

Bermudian Church

“enabling every person to experience the living Christ in transforming ways”

Experience | Connection | Growth | Impact



May 3rd, 2023 #984

MAY THE FOURTH BE WITH YOU



Tomorrow is May 4th and if you know an avid Star Wars fanatic, they may at some point in the conversation use the phrase, “May the fourth be with you.” Every year, since 1978, on May 4, Star Wars fans everywhere celebrate the franchise by greeting each other with this phrase. It is of course a play on words of the original wish, “May the Force be with you.” This phrase in the movies was used as a way to invoke the power of “the Force” to protect an individual or group of people, and to give them success in the battles or other endeavors that they were engaged in.

Some Christ followers have enjoyed these movies because of the Sci-Fi entertainment value. Some liked them because of the seemingly spiritual applications. There is the battle between light and darkness, good and evil. Of course, there is the phrase, “May the force be with you.” This phrase sounds very similar to the words from Ruth 2.4, “Just then Boaz arrived from Bethlehem and greeted the harvesters, **“The LORD be with you”** “The LORD bless you,” they called back.” This phrase in Ruth has continued especially in liturgical churches as the pastor will say, “the Lord with you,” and the congregation responds, “and also with you.” Recently I read that **“George Lucas was raised in a Methodist family and may have heard the phrase there, or while attending other Christian services. Star Wars producer Gary Kurtz confirmed in the book How Star Wars Conquered the Universe that the phrase was intentionally evocative of the blessing.”**

No matter where you come down on the Star Wars movies, it is our wish that the Lord will be with us all. But not as a force, which is impersonal like the force of gravity, but as a person in a personal relationship. I was saddened to read that **“53 percent of “nones”—the religiously unaffiliated—believe in a higher power or spiritual force and not a personal God. Almost 4 in 10 American adults younger than 30 say they believe in a higher power. Only 43 percent say they believe in God as described in the Bible. Older people are more likely to believe in a personal God versus a force. Among those 65 and older, 65 percent say they believe in God as described in the Bible.”**

We have much work to do especially with our younger population. Let us celebrate our relationship with our personal, loving and caring God. And let us share this relationship with others so that they will see God as a real person and not just some force.

May the Lord be with you.....



Prayer & Praises

- Tammy Breighner's 4 year old grandson was going to be admitted to hospital Tuesday for IV antibiotic. He developed a secondary infection in his eye from a previous sinus infection. Pray for continued healing. **Update – on the way to the hospital – the swelling went down and Lakota didn't need to be admitted and had a wonderful evening. Thank you to all who prayed.**
- Melinda Little (friend of Bermudian) is in UPMC York sick since Tuesday. Doctors are running tests to diagnose.
- Sue Mayle requests prayer for Brenda Eisenhower (Mom) who had back surgery on Monday that has a long recovery period. **Brenda will be having back surgery today again – so please keep praying!**
- Brad & Brenda request prayer for a friend's son Justin who has been hospitalized for the past 6 weeks paralyzed from the neck down with Guillian-Barre Syndrome. Pray for continued recovery and peace, etc. for his wife and young son. Recovery can take 6 months to a year.
- Jerry Stiffer requests prayer for a friend, Joe Gates who is having heart issues. Only 32 percent of his heart is working.
- Mark Lipsitz asked for prayer for his sister who has Multiple Sclerosis. She fell and injured her shoulder and seems to also be having another bout with her MS.
- Please pray for comfort and peace for Kathy McWilliams and her family due to the passing of her daughter Summer.



Ongoing Health Concern Prayers

*Kathy McWilliams *Sarah Sabold (Smeltzer)*Ken Warren *Mary Fisher*Alyssa Leakway
*Jeff Deardorff *Gloria Gerber *Missy Braden *Bryce Baublitz
*Julie Waggoner *Bill Barley *Brandon Little *Derek Meck *Mark Lipsitz
*Josh (Bonnie Tyson's Grandson) *Ruth Cook

Cancer Special Prayers

*Julia McCartney *Greg & Sandy George *Butch Warren's brother *Chris Betts (Smeltzer friend) *Ted Erb (Traci Kauffman family) *Carolyn Kimmel *Kathy McWilliams brother-in-law Phillip *Tom Kimmel *Bob (Ron Engle, friend) *Sandy Harlacker *Ellie Basko *Mark Yonker
*Keith Kauffman (Kerry Kauffman's brother) *Jean Beck

CBC and CBC Region 3 Prayer Requests

- Pray for strength as we are Christ's witnesses in the world.
- In these days may we pray that the Body of Christ experience the presence, peace, comfort and assurance that only Christ can give.

Please pray for the following congregations and pastors:

- Pray for each of our CBC Regions that have formed and that God would direct the leaders of each of them: Southern Region, Central Allegheny Region, Region Three, and the Blue Ridge Region.
- Moscow Congregation in Mt. Solon, VA and Pastor Darren Howdyshell
- Mt. Carmel Congregation in Scottville, NC and Pastor Dale Baugus

This Week's Anniversaries

4 – Dave & Mary Titzell

5 – Jeff & Tina Gleim

6 – Brad & Brenda Replogle

Important Dates
and INFORMATION

This week

- *Wednesday 5/3
- *Life Group @ 6:30 pm
- *Men's Practice @ 7:45 pm
- Sunday 5/7**
- *Love Feast @ 5:30 PM
- Tuesday 5/9**
- *Commissions Meeting @ 6 pm
- *Board Meeting @ 7 pm

Next Week

- Wednesday 5/10**
- *Life Group @ 6:30 pm
- *Sisters Bible Study @ 9 am
- *Men's Practice @ 7:45 pm
- *Ladies Choir @ 7:45 pm

This Week's Birthdays!

- 3 - Dawson Garvick
- 3 - Sharon Stephens
- 5 - Charmaine Hoke
- 7 - Jessie Dentler-Carroll
- 7 - Brenda Grim
- 7 - Wyatt Wells
- 7 - Liz Lipsitz
- 8 - Brad Replogle
- 9 - Carissa Good
- 10 - Luke Rosenberry

Thank You!!!

Barb Becker would like to thank her Church family for the prayer, food, cards and phone calls!!

It was very much appreciated!

ORDER SOON!!

Studying:
The Book of Romans

LIFE GROUP

Wednesdays @ 6:30pm
with Pastor Gary

All the ladies are invited
to attend @ 9 am in
Shepherd's Hall
Next meeting is 5/10/23

Sisters

A Bible Study for Women

Next Church Board Meeting

May 9, 2023

Commissions meet at 6pm

Board meets at 7pm

The board meetings are open to the congregation. Everyone is welcome to come and observe.

Joanne is having a sub and pretzel sandwich sale to raise funds for her IMO mission trip.

Forms are on the bulletin board.
Sub/Sandwich orders are due by May 7th.

Pick up will be at the church on Thursday, May 18 from 3:00 - 6:00 pm. Thank you for your support!

Volunteers needed - see Sue Mayle

July 30 - Aug 3



VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

2023



Next meeting will be Thursday
May 25, 2023

Family Supper & Movie NIGHT

"Flywheel"

Sunday, May 21st, 2023 @ 5:30 pm
The Gathering Place



Everything is

BETTER

WHEN YOU BRING YOUR FRIENDS

SUNDAY MAY 21ST, 2023

Bring a Friend to Church!



MEMBERSHIP class

Anyone interested in joining the church, please see Pastor Gary!



MEN'S BREAKFAST

NEXT MEETING
Saturday
May 20, 7am
@ Dover Valley Restaurant



Bermudian Church Office Email address:
bermudiansecretary@gmail.com

Office Hours

<p>Pastor Gary</p> <p><u>Weekly</u> Mon 9-12 Tues 9-12 Wed 9-12 Thur 9-12 Fri 9-12</p>	<p>Julie</p> <p><u>Weekly</u> Mon/Wed/Fri 9 - 12 & Tues/Thurs 8:30 - 11:30</p>
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Dear Bermudian –

Thank you so much for being one of my few lights in my life; most especially in all the darkness of pain. Your pews will be filled with hungry souls as Pastor Firster gives the Word and then as we “stick around” for Sunday School. Your campus is clothed with beautiful trees, the Bermudian Creek, and resting place for the saints who have gone on ahead of us. Oh, Bermudian, I think about you and pray for you every day. You will always have a most special place in my heart and in my life. Finally, it’s great to know where God wants you to be, and I know that Bermudian is for me!

Very Respectfully, Victor Riddle.