



# PASTOR NOTES FOR SUMMER 2023: SO FAR, SO EXTRAORDINARY!

Friends, as I write this, we are several weeks into our ordinary time summer series looking at the EXTRAORDINARY aspects of our faith. Already, we've discovered there is nothing "ordinary" about our faith and the life we are called to as God-followers!

The scriptures we've read and discerned together attest to this extraordinariness:

- On June 11 we discovered Jesus's power to help us change our positions. We saw this in Matthew 9 with His calling of Matthew, His challenging the Pharisees, His healing the bleeding woman and His lifting up the synagogue leader's daughter. We wondered: with which character might we relate? In what ways might Jesus be calling us to get up, get moving, to open our eyes to see God more clearly in others? As we considered this together, we laid hands on one another, remembering that we're all loved by an extraordinary God whose promise is to be with us to love, guide and help us in whatever position we may be.
- On June 18, we heard from the Apostle Paul's letter to the Romans where he passionately lays out the layered blessings of having faith in Jesus. Those blessings begin with the peace of being justified through God's undeserved grace poured out for us through the cross of Jesus. With this comes the promise of a relationship with God one that remains in and through suffering with endurance, character, hope and strength. In all this we know that Jesus Himself suffered through the depths of human pain. We also know that his death was not in vain. Through His death AND His life we are saved having been made right in God's eyes and empowered to strive to imitate Jesus's life in service and sacrifice to others. We then heard from a few members who shared the extraordinary value of knowing Jesus in their lives.

But wait... there's more!

• On June 25 and July 2 we looked at the extraordinary Sacraments of the Reformed Faith as we celebrated the Baptisms of Georgia and Hannah Raffelt (6/25) and the Lord's Supper (7/2). What a joy to be drawn even closer to Christ by these visible signs of God's very real love in our lives.

#### SO FAR, SO EXTRAORDINARY I'D SAY - WOULDN'T YOU?

As the series continues, we will discover the joy of worship, the power of the Holy Spirit, what it means to live in God's economy, a few gardening tips...and much more! I pray that as the summer unfolds, so will your faith - in extraordinary ways! I look forward to some fun in the sun- and FAITH in the Son - with you.

Peace, Pastor Mark

# <u>Feel Free to Read Ahead! Our July scripture reading schedule is as follows:</u> July 9: Psalm 145



July 16: Isaiah 50

July 23: Romans 8: 12-25 (with a focus on the Holy Spirit)

July 30: Mathew 13: 31-33; 44-52

Check church media for August readings coming soon!



#### **DEACON REPORT**

The Deacons at Buckingham continue to gather and "support those in need". We have several fund raising opportunities coming up; if you are able to help please contact Cathy Leyden. In addition to on going request for crisis needs we have supported other causes in the last month. We supported the Spirit Kitchen with cereal for their food pantry, purchased items for the Blessing Box and provided funds to purchase food for the Summer Program at Buckingham Elementary. The Deacons also provided raffle items for Worcester Youth & Family Counseling Services (attached is a picture of 1 of the 3 beach bags donated). We will also resume regular donations to the Samaritan Shelter. "Our job is to love others without stopping to inquire whether or not they are worthy".



### **VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL**

Buckingham Presbyterian will again work cooperatively with the other Berlin churches on Vacation Bible School to be held:

July 24th - 28 6-8 PM

with light dinner at 5:30 PM every evening Stevenson United Methodist Church – Main Street Berlin REGISTRATION: https://www.stevensonchurch.org/vbs

# Sewing Seeds of Love -Summer Volunteers Needed

We will once again be hosting Worcester Youth & Family camps at the church this summer. During camp our Sewing Seeds of Love ministry will be working with the kids and teaching them to sew. We would love a few volunteers to help us this summer. See Debbie Frene if interested or for more details.



Sewing Seeds of Love, recently presented 14 hand-made quilts to the Cricket Center to be used by the children the non-profit serves.

Since February, the children of our church have been making quilts, sewn with love on sewing machines donated or on loan from several local people, under the direction of Debbie and other volunteers. The ministry teaches the children the skill of sewing and the importance of helping people, especially other kids who are in need of love, care, and compassion. Altogether, about 11 kids helped with this project. For more information about this ministry or to volunteer, contact Debbie Frene 410-430-4948

### COOKIES FOR CAMPERS

Worchester Youth and Family Summer Youth Camps will again be held in Taylor Hall this summer. Campers will be here Mon-Thurs from 9-2:30 beginning July 5th through the end of August. As in years past we would like to bless the campers with goodies (homemade or store bought). If you are baker or are able to provide goodies for the campers, please bring baked goods labeled "CAMPERS" and leave in the kitchen anytime in July or August. They will greatly appreciate the blessing! Thanks so much!



## August 5th 10-3pm

PIE SALES: The Deacon's will be selling Peach Pie and Pie Slices at both the church & the lawn at the Taylor Museum. We are in need of helpers for the booths at both locations. Please contact the church office or see Bob Arthur to sign up.

VENDOR ART & CRAFT SHOW: We will be hosting a juried Art & Craft show in Taylor Hall during the peach festival. Applications for spaces are due July 28th. Non-Member cost = \$40. Set up the day of or day before is available. Homemade items only. You can call or email the church office – info@buckinghampcusa.org – 410-641-0234 for an application or contact Pat Rouch 410-213-2185 for more information.



We have moved our summer

Men's Breakfast gathering to Saturdays in
hopes that those who work during the week
may be able to join the fellowship. Please
come and invite kids, family, neighbors, and
friends. The SECOND SATURDAY of the
month 8:30am at Raynes Reef!



# Sunday, August 27th 10am COMBINED SERVICE

Join us under the pavilion at North Worcester
Athletic Complex - 9040 Worcester Hwy Berlin
For our BLESSING OF THE BACKPACK
Service. Students, bring your backpacks for a
special blessing before the school year begins.
Let's invite our friends and family to this fun,
outdoor service followed by fellowship and food
in the park. The church will supply the meats
and rolls, church members please bring your
favorite Salad, Side or Dessert to share!



Blessing

PLEASE NOTE: There will not be a Community Meal in July or August. Stay tuned for the September date and meal announcement.

The Blessing Box is always open and available for anyone in need of food. Take what you need,

leave what you can.



Congratulations and many blessings to our 2023 Confirmands: Drew Bergey, Brandon and Tyler Kulyk, and Sophia, Thea and Trent Macrides! May your life in Christ be blessed.

We are all SO proud of you!

# Meet the Member(s)

(a new addition to our Newsletter)

Interviews with Mike Leyden and Bob Arthur

### MIKE LEYDEN

Interviewer: Hi Mike, tell us a little about you.

Mike: I am married to my best friend, Cathy. We have two sons, and three grandchildren. My Dad passed away in early 80's and my mother is still with us. I am self employed, we have a business is in West Ocean City that specializes in making custom canvas, awnings and curtains.

Interviewer: How did you come to be a member of Buckingham Presbyterian? Mike: By accident, I grew up Catholic. Cathy and I visited several churches in the area and when we came to Buckingham Matt was the Pastor. Everything clicked. I just wanted a good Christian Church and out of all the churches we visited Buckingham was the best one for me.

Interviewer: What is something you enjoy about our church?

Mike: I enjoy the fellowship. I have not met a person I did not like, and our current Pastor is great. He is very personable and I feel that I can talk with him about anything. Interviewer: Is there something you would like to see the church offer/are there any gifts or talents you would be willing to share?

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Mike: I am happy with the Fellowship at the church. I am willing to do anything for the

church that I am able to do.

Interviewer: What do you enjoy most about being a Christian?

Mike: Knowing that God is going to be there for me.



Interviewer: Tell us a little about you.

Bob: I have my church family and a lot of friends. My son lives locally and we spend a lot of time together. I play golf and spend time at church helping wherever I can. My daughter in-law and grandson live in Silver Spring and we are very close. I have four grandchildren and 5 great grandchildren; I love my family very much. "I am still having fun"

Interviewer: How did you become a member of Bucking Presbyterian?

Bob: We moved here in 1999 and went to a few other churches and did not find them as friendly as Buckingham Presbyterian Church. We felt instant love from the congregation and the Minister.

Interviewer: What is something you enjoy about our church?

Bob: Everything!

Interviewer: Is there something you would like to see the church offer/Are there any gifs or talents you would be

willing to share?

Bob: The church does a marvelous job of everything they do including having a great Pastor. I help out a lot at the church and I am always willing to help anyone in need. It gives me great joy!

Interviewer: What do you enjoy most about being a Christian?

Bob: Knowing I have a good relationship with Jesus. I am a firm believer that prayers are answered and Jesus is my savior.



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Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
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2 9am Contemporary 10am Sewing Seeds 10:15-10:45— Friendship Time Birthday Celebrations	Share & Care 6:30pm	OFFICE CLOSED  ****** *****  ******  *******	5 Pastor's Hrs. 1-3pm WCYF Camp 9-2:30	Pastor's Hrs. 1-3pm  WCYF Camp 9-2:30 Bible Study 6pm Choir 7:30	7	8 Men's Breakfast 8:30am Rayne's Reef
9 9am Contemporary 10am Sewing Seeds 10:15-10:45— Friendship Time 11am Traditional	10 WCYF Camp 9-2:30 Share & Care 6:30pm	Pastor's Hrs. 3-5pm WCYF Camp 9-2:30	Pastor's Hrs. 1-3pm WCYF Camp 9-2:30	Pastor's Hrs. 1-3pm  WCYF Camp 9-2:30 Bible Study 6pm Choir 7:30	14	15
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30 9am Contemporary 10am Sewing Seeds 10:15-10:45— Friendship Time 11am Traditional	31 WCYF Camp 9-2:30 Share & Care 6:30pm					



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
,		1 Pastor's Hrs. 3-5pm	Pastor's Hrs. 1-3pm	3 Pastor's Hrs. 1-3pm	4	5
		WCYF Camp 9-2:30	WCYF Camp 9-2:30	WCYF Camp 9-2:30 Bible Study 6pm Choir 7:30		
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13 SPECIAL EVENTS T.B.A.	14 WCYF Camp 9-2:30 Share & Care 6:30pm	Pastor's Hrs. 3-5pm WCYF Camp 9-2:30	Pastor's Hrs. 1-3pm  WCYF Camp 9-2:30	Pastor's Hrs. 1-3pm  WCYF Camp 9-2:30 Bible Study 6pm Choir 7:30	18	19
20 9am Contemporary 10am Sewing Seeds 10:15-10:45— Friendship Time 11am Traditional	21 WCYF Camp 9-2:30 Share & Care 6:30pm	Pastor's Hrs. 3-5pm WCYF Camp 9-2:30	Pastor's Hrs. 1-3pm WCYF Camp 9-2:30	Pastor's Hrs. 1-3pm  WCYF Camp 9-2:30 Bible Study 6pm Choir 7:30	25	26
27  10am COMBINED SERVICE Blessing of the Backpacks at the park.	28 WCYF Camp 9-2:30	29 Pastor's Hrs. 3-5pm	30 Pastor's Hrs. 1-3pm	31 Pastor's Hrs. 1-3pm		
	Share & Care 6:30pm	WCYF Camp 9-2:30	WCYF Camp 9-2:30	WCYF Camp 9-2:30 Bible Study 6pm Choir 7:30		



Beginning in July, the first Sunday of each month we will have CAKE, provided by the Deacons, to celebrate the BIRTHDAYS of the MONTH during our Friendship time between services. Please plan to join us as we give thanks and celebrate the lives of our church friends and family.

Special Dates that we know about will be posted monthly. Please make sure to let the office know about your special day so that we can celebrate with you!



July 2 ... Susan Cropper July 7 ... Kandis Kulyk July 7 ... Kathleen Pruitt July 17...Carol Neal July 19 ... Brenda Burbage July 21 ... Rosalee Campion July 24 ... Laura Amrhein July 25 ... Viola Keesling July 26 ... John Fisher July 29 ... Peggy Jones July 29 ... Patricia Rouch



August 3 ... Achsah Jarman August 5 ... Grayson David August 10 .. David Kohler August 13 .. Dorothy Warren

August 13 .. CeCe O'Malley

August 18 .. Patricia Arthur

August 27 .. Karla Davis August 27 .. Dana Tull



#### **JULY**

July 22 ... William and Rosalee Campion July 24 ... Lindsay and Jeremy Ashton

### **AUGUST**

August 23 ... Fred and Carol Neal

# SUMMER Hours

Church office summer hours Tues, Wed, Thurs 10am-3pm

### **BUCKINGHAM GRAM**

VISION STATEMENT

We are a community of disciples,

Who honor all people,

Care for those in need,

Share the hope we receive from Jesus Christ.