

UTICA PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
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ORACLE

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September, 2020



This too shall pass.

When God Crosses Our Paths

Pastor and martyr Dietrich Bonhoeffer wrote, “God will be constantly crossing our paths and canceling our plans by sending us people with claims and petitions.” Last spring, the whole world had plans canceled, first by Covid-19 and then by God “sending us people with claims and petitions.” Some needed prayers for healing or for coping with grief.

Medical staff, teachers, pastors and others serving long hours needed support: meals, check-in calls, “thinking of you” cards. Parents working remotely while helping kids with distance-learning needed encouragement. Crucial nonprofit work still required donations.

Pre-pandemic, you may not have realized that staying home or wearing a face mask could be a ministry. Or that sending a card expresses love in Jesus’ name. Or that buying takeout from a local restaurant can be a gift to the owners. When our calendars empty, God “crosses our paths” in new ways – both to be with us and to nudge us toward others (even if virtually, or 6 feet apart!).

SEPTEMBER
Birthdays & Anniversaries

3 Janet Gantt
22 Virginia Bergunzi

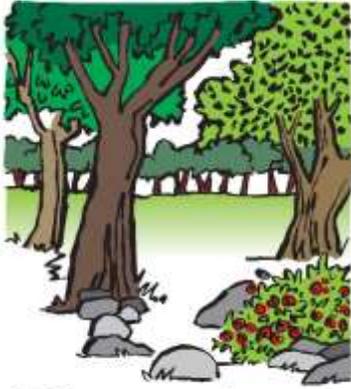
6 Michael Bevard
24 Nelson & Ellie Blue

8 Erica Roenker
28 Linda Bevard

14 Sharon Cashdollar

Alpha & Omega

God created this world, everything that it holds. And God still is creating as each day unfolds. What we once call the future, we now call the past. While the present is fleeting, God stays – first and last!



Pastor's Message

Welcome to September and blessings to one and all. For the past several months we have been studying about wisdom and knowledge “The fear of the Lord is the beginning of knowledge”. With knowledge we can have faith and with faith we have action. Faith calls us to action whether it be action in our relationships with one another or with God. When the word FEAR is used in relationship with God, it means respect or love, when we refer to mankind it truly means to be fearful, afraid, to avoid. It seems we are living in fear of what’s happening in days gone by and the days to come.

So what is going on? We are living in a world where things will never be the same. Not only have we been living with Covid19 virus, but with the social affects. We are wearing masks when we are around others, out to dinner we are separated, when we go shopping we are directed which way to go, things are disappearing from the shelves because processing plants and factories have been shut down and people have been laid off and the economy plummets. They are no longer taking cash in some stores but only credit and debit cards, wear gloves when we pump gas, and when we work if we have a job, we must mask and glove up. It seems that freedom has been superseded by fear.

We not only are concerned with the death of many people by the virus, but now we have protesters looting, burning, and killing around the world. Never have we seen such destruction nor weakening, giving in to the demands of some trying to change our history. We build monuments that we might remember where we came from and mistakes we made along the way. We also build them for those who led the way and those who gave their lives for others. We do need to be informed about what is going on in the world today, but most of all we need to know God and what his plan is for us. If we read the teachings of the New Testament and believe in his son Jesus Christ then we will know what to do. The Book of Revelation warns of the future for those whom do not believe and those who do. The word is currently a stressful place to live right now for most people but for those who have the Fear of God, know peace...Let us know God and know peace. No God No Peace.

May we look for the brightness of God in our days to come even in tough times. He shines brighter than any other and may we find and share his peace with those around us. Be blessed and bless others.

Pastor Terry



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|--|--|--------------------------|
| Sue Dixon | Ethel Davis | Mary Holobaugh |
| Greg Freed | Laura Lynskey | Jane Smith |
| Virgil Bradford | Connie Kaufman | Bob Fierstos |
| Jerry Cashdollar | Richard Walton | Olivia Clark (4 yrs.) |
| Linda Shamell | Ronna Eagle | Harvey Canter |
| Aileen Hiltner | Anthony Knight | Nancy Hissong |
| Doug Neely | Gail Neighbarger | Cindy Fry |
| Mike Morrison | Dwight Hatch | Carlton & Phyllis Riley |
| Mike Riley | Parker Knight | Liz Shilling |
| Mike Coss | Wyatt Anderson | Nathan Frendze |
| Don Mc Laughlin | Donald Lee | Andrew Nichols (13 yrs.) |
| Lynn & Margaret Fawcett | Cameron Mobley (youth hurt in farm accident) | |
| The children & teachers going back to school | | |

All those suffering from the coronavirus19 and all those working to help them get well along with all of the businesses hurt by the virus and those that loss their jobs because of it.

Welcome Autumn

Quilting Bee Ladies



The Quilting Bee Ladies have been busy the last few months making quilts and face masks for adults during coronavirus19 pandemic in nursing homes and people they know and now with school starting they have been busy making smaller masks for school children. The pictures shows Jody Wray measuring the elastic for a mask and Virginia Ritchey & Barbara



(Schooler) Stevens cutting material for the masks. The masks will be given to the North Fork Schools.

We want to thank all the ladies of the group for their work on this project and all the other projects since the group was formed. They meet every Wednesday and welcome any one who would like to join them.

They will be meeting—September 2, 9, 16, 23, & 30 at 1:00 p.m.

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION UPDATE



This fall there are going to be some changes in the Sunday School program for the kids.

First of all, due to the coronavirus and social distancing, there will be NO Rally Day in September.

Secondly, from now through the end of the year, there will be NO in person classes for kids. Instead, we are going to be sending out family packets for use at home. These will include Bible stories, activities, and craft projects. These packets should begin arriving mid – September to early October.

In January, we will reevaluate the situation to decide how to proceed at that time.

The adult class, however, will continue to meet each Sunday morning at 9:30 a.m. in the fellowship hall.



WELCOME BASKETS

We are collecting items to put in a basket to give to new families in our community. Items needed are: Liquid hand soap, Kleenex tissues (small box), Dish towels, Sponges, Small notebooks, Windex & Lysol wipes, Tooth brushes & toothpaste, and Hard candy (small bag). Monetary donations are also accepted. Please see Diana Cherry for more information. A basket is in the narthex for donations of items.

Utica Food Pantry

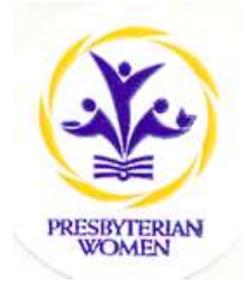


On the third Sunday of each month, we are collecting items for the Utica Food Pantry. Items needed at this time are: Laundry detergent, Dishwashing liquid, Flour, Sugar, and Chicken Noodle Soup (Regular cans Not family size). Other non-perishable items and also monetary donations are also acceptable (making it possible to buy in bulk).

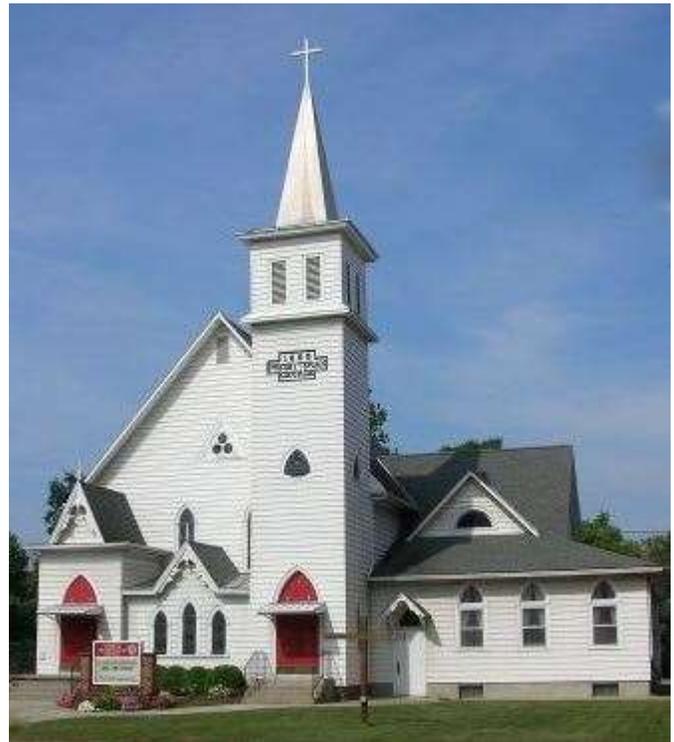


Sunday, September 13
12:30 p.m.

PW Meeting
Monday, September 14
7:00 p.m.



Leader: Bonnie Ramseyer
Devotions: Cara Morrison
Program: Barbara Young
(Please bring an old T-shirt that can be cut up)



We invite everyone to join us on Sunday morning to worship the LORD.

A BUSHEL OF BOOKS



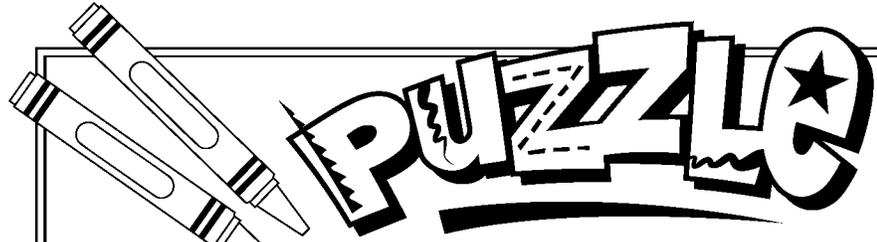
Design a handy bag to tote your books this fall.

What you need:

- Plain canvas bag
- Cardboard scrap
- Acrylic paints (2 colors)
- 2 small paper plates
- Apple
- Knife (and adult help)
- Foam brush
- Scrap paper

What you do:

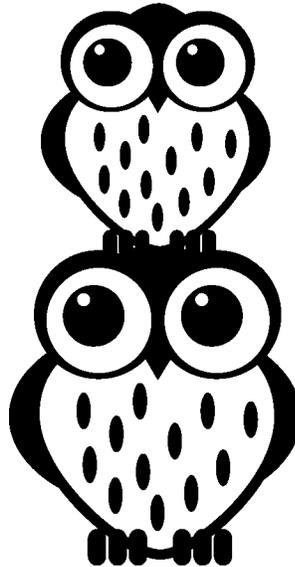
1. Lay the bag flat on a table, and place cardboard inside for protection.
2. Pour a paint dollop on each plate.
3. Slice the apple in half, keeping the core intact.
4. Brush a thin layer of paint on the cut side of an apple half. Practice making stamps on scrap paper. Use the other color on the other apple half.
5. Paint and stamp the bag with your final design. When dry, remove the cardboard.
6. Use the bag for school and Sunday school. Happy reading!



WISDOM FROM THE WORD

God makes a special promise to people who study Scripture.

Directions: Arrange the word list in alphabetical order. Then write the circled letters in order below to complete Joshua 1:8, NIV.



- school _ ○ _ _ _
- paper _ ○ _
- wisdom _ _ ○ _
- read _ _ _ ○
- play _ _ _ _ _
- learn ○ _ _ _ _
- grow _ ○ _ _ _ _
- pencils _ _ _ _ _
- pray _ ○ _ _ _
- art _ _ _ _ _
- student _ _ _ ○ _ _
- kids _ _ ○ _ _ _ _
- apple _ _ ○ _ _ _ _

“... meditate on it day and night, so that you may be careful to do everything written in it. Then you will be _____ and successful.”

JOSHUA 1:8, NIV

Answer: apple, art, grow, kids, learn, paper, pencils, play, pray, read, school, student, wisdom, prosperous

