



Westgate Witness



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Facebook: Westgate American Baptist Church

www.WestgateABC.com



Greetings in the Name of our Lord!

Focusing on God's Greatness (Psalm 86, Colossians 3:1-4)

"Only God is great." That was the solemn and unexpected declaration of Jean-Baptiste Massillon as he began his sermon at the funeral of King Louis XIV. King Louis XIV liked to be referred to as Louis the Great. He ruled France from 1643 to 1715 with absolute power and incredible splendor. His funeral was held in a magnificent cathedral that was lit by a single candle alongside the ornate coffin of the King.

When it was time for Massillon to speak, he slowly walked toward the casket, and then reached out and extinguished the candle. Then he broke the shock and silence with the words, **"only God is great."**

We recognize and admire some of our fellow mortals who are considered to be great: great thinkers, great scientists, great inventors, great athletes, and great achievers in every field of endeavor. In many ways they tower above all of us ordinary people, but they still have the same needs that we do. They experience aches and pains; they have family problems and practical daily challenges. They have troubled minds and hungry hearts that cannot starve off death nor guarantee life beyond the grave. In this sense only God is truly great, great enough to meet all our needs, great enough to forgive all our sins and shortcomings, great enough to carry us through the dark valley of death into eternity, to be with Him forever. So we declare along with the Psalmist **"You are great... You alone are God."** (Psalm 86:10).

How often, however, we lose sight of God's greatness and become fixated on our limits or flaws, or the weakness of another. We begin living in a cloud of negative self-absorbed thinking. Some years ago, a sociologist accompanied a group of mountain climbers on an expedition. Among other things, he observed a distinct correlation between cloud cover and contentment. When there was no cloud cover and the peak was in view, the climbers were energetic and cooperative. When gray clouds eclipsed the view of the

mountaintop, leaving the mountaintop obscured to sight, feeling unreachable, the climbers were sullen and selfish.

The same thing happens to us. As long as our eyes are on God's goodness, God's majesty and greatness, there seems to be a bounce in our step. But let our eyes focus on the dirt beneath our feet, or the gray dampness of winter, then we grumble and lose our energy. We feel every twinge of pain as we climb up the hill toward the top. For this reason, Paul urges us in Colossians 3:1-2 ***"so if you have been raised with Christ, seek the things that are above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God. Set your minds on things above, not on things that are on earth...."***



Pastor Robert Zimmerman

Begin Again



Every day is a fresh beginning,
Every morn is a world made new.
You who are wary of sorrow and sinning,
Here is a beautiful hope for you –
A hope for me and a hope for you.
Every day is a fresh beginning,
Listen, my soul, to the glad refrain,
And in spite of old sorrow and older sinning,
And puzzled forecasted and possible pain,
Take heart with the day, and begin again.



Author unknown

Please mark your calendar we will be joining the Reformation Lutheran Church for Holy Thursday Service (Maundy Thursday Service) at 7 p.m. in the sanctuary. This will be our first opportunity to join with Reformation and we look forward to a very meaningful and substantive worship experience together as we recognize the Last Supper.



Dates to remember!



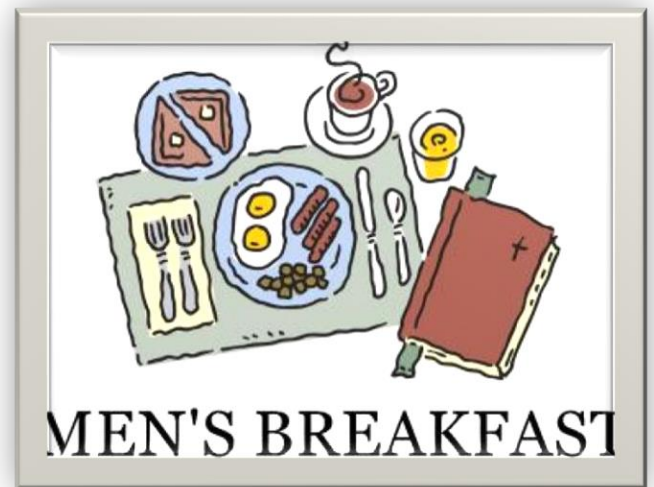
**Daylight Savings Time Begins
March 9th**



**Happy St. Patrick's Day
March 17th**



**Board Meeting
March 17th 6:00 pm**



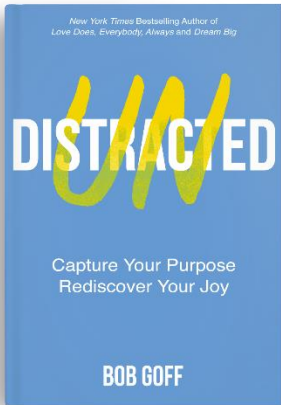
MEN'S BREAKFAST

March 18th @ 9:00am
**Bob Evans Restaurant,
215 S Centerville Rd. PA 17603**



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.



Turn Hunger into Hope



Willow Street Mennonite Church is looking for volunteers for their 'Feed My Starving Children' MOBILEPACK Event

March 28th-30th

Sign up for a 2 hour shift and help pack food boxes that will be sent to some of the most challenging hunger spots across the globe.

For more info go to: give.fmsc.org/willowstreet



The word Lent derives from an Angle-Saxon word for “spring” or verb meaning “to lengthen”, and pertains to the lengthening of days especially noticeable that time of year. The season of Lent will be observed this year from Ash Wednesday (March 5th) through Psalm Sunday (April 13th).

The forty days of Lent are most frequently identified with Jesus’ forty-day fast in the wilderness. Other Biblical parallels include the forty days Moses spent on Mt. Sinai, and the forty years that the nation of Israel wandered in the wilderness.

For many centuries, Lent has been devoted to Christian nurture through discipline and penitence. It is a time for increased reflection and contemplation on the life, the teaching, and the sacrificial death of Jesus Christ. The use of these days for deepening the spiritual life enables Christians to better comprehend Jesus’ suffering as well as the measure of God’s love revealed in Him.



A Baptist Preacher’s Dog

A Baptist preacher and his wife decided they needed a dog. Ever mindful of the congregation, they knew the dog must also be Baptist. They visited an expensive kennel and explained their needs to the manager, who assured them he had just the dog for them. The dog was produced and the manager said “fetch the Bible.” The dog bounded to the bookshelf, scrutinized the books, located the Bible and brought it to the manager. The manager then said “Find Psalms 23.” The dog showing marvelous dexterity with his paws, leafed thru the Bible, found the correct passage, and pointed to it with his paw. Duly impressed the couple purchased the dog.



That evening a group of parishioners came to visit. The preacher and his wife began to show off the dog having him locate several Bible verses. The visitors were amazed. Finally, one man asked “can he do normal dog trick’s too?” “Let’s see” said the preacher.

Pointing his finger at the dog, he commanded “Heel!” the dog immediately jumped up on a chair, placed one paw on the preacher’s forehead and began to howl.

The preacher turned to his wife and exclaimed “good grief, we’ve bought a Pentecostal dog!”

Submitted by Pastor Robert Zimmerman

Short Stories for Seniors

Fading memories:



An elderly couple, George and Mildred, noticed that they were getting a lot more forgetful in their old age. Naturally, they thought it might be a good idea to discuss the problem with their doctor.

The doctor reassured them that this was quite a common experience for people as they got older, and he suggested that they should start writing things down, so they don't forget.

When they got home, Mildred asked George to get her a bowl of ice cream from the kitchen refrigerator. **"Should I write that down for you, George?"** she

said. **"No, Mildred. I'm sure I'll remember a bowl of ice cream,"** George responded. **"OK, George,"** said Mildred **"but I want some whipped cream with my ice cream too. Should I write that down?"** **"No,"** said George. **"I'll remember. You want a bowl of ice cream with whipped cream."** **"George, I'd love a cherry on top too,"** said Mildred. **"Should I write that down?"**

"No, I got it," said George. **"You want a bowl of ice cream with whipped cream and a cherry on top."**

So, George disappears into the kitchen to get the ice cream, and he then spends an unusually long time there before returning about 40 minutes later. He returns to the living room and hands Mildred a plate of eggs and bacon. Mildred stares at the plate momentarily and then she looks at George **"Where's the toast?"** she asks.



Pronunciation problem:

Jeff and Mary, a middle-aged couple, are driving through Louisiana when they come to the small city of Natchitoches. Neither of them had ever been there before and they started arguing about how the name of the city is pronounced. Needless to say, both of them thought they knew best, and they kept on bickering until eventually, they decided to stop for lunch. At the counter, Jeff smiled at the pretty, young waitress and said, **"Mam, before we order, could you help us settle an argument, please?"** The young waitress smiled and said, **"Sure! How can I help you, honey?"** **"Could you please pronounce where we are right now, very slowly?"** said Jeff. The young waitress leaned over the counter and said, **"Yes sir! It's Burr-r-gerrr Kiiing."**



Irish Blessing

May you always have...
Walls for the wind
A roof for the rain
Tea beside the fire
Laughter to cheer you
Those you love near you
And all your heart
might desire





Women's Bible Study

Join us 9:30 am every Tuesday for coffee and study

Reminder that no bible study is scheduled for March 18th and 25th

*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!*



The America for Christ Offering 2025

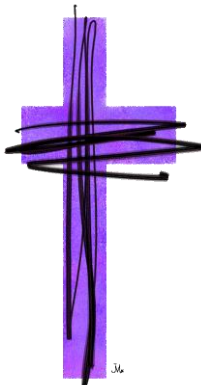
HAS STARTED!

*grace
upon
grace*

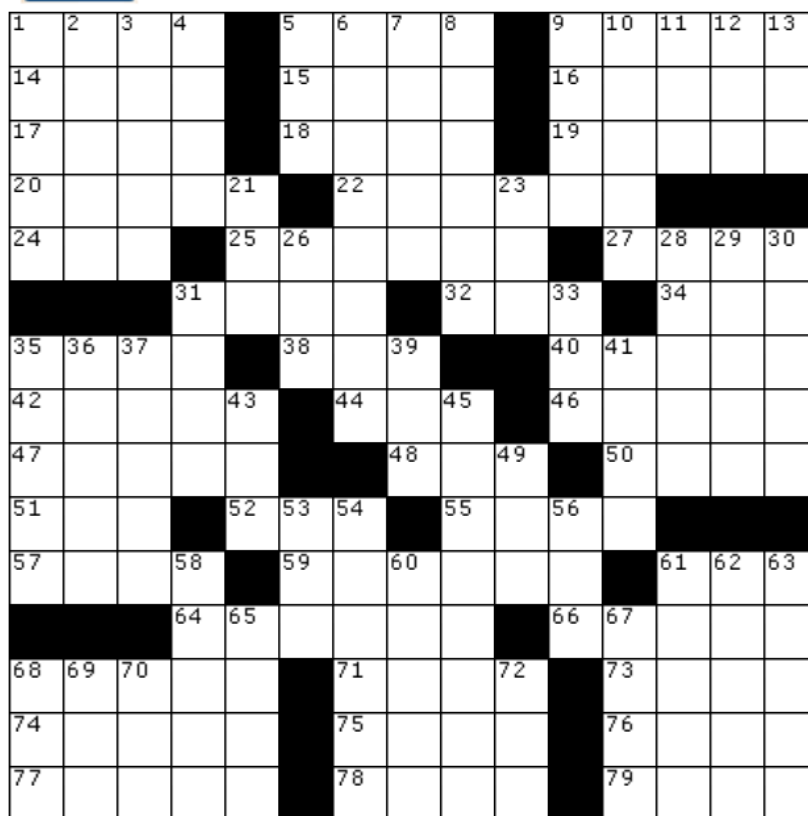
A fundraising campaign launched by the American Baptist Home Mission Societies (ABHMS), inspired by Ephesians 4:13. This offering aims to provide financial support to American Baptist churches and affiliated organizations across the United States and Puerto Rico, enabling them to conduct various ministries and community support initiatives. Contributions to this offering have historically impacted thousands through various programs, including support for marginalized children and disaster relief efforts.

Please consider making a donation.

BIBLE CROSSWORD PUZZLE



ANSWERS ON LAST PAGE
NO PEEKING!



ACROSS

- 1 Beat it!
- 5 Factor of ten
- 9 Fry lightly
- 14 Launder
- 15 Vivacity
- 16 Dined
- 17 Yearn
- 18 Loan
- 19 Man shall not live by _____ alone
- 20 Ply
- 22 Overly (2 wds.)
- 24 Possessive pronoun
- 25 Can ____ (kitchen gadget)
- 27 Star
- 31 Last word, often
- 32 Western Athletic Conference
- 34 Mayan language
- 35 College (abbr.)
- 38 Snacked
- 40 White poplar
- 42 Mesh

- 44 Melancholy
- 46 Open
- 47 Heavenly being
- 48 Men's neckwear
- 50 Pops
- 51 Note of debt
- 52 Air blower
- 55 Charity
- 57 Smart person
- 59 Insect
- 61 Seize
- 64 Monetary unit
- 66 Mother-in-law of Ruth
- 68 Woods
- 71 Lean
- 73 Tattle
- 74 Gas company
- 75 Native ruler in Africa
- 76 Scoop
- 77 Kind of fabric
- 78 Risqu ♦
- 79 Green Gables dweller

DOWN

- 1 ____ buckler
- 2 Computer

- memory enhancer
- 3 Tribe of Israel
- 4 Biblical "you"
- 5 Eastern state
- 6 Periodic table residents
- 7 Authoritative list of scripture
- 8 One of the apostles
- 9 Compass point
- 10 Brother of Moses
- 11 Shoshonean
- 12 Thirst quencher
- 13 Goal
- 21 Male cat
- 23 Epoch
- 26 Pod vegetable
- 28 Last letter of Greek alphabet
- 29 Legitimate
- 30 Last words of prayers
- 31 Wood tool
- 33 Taxi
- 35 Once more
- 36 Long, skinny

- boat
- 37 Predict from an omen
- 39 Consume
- 41 Hotel furniture
- 43 Santa's helper
- 45 Using eight tone scales
- 49 Annex
- 53 Most basic
- 54 Fix a pet
- 56 Males
- 58 Slanderer
- 60 Water retention
- 61 Mr. Ryan
- 62 Vigorously
- 63 Collection of sacred books
- 65 Vend
- 67 Word meaning father
- 68 Time zone
- 69 Tiff
- 70 Kimono sash
- 72 Arid





1st Judy Johnsen
 4th Mike Pate
 6th Chuck Oetell
 17th Paul Dour
 24th Cynthia Ferris
 26th Pat Rust
 27th Samwel Ombongi
 28th Gordon Tolson
 30th Stacey Sollenberger



6th Dan & Ivy Sweigart
 18th Leroy & Sarah Tebie

Treasurer's Report

February	\$7,660.00
Budget Income	\$5,162.00
Non-Budget Income	\$2,498.00

