

Westgate November 2022 Witness

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



MARK YOUR CALENDAR

- 11/3 ABW Meeting 1:00 PM
- 11/13 Love Gift Collection
- 11/21 Board Meeting 6:30 PM
- 11/15 AB Men's Breakfast 9:30 AM
- 11/24 Thanksgiving

December 4th All Church Christmas Dinner

Greetings in the Name of our LORD !

Honest Conversations

I remember while attending Messiah College way back in the 80's being completely awestruck by the preaching of a Presbyterian Minister, Rev. Bruce Thielemann who was the guest speaker at the College Chapel for our "Spiritual Life Week." Each year the Campus Chaplain would secure a top notch nationally known speaker that would preach for the appointed week. One day I happened to get immediately behind Rev. Thielemann in the cafeteria line—it surprised me that a man of such dignity and stature would even take the time to eat in the College Cafeteria. I was quite nervous standing next to such an eloquent nationally known speaker—I didn't know what on earth to say. I was in awe—and in my awe I could find nothing of substance to say except to stutter, "**Rev. Thielemann how long did it take you to get here from Pittsburgh?**" Later I thought—"are you serious, here you are standing

next to the pinnacle of homiletic giftedness—next to a nationally known speaker—and your first words are how long it took to get here from Pittsburgh? What a dumb question!” Well fortunately for me, I was blessed to sit with Rev. Thielemann with a team of other students at a large round table—and I remember having more substantive conversations beyond my initial nervous words.

One day in the Gospel of John—John the Baptist pointed to Jesus Christ and said, **“Look, here is the Lamb of God.”** Two of John’s disciples left him that day and immediately began following Jesus. When Jesus realized they were walking behind him, he turned and asked them, **“What are you looking for?”** What a great question. I can envision these two new disciples with their heads down each nudging the other to answer the question. Finally one says, **“Teacher, where are you staying?”** The other guy may have put his face in his hands. **“What a dumb answer! Why didn’t you say we are looking for truth, or seeking to find God?”**

To be honest with you many of the questions I ask God aren’t all that profound most days. I suppose I’d love to impress God with my speculations about the inner dynamics of the holy Trinity, or the mysteries of the virgin birth, but I am not usually up all night thinking about them. The things that keep me up at night, I am afraid, are much more trivial. Although I would like to say I lose sleep over world peace and big globally consequential things—more often than not I am thinking about the well-being of my family—is my daughter OK—is my brother finding his way—how is so and so at church—will my back ache soon subside.

The disciple’s question **“Teacher, where are you staying?”** was not a serious or deep question. But what’s fascinating is that Jesus took the question seriously and invited the two men to follow him to where he was staying. There they stayed with him, perhaps talking with him about ordinary everyday things. Apparently the conversation was so ordinary that John the Apostle didn’t bother recording any further of it in his Gospel. I am sure Jesus eventually got to the stuff of salvation and the kingdom of God, but I conjecture that he probably spent significant time fulfilling the disciple’s ordinary yearnings before he could expose fully their longings for God.

But ultimately the important thing is not what they discussed, but with whom they were talking. There are no dumb questions with Jesus. I am not sure I always ask God very brilliant questions. Much of life is getting through the given day. But the one thing that brings me a sense of comfort is that no matter what I am looking for in life—that if I turn that longing into a prayer, Jesus will use it to reveal something more of himself to me. I realize that once I come to see more clearly who He is, that some of my “supposed important” questions become less pressing. I guess it’s the age old gift of perspective. But it’s still comforting for me to believe that God understands the things that keep me up at night, the things that distract my days. He can handle my meandering. He is after all both **“all knowing”** and **“all loving.”**

He told me to tell you!

Faithfully,
Pastor Robert Zimmerman



ABW Ministries

**Our next ABW meeting is
Thursday, November 3, 1:00 pm
in the Fellowship Hall**

We are participating in the Regional ABW project. The program, "Fresh Start in Costa Rica," is also affiliated with ABC International Ministries and missionary Sue Hegarty. See the posted flyers for more information.

Operation Christmas Child

The Shoebox Project will be sponsored by ABW again this year.

Collection dates are October 30 to November 20. You can use your own boxed package or use the shoeboxes available in the narthex or downstairs on top of our mailboxes. You can also create one on line at samaritanspurse.com

Other ABW activities will include Bake Sales and sewing projects. We will continue to make stuffed animals for local use, and the Luo Pads for rural Africa. We will also contribute to Blessings of Hope in Ephrata and Elizabethtown Nursing Home.

We are looking forward to a very active and satisfying winter and hope that you may join us for one, or all of the projects. We are also planning a Christmas Party- details to follow.

If you have questions about ABW, or our projects, please see Pat Rust.

God Bless & Praise the Lord, Pat Rust and the ABW Ladies

AB Men's Breakfast

Our next Men's Fellowship Breakfast will be on Tuesday November 15 at 9:30 a.m. We will meet at the **Family Fare Restaurant**, 5921 Main St., East Petersburg, PA 17520 for a casual Christian Men's fellowship time.



ANGEL TREE – 2022



Westgate's American Baptist Women will be supporting Water Street Rescue Mission during its holiday food drive. In the past, the congregation has generously contributed large cans of fruits and vegetables and monetary gifts to this drive.

All of us realize the cost of food has sky-rocketed over the past year. ABW wants to ask you to donate only monetary gifts this year because the Mission can purchase foods less costly than we can. They can also buy the foods most needed. The Mission provides meals to the homeless and also distributes bags of groceries to those in need.

They can provide a meal (holiday meals included) for a mere \$2.96. For anyone contributing \$20.72 that amount will feed 7 people. That's incredible! The gift you give provides not only nourishing food but also hope and healing through the Mission's Whole Person approach to restoration that transforms lives all year long.

Your monetary gifts will be collected on Nov. 27th, Dec. 4th and Dec. 11th. Please use the envelope provided in the bulletin. If giving a check, make it out to Westgate and write WSRM in the bottom left corner. Please give what you can to this very worthy cause.

Thanks to all for your generous support of the Angel Tree Project!

Sunday School Studies



We have resumed our Adult Sunday School Classes. Stephen Appleby and I will be co-leading the class. We gather at 9:30 am for coffee and class begins by 9:45. Currently we are following video series and book entitled *Where God Came Down* by Joel Kramer. *Where God Came Down: The Archaeological Evidences* presented emphasize agreement between the Bible and archaeology. Using Scripture as his primary ancient text and interpretive tool, author and archaeologist Joel

Kramer examines the archaeological record for ten locations recorded in the Bible. Come and be a part of this fascinating study which will have us visiting ancient and historical sites in the Holy Land—and comparing those sites with the biblical record using archaeological discovery.

Our time together will consistently include moments of worship, creative media presentations, conversations surrounding the chosen curriculum, open sharing of ideas and opinions as facilitated. It's my hope and vision that more of our regular worshippers will choose to participate in this time of fellowship and sharing.



Women's Bible Study

Ladies, We are continuing our Women's Bible Study each Tuesday morning at 9:30 AM. Starting Tuesday November 8th our new topic is "The Blessings of Saying Yes to the Lord." We'll look at the the life of Esther and how her life inspires us to step us and stand out for God. We start each week with fellowship and conversation and then go into our study at 9:45. We would love to have you join us! Lynda Williams

*You are invited to our Westgate
Christmas Dinner following worship in
the Fellowship Hall on
Sunday, December 4th.
Additional information will be posted in our
bulletins.*



American Baptist Home Mission Societies

Please Support Our Neighbors in Florida and Other Southern States Affected by Hurricane Ian.

We all saw the devastating hurricane that caused significant damage; forcing some residents to take refuge on their roofs, waiting to be rescued. Thousands are still without power and homeless in the storm's wake. As of October 3rd, thousands of Florida residents remain unaccounted for as the death toll continues to rise.

Our neighbors have been devastated and need supplies, food, shelter, and more! Please give today! <https://abhms.org/>

Birthdays & Anniversaries for November

Birthdays



11/6 Kaiden Vital
11/15 Hannah Tebie
11/22 Richard Adams



Anniversaries



11/20/1965 Ron & Gloria Austin
11/27/2010 Rich & Laura Schramm



Treasurer's Report

October	10/2-10/23
Budget Income	\$9,952.00
Non-budget income	\$1,568.10

Love Gift will be collected on November 13th

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. One way to express our faith is by giving; giving of our time, our talent, our money, and ourselves. As our faith grows, we realize that our God, in whom we trust loves and cares for us and as a result, our desire to give grows.

Love Give—an expression of our faith, gratitude and love... an offering to God Marie A. Mohn



Avoid scams during 2022 Medicare Open Enrollment

During Medicare's Open Enrollment Period, which begins on October 15 and ends December 7, Medicare beneficiaries can choose the plans that are best for them for 2022.

Here are some helpful tips from the FTC:

- You should never get a phone call from a company you don't have a relationship with.
- A company must not represent itself as Medicare, Social Security, or Medicaid.
- You shouldn't get information — like leaflets, flyers, door hangers, etc. — on your car or at home from a company you don't have an appointment with.
- An agent can't come back to your home without an invitation.
- They can't mislead you about coverage for prescriptions or services. Always review your Explanation of Benefits (EOB) to be sure your coverage matches what was promised.
- They can't promise that you can keep your Medigap plan (supplemental plan) when you sign up for a Medicare Advantage plan. The truth is, you can't have both a Medigap plan and a Medicare Advantage plan.



*** Scammers might call and pretend to be Medicare representatives or agents in an attempt to steal your Medicare number or other personal information. They can use a fake CallerID name to impersonate Medicare or another organization you know. Don't trust the name displayed on your phone's CallerID screen. **If anyone calls and asks for your Medicare, Social Security, or bank or credit card information, hang up!** A scammer can use your personal information to file false claims, sign you up for a plan to which you didn't agree, or even steal your identity.

INVITATIONS TO LOCAL EVENTS (or not so local this month)



THE AMERICAN BAPTIST
CHURCHES OF
PENNSYLVANIA & DELAWARE

Join us on a 10-day Holy Land Classic tour.

Journey to Nazareth, Capernaum, Bethlehem, Jerusalem, and more! Experience communion in Gethsemane and at the Garden tomb. Worship at the Shepherd's Cave and the Jordan River... *and much more!* May 16-25, 2023 \$3,896

A variety of discounts and financial aid options are available!

Contact Bud Russell for details

[Holy Land 10-Day Tour \(abcopad.org\)](http://abcopad.org)

**First Friday “ORGANIC THANKS”
First Reformed Church UCC Lancaster**

A concert of classical organ music will be presented on First Friday, November 4, 2022 at 8 PM by organist Larry Hershey at the console of the mighty 1958 analog Allen organ at First Reformed Church located at 40 East Orange Street. The program will feature “Now Thank We All Our God” by Sigfrid Karg-Elert. Pianist Debbie Botham will join Larry for "His Eye Is on the Sparrow" arranged by Mark Hayes and Marvin Gaspard, "Thanks Be to God" by George Frederick Handel, and Joel Raney's setting of "Come, Ye Thankful People, Come".

This series of free 30 minute concerts is a gift to the community from First Reformed Church, a center city congregation of the United Church of Christ. Only 30 minutes in length, the free concerts begin at 8 PM each First Friday for the convenience of those who wish to spend the early evening visiting downtown galleries before the concert.

Doors open at 7:30 pm. All are welcome.

Through November 19th, join the Middletown and Hummelstown Railroad for a Murder Mystery Train. Dinner and a mystery on board, and you’re the sleuth! Enjoy a hot meal served at your table while you ponder the clues and figure out Whodunnit. Someone will receive tickets for another M&H regular scheduled ride! Ages 12 and up.
Middletown and Hummelstown Railroad 136 Brown Street, Middletown, PA 17057
(717) 944-4435

Parish Resource Center Projects

PRC is currently in the process of setting up a **Housewares Pantry** that will accept donations from the community and be open to the general public to “shop” the basic housewares that they need. The pantry will include things like dishes, silverware, pots and pans, kitchen utensils, storage containers, mops and brooms, dishcloths and tea towels, and cleaning supplies. We will soon start recruiting volunteers to sort, stock, and staff the pantry. Some volunteers will also be needed to deliver items to clients with transportation or time constraints. Donations of new and gently used items will soon be accepted



The Lancaster Community **Meal Program** is a network of churches and organizations that provides three free meals every day, seven days a week at locations across Lancaster. During the pandemic, gaps formed in the Community Meal schedule as some providers had to close. PRC stepped in to fill the gaps by recruiting new partners, providing food, and serving meals.

The Lancaster Community Meal Program is a loose network of churches and organizations that provides three free meals every day. The meals are available, without registration or requirements, to anyone who shows up. Come to any of the providers for a tasty meal and good conversation! All meals are still being served during the pandemic, but most are now take-away meals instead of sit-down meals. <https://ourcommunitymeals.org/>

Baptist Potpourri



IN BANGLADESH

by Catherine Nold & IM Global Consultant Jeanine White

When Walt and I first arrived in Bangladesh forty-five years ago, we thought our mission was reaching out to lead men to faith in Jesus. We thought the men would then lead their wives to faith. Years went by and we realized that this was not happening. Later we learned that one of the few reasons a woman can divorce a man is if he becomes a Christian. Instead we invited the group of men who had come to faith in Jesus to bring their wives to our house. That day I taught the women from the Gospel of John. I had the joyful experience of sharing with them that the first people Jesus met after his resurrection from the dead were women. At the end of the day I prayed with them that if any of them had come to faith in Jesus, she would pray to receive Him.

Afterward, one of them said, "I have never traveled this far from home." She had come seventeen miles from her house on the train. "I did not know why my husband wanted me to come here. It is as if I had been blind but now I see." She was one who could read. We were later told that when the woman went home, she would read the Bible to the others while they did chores together. Since then, house churches have been established in the areas where these women live new life

Because of changing political climates, our residential visa was refused. Several years later, Walt worked with a few other men to establish a development organization that was focused on teaching illiterate people to read, save their money collectively, and develop income-generating businesses from funds they saved. The majority of the people who completed the literacy training were women! Women in Bangladesh have been marginalized because they are women. Historically, girls have not been given priority to get an education. If a girl had a brother and there were limited resources in her family, her brother would be given the opportunity to go to school. If a girl were going to school, she might have to stop when she got to fifth or sixth grade as it might be considered "unsafe" for her to walk to school. In some areas, for financial reasons, the girl might be given in marriage when she was thirteen or fourteen years old. She would then go to live in the home of her in-laws and have too many chores to do to have time for school.

Now, through this development work, over 20,000 women have learned to read, write Bengali, and do basic math. They have started businesses so that their families could send their children to school. In spite of the pandemic, I have been able to lead some of these women in Bible studies by

Zoom. Over the past year, we have been taking a close look at who Jesus was, what He did, and what He taught. My goal is that these women will recognize that they can lead Bible studies by carefully looking at the Holy Bible and considering what it says.

Jeanine White and her husband, Walt, serve as International Ministries global consultants, training teams working with historically underserved religious groups that include pastors, missionaries, development workers, and partners.

November Word Search



NOVEMBER
CORNUCOPIA
AUTUMN
MAYFLOWER
ELECTION DAY

FALL
PILGIMS
PUMPKIN
THANKSGIVING
VETERANS DAY

VOTING
WINDY
NATIVE AMERICAN
TURKEY
LEAVES

