



Westgate Witness May, 2023

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



MARK YOUR CALENDAR

- 5/4 ABW Meeting
- 5/13 ABW Tea Party
- 5/14 Mother's Day
- 5/16 AB Men's Breakfast
- 5/22 Board Meeting



AC Fund Drive Sundays in May

¹¹ FOR, LO, THE WINTER IS PAST, THE RAIN IS OVER AND GONE; ¹² THE FLOWERS APPEAR ON THE EARTH; THE TIME OF THE SINGING OF BIRDS IS COME, AND THE VOICE OF THE TURTLE DOVE IS HEARD IN OUR LAND SONG OF SOLOMON 2:11-12

Greetings in the Name of our LORD !

Self Esteem Support Group

A Church posted the following announcement *"The Low Esteem Support Group will meet Thursday at 7 p.m. Please Use the back door."*

Some individuals seldom struggle with self-esteem. I remember watching an interview with Michael Jordan, the great basketball icon. He said that when the game is on the line, with seconds left on the clock, he always wanted to have the ball for a chance to take a last shot, beating the buzzer. I heard a great NFL quarterback once say that when he played Little League baseball as a boy, in a tense bases-loaded, one-run-ahead situation, he would say to

himself, ***“Hit the ball to me! Hit it to me.”*** When I was a kid playing Little League in such a situation I would have been relieved to have the ball hit to someone else.

One of the ways the world seeks to deal with a lack of self esteem is to suggest that we analyze our assets and liabilities. That’s not entirely wrong. It’s good to be objective about oneself. Paul says in **Romans 12:3** ***“Do not think of yourself more highly than you ought, but rather think of yourself with sober judgement.”*** In other words, we need to know who we are. Obviously I shouldn’t feel bad about myself because I am not rich or famous or well known. God has not given or gifted me with those roles. But there are things that are uniquely me and I can do reasonably well. It’s a good exercise from time to time to inventory our gifts and uniqueness. All of us have something of significance to give the world and the church.

Another secular solution to self-esteem is to do something about your liabilities. Go back to school. Give up that bad habit. Join the gym and get back in shape. Buy some new clothes. Create a ***“new you”***—a more self assured version of yourself. Again there’s value in trying to make the most of who we are and what we have. But if we are not careful, the whole exercise of self-improvement can lead to narcissism and constant over attention to ourselves at every level.

There is another key in dealing with the self-esteem issue. How about learning how to see ourselves as God sees us and believing that He highly values us? In the stock market there is a concept called ***“value transfer.”*** Certain stocks take on value because a credible broker or investor believes in them. That principle operates in almost every realm of life. A thing is given worth when valuable people ascribe value to it. Suppose for example you are taking an art class and work is being exhibited at the annual Arts Festival in Long’s Park here in Lancaster. No one seems very interested in your work. Those who do stop gaze for a moment and then look bored and move on. But then along comes Rembrandt, the master painter—the master of light and shadow. He stops and checks out your painting. ***“Pure genius! A masterpiece in the making!”*** he exclaims. ***“How much do you want for this piece?”*** he asks.

What if God feels the same about us? People of infinite worth in His eyes. Imagine! The Creator of the universe thinking you’re unique and special, even though quite old. It has been said that ***“faith is the courage to accept acceptance.”*** How can I not value what God values? I think about an old beat up rag doll that my daughter tenaciously loved until it was literally lost or left somewhere. I think of Linus’s blanket dragged everywhere and in time becoming dirty and ragged, but no less loved. It’s a worthwhile analogy to think we are God’s rag dolls—because we are loved by one who is love itself. He loves us with a tenacious persistence. Once we understand and embrace this we don’t need to appear to be winning all the time. We stop needing to prove everything, because we are loved by Infinite Love.

He told me to tell you! Faithfully,

Pastor Robert Zimmerman



AB Men's Breakfast

Our next Men's Fellowship Breakfast will be on May 16 at 9:00 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.

Air Conditioning Fund Drive

We announced on Sunday that we are attempting to raise \$7,500.00 to pay for a new AC Unit, which cools the upstairs/sanctuary portion of our building. The unit is no longer functional or repairable and dates back to 1969. For each of the next four Sundays we will be including envelopes in the bulletin please consider making a contribution to the AC Fund. We have also asked the Canaan Kachin Baptist Church that worships in our building, to also consider a donation for this drive. *The Matthew 25 Fund* a charitable organization that specializes in assisting local churches has been contacted and is considering some assistance. With the cumulative generosity of our church family and others we hope to cover the entire cost of the AC unit by June 4th.



**Church
Fundraising**

Sharon and Joe Goodman have offered a unique way to contribute to the fund raising effort. You may order a home cooked meal from Sharon by Saturday noon and it will be delivered to church on Sunday for you to take home after worship service. Simply contact Sharon by leaving a message on her voicemail 717 898-7124 no later than noon on Saturday. Specify how many dinners you would like prepared, then pick up the dinner(s) on Sunday after church from the church kitchen.

In exchange for the meal, please make a free will donation toward the AC Fund Drive (write information on the check or envelop drop in offering plate or give to Cora.).

Dinner Menu

Sunday May 7th (this Sunday) *Pork / Sauerkraut and Mash Potato's
Sunday May 14th (Mother's Day) *Pot Roast & Vegetables with Potatoes
Sunday May 21st *Italian Baked Pasta with Salad
Sunday May 28th *Turkey with Stuffing & Mashed Potatoes



ABW Ministries

**Our next ABW meeting is Thursday,
May 4th at 1:00 pm
in the Fellowship Hall.**

We continue to 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. We are planning a very active Spring with a variety of events and hope that you may join us for one, or all of the projects.



From ABW National

2023 Eastern Sectional Meeting
“What's Up ABWM?”
Tuesday, October 3, 2023
7:00 PM EDT
(Zoom)
Register at

<http://www.abwomensministries.org>

ABW Ministries of PA & DE Annual Thrive Retreat August 18-20

**If you have questions about ABW, or our projects, please see Pat Rust.
God Bless & Praise the Lord, Pat Rust and the ABW Ladies**

Women's Bible Study

We have begun a new study in Women's Bible Study. We will be looking at the Old Testament books of Ezra and Nehemiah using a guide of the same title. Using "Ezra and Nehemiah" by Kathleen Nielson. We'll incorporate games and activities. If you've been meaning to get involved, now is a great time! Join us for a good time of study, fellowship and prayer. Bring a friend!



Supporting Our Local Food & Clothing Banks

As you do your spring cleaning, instead of tossing unwanted items, bag them and bring them to church on Sundays. Collection boxes are located in the foyers- both upstairs and downstairs. Needed items: Canned, jarred & dry grocery goods, New or used clothing in good condition, Hygiene and baby necessities.

Our charitable giving:

Last month, Gary and Cora took the following to the Food Hub (Formerly the Lancaster County Council of Churches):

- 2 bags of food**
- 1 box of books**
- 5 bags of clothing**



Westgate Baptist Church
2235 Harrisburg Pike, Lancaster, PA 17601
717-394-1071

ABW Tea Party & Guest Speaker Sally Perry

American Baptist Women & friends invited!

*May 13th 1:00 to 3:00 pm in our Fellowship Hall.
Bring your favorite teacup.*

Sally Perry, Mission and Service Coordinator, encourages women to include missions in their everyday lives.



*Tea pots, finger sandwiched, fruits...needed.
See the sign-up sheet in the narthex if you
will attend and/or donate items to this
event.*

*Please call Pat Rust at 717-717-209-6822 or
Cora Stump at 717-471-1597 for more
details.*

RSVP by May 6th.

Sunday School Studies

Gary Stump is leading us through 1 Peter, the Passionate Fisherman. We will be studying a letter written to people in Asia Minor to encourage them during difficult times. Join us for coffee at 9:30 am then study before our worship service.

Birthdays & Anniversaries- May

Birthdays



- 5/2 David Ryan
- 5/8 Devon Guntz
- 5/9 Blaine Proper
- 5/12 George Guillen
- 5/13 Carolyn McDonie
- 5/18 Donald Myers
- 5/19 Laura Schramm
- 5/21 Robinson Guillen
- 5/26 David Guillen
- 5/30 Dottie Papez
- 5/31 Connie Fisher



Anniversaries



5/28 Donald & Susan Miller



*Sunday morning azaleas at Westgate
Photo curtesy of Diane Strickland*



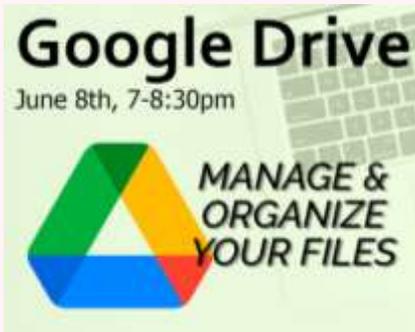
Ask the LORD
for rain in the
springtime; it is
the LORD who
sends the
thunderstorms.

He gives
showers of rain
to all people,
and plants of
the field to
everyone.
Zechariah 10:1

Treasurer's Report

	April
Budget Income	\$13,817.00
Non-budget income	\$ 655.27

Invitations to Local Events



Zoom Meeting Google Workspace (formerly called Google Suite) is included free with every Google/Gmail account. It includes programs to create word documents, spreadsheets, slideshows, online forms, and more. Learn how your organization can benefit from using Google Drive

**Parish Resource Center
2160 Lincoln Hwy E #18
Lancaster, PA 17602
(717) 299-1113**

www.parishresourcecenter.org

Baptist Potpourri



Congregational Innovation; on Thursday, May 18, 2023 at 3:00pm ET

Presenters Rev. Dr. Greg Mamula and Rev. Travis Norvell

Congregational Innovation happens in many ways across American Baptist Churches USA. We invited two American Baptist leaders to share about how they are innovating in their own ministry. Rev. Dr. Greg Mamula will share about Congregational Innovations around the Table, noting: "We are hard-wired to flourish within the context of community. Innovative opportunities like Table life are a holistic approach to faith and life while fostering thriving community connections." Rev. Travis Norvell will share about Congregational Innovations while riding a bike, taking the bus, and walking on a sidewalk as a way to connect with your neighborhood and discover God already at work in the world around you.

<https://ministrelife.zoom.us/j/9cpcemrrTMrEtEeydhWxldz-QFDofVMIUuA#/registration>

Church closes doors after member taken in kidnapping spree

PORT-AU-PRINCE — In April 2021, kidnappers captured four worshippers from the altar of the Galaad Adventist Church of Diquini, in the middle of a livestream evening service. Later, a similar scene unfolded during a service inside the Oratory of Saint Charbel, a Catholic church in Pétion-Ville, that left worshippers in the clutches of armed bandits. The crimes are among a slew of several high-profile kidnappings that have taken place in Haiti, underscoring the lengths gangs are turning to, and further showing an already fearful public that no one or place is scared.

Kidnappings have surged in Haiti since 2021, with numbers rising nearly 300%. The gang, once notorious for car theft, has pioneered “collective” kidnappings of large groups of victims from buses and cars, the report says. The gang, 400 Mawozo typically demands ransoms of around \$20,000 USD, it also says.

The country has been in a state of electoral and constitutional turmoil since the assassination of the president, Jovenel Moïse, in 2021 at the hands of Colombian mercenaries with unknown paymasters, but the immediate crisis can be traced back further. Haiti has not held functional elections since 2019 – and the country has been in a fragile state since the 2010 earthquake that killed up to 300,000 people. But Moïse’s death in July 2021 – and a new earthquake the following month – has sent the situation spiraling out of control.

This year has seen a new crisis develop. Vigilante killings are surging in Haiti's capital and surrounding areas, where recently five men were slain and set on fire by a crowd that left one of the bodies near a police station in an upscale community. Pictures and videos shared on social media have shown Haitians sharpening machetes and using big trucks to block entrances into neighborhoods as they vow to root out gangs that the U.N. says control up to 80% of Port-au-Prince. Over the weekend, Haiti’s National Police issued a statement saying officers are dismantling gangs across the country that are “terrorizing the civilian population.”



From our Missionaries in the Dominican Republic / Haiti

Dear Loved Ones,

Greeting. We are now measuring the depth of danger we were risking by going to Haiti at this time. Here are some observations. When we were there, we did what we know best. We went not because we wanted to go but we did go because we felt that God needed us there at that time. We do not regret a moment. 25 years in Haiti now, Haiti is home for us.

Haiti is in need of prayer.



First the Baptist Church of Port-au-Prince which is one of the churches in Haiti that had its worshippers kidnapped by armed men.

Haiti is in need of security.

Haiti is in need of RAIN and many big rains. People have not been able to grow anything. We got news that cows have started dying for lack of food and water. With no rain and not much water in the pumps, many diseases risk to start popping up here and there.

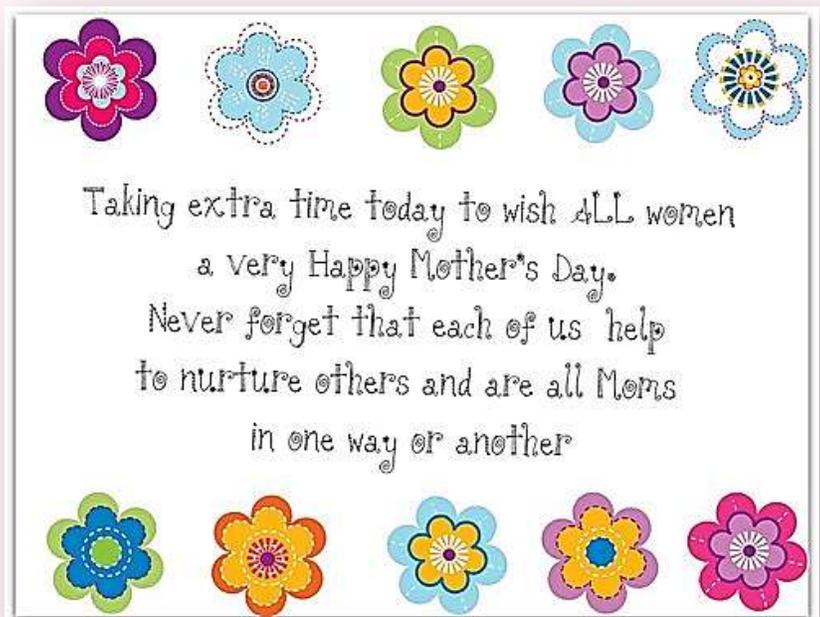
Haiti is in need of FOOD. People are suffering of hunger. Many families are unable to adequately feed their children. The prices of goods that can be seen on the market have gone way high that it is impossible for the common folks to afford.

The week we spent in Haiti was a real blessing but also a test of character. The campus was almost deserted of its population. We were the only one professor on the campus. Water and electricity have become like gold. To think that we lived here on this beautiful campus when water was flowing freely and we knew when the light was coming on and off was really very depressing for us.

Kihomi had to use her motherly know how to cook food. She spent countless hours under the hot sun cooking some of what can be called food. However, we survived the whole week taking our support and our comfort in people rather than in what we were missing.

Thank you for keeping us in your love and in your prayers. Let us continue prayer.

Yours in DR
Nzunga & Kihomi

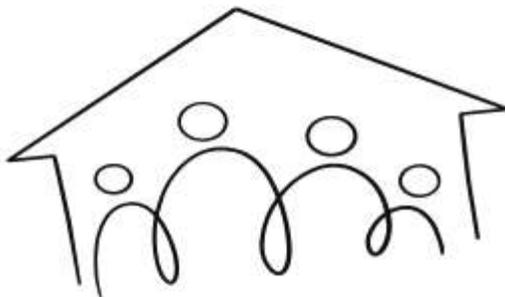


PUZZLE

A VALUABLE *command*

God instructs children how to relate to their parents.

Directions: Arrange the words in alphabetical order. Then insert the circled letters in order to complete Exodus 20:12, NIV.



son	mother	father
daughter	honor	home
respect	family	obey
	love	

1. _ _ _ _ _ ○ _ _ _ _
2. ○ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _
3. _ _ _ _ _ ○ _ _ _ _
4. ○ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _
5. _ _ _ _ _ ○ _ _ _ _
6. ○ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _
7. _ _ _ _ _ ○ _ _ _ _
8. ○ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _
9. ○ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _
10. _ _ _ _ _ ○ _ _ _ _

_ _ono_ _ your _ _ather and _ _our mo_h_r,
so t_at y_u may _ _i_e l_ng in t_e land
the L_RD _ _ou_ God i_ _givi_g you.

EXODUS 20:12, NIV

Answer: 1. daughter, 2. family, 3. father, 4. home, 5. honor, 6. love, 7. mother, 8. obey, 9. respect, 10. son; Honor your father and your mother, so that you may live long in the land the LORD your God is giving you.



Mother's Day

***A gracious woman
retains honor, but
ruthless men retain
riches.***

Proverbs ? : ?

***Strength and honor are her clothing,
and she will rejoice in time to come.***

***26 She opens her mouth with wisdom,
and in her tongue is the teaching of kindness.***

***27 She looks well to the ways of her household,
and does not eat the bread of idleness.***

***28 Her children rise up and call her blessed;
her husband also, and he praises her_***

Proverbs ? : ?