



The Messenger

SEPTEMBER 2021

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STAFF

Dr. Daniel Merry

Interim Pastor/Head of Staff

Rev. J. Scott Shetter

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Parish Nurse

724-263-7911

Debbie Miles

943 Music Coordinator

derbalee@gmail.com

Rev. Randall V. Boyer

Associate Pastor Emeritus

PEOPLE WHO ARE HARD TO SEE

People who are generally hard for us to see may get our attention suddenly by failing to do their part, or by climbing a tree at mid-day.

Among them are:

the garbage collector who keeps hanging onto the truck and onto hope;
hospital orderlies who take orders and maintain order;
gig drivers who smile at their customers;
volunteers who serve in nursing homes and soup kitchens and shelters,
giving a cup of hot tea;
waitresses and waiters who serve the folks venturing back into restaurants;
highway workers who wave flags, speak into walkie-talkies, and repair our roads;
people who spend their days in booths, or walk the fringes of parking lots keeping
secure our automobiles and possessions;
farmers who nearly go broke tilling the soil to make it bring forth food that feeds us;
a housekeeper who cleans offices by night or mops corridors by day;
clerks of convenience stores who treat us as persons, not customers;
mechanics who service our cars and add air to our tires, keeping us safe;
IRS and tax office workers who process monies received from citizens
and keep government running.

In Jericho, Jesus saw a short man, Zacchaeus, who had climbed a sycamore tree to see Jesus come into town. (*Luke 19:1-10*)

He was one of the hard-to-see people.

Of all the people in Jericho, Zacchaeus, a rich tax collector, was the one Jesus visited, bringing His saving grace.

As we begin this new Church season, coming out of a year of “lockdown”, look anew with the eyes of Jesus at the people around you. Especially see the hard-to-see people and the gifts they give, and rejoice!

I look forward to seeing you this Sunday!

Pastor Dan

Note
from the
pastor



The Church of the Covenant

267 East Beau St.
Washington, PA 15301
724.222.0190

churchoftheco@comcast.net

www.churchofthecov.org

Worship Services

Sundays: 8:00, 9:00 & 11:00am

Spiritual development time for
children and adults

10:00 am

Church Office Hours

Mon.-Fri. 9:00a.m. - 3:00 p.m.



RALLY DAY SEPTEMBER 12TH!!!

NEW SUNDAY MORNING TIMES!

8:00 AM - Worship in the Sanctuary
9:00 AM - Worship in the Covenant Center
10:00 - AM Covenant Connections ~
Spiritual Development Opportunities
for children and adults
11:00 AM - Worship in the Sanctuary

NEWS FROM THE FAMILY OF FAITH**In Memory Of****Erma McCullough**

Memorial

Children and Grandchildren:

Bruce & Sharon McCullough;
 Richard & Angela McCullough;
 Nancy & James Tobar; Kevin &
 Elizabeth Ristau; Megan Ristau

In Honor Of

**John "Chick" and Donna Carlisle's
 Wedding Anniversary**

To Memorial Fund

Tim and Kathy Wilson

United With the Church Triumphant**FUNERALS****Mary Jane Braden** died on Wednesday, July 28, 2021.

A funeral service was held at W.M. Neal Funeral Home on Tuesday, August 3, 2021, with Dr. Dan Merry officiating. Interment was at Washington Cemetery.

Matilda "Tilly" Myers died on Wednesday, August 11, 2021. A graveside service was held on Friday, August 13, 2021 at Washington Cemetery with Rev. Scott Shetter officiating.

A memorial service was held in the church sanctuary on Saturday, August 14, 2021, for **Harry "Magoo" McKee**, who died on November 21, 2020. Rev. Scott Shetter officiated for the memorial service.

Karen L. Davison died on Friday, August 20, 2021. A funeral service was held on Thursday, August 26, 2021 in the sanctuary of The Church of the Covenant, with Pastor Matt Camlin officiating, assisted by Dr. Dan Merry and Rev. Scott Shetter.

FELLOWSHIP OF CONCERN

For prayer support or to join this ministry, call the church office. Please contact the Fellowship of Concern to give the names of those who are in need of prayer for health or other reasons. The names will then be called or emailed to the church members who pray daily for others. Prayer request forms are available in each pew. Completed forms may be placed in the offering basket.

BAPTISM

Cullen Jacob "C.J." Grusofski, born August 18, 2015, son of J. Aaron Grusofski and Alicia Nguyen Musser, grandson of James Grusofski and Linda Lindsay, was baptized during the 11:00 service on August 22, 2021. Pastor Scott Shetter

THANK YOU

I would like to thank the church for the care and cards that helped me while healing from December and onward. Prayer is such a wonderful part of that healing.

Mary Anna McNeel

Many thanks to Pastor Scott and Charlie Bowers for visiting and bringing communion to me. Thank you, also, to the entire congregation for their support, love and prayers.

Phil Weaver

THANK YOU to George A. Rau for filling in for me at the organ while I'm recovering from my broken ankle surgery. You have long been a friend, partner in many musical projects, the organ part of our piano and organ duets, and confidant of mine, and I appreciate your time shared with the church. My Physical Therapists are blessed with my healing and progress in therapy, and feel I am right on schedule. I am happy to announce that I plan to be back at the piano on Sunday, September 12 for the 8:00 and 11:00 services, just in time to celebrate Rally Day with you all! I will not be playing the organ for awhile, but will be delighted to be at the piano, playing for the hymns and special music, and worshipping with you in the pews.

I'm saying Thank You to all of my friends at church for the cards you sent, the food and groceries brought, the visits, the rides to Physical Therapy and doctors' appointments, the loans of medical equipment, the calls and texts, and the prayers said for me following my fall and broken ankle in July. I am so very blessed to be a part of The Church of the Covenant family! Your shows of love and support will be treasured forever in my heart and mind. And I love you all!!

~ Darla Pepper-Miller, Director of Music Ministry

**DEADLINE FOR THE October
 MESSENGER is September 15th.**

**September 5, 2021 (COMMUNION)**

Sermon Title: **THE AWESOME POWER OF LOVE.**

Preaching: Pastor Dan

Scripture: John 15:9-17

Focal Verse: *“As the Father has loved me, so have I loved you. Now remain in my love.” v. 9.*

Synopsis: Wouldn't it be tragic in light of the love of Christ, if you and I as the body of Christ couldn't get along with one another? This is what this table set for us today represents. “Look...how those Christians love one another...”

Special Notes: Labor Day Weekend

September 12, 2021 ~(RALLY DAY)

Sermon Title: **IS THERE ANY HOPE?**

Preaching: Pastor Dan

Scripture: Romans 8:18-25

Focal Verse: *“For in this hope we were saved. But hope that is seen is no hope at all. Who hopes for what he already has? But if we hope for what we do not yet have, we wait for it patiently.” vv. 24-25.*

Synopsis: In the meantime, in-between time, how do we live with our HOPE and impatience? We live on our tiptoes, that's how we live. Leaning forward, expectantly on our tiptoes, not in rocking chairs. For we know that God is working God's purpose out, doing great things in God's world in God's time.

Special Notes: Rally Day!

September 19, 2021

Sermon Title: **ACTIONS SPEAK LOUDER THAN WORDS**

Preaching: Pastor Dan

Scripture: Matthew 21:23-32

Focal Verse: *“For John came to you to show you the way of righteousness, and you did not believe him, but the tax collectors and the prostitutes did. And even after you saw this, you did not repent and believe him.” v. 32.*

Synopsis: I wonder if the religious official got the point of Jesus' parable? I wonder if you and I get the point - for the message of repentance is for us as well. Sometimes we're blind to God's actions in our life. Sometimes we're all talk and no action. Sometimes we refuse to let God break into our lives and help us make a new start.

September 26, 2021

Sermon Title: **THE MAN IN THE TREE**

Preaching: Pastor Dan

Scripture: Luke 19:1-10

Focal Verse: *“Jesus said to him, ‘Today salvation has come to this home, because the man, too, is a son of Abraham. For the Son of Man came to seek and to save what was lost.’” vv. 9-10.*

Synopsis: Are you seeking? Is there a void in your life that only God can fill? God knows your needs. God awaits you with open arms.

MISSION MATTERS**FRIENDS OF JESUS**

This vibrant ministry is set to resume
Thursday, September 16, at 5:00 PM.



Friends of Jesus, an active fellowship for adults with special needs, meets Thursday evenings in the Covenant Center at 5PM. For caregivers and the adults for whom they care, we provide a healthy, home-cooked meal.

Everyone who attends can sit, be served and enjoy each other's company. After our shared meal, we meet for singing, worship, Bible stories and prayer. To help with focus and a need for visual learning, we tell the Bible stories with elegantly simple, carved wooden figures. If they choose, the adults may retell the stories with any support needed. Orff instruments, including rosewood xylophones, glockenspiels and percussion, provide the people with an opportunity to participate in musical praise. When the time for praying comes, the leader encourages each person to share their joys and concerns. In doing so, we grow into a closer-knit faith community.

Contact: Mary Alice Jones, 724.228.4634, g.jones@comcast.net

2020 Giving: \$1,500

2021 Mission Budget: \$960

MISSION COMMITTEE T-SHIRT FUNDRAISER

The Mission Committee is sponsoring another T-Shirt sale beginning Rally Day (**September 12th**) !! We have added 4 new designs as well as all of the others that were offered last fall. Not only are T-Shirts available, but also drink ware, headwear, outerwear, tote bags and so much more! Please check us out at stores.inksoft.com/cotc. Check us out, and order a shirt or other item to show your Covenant spirit!

LEMOYNE SUMMER PROGRAM

The Church of the Covenant has supported the Lemoyne Community Center's Summer Lunch Program since 2015. Through this program, people in Washington, especially children who might not ordinarily get a lunch, are given the opportunity to have something to eat. This community-wide effort has continued to flourish each year, in large measure, because volunteers have stepped up to help. Seeking ways to serve others is something the Lord has asked us to do.

The Church of the Covenant volunteers helped to prepare and deliver meals each Wednesday for 10 weeks this summer. St. Paul AME church graciously offered their facilities for the food preparation. Once prepared and packaged, the food was delivered by our church's volunteers to designated sites in Washington.

Our church also was blessed to have volunteers from First Presbyterian Church 1793 assist it this year. The willingness of all the volunteers to give their time and energy to support the Lemoyne Center reflected credit on not only the volunteers but also on their respective churches.

The Church of the Covenant Mission Committee greatly appreciates the contributions of Betty and Dick Crompton, April Betzner, Sonna Agnew, Sue Hensel, and Lucy Johnson. Many thanks for the generous donation of your time and for your commitment to serving others.

**COMMUNITY FOOD PANTRY
PERSONAL HYGIENE DRIVE**

Thank you from the Deacons and from the Community Circle Food Bank for the donations of personal hygiene items from church members and the VBS Mission Project. To date, all of your donations have been distributed to local families in need. Recently, the Food Bank was **completely out of deodorant, shampoo, and toothpaste!** ANY SIZE personal hygiene items are being accepted. The need is great and your donations are essential. There is a large gray bin in the Commons, labeled "Community Food Pantry Personal Hygiene" for your donations.

The COTC Deacons thank you.



Greater Washington County
FOOD BANK

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION NEWS

READY, SET, PRESCHOOL!

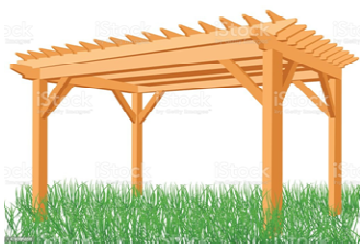
Is it time for Preschool to begin? It most certainly is! I believe we are beginning our 32nd year. Holy Cow!! Well, despite COVID, we are excited to start up again on September 1st. To see and hear the kiddos is joy to our eyes and ears.

Miss JoAnn, who has taught here for 29 years, has decided to start an exciting new chapter of retirement. She will be missed greatly, and she has left us big shoes to fill!

We are honored to have hired Tamra Stevens. She, as well as all of the other ladies, are working to create a wonderful learning experience. Please keep them all in your prayers for a happy and enlightening school year.

In another exciting happening here at the Preschool, we are the recipient of an Eagle Scout project by Zach Losko. As you all know, Zach will be building a pergola in our preschool playground. It will provide needed shade for the preschoolers and teachers. WAIT – want to know another cool thing about Zach? He attended the Preschool back in the day! Just love that fact! Many thanks to Zach for thinking of the Preschool and for achieving the high honor of becoming an Eagle Scout.

With the new COVID guidelines in place, we pray that we have a safe and blessed school year!
Camille Braun, Preschool Director



EXCITING NEWS!!

Impact Youth will return in-person starting August 29th at 10am in the Youth Room. Impact Youth includes Bible Study and discussion, service projects, fun field trips and activities. Youth who are an active part of our program are invited on our annual mission trip and more! Ages 6 through 12th grade are invited to join us!

Pine Springs Camp is hosting two retreat opportunities for students this fall. "Fall Fusion" is available for 4th, 5th, and 6th-grade students and will occur on Saturday and Sunday, September 25 and 26. "The Big One" is a retreat for middle school and high school students in grades 6 - 12. This Friday through Sunday retreat is set for October 22, 23, and 24. For further details, visit www.pinespring.org or contact Dave Narigon at dnarigon@comcast.net or text/call 412-848-1804.

RALLY DAY: 5 – 4 – 3 – 2 – 1!!!



Join us for **Rally Day on September 12th** when all of our in-person programs will launch. There will be "*out of this world*" snacks and "*galactic inspired*" activities. We can't wait to see you!

RALLY DAY SEPTEMBER 12TH!!!

NEW SUNDAY MORNING TIMES!

- 8:00 AM - Worship in the Sanctuary
- 9:00 AM - Worship in the Covenant Center
- 10:00 - AM Covenant Connections ~
Spiritual Development Opportunities
for children and adults
- 11:00 AM - Worship in the Sanctuary

ADULT SPIRITUAL DEVELOPMENT OPPORTUNITIES

TUESDAY NIGHT SPEAKER SERIES UPDATES

MARTIN LUTHER: FAITH AND REASON SEPTEMBER 28 THROUGH OCTOBER 26, 2021



Through John Calvin's great appreciation for and dependence on Luther, Luther's theology has always been an integral part of Presbyterian tradition. This series will reflect on the various aspects of Luther's life and important points in his theology. Significant problems will also be discussed, and differences between the Lutheran and Presbyterian Churches will be considered. John E. Wilson is Emeritus Professor of Church History at Pittsburgh Theological Seminary. After thirty years of teaching, part of that time as Dean of Faculty, he retired in 2013. Prior to this he was a minister in the Swiss Reformed Church and lecturer in church history at the University of Basel. His several books are in the area of modern theology, but he has taught all areas of church history. He is married and has three grown children and three grandchildren. Dr. Wilson's plan is to conduct the class in person in the Dining Room, and live-streamed on ZOOM.

UPCOMING TOPICS AND DATES for 2022

MARCH 1, 8, 15, 22 and 29, 2022

Dr. John Burgess will present a hybrid class (in person and live streamed) on the life and theology of Karl Barth.

MAY 3, 10, 17, 24, 31, 2022

FINDING IDENTITY IN CHRIST

The speaker will be Dr. Mark Simpson, conducting a class on "*Finding Identity in Christ*".



COME TO THE TABLE RETURNS!

Mark your calendar for the return of Come To The Table, the highly popular small group program full of food, fun and fellowship. Sign ups start Sunday, Sept. 26, where you can enjoy a rolling brunch in the Commons during the Covenant Connections hour while you select which group you'd like to join. This year Membership and Fellowship is offering eight different group selections, with some returning favorites as well as brand new groups (starred) with multiple sessions for you to choose from:

- Brunch Brunch: This ever-popular group typically meets in two sessions - one on Sunday after church and the other during the week.
- *Dining with Dan: Pastor Dan loves to entertain and can't wait to host some potluck meals with members of the congregation!
- Dinner and Devotions: There's nothing like having a good, filling meal that feeds both your body and your soul, which is this group's aim.
- *Family Game Night: For those who loved Grub 'n Games last year, we've created a small group just for families, so the kiddies can join in too!
- Grub 'n Games: This popular returning group is for adults of all ages who like getting a little (or a lot) silly as they fellowship together.
- *Koffee Klatche: For those who love their coffee, morning noon or night, this new group is going to have both an in person and virtual session.
- Out and About: Check out a new dining experience every month with an array of different restaurants to choose from!
- Parents' Night Out: Sometimes parents need a little time to themselves away from the littles, and if that's you, then this group is calling!

UPCOMING EVENTS

P W Fall Covered Dish Dinner

Tuesday, September 14th at 5:30 p.m.

Small Dining Room

Bring dish to serve 10 – 12

Brief Introduction of This Year's Bible Study: *What My Grandmothers Taught Me*
Program: Sharing What We Have Learned During the COVID Pandemic

Women's One-Day Retreat

Saturday, October 2, 2021

Oglebay Park, Wheeling, WV

Watch for Posters and Bulletin Inserts

Fall Gathering – Thursday, October 14th

At The Church of the Covenant

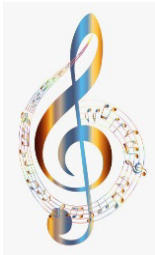
9:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m.

Refreshments and Box lunch will be provided

Church of the Covenant women will serve as hostesses. Two women are needed to be at Registration Table at 9 a.m. Please let church office know if you plan to attend (724-222-0190).



MUSIC NEWS



I am happy to announce that I plan to be back at the piano on Sunday, September 12 for the 8:00 and 11:00 services, just in time to celebrate Rally Day with you all! I will not be playing the organ for awhile, but will be delighted to be at the piano, playing for the hymns and special music, and worshipping with you in the pews.

A MUSICAL NOTE from Music Director, Darla Pepper-Miller.

Covenant Choir rehearsals will resume on Thursday, September 2, at 6:30 in the choir room. We will also rehearse on Sunday, September 5, at 10:00 in the sanctuary, Thursday, September 9, at 6:30 in the choir room, and Sunday, September 12, at 10:00 in the Sanctuary. We will sing at the 11:00 service on that day to help celebrate Rally Day. All singers are welcome, both new and existing singers! Any questions about the schedule or plans for the future, feel free to call Darla at 412.997.9214. See you at rehearsals!!

PARISH NURSE CORNER



Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation (CPR) is a procedure to support and maintain breathing and circulation for an infant, child or adult who has stopped breathing and/or whose heart has stopped. Why learn CPR? **CPR saves lives.** Many deaths can be prevented by prompt recognition of cardiopulmonary arrest and notification of EMS. Laypersons are most often first on the scene of such an incident.

Hands and Hearts will be hosting a Layperson CPR class this fall. Staff, ushers, preschool personnel, parishioners and community members are invited and encouraged to participate. Watch for more information in the bulletin and next Messenger. A few hours of your time can enable you to potentially help save a life. Any questions? My office hours are Sundays 9:30 am-10:30 am in Room 302. I can be reached at 724-263-7911.

Good health to all! Linda Grimm, RN.

You Can Make a Difference... **Samaritan's Golf Scramble and Dinner**

We support Samaritan Counseling as a mission of this church, and we invite you to support them by being part of their charity golf outing and dinner on **September 28th** at the **Sewickley Heights Golf Club**. The event starts with a brunch buffet from 10 am til noon, followed by a shotgun golf start at noon (scramble format), cocktails and hors d'oeuvres at 5 pm, and a dinner gala at 6 pm. Don't golf much? No problem! Play anyway, or just attend the cocktail hour and dinner. Enjoy meeting VIP guests, contests, games, prizes, silent auction, live entertainment, and an inspirational special guest speaker. Proceeds bring hope, healing, and life change to people in need. Register, sponsor, or learn more at www.samaritanscramble.net.

DAILY SCRIPTURE READINGS FOR SEPTEMBER**Wednesday, September 1**

1 Kings 9:24–10:13
James 3:1–12
Mark 15:1–11

Thursday, September 2

1 Kings 11:1–13
James 3:13–4:12
Mark 15:12–21

Friday, September 3

1 Kings 11:26–43
James 4:13–5:6
Mark 15:22–32

Saturday, September 4

1 Kings 12:1–20
James 5:7–20
Mark 15:33–39

Sunday, September 5

1 Kings 12:21–33
Acts 4:18–31
John 10:31–42

Monday, September 6

1 Kings 13:1–10
Phil. 1:1–11
Mark 15:40–47

Tuesday, September 7

1 Kings 16:23–34
Phil. 1:12–30
Mark 16:1–8 (9–20)

Wednesday, September 8

1 Kings 17:1–24
Phil. 2:1–11
Matt. 2:1–12

Thursday, September 9

1 Kings 18:1–19
Phil. 2:12–30
Matt. 2:13–23

Friday, September 10

1 Kings 18:20–40
Phil. 3:1–16
Matt. 3:1–12

Saturday, September 11

1 Kings 18:41–19:8
Phil. 3:17–4:7
Matt. 3:13–17

Sunday, September 12

1 Kings 19:8–21
Acts 5:34–42
John 11:45–57

Monday, September 13

1 Kings 21:1–16
1 Cor. 1:1–19
Matt. 4:1–11

Tuesday, September 14

1 Kings 21:17–29
1 Cor. 1:20–31
Matt. 4:12–17

Wednesday, September 15

1 Kings 22:1–28
1 Cor. 2:1–13
Matt. 4:18–25

Thursday, September 16

1 Kings 22:29–45
1 Cor. 2:14–3:15
Matt. 5:1–10

Friday, September 17

2 Kings 1:2–17
1 Cor. 3:16–23
Matt. 5:11–16

Saturday, September 18

2 Kings 2:1–18
1 Cor. 4:1–7
Matt. 5:17–20

Sunday, September 19

2 Kings 4:8–37
Acts 9:10–31
Luke 3:7–18

Monday, September 20

2 Kings 5:1–19
1 Cor. 4:8–21
Matt. 5:21–26

Tuesday, September 21

2 Kings 5:19–27
1 Cor. 5:1–8
Matt. 5:27–37

Wednesday, September 22

2 Kings 6:1–23
1 Cor. 5:9–6:11
Matt. 5:38–48

Thursday, September 23

2 Kings 9:1–16
1 Cor. 6:12–20
Matt. 6:1–6, 16–18

Friday, September 24

2 Kings 9:17–37
1 Cor. 7:1–9
Matt. 6:7–15

Saturday, September 25

2 Kings 11:1–20a
1 Cor. 7:10–24
Matt. 6:19–24

Sunday, September 26

2 Kings 17:1–18
Acts 9:36–43
Luke 5:1–11

Monday, September 27

2 Kings 17:24–41
1 Cor. 7:25–31
Matt. 6:25–34

Tuesday, September 28

2 Chron. 29:1–3;
30:1 (2–9) 10–27
1 Cor. 7:32–40
Matt. 7:1–12

Wednesday, September 29

2 Kings 18:9–25
1 Cor. 8:1–13
Matt. 7:13–21

Thursday, September 30

2 Kings 18:28–37
1 Cor. 9:1–15
Matt. 7:22–29

**SEPTEMBER BIRTHDAYS**

Jason Stolfer	9/1
Brian Merry	9/2
Cara Dobbin	9/3
Nancy Johnston	9/4
Gabriel Fraser	9/4
Bradlee McClay, Sr.	9/5
Peg Caesber	9/6
Nancy Phelan	9/7
Tabatha Hurst	9/7
Jameson O'Donnell	9/7
Andrew McCarrell	9/9
Jennifer McClay	9/10
Jack Dagg	9/11
Beth Smith	9/11
A. Lincoln Key, IV	9/12

Chelsey Carl	9/13
Jean Snider	9/14
Kim O'Donnell	9/14
Tim Walsh	9/15
Stacy Gesky	9/15
Ryan Leckie	9/15
John Riddle	9/16
Forrest Cullings	9/16
Sarah Hardy	9/16
Ruthann Karoleski	9/18
Chris Bury	9/18
Paul Jurovcik	9/19
Gerilee Davison	9/19
Craig Meyers	9/20

Anthony Popeck	9/20
Garrett Nassar	9/21
Brandi Frazee	9/22
Erik Densmore	9/22
Joyce McClay	9/24
Courtney Boardley	9/24
Scott Armstrong	9/25
Brittany Digon	9/25
Connie Nassif	9/26
John Dobbin	9/26
Cherrie Walsh	9/27
Maggie Bennewitz	9/28
Jean Piatt	9/29
James Leckie	9/30

THE CARNAHAN LIBRARY

Dedicated on 11/1/09 to the memory of Thomas Dorrington Carnahan II,
Thomas Dorrington Carnahan III, George Kirk Carnahan and to the glory of God.

Hours: Monday – Friday 9:00 am – 3:00 pm and Sunday 8:30 am – 12:30 pm



The following books were donated to the library. The Library Committee thanks the donors. All have been cataloged and are ready to be checked out. The library is in Room 308, the first room on the right as you enter the third floor hallway from the elevator. The card catalog will help you to locate a book by author, title or subject.

The following book is given in memory of the Reverend Hugh Crawford by Barb and Tom Knight:

Paul by N.T. Wright.

The writer, an Anglican bishop and New Testament scholar, focuses on Paul's humanity which he feels is the best way to look at Paul and to better understand how this follower of Christ led the way for Christianity to spread throughout the Roman world. The book starts with a review of how Paul became a believer and then follows his travels to Corinth, Ephesus and other places where the Christian church was established.

The following books were newly purchased for the library:

His Truth is Marching On: John Lewis and The Power of Hope by Jon Meacham.

The author traces John Lewis's life from his very early years. He was the son of a tenant farmer and throughout his life, was inspired by the Bible. At age four, because John wanted to be a minister, he practiced by preaching to his family's chickens. As a young adult, he marched across the Pettus Bridge in Alabama and was severely beaten. His teachers in nonviolence were the Reverend James Lawson and Martin Luther King, Jr. As a congressman, he was committed to bettering the nation. He had an unshakable belief in the power of hope.

The Sympathizer by Viet Thanh Nguyen.

This novel is about a man who was a trusted member of the staff of a general in the South Vietnamese army at the end of the Vietnam War. But unbeknownst to the general this captain is also an undercover operative for the communists. He accompanies the general and selected others to a new life in America. But the captain continues to observe this group of men and sends coded letters to an old friend who is now a higher-up within the communist administration. It's a tale of espionage as well as a story of love and friendship. *(This novel won the 2016 Pulitzer Prize for Fiction as well as five other awards.)*

The Pianist by Wladyslaw Szpilman.

The author is a famous classical pianist who was born and raised in Warsaw, Poland. He had lived a comfortable middle class life with his parents and 3 siblings, each of whom worked and contributed to the family's income. That all changed when the Nazis invaded their country and city in September, 1939. His story of surviving WWII from 1939-1945 as a Jew is both amazing and unforgettable. What he endured and how he had to find places to hide and food to eat in a city that was under Nazi control is the focus of this autobiography. It was made into a movie called "The Pianist" which starred Adrian Brody. The actor received an Oscar for his performance.

All the Devils are Here by Louise Penny.

The main character of the author's many books is Armand Gamache, the Chief Inspector of the homicide department in Quebec, Canada. In her latest novel, Armand and his wife are in Paris on vacation and to visit friends and family. The first night they're in Paris, the couple meets Armand's godfather, a billionaire named Stephen Horowitz for dinner. Afterward, en route to the hotel, a van deliberately runs down Stephen who is critically injured. The vacation is over for Armand and his family as the search begins to determine why Stephen was targeted. *(The library has other books written by the author.)*

Anxious People by Fredrik Backman.

This charming novel is about a crime that never took place. At an open house in an apartment in a Swedish town, a failed bank robber bursts in and takes a group of strangers hostage. The strangers come from all walks of life. Each of them carries a lifetime of grievances, hurts, secrets and passions that are about to boil over. As the authorities and the media surround the premises, these hostages reveal surprising truths about themselves and set in motion a chain of events so unexpected that even they can hardly explain what happens next. *(This book was on the Bestsellers list for many weeks and the library has other books by the author.)*

The Book of Lost Names by Kristin Harmel.

In 1942, the main character, Eva, escapes arrest in Paris after the arrest of her father, a Polish Jew. Her mother and she escape to the Free Zone in southern France where they reside in a small village in the mountains. Before long, she learns to create false identities for Jewish children fleeing to Switzerland. This important work is done alongside another forger in a small hidden library in a church. These 2 workers also find a way to preserve the real names of the younger children who are too little to remember their true identities. Their names are encoded in a French religious book. Years later, Eva sees a newspaper picture of the book and she goes to Paris to find it.

The following gently used book was donated by church member, Linda Marriner:

Caste: The Origins of Our Discontents by Isabel Wilkerson.

The author examines the unspoken caste system that has shaped America and shows how our lives today are still defined by a hierarchy of human rankings. This book has been carefully researched. She links the caste systems of America, India and Nazi Germany by exploring eight pillars that underlie caste systems including divine will, bloodlines and stigma. One person is on his third reading of this important book. *(Her other book, "The Warmth of Other Suns", is also available in the library.)*

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