

Westgate Witness



April 2025

2235 Harrisburg Pike, Lancaster, PA 17601 – 717-394-1071

Facebook: Westgate American Baptist Church

www.WestgateABC.com



Greetings in the Name of our Lord!

The Journey Home

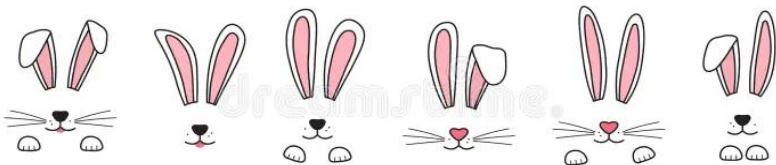
One of the things I cherish most about living in South Central Pennsylvania is the many backroads that lead to more backroads that lead to more surprisingly beautiful landscapes and vista's. There are days where all I need are wheels—and some time on my hands—and a willingness to wander—and off I go on another road adventure.

While filling up my motorcycle at a gas pump the other day I entered into some friendly chatter with a man who eventually asked me “So where are you going.” Which led to me responding that I was just out for a ride, he seemed a little surprised. And then I shared with him that since I had moved here from suburban Philadelphia and that I was enjoying the open roads and scenic countryside of Lancaster County on a regular basis. The conversation was warm friendly but what was also refreshing to me was simply the acknowledgment that I didn't need to be on my way somewhere specific to enjoy the ride. And I have learned through many of life's twists and turns, up and downs, that often it's all about making the most of the journey and not being inflexibly obsessed with a destination.

I will never forget a warm Spring evening when I set out on a bicycle ride on the rolling country roads around Mount Joy and half way into my planned 35 mile ride some dark ominous clouds formed and slowly moved in my direction. Not long after I found myself in a headwind with dark clouds directly overhead and rain beginning to fall. I saw a young Amish boy walking hurriedly toward me with his fishing pole. The little boy was walking toward a bridge over a small stream as he hurried past he said “you’re going to get wet, sir...” I responded “And so are you.” “Nope” he said, “going under the bridge till it passes.” And then I invited myself to go under the bridge for protection for myself. What followed was a friendly and engaging conversation under a bridge while the wind howled and the clouds burst. Another reminder for me that life is so often about the stuff that happens while on the journey. Scripture reminds us in 2 Corinthians 4:18 That “What we see will last only a short time, but what we cannot see will last forever.”

For some of us the journey has been long. Very long and stormy. In no way do I wish to minimize the difficulties that many of us have had to face along the way. Some of you have shouldered the burdens that few of us could ever carry. You have bid farewell to life-long partners—perhaps robbing you of life-long dreams. You have been given bodies that can’t sustain your spirit. Sometimes bills that outnumber paychecks and challenges that outweigh the strength. And you are naturally tired.

It’s hard for you to see the City, the Road Signs, the Finish Line when you are in the midst of the storms. The desire to pull over to the side of the road and give up is enticing. You want to go on, but there are days and weeks that seem very long—but God never said the journey would be easy, but he did say that the arrival would be worthwhile. And though it may sound a little pie in the sky isn’t it true that the journey becomes more like an adventure when you know the Savior is walking beside you. Walking beside you through thick and thin—in winter and summer—in darkness and light—in certitude and doubt—on the mount and in the valley—on the street and in the alley. We are blessed to know He’s on this journey with us and that He will not leave or forsake us.



Pastor Robert Zimmerman

COMIN' UP this Saturday, April 5, 4:30-6:30:

JUST SAY GRACE Community Meal--Crazy Alice's HOME-MADE Spaghetti and Meatballs!

COME ON OUT and CHOW DOWN with family, friends, and neighbors.

Great Food. Live Music. Donation Only (to benefit the East Pete family of Julie Langseth whose husband Peter died suddenly last week.)

Grace Church
6067 Carpenter Street





*On Maundy Thursday at 7 p.m. we will join
Reformation Lutheran Church for
worship. Although the service will be organized and
conducted by Reformation, Pastor Robert will bring
the evening message. We look forward to our first
worship experience with the Reformation Church*



Easter Breakfast

*bring a breakfast related food—or just bring your appetite. If Westgate
has any children in attendance, we have been invited to join Reformation
for an Easter Egg hunt during the breakfast time. We will then go from
the Social to our Resurrection Service to begin at 11:10 a.m. We look
forward to a wonderful Resurrection Service.*

*On Easter Sunday at 10:30 we will enjoy a joint
refreshment social with the Reformation
Congregation in the
kitchen. Please feel free to*



Resurrection of Jesus

*Easter is one of the principal holidays, or feasts, of Christianity.
It marks the Resurrection of Jesus three days after his death by
crucifixion.*



JOHN 20:16

(Mary) turned to him and cried out, “Rabboni!” (which is Hebrew for “Teacher”)

KNOWN BY GOD

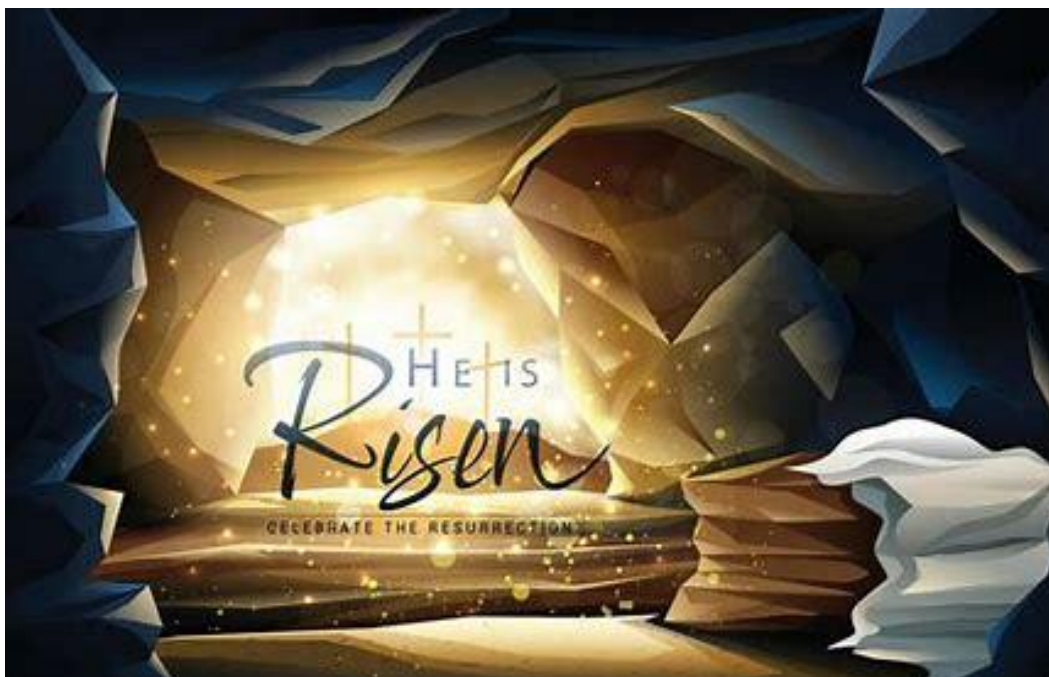
“Who is this stranger?” A college student in Georgia asked that question when a fellow student texted him saying a DNA test showed they could be brothers. Separated by adoption almost twenty years earlier, the young man texted a reply in which he asked what name the other student had been given at birth. He immediately answered, “Tyler” Replied the other, “Yes!!! You are my brother! He was recognized by his name.

Consider how a name plays a key role in the Easter story. As it unfolds, Mary Magdalene comes to Christ’s tomb, and she weeps when she finds His body missing. “Dear women, why are you crying?” Jesus asked her” (John 20:15). She didn’t recognize Him, however, until He spoke her name, “Mary” (v.16).

Hearing Him say it, she cried out “Rabboni” (which is Hebrew for “Teacher”) (v.16). her reaction expresses the hope and joy believers in Jesus feel on Easter morning, recognizing that our risen Christ conquered death for all, knowing each of us as His children. As He told Mary, “I am ascending to my Father and your Father, to my God and your God” (v.17)

In Georgia, two reunited brothers bonded by name, have vowed to take “this relationship to the next level.” On Easter, we praise Jesus for already taking the utmost step to rise in sacrificial love for those He knows as His own. For you and me, indeed, He’s alive!

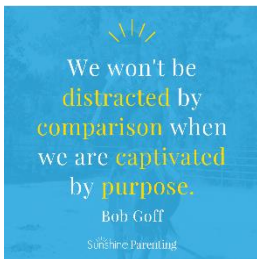
Patricia Raybon





For the next 5-6 weeks beginning this Sunday March 9th we will be exploring the following theme during our 9:15 Adult Sunday School Class. Special thanks to Stephen Appleby for his excellent leadership in this interesting and needful topic. Perhaps you would like to order the book for your own reading and edification.

Has anyone ever told you...



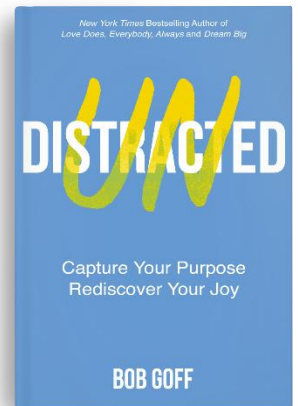
You have permission to eliminate distractions! You have permission to live a more fulfilling life!

Distractions cause more harm than you might think. And they're all around us, all the time. They can disrupt our focus on what really matters, interfere with our true priorities, and divert our attention from the God who created us for his good purpose.

Bob Goff, bestselling author of *Love Does*, has created this video Bible study to give you guidance in and joyful permission to:

- Identify the distractions in your life
- Eliminate them so that you can recharge and refocus on your God-given purpose
- Start living a less-distracted and more joy-filled and love-oriented life

Distractions can get you stuck in the past, worried about the present, and frazzled by any future you could possibly fret over. It's time to discover how to get undistracted in all aspects of your life.



Holy Week

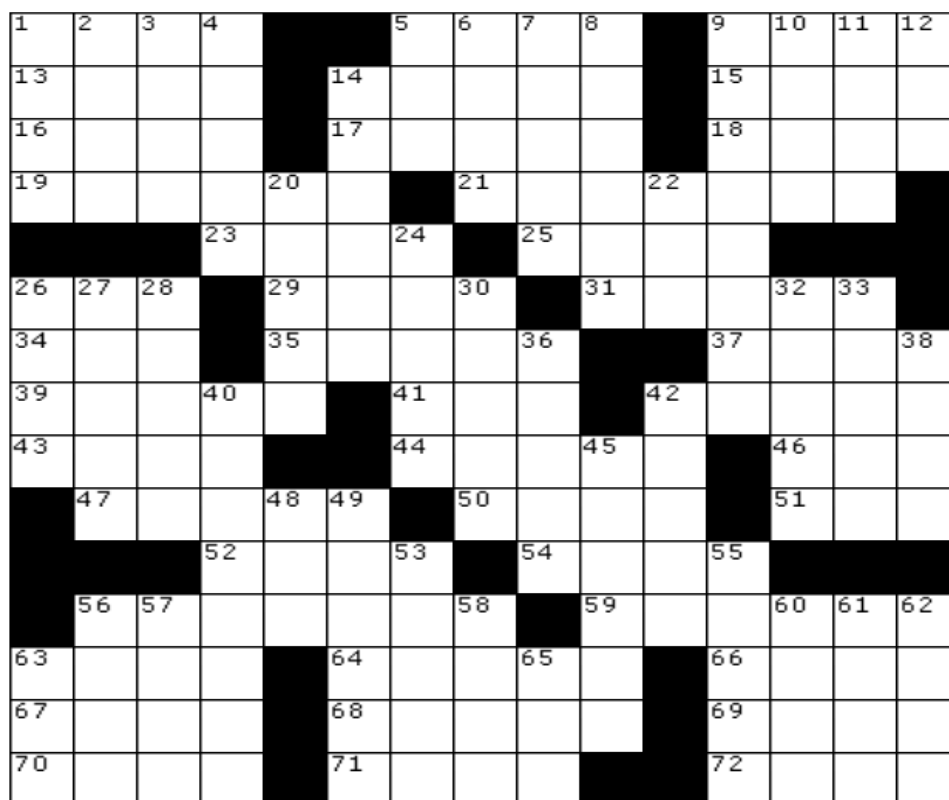
Women's Bible Study **Join us 9:30 am every Tuesday** **for coffee and study**

If you have never been to the Women's Bible Study, now is a great time to join us! At this most sacred time of the Christian calendar, on Tuesday, April 1st and Tuesday, April 8th we will have 2 special studies on the events of Holy Week. Come with us as we study what Jesus endured leading up to the cross and His blessed and victorious Resurrection!

Bible Crossword

ANSWERS ON PAGE 8

NO PEEKING!



ACROSS

- 1 Thick carpet
- 5 Daddy
- 9 North Atlantic Treaty Organization
- 13 Johnnycake
- 14 City in Ohio
- 15 Imitated
- 16 On top
- 17 Famous psychologist
- 18 __ Piper
- 19 Famous painter
- 21 Father of Ishmael
- 23 Continent
- 25 Trial
- 26 Border
- 29 Sequel to Luke
- 31 Dock
- 34 Spanish "one"
- 35 Brother of Miriam
- 37 Sister of Rachel
- 39 Kind of acid
- 41 Wrath
- 42 __graph

machine

- 43 Trickery
- 44 Coke's competitor
- 46 No room for them in the ____
- 47 Religious songs
- 50 Drains energy
- 51 Children's game
- 52 Fresh
- 54 Stare
- 56 Pentateuch book
- 59 Where Noah's ark landed
- 63 Herr's wife
- 64 Tribe of Israel
- 66 Tree trunk
- 67 Bond together
- 68 Protein sources
- 69 Wine bottle
- 70 Eve's son
- 71 Writer Bombeck
- 72 Baal

DOWN

- 1 Goad
- 2 Faith, ____ and charity
- 3 Soon

4 Italian city

- 5 Danish krone (abbr.)
- 6 Location
- 7 Mistrust
- 8 One of the apostles
- 9 Tribe of Israel
- 10 Capital of Western Samoa
- 11 Swarm
- 12 Strange
- 14 Continent
- 20 Son of Abraham
- 22 Tree
- 24 A vacation (2 wds.)
- 26 Wheel centers
- 27 First son of Cain
- 28 Eel
- 30 Aches
- 32 Make a payment
- 33 Matador's passes at bull
- 36 Asian country
- 38 __ Kong
- 40 God with us
- 42 Tightwad
- 45 Pointed

weapons

- 48 North northeast
- 49 __ Street
- 53 Smarter, like an owl
- 55 Jewish teacher
- 56 Food
- 57 Relieve
- 58 Pillow covering
- 60 Crucifix
- 61 Singing voice
- 62 Duck
- 63 Future Farmers of America (abr.)
- 65 Terminal abbr.



Don't forget to order your Easter Flowers

\$9.00 each

*Orders must be in by April 6th
Please drop the order & payment in the
Offering Plate or give it to Cora Stump
The flowers will be used to beautify our
Easter Service.*

You may take your flowers after the Easter worship service.



Next Board Meeting is April 21st @ 6:00pm



Tuesday, April 15th

Our next Men's Fellowship breakfast will be at 9:00 am. We will meet at Bob Evans Restaurant,

215 S Centerville Rd. PA 17603 for a casual Christian Men's fellowship time.



Westgate is stepping into the 21st century!
We will be **live streaming** our Sunday services.

What does that mean?

1. You can watch our Sunday service **live** just by clicking on our Facebook page.
2. You can go back and watch any service at anytime on our Facebook page.
3. Tell your family, neighbors and friends to tune in each Sunday morning at 11:00am

1st Shariyh Lafontant
 9th Marlene Saylor
 Wiselene Joseph
 11th Ariel Pate
 12th Gary Stump
 13th Joan Batzer-Williams
 16th Lloyd Appleby

28th Timothy & Cynthia Ferris
 30th Daniel & Loretta Chure



Treasurer's Report

March	\$9,740.00
Budget Income	\$8,909.00
Non-Budget Income	\$831.00

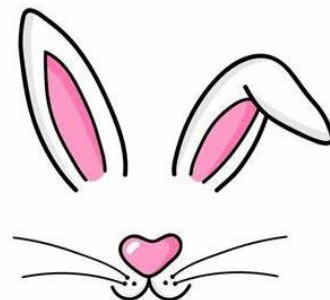


An Easter Prayer

Lord,
 today I remember your
 resurrection this Easter, and
 rejoice in the victory you
 have won over death.
 You have given me the
 hope of eternal life, and I
 praise you because you
 took my pain and bore my
 suffering.

Amen.

garmentsofsplendor.com



HAPPY EASTER

From the book *Holy Humor Inspirational Wit & Cartoons* by Carl & Rose Samara

Rev. Jon Erickson, a Lutheran Pastor in Remer, MN, reports he saw the following bumper sticker:

IN CASE OF THE RAPTURE, I CLAIM YOUR CAR!

Mary Rose Betten, Catholic lay leader/playwright, was directing a childrens Easter performance and overseeing the casting so that each child felt comfortable with his or her role. One boy insisted he wanted to be the rock in front of the garden tomb.

“Wouldn’t you like to have a speaking role?” she asked him. But he would have no other.

The presentation went smoothly. Once again, she asked the boy why he wanted to play the rock.

His smile beamed at her “oh, it felt so good to let Jesus out of the tomb.”

Jean W. Spencer, Camarillo, CA



Pastor’s Blooper “this being Easter Sunday, we will ask Mrs Johnson to come forward and lay an egg on the altar.” via Rev. Hallack Greider, Anchorage, AK



The Bunny and Hair!

A man was blissfully driving along the highway, when he saw the Easter Bunny hopping across the middle of the road. He swerved to avoid hitting the Bunny, but unfortunately the rabbit jumped in front of his car and was hit. The basket of eggs went flying all over the place. Candy, too.

The driver, being a sensitive man as well as an animal lover, pulled over to the side of the road, and got out to see what had become of the Bunny carrying the basket. Much to his dismay, the colorful Bunny was dead.

The driver felt guilty and began to cry. A woman driving down the same highway saw the man crying on the side of the road and pulled over. She stepped out of her car and asked the man what was wrong.

"I feel terrible," he explained, "I accidentally hit the Easter Bunny and killed it. What should I do?"

The woman told the man not to worry. She knew exactly what to do. She went to her car trunk and pulled out a spray can. She walked over to the limp, dead Bunny, and sprayed the entire contents of the can onto the little furry animal.

Miraculously the Easter Bunny came to back life, jumped up, picked up the spilled eggs and candy, waved its paw at the two humans and hopped on down the road. 50 yards away the Easter Bunny stopped, turned around, waved and hopped on down the road another 50 yards, turned, waved, hopped another 50 yards and waved again!!!!

The man was astonished. He said to the woman, "What in heaven's name is in your spray can?" The woman turned the can around so that the man could read the label. It said:

"Hair spray. Restores life to dead hair. Adds permanent wave."

