CONTACT Helpline: (800) 932-4616

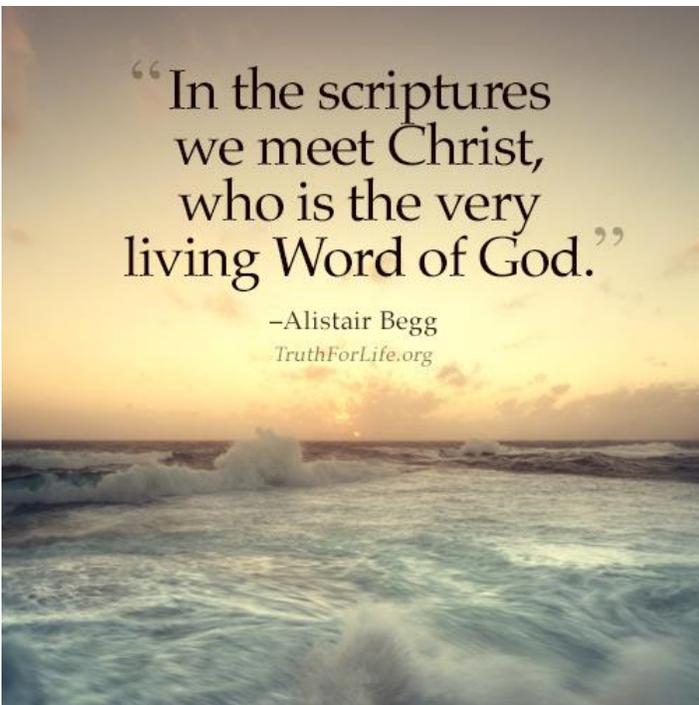
Wellspan Behavioral Health Helpline (Philhaven): (800) 932-0359

TrueNorth Crisis Line: (866) 325-0339

Substance Abuse Hotline: (800) 662-4357

Domestic Violence Hotline: (800) 799-7233

Adams-Hanover Crisis Information Referral Hotline: (717) 632-4900



A virtual installation service for our new District Superintendent, Rev. Cathy Boileau, will be held on Sun., Sept. 20, at 4 pm. A link to the service will be included in next week's mailing if it is available by then.

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 9/8/2020) is:

Genny Reaver—recovering at home

Barbara Evans

Rodney Truscott

Cathy Libera—recovering at home

Sandy Speck—recovering at home

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, Little-

stown); Missy Legay (Moul Home, York); Bob

Reed (Lorien, Mt Airy, MD); Peggy Reynolds

(Quincy-cottage), Waynesboro); Gloria Swin-

gler (Country Meadows-apartment), Mechan-

icsburg

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

Parking Lot News

The Trustees have authorized additional handicapped parking spaces in the church parking lot, including two new handicapped spaces on the concrete apron behind the church. The new spaces on the concrete apron are next to the walkway to the back door. The parking spaces for the treasurer, secretary, music director, and pastor have been moved over to make room for the new spaces.

HYMN

I Love to Tell the Story

Kate Hankey, William G. Fischer

1. I love to tell the story
of unseen things above,
of Jesus and his glory,
of Jesus and his love.
I love to tell the story,
because I know 'tis true;
it satisfies my longings
as nothing else can do.

Refrain:

I love to tell the story,
'twill be my theme in glory,
to tell the old, old story
of Jesus and his love.

2. I love to tell the story;
more wonderful it seems
than all the golden fancies
of all our golden dreams.
I love to tell the story,
it did so much for me;

and that is just the reason
I tell it now to thee. [Refrain]

3. I love to tell the story;
'tis pleasant to repeat
what seems, each time I tell it,
more wonderfully sweet.
I love to tell the story,
for some have never heard
the message of salvation
from God's own holy Word. [Refrain]

4. I love to tell the story,
for those who know it best
seem hungering and thirsting
to hear it like the rest.
And when, in scenes of glory,
I sing the new, new song,
'twill be the old, old story
that I have loved so long. [Refrain]

Arabella Katherine (Kate) Hankey (1834-1911) was born in Clapham, England. She was strongly influenced by the Clapham sect of Anglican evangelicals led by William Wilberforce. A poet, she gave all of the income from her published work to African missions. William G. Fischer was born in Baltimore in 1835 and died in Philadelphia in 1912. He was well known as a teacher of music theory and a conductor of choral festivals. He taught music at Girard College in Philadelphia for ten years before establishing his own music store. He wrote over 200 tunes, including a number of Sunday School songs.

The words are an excerpt from a longer poem on the life of Christ, written by Hankey in November of 1866. The words of the refrain were written by the composer of the tune (William Fischer). The tune was first published in a pamphlet 1869. When it was published in gospel hymn collections in 1874 and 1875 it became popular throughout the country. It may be found as number 156 in *The United Methodist 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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