“Leap of Faith”

What’s the deal with Christopher Columbus?

As with most people, he was pretty complicated (OK…more complicated than most).

He became a sailor at age 13, and at age 25 barely survived an attack by pirates which sank his ship and killed most of his crew. During the next 8 years he planned a trip “west across the Atlantic to the Indies” (he didn’t know there was another continent and ocean in the way).

It has been documented that it was Columbus’s strong Christian faith and love of the church that ultimately won him the support of Queen Isabella of Spain. She believed he was called by God to make this journey, for the ultimate benefit of all mankind. And so, in faith and in the face of fear and uncertainty, Columbus set sail into completely uncharted waters.

At 2 AM on October 12th, 1492, he and his crew landed in the “New World”. The event, the effort, the momentous discovery, certainly deserves to be celebrated.

Did Columbus, the great navigator, lose his moral compass at some point along the way? It would seem so. He ultimately was brought back to Spain in shackles, and apparently died with more enemies than friends.

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“Leap of Faith”...continued from page 1

He had felt called, and he answered the call. And he set out in faith...a monumental leap of faith.

Our lesson, perhaps, is to be prepared to take a chance, in the name of love, for the good of others, with God as our guide........and to be careful that we stay on course.

Phil

“How faith is confidence in what we hope for and assurance about what we do not see”

(Hebrews 11:1)

What God is Like

Before her death in 2019, Rachel Held Evans started writing a book with her young children in mind. The goal was to help them explore images for God, who is love. What Is God Like? (co-authored by Matthew Turner) acknowledges, “That’s a very big question, one that people from places all around the world have wondered about since the beginning of time.” The book highlights such biblical images for God as an eagle, a shepherd, a fort, wind, an artist, a “strong and safe” mother, and a “gentle and safe” father.

Just as Evans remained open to questions as a means to grow in faith, her book concludes: “Keep searching. Keep wondering. ... But whenever you aren’t sure what God is like, think about what makes you feel safe ... brave ... loved. That’s what God is like.” What images for God come to your mind? Indeed, what is God like — for you?

Newsletternewsletter.com
Looking Ahead

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<tr>
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<th>Event</th>
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<tr>
<td>October 2</td>
<td>Hot Dog Roast</td>
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<td>October 3</td>
<td>NIN Offering</td>
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<td>October 10</td>
<td>Communion</td>
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<td>October 21</td>
<td>Fill Food Bank Orders</td>
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<td>October 23</td>
<td>Music Concert</td>
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<td>November 14</td>
<td>All Saints Sunday</td>
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<td>November 21</td>
<td>Congregational Meeting</td>
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<td>November 25</td>
<td>Thanksgiving</td>
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<td>November 28</td>
<td>First Sunday of Advent</td>
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Consistory Update

**Hot Dog Roast:** St Paul’s will be having a hot dog roast outside at the church on Saturday, October 2, beginning at 6pm. Please bring your lawn chairs. If you have any questions see Gretchen Martin. Hope to see everyone there!

**NIN Offering:** In 2021, Neighbors in Need “Unfailing Love” offering is focused on supporting organizations and projects that are serving homeless and immigrant neighbors or communities. One-third of NIN funds support the Council for American Indian Ministry (CAIM). Two-thirds of this offering is used by the UCC’s Justice and Witness Ministries (JWM) to provide funding grants to UCC churches and organizations leading justice initiatives, advocacy efforts, and direct service projects in their communities.

We will be participating in this offering on Sunday, October 3 during worship. Special envelopes will be placed in your mailboxes and pews to use for your convenience. Thank you for your continued support!

**Music Concert:**

*Bri and The Boys are back!*

They will be performing outside on the bandstand some of their original songs along with some familiar favorites.

When: Saturday October 23
7pm

Where: St. Paul’s UCC
133 Church St.
Bowmansville, Pa 17507

Please bring lawn chairs and invite your family and friends to join us for another great spectacular night with “Bri and The Boys!”

**Nursery Update:** We are asking for donations for toys for children 5 and under to finish updating our nursery. If you have any good clean used toys you would like to donate or would like to purchase any new toys please see Gretchen Martin. Thank you.

**Christmas Decorating:** We are looking for a team of individuals interested in planning the "Hanging of the Greens" this year. This would include planning ahead of time what to setup, purchasing new decorations if necessary, and organizing the decorating on the scheduled day. If you would like to be a part of this team please see Gretchen Martin or Lynda Cooper.

The next consistory meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, October 6 at 7:00 pm.
Prayer Concerns: We will be updating our prayer list monthly by starting a new list at the beginning of every month. Please continue to review the list and if there are any updates during the month please contact Phil Shober or Dee Sprecher. We also have prayer request cards located in the parlor room and in the pews upstairs for your convenience. You can fill out the request and turn it in to the church office or place it in the offering plate.

As you continue your own prayers and concerns outside of the sanctuary this week, please remember the concerns we have raised as a community.

Our list of prayer concerns from September

Alta, Betty, Bill, Mary, Sharon, the Sprecher family, all the people affected in Afghanistan, hurricane Ida victims, and all the teachers and children returning to a new school year.

Suggested Prayer… “Most gracious and loving God, we lift up our list of prayer concerns this day and every day that all who are listed might know and feel your presence with them in their time of need. God, continue in your support for all of our friends and family listed and those who are forever in our hearts so that they might feel you with them each day, Amen.”

If you would like to ask for prayers for someone please contact Kieran Connelly. Below is a list of the individuals on our Prayer Team that will pray for you throughout the week.

Kieran Connelly 717-471-5018
Lynda Cooper
Gretchen Martin
Gerri Shober
Nancy Caffrey-Schafer
Steve Renninger
Chris Storms
Phil Shober
Donna Ozga

Caring for Our Members

Please remember our members and friends in your prayers. Many in retirement villages and their homes are unable to attend church due to the pandemic and other health concerns.

Lois Kirkpatrick
Garden Spot Village
433 South Kinzer Ave,
New Holland, Pa. 17557

Mary Tamerius
Faithful Living
2015 N. Reading Road
Room 156
Denver, Pa. 17517

Hen Lessley
Keystone Villa
100 N. State Street
Room 112
Ephrata, Pa. 17522

Jane Storms
3659 Kennel Avenue
Mountville, Pa. 17512

Bill & Grace Sprecher
Fairmount Homes
2312 Wheat Ridge Drive
Ephrata, Pa. 17522

Linda Summers
101 South 2nd Street
Denver, Pa 17517

Pastoral Visits or Emergencies

If anyone is in need of pastoral assistance please contact Phil Shober anytime via text or call at 610-780-3915 or email philipshober@gmail.com. You can also call the church office at 717-445-6256 or email the church secretary at dee@stpaulsuccchurch.org.
Our food drive has been named  
“The People’s Pantry”.

It will be our turn to fill the orders at the local food bank in Terre Hill on Thursday, October 21st. If you would like to help please see Nancy Connelly for more details.

In September the food bank served 18 families for a total of 57 people. We are continuing to collect the items mentioned below. Any donations can be placed on the table in the parlor room. Thank you.

Paper towels are needed at the Terre Hill food bank.

Toiletries items for the Grace House ladies.

Birthdays

October

4  Steve Renninger  
8  Kieran Connelly  
10  Mary Renninger  
12  Sara Renninger  
29  Anna Fortuna

Happy Birthday!

Anniversaries

Brian & Gretchen Martin - 34 yrs on October 17

Bible Quiz

Hebrews 11 is called the Hall of Faith because it’s a partial list of ancestors who lived out their belief in God. Who is named in this chapter?

A. Adam, Eve and Seth  
B. Abel, Enoch, Noah and Sarah  
C. Moses’ parents, Moses and Rahab  
D. Deborah, Bathsheba and Huldah  
E. A and B  
F. B and C  
G. C and D
Treasurer’s Report

The monthly report for August 2021:

Checking Account

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<tr>
<td>Beginning Balance</td>
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<td>+ Receipts</td>
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<td>- Disbursements</td>
<td>15,414.22</td>
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<td>- Transfers</td>
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<tr>
<td>Ending Balance</td>
<td>$83,699.41</td>
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A copy of this information can also be found at the mailboxes in the slot marked financial reports.

August’s offering only total was $8,931.00.

For Love of Animals

St. Francis of Assisi, known for his affection for animals, is honored on October 4. Some congregations observe this day by blessing pets, remembering that God pronounced animals — along with all creation — good. God saved not only Noah’s family but animals of all kinds from the Flood. And despite Jonah’s protests, God had compassion on Nineveh — “and [its] many animals” (Jonah 4:11). How intriguing that the prophet adds this point!

Care for all living creatures is clearly part of the divine character. Animals don’t do anything to earn God’s favor except be themselves. From this, we can learn that God pours out love unconditionally. As Psalm 36:6 (CEV) declares, “All people and animals are under your care.”

Mixed Signals

A newcomer approached the pastor after worship and said, “I’d like you to pray for my hearing.”

Placing hands on the man’s ears, the pastor said a very passionate, earnest prayer and then asked the visitor, “How’s your hearing now?”

With a confused look, the man said, “Well, it’s scheduled for tomorrow.”
Monthly Volunteers

October 3               Gerri Shober       October 3               Grace House
October 10              Gerri Shober **  October 10              Sharon Blechschmidt
October 17              Mary Renninger    October 17              Kieran Connelly
October 24              Sara Renninger    October 24              Lynda Cooper
October 31              Cheryl Borja      October 31              Charlie Storms
November 7              Dee Sprecher      November 7              Grace House
November 14             Gerri Shober      November 14             Tim Lutz
November 21             Mary Renninger    November 21             Gerri Shober
November 28             Cheryl Borja **  November 28             Mary Renninger

** Indicates communion

The following individuals are responsible for counting the offering after worship:

October 3               Gretchen & Brian Martin
October 10              Charlie & Chris Storms
October 17              Sharon Blechschmidt & Gerri Shober
October 24              Dee Sprecher & Lynda Cooper
October 31              Gretchen & Brian Martin

Want To Help?? If you would like to have the opportunity to volunteer for any of these tasks please see Phil Shober or Dee Sprecher. We can always use more Lay Leaders and Altar guild people. No experience necessary!
Sponsors

Flower and Bulletin Sponsor Sheet

The flower and bulletin charts for 2021 are posted. If you would like to sponsor a week please sign your name on the chart for any Sunday you wish. Please fill out the appropriate form and see that Dee gets your dedication information at least one week prior to it going in the bulletin. The cost for the flowers is $30.00. We will place silk flowers in the sanctuary and place your dedication information in the bulletin. If you wish to purchase real flowers you may still do so on your own. The cost of the bulletins is $10.00 each week. Payments can be given to Dee Sprecher. Thank you in advance for your support.

St Paul’s UCC Celebrate

A publication of St. Paul’s UCC
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Bowmansville, Pa. 17507
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www.stpaulsuccchurch.org

Editor:
Deidre Sprecher
de@stpaulsuccchurch.org

St Paul’s UCC Celebrate is published monthly to keep members and friends informed of programs of the church and to report news about the community and its people.

Deadline for article submissions: The third Sunday of each month.
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<td>Grace House Worship 10:30 NIN Offering Fall Assn Mtg</td>
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<td>Piano lessons 6-7 pm</td>
<td>Consistory 7:00</td>
<td>Piano lessons 6-7 pm</td>
<td>Piano lessons 8:00-11:30 am</td>
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<td>Worship 10:30 Communion</td>
<td>Columbus Day</td>
<td>Piano lessons 6-7 pm</td>
<td>Ladies &amp; Mens Bible Study 7pm</td>
<td>Piano lessons 6-7 pm</td>
<td>Piano lessons 8:00-11:30 am</td>
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<td>Piano lessons 6-7 pm</td>
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<td>Piano lessons 6-7 pm</td>
<td>Piano lessons 8:00-11:30 am Hall rental</td>
<td>Hall rental Music Concert</td>
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