



## From the Pastor's Desk...

By Pastor Derrick Gutierrez



I love autumn. In addition to the fact that Jezerel and I celebrate our birthdays in autumn, we take advantage of the cooler weather to get outside and spend time in God's glorious creation. I am truly most grateful for all that God has provided for us when I can experience up close and in a personal way.

Living in Lancaster County, I can easily move from the city to the county to experience apple picking, hiking, kayaking, fishing, etc. in minutes. We are truly blessed to live in a place where we can easily have urban, rural, small town and suburban experiences. I give thanks!

Thanksgiving is the act of expressing our gratitude. When we give thanks, we acknowledge God's providence and love. We are called to be thankful in all circumstances, as the apostle Paul encourages us in 1 Thessalonians 5:18: "Give thanks in all circumstances; for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus." It is not limited to our words but is demonstrated through our actions.

Gratitude and thanksgiving also foster unity among us. When we appreciate the people in our lives and express our thanks to them, we build stronger relationships and create a sense of belonging. We become part of a community that uplifts and supports one another.

Lack of contentment is a barrier to being thankful. When we are focused on things that rob us of being content, we are not as thankful as we should be. We pursue the acquisition of material objects to feel fulfilled in life, i.e. larger homes than we need, more wealth than we can spend. Fulfillment only truly comes when we are aligned with the will of God, and contentment comes from a deep trust in God's provision and sovereignty.

In Philippians, Paul reminds us that contentment is a learned attitude, not something that depends on external conditions. "I have learned to be content whatever the circumstances. I know what it is to be in need, and I know what it is to have plenty. I have learned the secret of being content in any and every situation, whether well fed or hungry, whether living in plenty or in want." (Philippians 4:11-12)

So, we must ask ourselves, where is our focus in life? What keeps us from being thankful? How can we truly express our gratitude for all that God has done for us? When we know, we can put these things before the Lord and learn to become more grateful.

## Sidelights

### COVENANT'S VISION AND MISSION STATEMENTS

Our Vision Statement: **Bringing Christ's Light into the Community and Beyond.**

Our Mission Statement: **We Invite, We Welcome, We Nurture, We Serve.**

The theme for 2023 is **God in 2023, Covenant Church is the Place to Be.**

Please be in prayer for Covenant Church.

### WAYS TO CONTINUE GIVING

Thank you to our faithful members who continue to support Covenant Church. Here are options for you to give your personal tithes and offerings:

- Mail checks to 110 N. Mulberry St., Lancaster, PA, 17603
- Give online. Go to our website [www.covenant-umc.com](http://www.covenant-umc.com) and click on the GIVING link and follow the directions.
- Text 717-769-1063. After the initial setup, giving is easy.

Please call the church office with questions.

## Sidelights

### PRAYER CHAIN

If you have a prayer request, please call Patti Willard at 717-872-7561. If she is unavailable, please leave a message. Also, if you are interested in being a member of the Prayer Chain, please contact her to add your name to the list .

### HOSPITAL VISITATION

Don't forget to notify the church office when you or a loved one is in the hospital. Our Care Team is available to visit and share prayer.

### UPPER ROOM

You can purchase the Upper Room daily devotional for only \$2. We have regular and large print in the office.

### LOBBY GREETERS

1st Sunday of the Month  
Bob & Cindy Hean

2nd Sunday of the Month  
Carole Horn

3rd Sunday of the Month  
Linda Henning

4th Sunday of the Month  
Lynn Arnold

5th Sunday of the Month  
Cathy Boyd  
Bobbie Schwan

## We Worship Together

### Sunday Worship

In-person worship will be held each Sunday at 10:30 am. The service will also be livestreamed on Facebook for those who wish to worship at home.

### Additional Online Opportunities During the Week

- Wednesday at 10 am join our prayer group in the church library.

### OCTOBER—NOVEMBER EVENTS

10/1	Worship, Communion, Pastor Ott's 10 year Anniversary Recognition	10:30 am
10/7	Care & Share Luncheon	12:00 pm
10/8	Worship, WOW Luncheon to follow	10:30 am
10/14	Food Box Distribution	10:00 am
10/15	Worship, Laity Sunday	10:30 am
10/21	IMPACT! Missions Work Day	9:00 am
10/22	Worship, Stewardship Sunday	10:30 am
10/29	Worship, All Saints Sunday	10:30 am
11/4	Charge Conference, Lititz UMC	10:00 am
11/4	Care & Share Luncheon	12:00 pm
11/5	Worship Service, Communion, Commitment Sunday	10:30 pm
11/12	Worship Service, WOW following	10:30 pm
11/14	Food Box Distribution	10:00 am
11/18	IMPACT! Missions Work Day	9:00 am
11/19	Worship Service, World Thank Offering	10:30 am
11/26	Worship Service	10:30 am

## World Thank Offering Service

United Women of Faith will hold their Sunday morning World Thank Offering service on Sunday, November the 19th at 10:30 am. Our guest speaker for this worship service will be Jen-ny Freymoyer, our District Superintendent. "In all things, give thanks". As we are thankful for the many blessings and care that God provides us each day, remember to place your coins (and bills) of thanksgiving aside for this special Sunday and offering.

# Here's to Good Health!

How can you prevent COVID 19 and FLU?

The best way to protect yourself and others from Covid 19 or the flu, along with other respiratory illness, is to get vaccinated if you are eligible.

The yearly flu vaccine is available now. All persons 6 months old and older are encouraged to get a flu shot. Young children and older folks are most at risk of serious illnesses from the flu.

RSV is a common virus that most children have been infected with by the time they are 2 years old. It can return throughout their lives. Young children and older adults are most at risk of serious illness and hospitalization. To protect yourself as an older adult, talk with your PCP about a vaccine.

A Covid 19 vaccine is the first step in protection from having a severe case. If you have symptoms of any respiratory illness, get tested for Covid and the flu. If you test positive for Covid you might qualify for Paxlovid, if positive for flu you might qualify for an antiviral medication.

Remember, if you are sick, please stay home! Isolate yourself from others.

Wear a mask; you can protect others from spreading the illness. Covid 19 is considered contagious for 10 days. You need to self-isolate. After 5 days you still need to wear a mask for another 5 days while at indoor public places or if with others at high risk. Even if you're not sick it might be a good idea to wear a mask in crowded public places.

To stay healthy, do these things:

- Manage any health conditions
- Quit smoking
- Get a good night's sleep
- Eat a balanced diet
- Exercise
- Wash your hands often!!

Doing these things can help keep these viruses more mild.

Wellness Coach,  
Cindy Smith

## Adult Sunday School Update

Covenant's two adult Sunday School classes will continue with their studies from September as they gather from 9:00 to 10:00 A.M. every Sunday morning.

The Faith Walk Class, which meets in the Chapel Library, is currently studying The God of the How and When by Kathie Lee Gifford and Rabbi Jason Sobel. Through DVD presentations, the class visits the Holy Land and explores how God revealed himself in the Old Testament and how the New Testament continues His revelation and assures us of His presence with us today. Later this year they will study Prepare the Way for the Lord and the Message of John the Baptist by Rev. Adam Hamilton. Class sessions are led by a rotation of teachers including Carole Horn, Chris Kimmich, Lois Neidermyer, and Cindy Smith.

*Continued on next page...*

## Sidelights

### COVENANT MEMBERS IN BUSINESS

#### Aunt Sandy's Attic

Sandy Leonard—Antiques, Collectibles, Books, Art, etc.  
545 W. Market Street, Marietta,  
PA 17547, 717-426-5091

#### Dale Building Designs

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

#### Groff Family Funeral & Cremation Services, Inc.

Thomas S. Buter, 394.5300  
528 W. Orange St.

#### Miller Optical

Glenn & Maryanne Miller,  
393.2020  
Glasses, Contacts, and Exams  
Lancaster & Willow Street

#### Willard Hypnosis Center

Roger J. Willard  
3304 Main Street, Conestoga PA  
17516, 717.872.7561 or  
[willardhypnosis.com](http://willardhypnosis.com)

### CHRISTMAS FAMILY EVENT

The Nurture and Outreach teams will be having their Christmas Family event on Saturday, December 2, at 10:00am in Bethany Hall. The entertainment will be Koo Koo the Magician. It is a very entertaining and audience interactive show. There will be light refreshments and a gift for the children. If you have any questions, or would like to volunteer that day, please see Cindy Hean or Denise Troop.

## Sidelights

### THE WOW FELLOWSHIP

The women and men's group that has been meeting once a month after church for lunch and Bible study is now called The WOW Fellowship, which means **W**orship **G**od, **O**bey His Word, and **W**itness to others. The group will be meeting the second Sunday of every month in Bethany Hall following the Worship Service. Lunch is provided.

### GROCERY CARDS

Please check the News to Go for Sundays when grocery cards will be available in the lobby.

You can also continue to support the Mission Outreach of Covenant by purchasing your grocery store gift cards through the mail. Please mail your check to Covenant UMC at 110 N Mulberry St 17603 with a note. We have \$50 Stauffer's cards; \$25 and \$50 Giant cards.

Please make your checks out to Covenant UMC. After receiving your check, we will mail your grocery store cards to your home.

### A/V HELP NEEDED

There is room for you on the sanctuary sound board. Interested? Training will be provided. Please see Darwin Tyson for more information.

## New Administrative Assistant Hired

We are excited to announce a new addition to our team at Covenant UMC. Nicole Migliore is our new Administrative Assistant in the church office. Her first day was Tuesday, September 19, 2023. Nicole graduated from Millersville University where she majored in music. She has several years of experience working in office environments at Millersville University and Wil-low Valley Communities. We are confident that Nicole will make a positive impact in her role.

Nicole will be in the office on the following days of the week:

Tuesday	9am – 3:30pm
Wednesday	8am – 12pm
Thursday	8am – 12pm
Friday	9am – 3:30pm

We also want to extend a world of gratitude to Chris Kimmich who has worked hard to keep the office moving forward during our hiring process. She stepped in quickly in our time of need and has provided a wealth of knowledge to Pastor Derrick during his first few months, and will also be sharing her knowledge and experience with Nicole as she gets started. Thank you, Chris.

### Sunday School Update

*Continued from previous page...*

The Sonshine Class, which meets on the lower level in BI Classroom beside the elevator, is studying The Fruit of the Spirit: Cultivating Christlike Character by Stuart Briscoe. The nine attributes of a Christian known as the fruit of the Spirit from Galatians are explored with additional Biblical passages to determine how believing and behaving affect one another. Ginny Brown and Patti Willard share the teaching schedule with Dave Beznoska taking the lead on occasion.

Adults of all ages are invited to attend these Sunday School classes in order to explore the Bible, to learn more about living the Christian life, and to appreciate the support of others in the Covenant Church family.

### COMMUNITY AID

Covenant Church is in partnership with Community Aid. In addition to adding specific items, as needed, to our Community closet they send us checks for a percentage of any items dropped off at Community Aid by our members. Give them our #40070 when you drop off donations.

### OCTOBER IS PASTOR APPRECIATION MONTH

Today, Sunday 10/1, begins Pastor Appreciation Month! You are invited to give cards to Pastor Derrick and Pastor Sally to show your appreciation.

Cards may be submitted to their mailboxes:

- Pastor Derrick Gutierrez: mailbox 8
- Pastor Sally Ott: mailbox 19

# EPA Passes 2024 Budget

On Saturday, September 9, Pastor Derrick Gutierrez, Pastor Sally Ott, and Lay Member Lois Neidermyer participated in a Special Session of the Eastern Pennsylvania Conference to complete business still needing to be addressed following Annual Conference in May.

Following is the report of that session as provided by the EPA Conference Office.

Like the blind man at Bethsaida whose eyes Jesus opened in Mark 8:22-25, the Eastern Pennsylvania Annual Conference got a second, clearer look at the proposed 2024 budget resolution during its Special Session on September 9, and that second look led to a nearly unanimous vote of approval.

Just under 400 members attended the Saturday morning session at Lititz United Methodist Church to act on several resolutions—including the 2024 budget—not voted on at the regular conference session in May.

A highlight of the session was the diverse worship, bringing together an array of talents: Lititz UMC's Contemporary Band, New Life UMC's Praise Dance Team, worship leaders from El Buen Samaritano/Cristo Rey, and the Rev. Joong Hyuck Kim's family of Fritz Memorial & St. Paul UMC.

The new budget, presented by the Committee on Finance and Administration (CFA), offers more information, arranged in an easy-to-read format, and newly updated figures. It gives a comprehensive look at conference income and expenses for clergy support, ministry programs and benevolences, and administration and property expenses.

The budget legislation also includes new policies for responsibly managing and growing designated and restricted funds to protect EPA's capital and maximize support for its mission to help churches make disciples and develop leaders. The new policies are in keeping with the Discipline and best practices for nonprofit organizations.

Steven Cherry, CFA member, shared, "The goal of the comprehensive budget is financial support for the future of the annual conference's people and churches. These are most difficult times in which to be the church of Jesus.... We have to change to remain viable."

Following the affirmative vote, CFO/Treasurer Jo Fielding stated, "Welcome to Ground Zero. From this point forward, we are taking a step in a new direction. We are working towards making a better future for you." Highlighting the dedication and skills of the Council of Finance and Administration, she urged for continued feedback and prayers from the EPA members. The conference also took a moment to honor Jo Fielding's remarkable 25 years of service to Eastern Pennsylvania.

Among the four other business items, three resolutions were ruled out of order, with consent by the body. Conference members approved a resolution that endorses efforts to restructure the denomination into regions, including a U.S. Regional Conference.

With echoes of Bishop John Schol's sermonette on the need for vision adjustments and divine guidance, EPAC's Special Session stands testament to the commitment and resilience of a connectional body navigating change while retaining a faith-driven vision for the future.

Submitted by: Lois Neidermyer



## Pastor Sally Ott's Tenth Anniversary at Covenant

Ten years ago on October 1, 2013, the Rev. Sally Ott joined the Covenant UMC pastoral staff in the temporary position of Pastor of Visitation and Outreach. However, in short time the term "temporary" disappeared as she continued on doing a wonderful job in such an essential position. There was mutual agreement that this role was a good fit for her talents and a blessing for the church. Now on October 1, 2023, we celebrate her tenth anniversary with Covenant Church as we honor and thank her for all she has done connecting with and supporting members of our Covenant family while also engaging in Christian outreach in the community and beyond.

Pastor Sally had just retired in September of 2013 after twenty years as director of LUMINA in Lancaster when Pastor Jeff Snyder reached out to her regarding her interest in a temporary position at Covenant. Her additional experiences as a pastor and skills in pastoral care made her a valued candidate for the role at Covenant. Soon retired Pastor Sally was busy leading visitation efforts and outreach ministries at the church.



Pastor Sally has been instrumental in inspiring a visitation team that sees hospitalized members daily and home-bound members monthly. So many Covenant members know of her loving care in visiting them in the hospital or retirement home, in serving them communion, in praying with them, in transporting them to appointments, and in remembering them with cards and phone calls. They value her extending comfort and leading celebration of life services. In addition, she leads a weekly prayer group, supports the Care and Share group for those who have suffered loss of loved ones, and plans a Blue Christmas service for those who are mourning. On occasion she has the opportunity to lead worship and preach. She also serves as advisor to the Outreach Team on ministries that extend beyond the church walls to meet people's needs and to spread the good news of Jesus Christ.

Since her work is part-time at Covenant Church, Pastor Sally has found other avenues to share in ministry as well. A few years ago she served as interim pastor of Newtown United Methodist Church in Columbia. Today she ministers many Sunday mornings by playing the piano at Coleman Memorial Chapel in Brickerville. Retirement life is for doing what you most enjoy. For Pastor Sally that means sharing Christ's love with as many people as she can.

Pastor Sally is supported in her various roles by a loving spouse who shares her faith and commitment to Christian service. Covenant Church and others where Pastor Sally serves are blessed by Bruce Ott as well. Their adorable pet Honey Bunny shares a very good life with them and has often become part of their ministry to others.

Covenant Church continues to be grateful and blessed to have such an inspirational and caring pastor on staff. She may be short in stature, but she is not short on love. Pastor Sally's heart is the biggest part of her.



## Bible2School Underway Again for Fulton Elementary

Bible2School is a public school ministry that provides Bible teaching for elementary school students as a released time program during the school day. Covenant UM Church is again hosting students from Fulton Elementary School for this program—second graders on Tuesdays and fourth graders on Thursdays. There are third graders who would like to come also on Thursdays, but there are not enough adult volunteers to teach that grade level. If volunteer teachers can be found from the church or the community, a third grade program will be started.

Second graders study the Old Testament, third graders the New Testament, and fourth graders Discipleship. Cindy Hean, Lois Neidermyer, and Minister Santa Jenkins are currently working with the Fulton second graders over their lunch and recess hour. Two volunteers walk the students from the school to the church bringing their lunches with them. As the students eat their lunch, one volunteer teaches the Bible lesson, and then other volunteers interact with table groups of five or six students discussing further the main lesson. Crafts, science experiments, games, and skits keep the children involved. The session ends with repeating together a rhyme that grows from week to week as a review of the Bible lessons the second graders have heard. A walk back to the school completes the hour that the children are released from the school.

Released time programs run legally with the stipulations that the sessions be held off school property, with no tax dollar funding, and with parental permission for students to participate. The Bible2School program and curriculum started in Manheim and then expanded to Lancaster City Schools. Since then several other Lancaster County communities have embraced the program as well as other areas throughout Pennsylvania. Bible2School has not stopped at state lines, however, with ever increasing interest in various states throughout the nation. What a wonderful opportunity to introduce children to God and the Bible! Please pray for more volunteers to reach more children, many of whom have never been to church or never heard of Jesus.

## Sidelights

### 90+ BIRTHDAYS

Gloria Horner—10/1  
Dolly Kepner—10/21  
Mildred Dyer—11/13  
Robert E. Hess—11/18  
B.J. Wolfgang—11/27

### MEMORIALS GIVEN

In memory of **Miriam Meizen** to the Pastor's Discretionary Fund from Cindy Smith, Ron and Chris Kimmich, and Jean Stone; and for the pastor's honorarium.

In memory of **Nancy Hess** to the Pastor's Discretionary Fund from Ron and Chris Kimmich.

In memory of **Nancy Hess** to the general fund from Cindy Smith.

In memory of **Katherine Lefever**, a gift to the Dolly Kepner Organ Fund from Derek and Sylvia Frey.

### MOOS VOLUNTEERS

MOOS is up and running for the 2023-2024 school year, and we've been blessed with a large group of students this season. Due to the increase we are in urgent need of more volunteers. We are specifically looking for at least one more volunteer on the following days: Mondays, Tuesdays, Wednesdays, & Fridays. If interested, please contact the MOOS program director at [themoosdirector@gmail.com](mailto:themoosdirector@gmail.com).

## COVENANT

### United Methodist Church

110 North Mulberry Street

Lancaster, PA 17603-3507

Office Telephone: 717.393.1561

Senior Pastor's Phone: 717.682.2374

Office Hours: Monday-Friday, 8:00 a.m.—1:00 p.m.

### Church Staff

The Reverend Derrick Gutierrez, Senior Pastor

The Reverend Sally Ott, Visitation & Witness

The Reverend Dr. Guy Carrigan, Dir. of Evangelism

Jeffrey McGary, Echoes Editor

### Email

Senior Pastor...[pastorderrick@covenant-umc.com](mailto:pastorderrick@covenant-umc.com)

Admin. Asst....[nicole@covenant-umc.com](mailto:nicole@covenant-umc.com)

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Web Page...<http://www.covenant-umc.com>

## Pathways Sessions Underway

Covenant's pastors along with many of the church's laity leaders have been meeting together with Rev. Jenny Freymoyer, our West District Superintendent who is serving as the facilitator of our Pathways process. The group has been examining the status and statistics of the church in terms of its vitality and sustainability in order to determine ways to promote growth. With open hearts and open minds they have discussed the strengths and weaknesses of Covenant Church as well as the opportunities and threats facing the church. They are exploring grant opportunities and brainstorming creative ways to enhance the church and its mission. As the process progresses, more specific information will be shared with the whole congregation and more members involved. Continue to pray that God will guide our way.

Covenant United Methodist Church  
110 N. Mulberry St.  
Lancaster, PA 17603-3507  
Return Service Requested