



# THE HEBRON UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

Dear Members & Friends,



We are all familiar with that passage from Ecclesiastes 3:1-8; the words that begin with “there is a time for everything, and a season for every activity under heaven.” The verses that follow highlight for us the different “times”: the highs and the lows, the challenges, and celebrations that life offers to each of us. But are we as familiar with the verses that come later in Chapter 3?

“He (God) has made everything beautiful in its time. I know that there is nothing better for men than to be happy and do good while they live. That everyone may eat and drink, and find satisfaction in all his toil---this is the gift of God.” (v. 11-13)

The writer of this book is Solomon, son of King David, who becomes the King of Israel upon his father’s death. Solomon has seen it all! He sought wisdom and discernment to rule God’s people and was granted his request from God. He amassed great wealth and fame throughout Israel and the surrounding nations. If he had a hammer...yes, sir, he was the guy to build it! He constructed the Temple of God and then went on his own building campaign---palaces, gardens, stables for all his horses, and well...houses for all his wives! BUT...those wives, riches, and fame got him to drift ever so slowly from his relationship with his God!

Some believe it was all the wives, their bickering, their demand for attention, and their worship of pagan gods that tripped Solomon up and they would be correct. However, Solomon was a big boy and he had only himself to blame!

This book of Ecclesiastes is a journal of sorts for Solomon. He had experienced life with that abundance of resources, pursued fulfillment through pleasure, wisdom, work, wealth, women, and power...but all these pursuits came up empty. The conclusions that he reaches in his book are an encouragement and warning to us readers to not make the same mistakes that he had. The pursuit of these temporary things leaves us all unfulfilled and hollow inside ourselves.

So what’s the solution? Pursue God first and foremost! God should always be our first love; God and his Kingdom work should always be our highest pursuit! Our deepest longings can only be satisfied in deep and abiding relationship with him.

The verses I cited do encourage us to recognize God’s power in creating all things. We are to see the beauty in all things and to acknowledge that God orders our days.

Can we eat, drink, and be happy? Yes, but...coupled with that advice is also the responsibility to honor God, do good and work hard. We treasure the days and seasons of life! We see the good in those things, those people, those seasons that God GIFTS to us!

Summer is a season when we all seem to move a little more slowly and lightly. Perhaps it is the heat and the bright sunshine, or our world bursting with life---lush green grasses, blooming flowers and budding trees, singing birds...and days sitting on porches drinking tall glasses of lemonade and iced tea, enjoying picnics and food cooked on the grill, or the sensation of diving into a backyard swimming pool, letting the stress of our day go as we float effortlessly on the surface of the water. Ah! You can picture it, right?

Whatever you and your family choose to do this summer season---embrace it, enjoy and celebrate it together, but don't forget to give thanks to the God who is the giver of all good things! Don't allow the summer heat to melt away your own devotional time with God; keep your pursuit of him first and foremost in each of your days! Start and end them with your Creator and Sustainer of life. Sit still and be with God and know him! Don't neglect gathering with your brothers and sisters in Christ for instruction, worship, and fellowship. We are always to honor the Sabbath and keep it holy; don't vacate away from God.

By all means, enjoy life and take time to "play" this summer; remember the God who orders your days, times, and seasons.

This summer at Hebron we will give time and attention to a variety of things that include times for worship, work, instruction, and play! Our months of July and August will include:

- \*times to visit local camp meetings
- \*enjoy worship services & special musical and missionary guests on Sunday morning
- \*give our time, talents, and abilities to instruction of our children during VBS day
- \*share with our community in helping to serve food and fellowship during our Noon Meal
- \*gathering as an extended family of Christ at a "Faith Night" watching the Reading Phillies play baseball.

These things and more will fill our days! Many of you will head out of town for well-deserved vacations. Remember that all this is good AND a gift from God!

Yes, let us eat, drink, and be happy in this life but never lose sight of the Giver of all good gifts! May God bless you and your families during this summer season!

In Christ,

Pastor Heidi Silliman

## Emergency Homeless Shelter 2017

Once again, what a wonderful opportunity Hebron Church had to serve our community in providing for the emergency shelter. Twenty-four volunteers provided approximately 364 hours of service including check-in, security, overnight, providing snacks, and breakfasts. Thanks to everyone who donated time, money, and snacks, and most of all your prayer support. The number of guests on any night ranged from 14 to 18 and included families with children from toddler to teenager.

Thank you to the Sunday School classes for your cooperation with the re-arranging of the basement for those two weeks and to those who helped to unload and load the truck.

Also, we had help from several former members, and Myerstown Baptist Church sent some gentlemen for the overnight.

Thanks to anyone who supported this opportunity in any way. We have been truly blessed by this service to the homeless community.

“What good is it, my brothers, if a man claims to have faith but has no deeds?” James 2:14

Carole



**DON'T FORGET TO DISPLAY YOUR FLAGS  
ON THE 4<sup>TH</sup> OF JULY (INDEPENDENCE DAY).**

## **SHH! IT'S A SURPRISE! JULIA SCHOTT'S 90<sup>TH</sup> BIRTHDAY PARTY GATHERING**

Julia is turning 90 and her daughters have called Pastor Heidi to invite her church Friends to join them at a **SURPRISE** Birthday Gathering Drop-in at the Cottage behind Country Fare Restaurant in Myerstown on **SATURDAY, JULY 8<sup>TH</sup> FROM 2:00-4:00 P.M.** Please no gifts! Cards with messages in them of well wishes and congrats are welcome! Come and visit with Julia and brighten her day! **Remember, it's a surprise! Don't let the cat out of the bag!**

**ONE DAY VBS: SURF SHACK, Saturday, July 29<sup>th</sup> (times to be announced, watch your bulletins and the poster display that will appear on back table in sanctuary)**

Join us for a day of Summer learning and fun at Hebron UMC's very own SURF SHACK: Catch the Wave of God's Amazing Love!

There will be:

- \*an interactive Bible story with Pastor Heidi, "Bible on the Beach"
- \*Cool Water Games & maybe even a Slide!
- \*Awesome Crafts with Sand, Sun, and Shells
- \*Seashore Songs
- \*Surfboard Snacks & Lunch provided
- \*and a special visit from Snappy the Crab puppet as he talks with Pastor Heidi about VBS learnings from the day together!

For kids age 3 years and up to 6th grade; volunteers please talk to Sue Breidenstine, and watch for registrations to appear on back table.



**Mt. Lebanon Campmeeting (125<sup>th</sup> Anniversary), July 9<sup>th</sup>-16<sup>th</sup> 6:45p.m. Services in the Tabernacle.** Don't miss the first Sunday's Multimedia Pageant: Encountering God in the Grove for 125 years & illumination of the Grove!

Snack bar opens each night at 5:30 p.m. (Camp booklets can be found on the back table in sanctuary with full schedules and events for the days and a list of special musical groups and speakers.

**Mt. Gretna Bible Festival (125<sup>th</sup> Anniversary)** Throughout the Summer months, which began in June, most services and special music guests begin at 7:00 P.M. and are mostly on Sunday evenings, some Wednesday evenings, and a few Friday and Saturday events. (Brochures can be found in church narthex and also a poster of events on narthex bulletin board.)

**AUGUST 24<sup>TH</sup> (THURSDAY) 7:00 pm Faith Night at Reading Phillies TAKE ME OUT TO THE BALLPARK!**



Join us for Faith Night at the Reading Phillies, August 24<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 PM. Tickets are all sold for our Group picnic area, but if you want to purchase a seat and visit us during innings, you can! Talk to Chuck Gerberich. More details coming in bulletins for times to leave, and if carpooling, will be made available to the ballpark.

**AUGUST 27<sup>th</sup>, Special visit from Missionary Nancy Zellers. "A MISSIONARY VISIT TO THE STATES:** Nancy Zellers, one of our own Lebanon raised missionaries, will be home on furlough for a visit and will join us on Sunday morning, August 27<sup>th</sup> at 10:15 A.M. worship to share some Mission Minutes with us and have a display of photos and other items on display on the back table of our sanctuary. Don't miss this opportunity to greet Nancy and welcome her home!"



**SUMMERTIME**

As I was looking from my window  
On a lovely Summer day,  
God just seemed to speak to me  
In a warm and special way.

It seemed that He was saying,  
"It's time to let you know,  
I love you all so very much  
I just had to let it show."

The trees were standing straight and tall,  
Their branches reaching high,  
The birds were flying in the air  
And looking toward the sky

With flowers blooming everywhere  
And tall, green grass to mow,  
The sky was filled with clouds above,  
The sun just seemed to glow.

The beauty was so splendid,  
I just had to stop and say,  
"I thank you God, so very much  
For this great Summer day."

By: Ronnie Knapp

## BIRTHDAYS

### July

01 Darlene Buchmoyer  
03 Jan Heisey  
04 Julia Schott  
05 Kala Swisher  
06 Robert Royer  
08 Julie Gibson  
16 Tyler Greenawalt  
18 Gary Gettler  
18 Haley Reilly  
18 Carl Bensing  
20 Roger Coon  
25 Beverly Bender  
26 Skyler Sattizahn  
30 Mason Lester  
31 Denise Shepps

### August

04 Bonnie Camasta  
06 Ian Taraschi  
07 Danielle Gerberich  
07 Elmer Mason  
07 Tara Blauch  
08 Serena Singh-Bhuller  
09 Jonathan Heisey  
09 Madison Hartman  
10 Kiyana Singh-Bhuller  
17 Vincent Camasta  
17 Bradyn Aurentz  
20 Stephen Shepps  
21 Andrew Gerberich  
24 Lindsey Kreiser  
27 Mark Wagner



### **July:**

**Head Head Usher: Chuck Gerberich**

02 Carole Wagner  
Jacob Hill  
Allen Beamesderfer  
09 Jason Bewley  
Shane Bewley  
Bob Hogland  
16 Nick Tarashi  
Nancy Miller  
Tim Miller  
23 Gary Gettler  
Elmer Mason  
Russ Swisher  
30 Bill McMichael  
John Mertz  
Josh Tiffany

### **August:**

**Head Usher: Bill McMichael**

06 Russ Aurentz  
April Aurentz  
Chuck Aurentz  
13 Don Fertig  
Dawn Fertig  
Drew Gerberich  
20 Russ Swisher  
Rose Swisher  
Peg Stohler  
27 Gary Gettler  
Elmer Mason  
Allen Beamesderfer



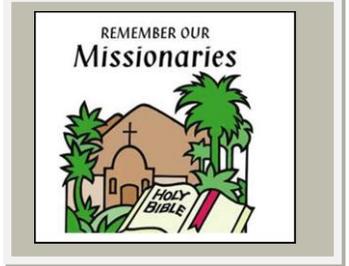
## July 2017

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						<b>1</b> 7:00PM Narcotics Anonymous
<b>2</b> 9:00am Sunday School 10:15AM Worship	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b> HAPPY 4 <sup>TH</sup> OF JULY	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>8</b> 7:00PM Narcotics Anonymous
<b>9</b> 9:00am Sunday School 10:15AM Worship  Mt. Lebanon Campmeeting	<b>10</b> Mt. Lebanon Campmeeting	<b>11</b> 9:00am Ladies Sewing  Mt. Lebanon Campmeeting	<b>12</b> Mt. Lebanon Campmeeting	<b>13</b> Mt. Lebanon Campmeeting	<b>14</b> Mt. Lebanon Campmeeting	<b>15</b> 7:00PM Narcotics Anonymous  Mt. Lebanon Campmeeting
<b>16</b> 9:00am Sunday School 10:15AM Worship  Mt. Lebanon Campmeeting	<b>17</b>	<b>18</b> 9:00am Ladies Sewing	<b>19</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>22</b> 7:00PM Narcotics Anonymous
<b>23</b> 9:00am Sunday School 10:15AM Worship	<b>24</b>	<b>25</b> 9:00am Ladies Sewing	<b>26</b>	<b>27</b> 7:00PM Ad Board Mtg.	<b>28</b>	<b>29</b> 7:00PM Narcotics Anonymous  VBS
<b>30</b> 9:00am Sunday School 10:15AM Worship	<b>31</b> NOON MEAL	<b>Notes: 7/29 VBS Times to be announced.</b>				

August 2017						
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		<b>1</b> 9:00am Ladies Sewing	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b> 7:00PM Council of Ministries Mtg.	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b> 7:00PM Narcotics Anonymous
<b>6</b> 9:00am Sunday School 10:15AM Worship	<b>7</b>	<b>8</b> 9:00am Ladies Sewing	<b>9</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>12</b> 7:00PM Narcotics Anonymous
<b>13</b> 9:00am Sunday School 10:15AM Worship	<b>14</b>	<b>15</b> 9:00am Ladies Sewing	<b>16</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>19</b> 7:00PM Narcotics Anonymous
<b>20</b> 9:00am Sunday School 10:15AM Worship	<b>21</b>	<b>22</b> 9:00am Ladies Sewing	<b>23</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>26</b> 7:00PM Narcotics Anonymous
<b>27</b> 9:00am Sunday School 10:15AM Worship	<b>28</b>	<b>29</b> 9:00am Ladies Sewing	<b>30</b>	<b>31</b>	<b>Notes:</b>	

The Deadline for the September/October Newsletter is August 15<sup>th</sup>. Please give information to Barbara Erb or email her at [blerb2@comcast.net](mailto:blerb2@comcast.net)  
My phone number is 717-865-2205.

## MISSION CORNER



Dear Praying Friends,

I am writing to you from my mom's home in Wheaton while I am stateside for a few weeks to attend my last module of my Spiritual Formations class for this year. The whole program has been most enriching to my soul, heart and mind. I am so very thankful for the opportunity to attend this class. I have also been able to visit with some supporters and friends on the East Coast. Next week I will be visiting Selina and will take Nic along with me...then I get to go home.

On the Home Front Greg continues his work. Not to be outdone, he is also busy flitting to and fro. He was at some meetings in Germany last week and is currently visiting the Latvian field where there have been leadership meetings for GEM. He continues his work with the Prague Lions football team. They are valiant this year, but are struggling to match last year's outstanding efforts. In any case, they are learning and growing through the experience. Pray for continued good interactions for Greg with the players. May God shine through him as the players struggle through the season. There is still a chance they will make it to the play offs.

Continue to pray for the refugees. They are all struggling in some ways or another. The fact that the government has now pulled out all support has increased the struggle for most of them. Some are even considering going back to the Middle East. Some have lost their jobs, the retired ones in the group do not have any funds at all. They need to be carried by other family members who can hardly carry themselves. Pray for Petra as she hands off her responsibilities and trains a person to take over her work. She needs to focus on her family more and step back. The progress is going well with that.

Greg and I are involved with an International church in Prague. The church is doing a church plant beginning this summer. As this happens the leadership team is dwindling in the mother church. We are involved in helping the leadership of this church. Pray for us as a group that seeks to develop community among our people and as we look for ways to reach an International community for Christ. Some of our refugees come to our church as well. It is nice having them be a part of us.

Thank you for standing with us through all sorts of seasons. I call these years the adventure season as we boldly move forward with our children more and more independent and as we let God lead us step by step into uncharted territories (for us anyways).

We love it when you write us and ask for prayer. Please keep us updated on your requests also.

With much appreciation for you,

Debby for Greg too

## Watchmen on the Wall from Nancy Zellers:

“For Thou dost meet him with the blessings of good things;” Psalm 21:3a

(“The idea is that God goes before us, preparing our way, and laying up supplies of grace to anticipate our need.” FB Meyer)

Grace supplied! Among the good things from His Hand in my life are...

Moral classes... today I had a major victory with my misbehaved student. I gave her two minutes to write on the board before I began the class and she was a model student! Praise the Lord! Her third grade teacher doesn't let the students write on the board, so she always wants to do that during class-time. I really needed this encouragement as I gear up for the fall semester, when these girls will be in their last year of primary education.... Also when I went to the principal's office of the group of schools where I have been teaching for 5 years to give out the publicity materials for Morals classes at this time of enrollments, I learned from two of the principal's office teaching staff that one of the coordinators of a primary school in this group of schools is evangelical. Tomorrow I hope to have time after my morning classes to go and meet this woman! So recently I have met the first school staff person who knows the Lord and now also know of a teacher who has a testimony for Christ!... This coming Saturday I will be volunteering with my 10<sup>th</sup> grade student at the Grace Brethren Refuge, a hostel for pilgrims en route on the St James way. We will ready the premises to receive the pilgrims who arrive in the early afternoon. Originally I had wanted Joana to join me in serving a meal to Porto's homeless, but that opportunity closed up suddenly.

Bible readings with Ana, the shopkeeper, continue to be stimulating. She understands the Word and seems keen to continue reading. This week I asked her about her Bible. She says she doesn't know where it is, so pray that she may find it and delight to read its pages of oh so much she still doesn't know and understand spiritually. She often comes out with new age type of comments, yet has a strong conviction that God exists compared to most people today.

I am back meeting with Fatima after a two-month interval due to her wanting to be alone in her depression. ☹ I decided to study the life of David, who found the Lord His Rock and Salvation in trying times. Rebekah and I have also had an interval in our Bible reading, due to some trials in her personal life, though we do get together regularly. Sometimes I just listen to her and then pray for her. ☺ God has been answering prayer! She had a mini- testimony service during the African church service a few weeks ago, giving thanks for God's faithfulness in receiving her residence visa after 7 long years. She sang “*Through it All*” and I joined her in sharing testimony in song with “*He Giveth More Grace*,” and then we both sang *Jesus Loves Me* in Portuguese!

The Fatima outreach went very well. There were over 150 volunteers, including some who came to Portugal just for the event: teams from Brazil and Northern Ireland and three women hailing from South America, via Germany, USA and Singapore!! It was an adventure taking a bus to the town of Fatima after not traveling that via that form of transport for a good many years, but practically it was a rest for my car! Thousands of pieces of literature were given out, significant conversations were engaged in with many pilgrims, stemming from a religious survey used and then leading to pray for something they desired to ask Jesus for in their life. A few understood the gospel and prayed to receive Christ. Thousands of the Mary Magdalene films were also given out. It was a joy to serve alongside several good friends in addition to the new faces: my former co-workers from Fafe, Maria de Carmo from Fafe, Marta, former co-director of Crusade here, who I mentored for two years and Rita, a young woman called to ministry who I know from the Baptist church where I congregate. The living situation was different. I stayed in the attic of the building along with a handful of other gals. I don't know if it was due to my being the oldest one on the team or what, but I had the only bed in the whole dorm. On the street level there was a boys and girls dorm in two empty shops, all with mattresses on the floor. The only drawback in my accommodation is that we had to go down four flights of stairs to get to the toilet! Needless to say I didn't drink any tea those days!

The retreat held at the end of April at the Song of the Turtle Dove retreat center was really great. We sensed a real unity among us and benefited from the small group times that accented the truths we heard in the teaching sessions on ‘listening to one another with purpose.’

The Lord has been merciful time after time. My health is good. Sweet Pea is still limber in her 15<sup>th</sup> year, despite a few recent falls. I see lots of car accidents as I drive about, but the Lord has protected me. I've had a few cultural moments lately, finding out more about the history and people of this area, which I thoroughly enjoyed. (Maybe you heard that Portugal has also been in the news, having won the Eurovision song contest for the first time ever with a breaking record high score. ☺)

Points for Prayer:

- § Strength for the last days of Morals classes
- § Fruitful reading with Ana
- § Spiritual Growth for Rebecca and Fatima as we study the Word and wisdom as I accompany them
- § Fruitfulness of the seed sown in the Fatima outreach
- § Open doors for summer ministry- I am about to send out a flyer concerning the Discerning Heart women course and have started to encourage others to do the Bible study methods course.
- § A safe and joyful long weekend away with a new friend in mid-June
- § An encouraging and safe trip to Lisbon in later June to see the Pios and others
- § Women in Ministry's last event of this season, probably July 8<sup>th</sup>
- § Sweet Pea's situation for when I am in the US August 18—October 5
- § Purging and de-cluttering papers and magazines
- § Living soberly and expectantly! (I Peter 1:13)

Thank you for interceding for His kingdom work in Portugal!

With a Joyful Heart,

Nancy



**HEBRON CHURCH  
JULY/AUGUST  
2017 NEWSLETTER**