

# Westgate Witness

## June 2025



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Facebook: Westgate American Baptist Church

[www.WestgateABC.com](http://www.WestgateABC.com)

Dear Westgate Friends,

As I shared last month, I formerly had a segment of worship dedicated to poetry—I called it Poetry Power. Again, this month I would like to submit some of my favored poems instead of my more conventional Pastor's Article. These poems deal generally with the human struggle to find God, acceptance, identity and meaning in life. I hope you will again enjoy a few more of my favorites.

### *I Saw God Wash the World*

I saw God wash the world last night  
With His sweet showers on high  
and then when morning came  
I saw Him hang it out to dry

He washed each blade of grass  
and every trembling tree;  
He flung His showers against the hills  
and swept the rolling sea

The white rose is a cleaner white  
the red, a richer red  
Since God washed every fragrant face  
and put them to bed

Theres not a bird there's not a bee  
the wings along the way  
but is a cleaner bird or bee  
than it was yesterday

I saw God wash the world last night  
ah would He wash me  
as clean of all my dust and dirt  
as that old birch tree!"

— Dr. W. L. Stiger 1885



## ***The Search***

I sought his love in sun and stars, and where the wild seas roll  
I found it not, as mute I stood, fear overwhelmed my soul;  
But when I gave it to one in need, I found the Lord of Love indeed.

I sought his love in lore of books, in charts of science's skill;  
They left me orphaned as before—His love eluded still;  
Then in despair I breathed a prayer; the Lord of Love was standing there!

*Thomas Curtis Clark, 1877*

## ***Credo***

Not what, but WHOM, I do believe,  
That, in my darkest hour of need,  
Hath comfort that no mortal creed  
To mortal man may give;—  
Not what, but WHOM!  
For Christ is more than all the creeds,  
And His full life of gentle deeds  
Shall all the creeds outlive.  
Not what I do believe, but WHOM!  
WHO walks beside me in the gloom?  
WHO shares the burden wearisome?  
WHO all the dim way doth illumine,  
And bids me look beyond the tomb  
The larger life to live?—  
Not what I do believe,  
BUT WHOM!  
Not what,  
But WHOM!



*by John Oxenham, 1852-1941*

## ***Four Things***

Four things a man must learn to do, if he would make his record true:  
To think without confusion clearly; to love his fellow men sincerely;  
To act from honest motives purely; to trust in God and Heaven securely.

*Henry van Dyke, 1852-1933*

# UPCOMING EVENTS

## Crafts for Christmas Shoebox Project

The Women's group will be holding another craft day in June. The date will be announced in upcoming bulletins.



*Sunday June 8<sup>th</sup> at 4 p.m. we will be joining the Reformation Lutheran Church for a cookout/BBQ in the Pavilion. Consider bringing a salad or dessert but if you don't bring either please bring an appetite for some great food and friendship.*

Next Board Meeting scheduled for  
Monday June 9<sup>th</sup> @ 6:30 PM



## Tuesday, June 17th

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.





## **Is Father's Day an official holiday? When did it start? What to know about the day's origin.**

It's officially June! Which means people with dads and beloved father figures will likely start shopping for golf-themed cards, outdoor gear, whiskey glasses and whatever else the dads in their lives love in the coming days. That's right, Father's Day in the U.S. is just a few weeks away.

### **Is Father's Day the same day every year?**

Father's Day always falls on the third Sunday of June, which means the calendar date changes every year.

## **When was Father's Day invented? History of Father's Day in the U.S.**

Mother's Day came first and actually inspired Father's Day. According to History.com, the commercialized Mother's Day we know and celebrate in the U.S. today began in 1908, but its origins can be traced all the way back to the mid-1800s. "The 'Mother's Day' we celebrate today has its origins in the peace-and-reconciliation campaigns of the post-Civil War era. During the 1860s, at the urging of activist Ann Reeves Jarvis, one divided West Virginia town celebrated 'Mother's Work Days' that brought together the mothers of Confederate and Union soldiers ..." History.com says. "In 1909, 45 states observed the day, and in 1914, President Woodrow Wilson approved a resolution that made the second Sunday in May a holiday in honor of 'that tender, gentle army, the mothers of America.' But Father's Day took a little while longer to get off the ground, due to gender norms of the time. According to the Old Farmer's Almanac and Lawrence R. Samuel, author of "American Fatherhood: A Cultural History," "Men had a different role in the family during the first half of that century. It was patriarchal, so they felt that a special day to exalt fatherhood was a rather silly idea, when it was mothers who were underappreciated."

### **How did Father's Day start?**

It wasn't until 1972, under President Richard Nixon, that Congress passed an act officially making Father's Day a national holiday. But the first Father's Day celebration can be traced all the way back to 1908, around the same time Mother's Day kicked off in the U.S. "The first known Father's Day service occurred in Fairmont, West Virginia, on July 5, 1908, after hundreds of men died in the worst mining accident in U.S. history," the Old Farmer's Almanac says. But the observance didn't become an annual or nationally observed event. A year later, Sonora Smart Dodd, a 27-year-old in Spokane, Washington, was inspired by Mother's Day and came up with the idea to set aside a day in June to celebrate dads. "She proposed June 5, her father's birthday, but the ministers chose the third Sunday in June so that they would have more time after Mother's Day (the second Sunday in May) to prepare their sermons," the almanac says.

### **When was the first Father's Day?**

"On June 19, 1910, the first Father's Day events commenced: Sonora delivered presents to handicapped fathers, boys from the YMCA decorated their lapels with fresh-cut roses (red for living fathers, white for the deceased), and the city's ministers devoted their homilies to fatherhood."

The first bill to make Father's Day a holiday was presented to Congress just a few years later in 1913, but didn't pass. Eight years later, President Calvin Coolidge signed a resolution in favor of establishing a Father's Day and in 1966, President Lyndon Johnson signed an executive order dictating that the holiday would be celebrated on the third Sunday of June. In 1972, Congress approved an act to make it a national holiday, under Nixon.

**Happy Father's Day – June 15th**



## New Sunday School series starting June 8<sup>th</sup>

Gary Stump will be teaching



We will be looking at the letters of the Apostle John in Sunday School. John was uniquely qualified as an evangelist. A first cousin of Jesus and disciple of John the Baptist, he was among the first four men to identify him as Messiah. He was one of the first two apostles to join Jesus at the very beginning of his public ministry. He was one of three of Jesus' closest disciples and who were therefore the only men to witness some of the most significant events of that ministry, like the Transformation. At the time of writing John was in his late 80's, having been an active Christian evangelist and leader for about 60 years, over 20 as the only living Apostle. The rest of the the New Testament had been written from about 25-50 years earlier so he would have been familiar with it and he and the Church had had a lot of time to think about it and understand the message. His gospel, letters and Revelation thus represents some of the most developed theology in the Bible.

### **COMPLAINT at the Library**

A young lady stormed up to the front desk of the library and said, "I have a complaint!"

"Yes, ma'am?"

"I borrowed a book last week, and it was horrible!"

"What was wrong with it?" asked the librarian.

"It had way too many characters, was way, way too long, and there was no plot whatsoever!"

The librarian nodded and said, "A-a-h-h. You must be the person who took our phone book."





On Sunday June 22<sup>nd</sup> at Calvary Church, (1051 Landis Valley Road, Lancaster) *brother Leroy Tebie will have his Pastoral Ordination officially recognized.* Although Leroy and his family are members at Westgate Baptist Church, Leroy chose to be Ordained by Calvary Church to streamline his Commissioning process with the Crossworld Mission. Additionally, Leroy and his family have had a dual affiliation with Westgate and Calvary Church for many years. Leroy and his family intend to begin mission work in Togo Africa hopefully in Fall of 2025. Calvary Church will be recognizing Leroy's ordination to ministry in the 8:00, 9:30, and 11:00 a.m. services.

It would be wonderful if Westgate Friends would consider attending the 8:00 a.m. service since it would not interfere with either Sunday School or Worship at WG.

**One Great Hour of Sharing has started – Please consider making a donation. Envelopes are provided in the bulletins or contact LEROY TEBIE 717-380-3129/ TEBIE102000@YAHOO.FR**

One Great Hour of Sharing supports programs  
in over **100** countries.

**Jesus calls us to love one another —**

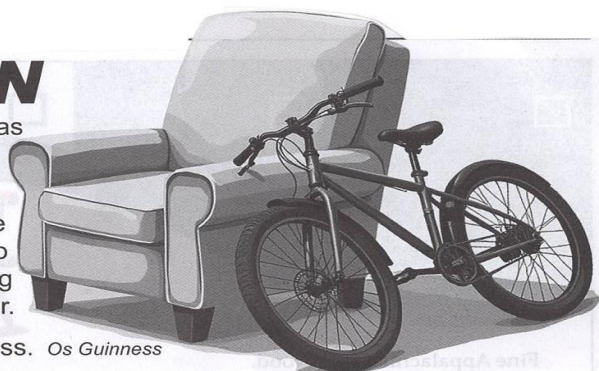
with the kind of love that is shared freely with all people. Your gifts to One Great Hour of Sharing bring a beacon of love and hope in our world and put the power of healing into the hands of those who need it most through three life-saving programs ~

## **FAITH IN MOTION**

The question the doubter does not ask is whether faith was really useless or simply not used.

What would you think of a boy who gave up learning to ride a bicycle, complaining that he hurt himself because his bicycle stopped moving so he had no choice but to fall off? If he wanted to sit comfortably while remaining stationary, he should not have chosen a bicycle but a chair.

Similarly faith must be put to use, or it will become useless. *Os Guinness*



Dear Westgate Friends,



Charlene and Claire Martin are hosting the following event in response to the continued anti-Jewish acts of violence and hostility in America. As you know Charlene Martin (who shares in our music at WG from time to time), initiated a support letter to Temple Beth El and their Synagogue—signed by many attendees at Westgate Church and a few other local congregations in 2024, which followed the October 7<sup>th</sup> tragedy. The letter then led to an invitation to join our Jewish friends for a Shabbat service—and then later in the year a Community Thanksgiving Service was hosted by Temple Beth El.

Clearly there is a growing interconnection and message of support and compassion from several Protestant Churches in the area toward our dear Jewish neighbors. The invitation **below** is given by Charlene Martin and I hope that many of you will consider attending at their Farm on 1835 Landisville Rd. Manheim, Pa. 17545 / on June 22, from 7-9 p.m. Please carefully read the announcement and let me or Lora Shirey know if you plan to attend.



Hello Everyone,

The recent shooting in Washington has been weighing heavily on me. I do not want to wait until August to give opportunity to connect with our local Jewish community. I am hosting a casual campfire jam session/sing along at our farm on June 22 from 7-9, at 1835 Landisville

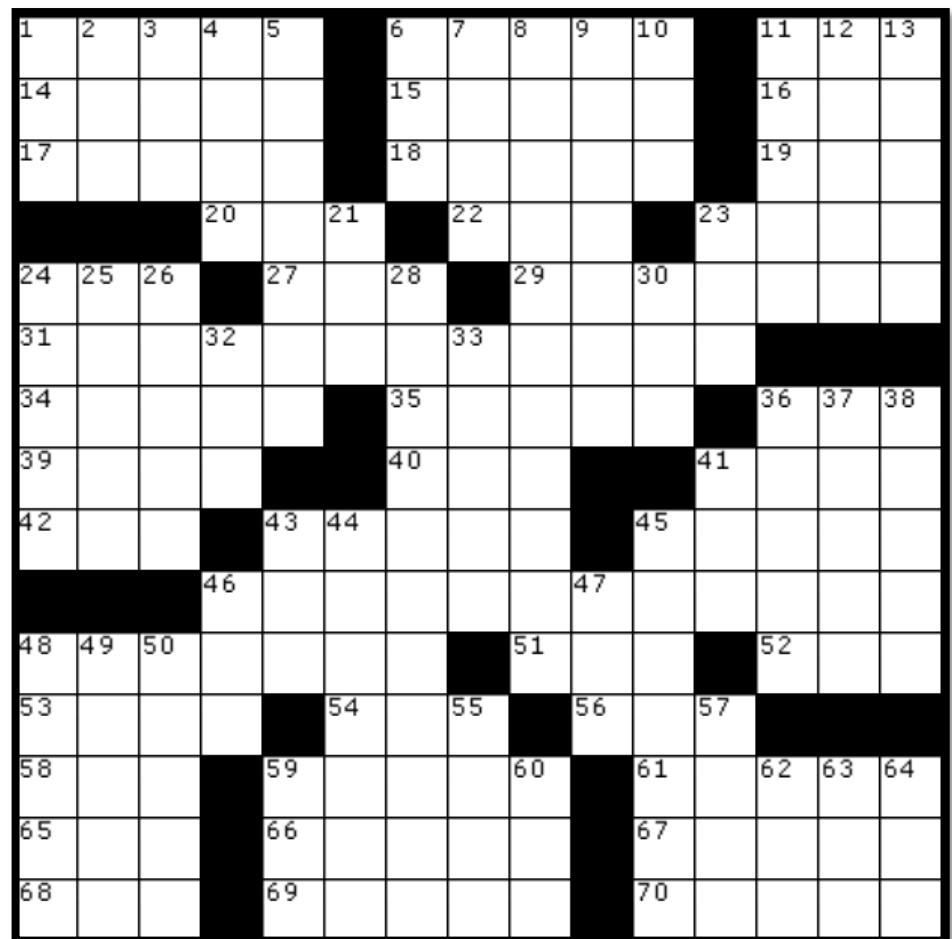
Road Manheim, PA. I will provide drinking water and non-kosher items for S'mores and Carol will provide kosher items. We are asking everyone who wishes to come to bring their own lawn chairs or blankets and a snack to share. Campfire sticks are optional. Anyone, amateurs included, who wants to bring an instrument and play along is welcome to do so. All are welcome to sing along or just hang out. The musical genre will be folk/bluegrass. Please, extend this invitation and the intention behind it (to connect with our Jewish neighbors, and each other) to your congregations. Please, pray for the work God is doing and for good weather for that evening!



Thank you,  
Charlene Martin

# Bible Crossword

Answers on  
Last page



## ACROSS

- 1 Smell
- 6 A land flowing with milk and
- 11 Rested
- 14 Lil' \_\_\_ (cartoon character)
- 15 Remain
- 16 West southwest
- 17 Long poem division
- 18 Toe
- 19 Expression of surprise
- 20 Grow older
- 22 Extremely high frequency (abbr.)
- 23 Last word of a prayer
- 24 Computer brain
- 27 Goddess
- 29 Tilting
- 31 Timely greeting
- 34 Result
- 35 Estates
- 36 Car speed

- 39 Eve's garden
- 40 Day of the week (abbr.)
- 41 Tropical edible root
- 42 Dab
- 43 David's weapon
- 45 Stomache sore
- 46 Shaded with lines
- 48 Head hiding bird
- 51 Day of the wk.
- 52 Single
- 53 Red gem
- 54 Picnic visitor
- 56 Gross national product (abbr.)
- 58 Gone by
- 59 Ankle biting insects
- 61 Popular condiment
- 65 Convert into leather
- 66 Writing tables
- 67 Son of Abraham
- 68 Bard's before
- 69 Property
- 70 Beaver's house

## DOWN

- 1 Pouch
- 2 BB association
- 3 Where Mary and Joseph didn't stay
- 4 Greek cheese
- 5 On top of a frog's head
- 6 Owned
- 7 Off-Broadway award
- 8 Good night (2 wds.)
- 9 Enlightened
- 10 Still
- 11 Hindu teacher
- 12 Wan
- 13 Pluck
- 21 Long, long time
- 23 Spr. month
- 24 Baby bird's comment
- 25 Chinese bear
- 26 Fuming
- 28 Greediness
- 30 Old-fashioned Dads

- 32 Play on words
- 33 Alerts
- 36 Masculine
- 37 Clean feathers
- 38 Swarm
- 41 Tender loving care
- 43 \_\_\_ Lanka
- 44 Settings
- 45 Knife
- 46 Weep
- 47 Fall mo.
- 48 Speak
- 49 \_\_\_ and spice
- 50 Cut of beef
- 55 Grab
- 57 El \_\_\_ (Texas city)
- 59 Food and drug administration (abbr.)
- 60 Fast plane
- 62 Child
- 63 Droop
- 64 Expert

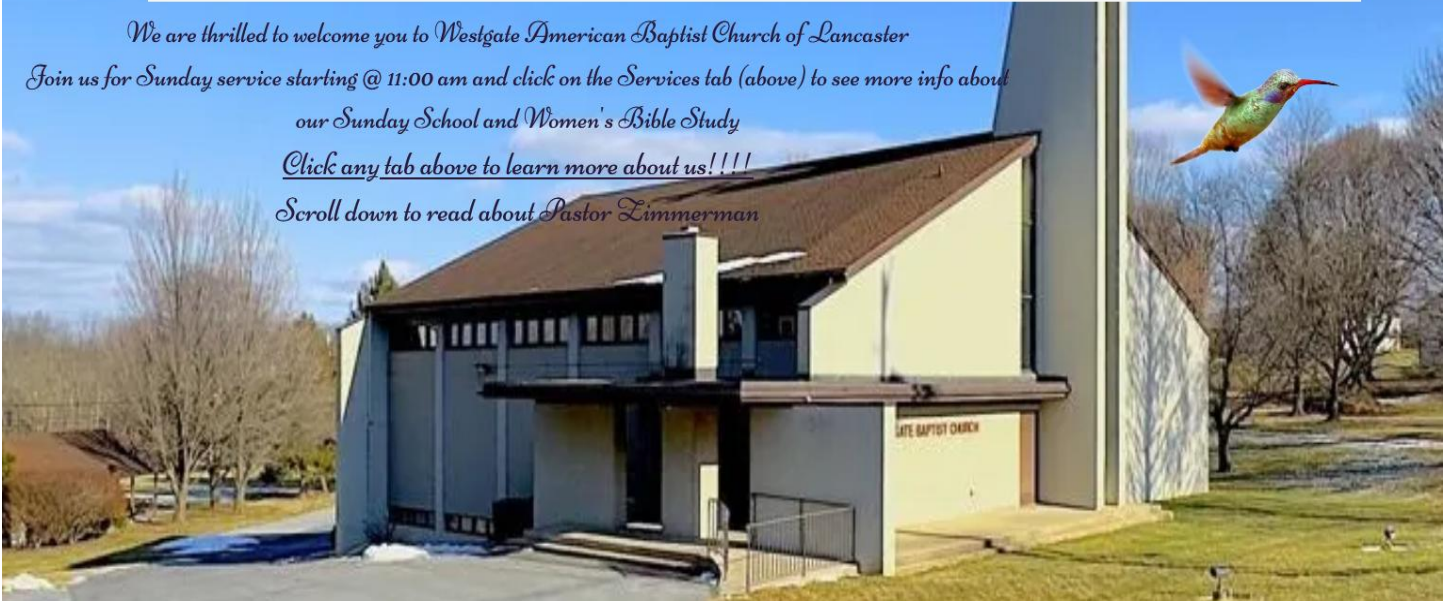


**COMING SOON** we will have music from our own Worship group on our new website.  
(just click on the 'ABOUT' page and click the 'Worship' page)  
And checkout other pages for updated events, news and even read the latest  
humourous stories on out 'Just for Thought page'!

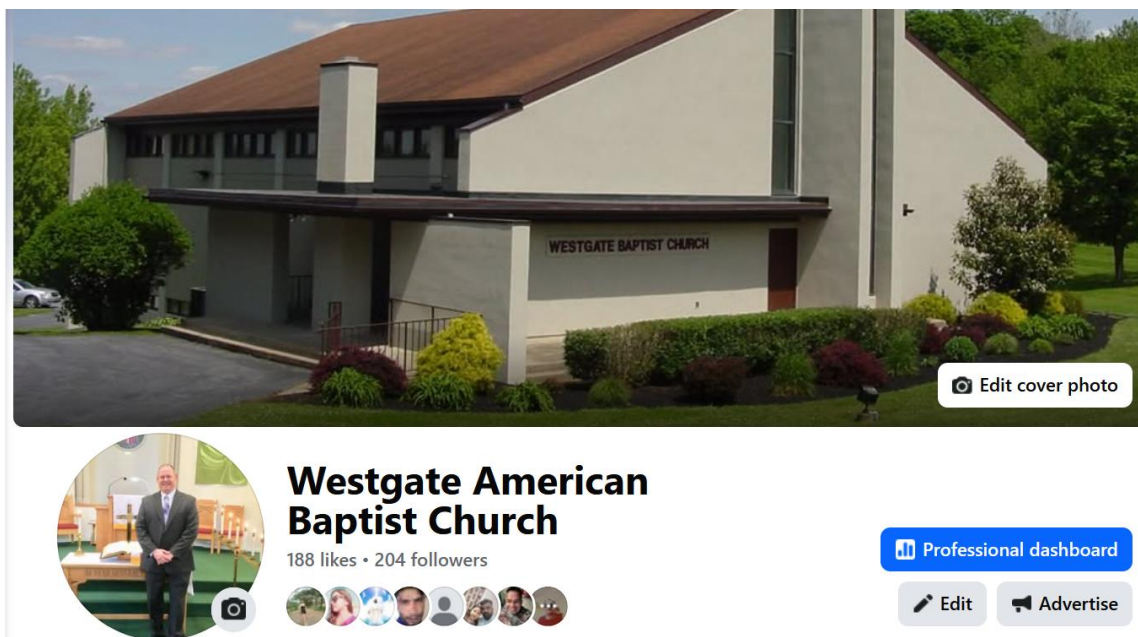
**WWW.Westgateabc.com**

**HOME ABOUT BELIEFS SERVICES MEDIA WEDDINGS ANNOUNCEMENTS/UPCOMING EVENTS  
JUST FOR THOUGHT**

*We are thrilled to welcome you to Westgate American Baptist Church of Lancaster  
Join us for Sunday service starting @ 11:00 am and click on the Services tab (above) to see more info about  
our Sunday School and Women's Bible Study  
Click any tab above to learn more about us!!!!  
Scroll down to read about Pastor Zimmerman*



**Don't forget to vist and FOLLOW us on our Facebook page!**





2<sup>nd</sup> Lora Shirey  
 10<sup>th</sup> Helen Guaspari  
 12<sup>th</sup> Linda Williams  
 14<sup>th</sup> Marcella Dupes  
 19<sup>th</sup> Carol Gabriel  
     Summer Guntz  
     Betty Shermer  
 21<sup>st</sup> Joann Molnar  
 30<sup>th</sup> Chase Daugherty  
  
 19<sup>th</sup> Laura Schramm  
 30<sup>th</sup> Dottie Papez  
 31<sup>st</sup> Connie Fisher

7<sup>th</sup> Clair & Charlene Martin  
 14<sup>th</sup> Rev. Roy & Judy Johnsen  
 24<sup>th</sup> Bud & Pat Rust  
 29<sup>th</sup> Dick & Dottie Papez



## Treasurer's Report

2025 Total Funds Received including Kachin & Reformation				
Month	Actual	Budget	Variance	
January	\$ 14,748	\$ 11,062	\$ 3,686	
February	\$ 7,678	\$ 12,312	\$ (4,634)	
March	\$ 13,059	\$ 14,565	\$ (1,506)	
April	\$ 6,742	\$ 12,312	\$ (5,570)	
May	\$ 10,465	\$ 12,312	\$ (1,847)	
Total May YTD	\$ 52,692	\$ 62,563	\$ (9,871)	