

Westgate July & August 2021 Witness

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



Summer Days...



Greetings in the Name of our LORD !

Courage and Fear

*Courage is armor a blind man wears;
The calloused scar of outlived despairs:
Courage is Fear that has said its prayers.*

Karle Wilson Baker, 1878

Luke 12:32 *Do not fear, little flock, for it is your Father's good pleasure to give you the kingdom.*

Courage empowers while fear can feel utterly dreadful. Fear when run amuck can suck the life out of the soul, fear can cause a person to parenthetically curl themselves into an embryonic state, and can drain us dry of all contentment. Max Lucado says—“*When fear dominates we become abandoned barns, rickety and tilting from the winds, a place where humanity used to eat, thrive, and find warmth.*”

When fear grips us we worship at the altar of safety at all costs. Safety becomes King, we glory in risk free living. Can safety lovers do anything completely great? Can the risk-averse accomplish noble deeds? For God? For others? Can you imagine Mary and Joseph's journey to Bethlehem

that holy night without a spirit of courage—a selfless ability to take risk. Think of those four men who lowered their friend through a roof to Jesus. They never would have torn a hole in the roof to bring their friend to the healing hands of Jesus without a radical courage. Without courage Matthew would have never gotten up from that table and left his tax ledgers and his coins behind, Peter would have never left the nets filled with fish for nets filled with the souls of those he captured for Jesus. Zacheaus would have stayed up in that tree in fear.

Luther would never have stood and said, *Here I stand I cannot do otherwise, God help me, Amen.* / Livingston would not have lost himself in the wilds of Africa. Damien would not have served the lepers until he himself became a leper. Without an impulsive courage no one in their right mind would enter the ministry or do missionary work or leave the comforts of the shore to do something great for God. A pox on those who are incessant in putting all risk aside—always seeking the path of comfort and safety—allowing fear to lead to mediocrity. A pox on level headed living that always stands on the shore afraid to make waves or be on a wave. That's not level headed living it's just plain flat. The Christian faith is supposed to be a mixture of *burning enthusiasm* and *selfless courage*. That's what I find in much of Scripture.

Can the risk averse accomplish great things for God. Can the fear-filled dream big dreams. The worship of safety at all costs emasculates greatness. No wonder Jesus wages war against fear. His most common command emerges from the statement “*fear not.*” The gospels list 125 Christ issued imperatives. Of these, twenty-one urge us to “*not be afraid*” or “*not fear*” or “*have courage*” or “*take heart.*” If quantity is an indicator Jesus takes our fears seriously. The one statement he made more than any other was this: DON'T BE AFRAID.

Deuteronomy 31:8 *The Lord, He is the one who goes before you. He will be with you, He will not leave you nor forsake you; do not fear nor be dismayed.*

He told me to tell you!

Faithfully,
Pastor Robert Zimmerman

IS.41:13
FOR I THE LORD
WILL HOLD YOUR GOD
RIGHT HAND
SAYING UNTO YOU
FEAR NOT
I WILL HELP
YOU



ABW Ministries

We are on break for the summer and will resume on Thursday, September 2nd at 1:00 in the Fellowship Hall

UNPLUGGED

July 13-14, 2021

1:00-3:00 PM EDT



Girls in middle school and up are invited to join AB GIRLS for a Hi-eS.T.E.A.M. Virtual Event that focuses on Christian education and STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts, and Mathematics). Girls will participate in innovation and art workshops. Girls will:

- create self-portraits as they reflect on the leaders who have influenced them.
- brainstorm ideas by forming “Propelling Questions” that can launch them towards innovative solutions to problems.
- learn about the ancient Christian practice of *Lectio Divina: Divine Reading* while applying observations in color.

\$50 Registration fee. Scholarships are Available!

Full and practical scholarships are available. Click here to request a scholarship by July 4, 2021.

Presenter:

Carmelle Beaugelin serves as the Program Coordinator for the Institute for Youth Ministry at Princeton Theological Seminary. She oversees the Log College Project and the Trenton Design Incubator, cohort experiences designed to foster deeper understanding of faithful and innovative youth ministry alongside congregations as they design, test, and implement new forms of intergenerational youth ministry in their context. Carmelle uses her theological training and large scale artistry to bridge gaps between pneumatology, spirituality, and the arts.

To register or apply for the \$50.00 scholarship go to :

<http://www.abwomensministries.org/eventDetails.aspx?EventId=74>

Blessings,

Pat Rust and the Ladies of ABW

Birthdays & Anniversaries for July & August



JULY

7/3 Deborah Joseph
7/4 Eric Seevers
7/7 Kathy Liebel
7/13 Ron Austin
7/15 Lianda Lafontant
Sandy Eby
John Hessen
7/23 Carol Proper
7/27 Sandy Dour
Christine Zelem
7/29 Emmanuella Tebie



AUGUST

8/5 James Yost
8/9 Duke Gabriel
8/10 Rev. Roy Johnsen
8/12 Victoria Guntz
Rev. Len Lewis
8/13 Bud Rust
8/16 Brandon Young Ferris
8/17 Shirley Lewis
8/19 Phillip Eby
Will Thamavong
8/25 Jim Cameron
8/27 Rev. Bob McGrath
8/31 CJ Saylor



JULY

7/12/1970 Rev. Len & Shirley Lewis
7/23/1966 Richard & Barbara Adams
7/23/2016 Htee Bwee & Saw Htoo



AUG

8/11/1973 Eric & Sue Seevers



Adult Sunday School

Sundays at 9:30 a.m. in the Fellowship Hall.

On Sunday July 11th Gary Stump will begin a 4-5 week study of the book of Jonah. The class gathers at 9:30a.m. for coffee and Fellowship. The instructional time begins at 9:45. Please consider attending Adult Sunday School for deepening your biblical knowledge.



Treasurer's Report-

Month Total	June
Budget Income	\$10,620.00
Non-budget income	\$2,932.00

Coordinators, please remember to give Elisa your list of volunteer helpers for the upcoming Newsletters.

Love Gift Today

Love Gift is a financial contribution over and above our regular giving. It is given out of a sense of love, faith, and gratitude to God for all of His blessings and in recognition of our need to share these blessings with others. One way to express our faith is by giving.

Love Gift Tomorrow

Love Gift has great potential to empower American Baptist mission in this new century. The story of Love Gift remains unfinished. By giving to Love Gift, American Baptists play a vital role in the continuing work of American Baptist Churches at home and abroad. And the best is yet to come!

The Love Gift basket will be in the narthex on Sunday, July 11 and again in August on the 29th for you donations to this ministry. To date in 2021 we have collected \$137.50.

Please know that I will always gladly accept your gifts anytime.

Marie M. ~ Love Gift Coordinator





Thus the Lord God showed me, and behold, there was a basket of summer fruit.

Amos 8:1

Linger Longer

One of the strong communal expressions of our church pre-Covid had been what we called **“Linger Longer.”** Most every Sunday a volunteer would sponsor a refreshment time—which in some cases became more like a luncheon—following worship. Our fellowships often involved the majority of our worshippers and was a vibrant expression of fellowship and a great enjoyment of food. It’s time to resume Linger Longer—it’s another step toward normalcy.

For June, July, and August this is the plan: I have asked **Joan Williams, Kathy Liebel, Richard and Nancy Cook** to help coordinate. By coordinating I do not mean they will host each week, but that they would help recruit and organize others. Joan Williams and Kathy will coordinate the 1st and 2nd Sundays each month / Richard and Nancy will coordinate the 3rd and 4th Sundays each month. Beginning in September we will go back to having a general sign up organized from the Church office. If you are willing to host an outdoor Linger Longer for a Sunday contact Kathy or Joan for the 1st or 2nd Sunday / or Richard and Nancy Cook for the 3rd or 4th.

The following simple guidelines should be honored.

- ❖ Provide disposable tableware (cups, plates, napkins etc.) and snacks with the following possibilities: donuts, brownies, cookies, cupcakes, cake or pies, or some other desert.
- ❖ As a supplement some veggies or sliced fruits would be welcome, but not essential.
- ❖ Provide at least one cold drink option.

K-I-S-S Keep It Simply Snacks is an appropriate acronym. This is designed for light fellowship and not a luncheon. We allow for submission of up to \$50 in receipts for reimbursement for anyone sponsoring Linger Longer.

Baptist Potpourri:

Dear ABCOPAD Family:

A scripture text that has been a guiding light for my life of ministry has been Philippians 1:3-6, where the Apostle Paul writes:

I thank my God every time I remember you. In all my prayers for all of you, I always pray with joy because of your partnership in the gospel from the first day until now, being confident of this, that he who began a good work in you will carry it on to completion until the day of Christ Jesus.



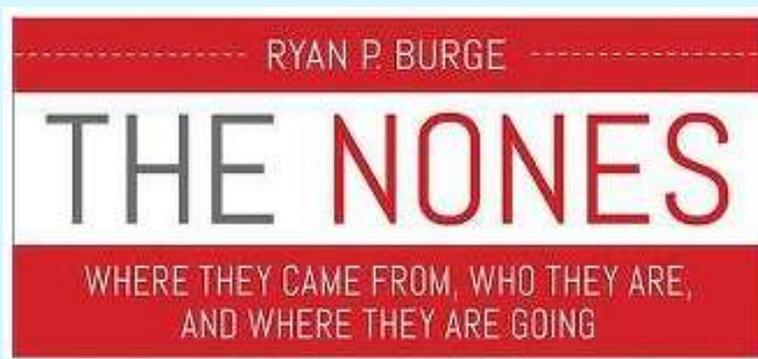
I have cherished our partnership in ministry over these twenty-seven years that the LORD has blessed me with the privilege of serving this regional family. Together we have charted some exciting new avenues of engagement for the Kingdom and it has been a joy to serve with you, but I believe the LORD is calling me to turn the page to a new chapter in my life, and so I am therefore announcing my resignation as your Regional Executive Pastor effective December 31, 2021. This isn't an easy decision for me to make when I consider the depth of relationships that I have developed over the years, but I believe in my heart of hearts this is what God is calling me to do. I would ask that you be in prayer for me and my family as we make this transition, and that you would also be in prayer for the staff and the members of the ABCOPAD Board as they navigate the coming days of change, ever confident that God has a plan and a purpose for all of us in the days to come.

Over the coming six months I will look forward to the conversations that I'm sure will ensue, and please know that I am already praying that God will reveal His perfect Will for your next Executive Shepherd, and that their experience of ministry with you will be as rich and full as mine has been.

Grateful for the partnership that we have shared,

Frank

Rev. Dr. Frank Frischkorn
Regional Executive Pastor
American Baptist Churches of Pennsylvania and Delaware



THE “NONES”

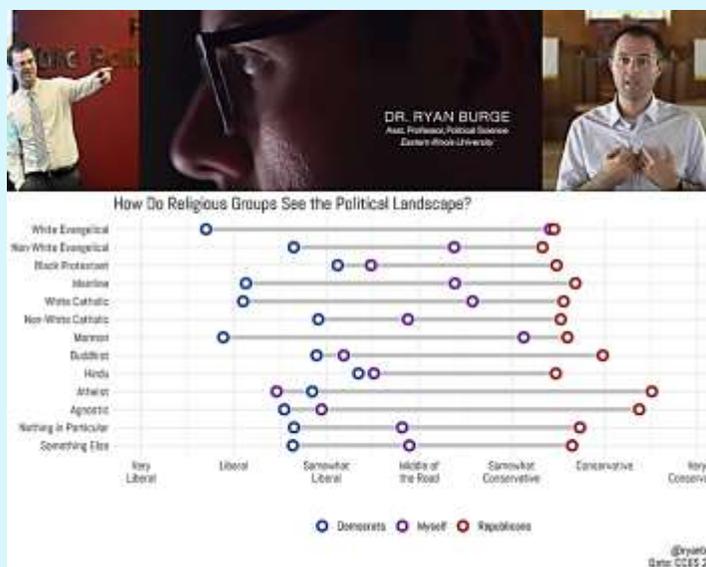
ABCOPAD announces a free webinar with author, pastor and social scientist researcher Dr. Ryan Burge, an Assistant Professor of Political Science as well as the Graduate Coordinator at Eastern Illinois University. He teaches in a variety of areas, including American institutions, political behavior, and research methods. His research focuses largely on the interaction of religiosity and political behavior (especially in the American context.)

Recently a multi-region webinar with Ryan Burge, author of "The Nones," took place via Zoom. Ryan took a deep dive, looking at religious trends taking place in the US. You can now watch this webinar anytime on the ABCOPAD YouTube Channel : <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0HaAEKCvb7w>

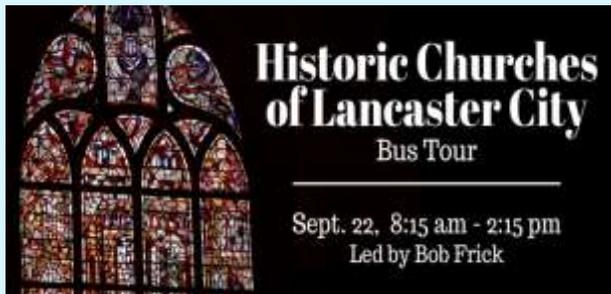
The term "Nones" is used to refer to those who are unaffiliated with any organized religion. This use derives from surveys of religious affiliation, in which "None" (or "None of the above") is typically the last choice. The growth of the nones in American society has been dramatic. In 1972, just 5 percent of Americans claimed “no religion” on the General Social Survey. In 2018, that number rose to 23.7 percent, making the nones as numerous as both evangelical Protestants and Roman Catholics. Every indication is that the nones will be the largest religious group in the United States in the next decade. In so many ways this is a must-see for pastors and congregations seeking to understand what is happening in our culture when it comes to the church.

For a look at the many publications and articles Professor Burge has written, go to his website:

<http://ryanburge.net/publications-2/>



Historic Churches of Lancaster City



Lancaster City is blessed with a rich religious history. Many churches are over 200 years old and display exquisite architecture, stained glass windows, and other design elements. Join our knowledgeable tour guides to explore Lancaster City's historic churches on this bus tour.

We'll be able to see how different Christian traditions influenced building design and architecture. We will get to

marvel at the intricate craftsmanship and creative designs including stained glass windows, marble altars, and cathedral ceilings. Dr. Robert Frick, our on-bus guide, will be joined by historians, pastors, or deacons from each church to teach us about their physical and spiritual history in the Lancaster community. We will walk away from each church with a better understanding of the history of the building and their respective congregation. We will meet at the Parish Resource Center at 8:15am to load the bus and leave by 8:30am. Please wear comfortable shoes and appropriate clothing for the weather. We will be on our feet for much of the time touring churches. The bus will drop us off as near to each church's entryway as possible.



Mindful Families will be rescheduled.

Using Intuition in Your Life next class February 26

Neuroscience shows that we are in a world in which we are overloaded with data and information while the amount of storage in our working memory is limited. This leads to overthinking and the fear of missing something. The right amount of information paired with intuition allows us to make efficient and effective decisions more quickly than thinking. In this workshop, we will learn and practice how to integrate intuitive skills into your everyday life. Through guided exercises you will experience firsthand how accessing intuition can play an important role in navigating both life and relationships. As a result, you will be able to identify and access your own intuition, utilize your intuition in making decisions and implementing actions, and communicate what you are sensing.

<https://parishresourcecenter.org/events-workshops/>

Other activities

Water Street Mission Summer gathering in Long's Park

Being able to gather in community has been sorely missed this past year. With changing guidelines, new rules, and an absence of beautiful smiling faces, our community is eager to get back to fellowshiping and worshipping with one another.

To that end Water Street is pleased to announce that **Reverberate 2021** will be taking place this September 14th from 7 to 9 pm at Long's Park. And we want to invite your church to be a part of it. Imagine the joy and celebration as we all gather with the Lancaster Community for an amazing opportunity to worship outside with a variety of cultures, denominations, and churches. Your church will also experience the incredible testimonies of neighborly love this past year and celebrate the life-changing impact that God has called churches and communities to throughout the last year.

Lancaster County Council of Churches activities

Lancaster County Food Hub has:

- Served 35,790 Individuals Food
- Clothed 11,742 Individuals
- Provided protection and warmth through their Winter Shelter all here in Lancaster with the help of Our Community Volunteers.

The Food Hub

Neighbors feeding families & individuals throughout Lancaster County.

Do you need food for yourself or your family? We can help!

For walk-in food distributions, come to the Food Hub at **812 N. Queen Street** in Lancaster **Mondays, Tuesdays, Thursdays and Fridays** from **9:30am to 11:45am**.

Food Hub Clothing Bank

Sharing clothes and dignity.

Whether it's you who is looking for clothes for your life, your career, an interview or your whole family, we can help you find the clothes you need.

Come Shop for Clothing FREE

Do you need clothing for you and your family?

We can help! Come to our clothing bank to receive what you need.

The Clothing Bank is open **Mondays, Tuesdays, Thursdays and Fridays** from **9:30am to 11:45am** and serves the **first 30 people** during those times.

You need to bring a **photo ID** for yourself for both services.

If you are also coming for **clothing for your children**, you will need to **bring medical card or birth certificate** for each of your children.