

Westgate Witness

May 2021

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Lancaster, PA 17601
717-394-1071



Greetings in the Name of our LORD !

Loved by an Unchanging God

I am impressed by how life is ever changing. And we all know how changes can be thrust upon us quickly without advanced notice. A dear friend is struggling through the fallout of a failed marriage. A pastor friend has just been driven out of his pastorate by unscrupulous church leadership. My brother is recovering from a very sudden bicycle accident. Mixed with all the personal changes I see with friends and family, are the larger societal changes that are ever present and ongoing as it relates to Covid, vaccines, openings, etc. Change is the name of the life game. Some changes are for the better—others not so much. One could place a banner over modern life that reads: *Life is unpredictable and ever-changing.* We live in an ever-changing world. I bet Adam said to Eve: "*Honey, we are living in changing times.*" There are moments where the only thing you can be certain of is change.

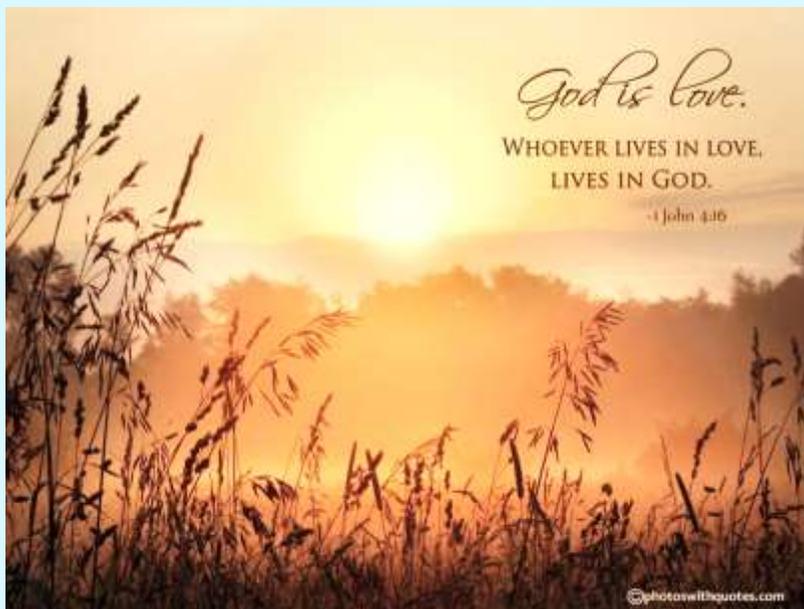
How refreshing then to believe—in fact to know that God will always be the same. No one else will. Relationships come and go. A company can offer a pay



raise this month and a pink slip next. Friends may applaud you when you are prospering and question you when you're not. Psalm 102:27 tell us *"God, you remain the same, and your years will never end."* And *"Every good and perfect gift is from the Father of heavenly lights, who does not change like shifting shadows."* James 1

Do you think God has mood changes? Think again. Do you ever fear exhausting his grace? Or think he may give up on you? Wrong. God does not manifest our weaknesses—He is not human, so He does not change his mind. He is not sullen nor sour, sulking or stressed. His strength, truth, ways, and love do not change. Hebrews 13:8 declares, *"He is the same yesterday and today and forever."* And because he is, the Lord *"will be the stability of your times."* (Isaiah 33:6). God's plans will not change—because he is sovereign and he has perfect knowledge. He declared *"the end from the beginning"* (Isaiah 46:10)—and as such nothing takes Him by surprise.

In affirming God's changelessness I am not inferring that we should be passive and unempowered about living fully. It's all right to dream and plan and think about the future, we would be foolish not to, but don't build your life around your plans so solidly that there is no flexibility—no room for mysteries or diversions or change.



A farmer had these words engraved on his weather vane, *"God is Love."* A neighbor asked: *"What do you mean engraving God is love on your weather vane ... does that mean God's love is as changeable as an arrow turning in the wind?"* No the farmer said... *"I mean that whichever way the wind blows, God is still love."* 1 Corinthians 13:13 *"Now these three remain: faith, hope and love. But the greatest of these is love."*

I draw strength from knowing in an ever changing world, with ever changing rules for living, and ever changing situations, relationships, and circumstances—that God is as Solid as a Rock—and His love and holy nature never change!

Faithfully,
Pastor Robert Zimmerman

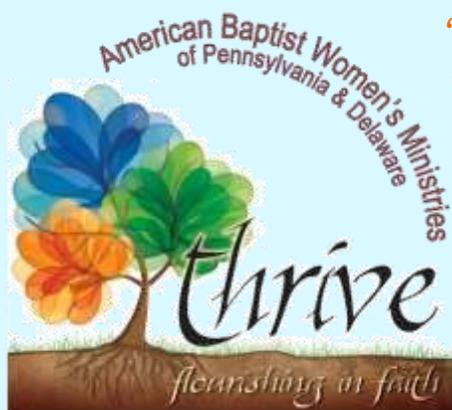


ABW Ministries

**Our next ABW meeting is
Thursday, May 6th, at 1:00 pm
in the Fellowship Hall**

The ladies of Westgate would like to formally welcome our newest sisters in Christ. Please join us to share your hearts, minds, and hands as we work to perform meaningful missions in our community and around the world.

We generally meet the first Thursday of the month, at 1:00 in the Fellowship Hall.



“Thrive Conference 2021”

The annual ABW, ABCOPAD Meeting, will be presented virtually on June 18th and 19th. We will be gathering in the Fellowship Hall to watch and participate through Zoom.

Friday- 7:00pm - 9pm

Saturday-8:45am - 12:30pm

Information is posted in the narthex and on the bulletin board, contact Cora Stump for registration and meeting details. Suggested cost to participate is \$20.00.

Our ABCOPAD project: Hope Unlimited- Brazil,
Items needed are aprons, doilies or embroidered items, costume jewelry, reading glasses, children's spring/summer clothes and shoes. (Newborn to 18 year old).

We also will continue working on our Luopad mission.

Blessings,

Pat Rust and the Ladies of ABW

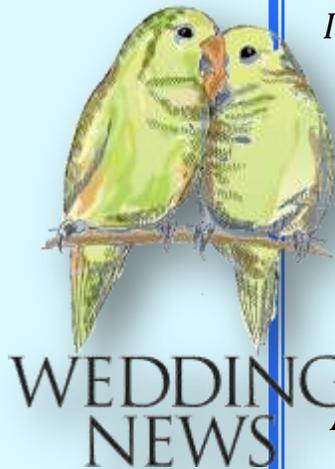
Birthdays & Anniversaries for May



5/8 Devon Guntz
5/9 Blaine Proper
5/13 Carolyn McDonie
5/15 John Rushemeza
5/18 Donald Myers
5/19 Laura Schramm
5/30 Dottie Papez



5/13/1988 John & Janet Whitehead
5/28 Donald & Susan Miller



*It is with great joy that we announce the
wedding of
Christian Saw to
Drusilla Wah Wah Pawter*

Wed on April 24, 2021

*All our wishes for a long life of laughter
and all things good.*



*Place me like a seal over your heart, like a seal on your arm.
For love is as strong as death, its passion as enduring as the grave.
Love flashes like fire, the brightest kind of flame.
Many waters cannot quench love, nor can rivers drown it.*

Song of Solomon

Bible Characters Quiz

Heroes, villains, prophets and problem children, we've got 'em all. Test your knowledge of them. From Adam to Zechariah, Haggai to Haman, the Bible is full of interesting personalities. Heroes, villains, prophets and problem children, we've got 'em all. Test your knowledge of Bible characters!

Who is not a prophet?

- Bilaam
- Noah
- Pinhas
- Aaron

The oldest person mentioned in the Bible is

- Adam
- Moses
- Jared
- Methuselah

Who did Paul send to Rome, requesting that she was given a welcome *worthy of the saints*?

- Phoebe
- Julia
- Joanna
- Rhoda

Boaz marries

- Naomi
- Orpah
- Batsheva
- Ruth

How old is Moses when he goes before Pharaoh to demand "Let my people go!"?

- 33
- 72
- 80
- 120

Zeresh is the name of

- Jacob's concubine
- Solomon's Egyptian wife
- Haman's wife
- A Priestess of ba'al

When Jesus was in the wilderness, what was he tempted to turn into loaves of bread?

- Sand
- Stones
- Serpents
- Shoes

What does not appear in the Bible?

- A talking snake
- A talking donkey
- A ghost
- A talking whale

Which of these was not one of the 12 apostles?

- Matthew
- Bartholomew
- Thaddaeus
- Paul

What profession did Zebedee, father of James and John, have?

- Carpenter
- Silversmith
- Shepherd
- Fisherman

Answers on next page

Adult Sunday School Resumes!

Sundays at 9:30 a.m.

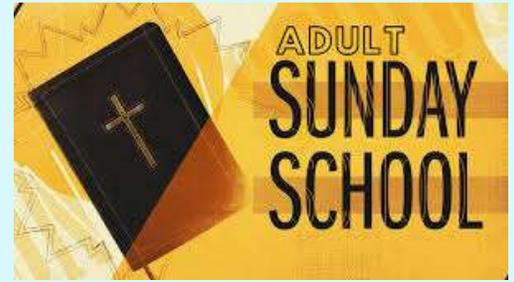
The following schedule reflects our focus for the month of June.

June 6th - Non-conformity / 1 Peter 1:13-25 / Holy Living requires a change in focus, from conformity of a secular life to a spiritual one, putting beliefs into action.

June 13th - Love and Worship of God / Psalm 103 / when we reflect on who God is, what God has done, and what God promises to do, our hearts and minds are led to an appropriate response.

June 20th - Submitting to God in Love / James 4:1-10 / Freedom from the turmoil that grips and controls many lives comes through the inner submission of the soul to the God who loves us.

June 27th - Accountability / Amos 5:1-24 / Amos teaches on truth, fairness and justice and speaks of the dangers of neglecting them.



Congratulations to Leroy Tebie who graduated with a Master's Degree in Christian Ministry from Lancaster Bible College and Capital Seminary and Graduate School. Leroy has worked exceptionally hard over the past few years to obtain both a Bachelor's Degree and a Master's Degree, while at the same time being a good provider to his wife and three daughters. Leroy has also recently been employed by the United States Postal Service. We celebrate his recent accomplishments.

Treasurer's Report-

Month Total	April
Budget Income	\$10,234.00
Non-budget income	\$589.85

Monthly Board Meeting

Wednesday, May 12th at 7:00 p.m.

Answers to Bible quiz

Pinhas, Methuselah, Phoebe, Ruth, 80, Haman's wife, stones, A talking whale, Paul, Fisherman.

<https://biblequizzes.org.uk/quiz.php?newtestamentcharacters>

Baptist Potpourri



American Baptist, International Ministries

On Location is published in Spring/Summer and Fall/Winter editions sent to our current supporters. If you are not receiving our newsletter and would like an email copy.

Creative ministry

THROUGH COVID

During the pandemic, technology has not only enabled ministry to continue, but it has connected God's people in new ways.

"God is not limited," says IM's Director of Short-Term Mission (STM) Rev. Sandra Dorsainvil. "God is limitless. He truly took down the walls and asked us to step out in faith in 2020. Despite COVID, we were able to think creatively on how best to come alongside partners and global servants and strengthen relationships.

Dear IM Family, The global pandemic caused by COVID-19 has gone on for more than a year now, and many of us are wondering when life will "go back" to how it used to be. But what if we are called to treat this unprecedented time not as a temporary disruption to get through, but as a season of life that deserves our full attention and investment? The Babylonian exile that the Hebrew people in the Old Testament experienced has surprising parallels to our present time. The Hebrew people experienced one disaster after another. In the midst of these overwhelming devastations came a letter from the prophet Jeremiah in Jerusalem (the familiar home and capital city of the past) to those in exile: This is what the LORD Almighty, the God of Israel, says to all those I carried into exile from Jerusalem to Babylon: "Build houses and settle down; plant gardens and eat what they produce. Marry and have sons and daughters... Seek the peace and prosperity of the city to which I have carried you into exile. Pray to the LORD for it, because if it prospers, you too will prosper." (Jeremiah 29:4-7) In other words, make the most of your life as it is now. Be present where you are at this time—where "I [the Lord!] have carried you"—instead of pining for a return to how life used to be. If this is God's word for us in this present moment, what would it look like to accept this instruction and to live accordingly?

Read more, on-line newsletter at-

<https://www.internationalministries.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/03/On-Location-Newsletter-Spring-Summer-2021-Web.pdf>

Money: A source of stress or delight?

Materially and spiritually, we can all benefit from resources for financial well-being—for ourselves, our families, our congregations, and our communities.

In this 2-session webinar, expand your financial toolkit with trainings designed around four common money issues: getting bills in order, resolving debt, understanding and using credit, and saving toward your goals. Noon-1:30 p.m. EST on May 18 and 25. The program is co-sponsored by American Baptist Home Mission Societies (ABHMS) and the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau.

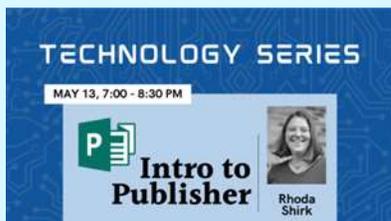


Get the money conversation started in your home and church through this innovative faith and finance partnership. The American Baptist Home Mission Societies is proud and grateful to have been selected in 2020 as one of 34 organizations receiving training, technical assistance, and materials developed by the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau. Selection was based on our potential to serve economically vulnerable populations through our congregations, community outreach ministries, and regions.

Printing and mailing of the specially co-branded booklets featured in this training has been made possible by a grant from the Lilly Endowment, Inc., focused on financial literacy for clergy and congregations.

To register, visit <https://ccl.ministrelife.org/event/starting-the-money-conversation/>.

Parish Resource Center classes & workshops



Microsoft Publisher is a popular choice to design newsletters, posters, and other items. Participants will learn to: create documents in various formats, sizes, and layouts; edit documents, including fonts, colors, styles; place and edit images and text boxes; use rulers and guides to layout items; work with single- or multi-page documents; save and export documents

Intuitive Gifts and Skills June 12th

- Learn the types of intuition and define your own senses
- Harness your own intuitive skills
- Name what practices will support you opening your intuition
- Engage and connect with colleagues for mutual learning and support

For more classes and information.

Link for the calendar and website:

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

We are a PRC Member, class fees will be free or reduced.