
“We might be better off thinking less about what they “mean” and more about what they can “do”: remind, provoke, refine, confront, disturb…”

This summer in worship we’ll be delving into the parables of Jesus. Despite how familiar many of these parables will be for us, these provocative stories will continue to inspire, confront and challenge us. Often our tendency is to simplify these stories into clever fables; stories that have a simple moral, and one clear meaning. However, a closer look shows that the parables are not simple stories meant to help us learn right from wrong, but complex illustrations that may challenge, confuse or even offend us!

Much of my research on the parables has come from the work of Amy Jill-Levine and, in particular, her book “Short Stories By Jesus: The Enigmatic Parables of a Controversial Rabbi”. (A great book if you’re looking for some interesting summer reading!) Her work, illuminating the parables from the perspective of 1st century Judaism, points out some of the aspects of the parables that we Christians tend to miss or gloss over.

Perhaps you remember the story of the Prodigal Son as an illustration about forgiveness. But what does this story have to say to us about responsibility, relationships, and family dynamics? In another parable Jesus asks, “What do you think? If a shepherd has a hundred sheep, and one of them has gone astray, does he not leave the ninety-nine on the mountains and go in search of the one that went astray?” An audience of shepherds would probably have responded with a resounding “Absolutely not!” That is certainly not responsible or conventional shepherd behavior. When a parable leads us to the unexpected we can begin to ask different questions about what Jesus is saying about the Kingdom of God.

Parables are meant to subvert our expectations, and when we allow these stories to surprise, disturb, and challenge us we open ourselves not just to learn from Scripture, but to be transformed by it!

I look forward to a summer of discovery, challenge, and transformation in Christ!

Grace and Peace,

Rev. Allison Spooner
Please allow me to extend a huge THANK-YOU to everyone who contributed so much to the success of our Music Appreciation Sunday events on May 19, 2019. From excellent singing by the chancel choir, the dedication of the bell ringers in months past, to the continued time and talents of Wanda Beaver, and the generosity of so many members of the congregation, your efforts are sincerely appreciated. To then be able to follow up our beautiful worship service with a fantastic reception by Congregational Life Committee was also a great blessing as we were able to continue in the joy of the morning. I extend additional thanks to Bob Dash, Jim Riggs, The Bel Canto Lyric Opera Company, and the Valley Forge Chorale for orchestrating another huge undertaking in the musical life of the church. At last count we had sold over 150 tickets to the 11th Annual Donald and Dorothy Stabler Memorial Concert, and it is a pleasure to continue welcoming new faces to our space at Faith Immanuel.

The new faces I mentioned in the last installment of this newsletter turned out to be a huge success. Pianist and Steinway Representative, Dr. Matthew Bachman, touched us with his words about his faith and music, and wowed us with performances of “How Great Thou Art” arranged by Mark Hayes and Franz Liszt’s piano transcription of the German art song by Schumann, “Widmung”, the title of which translates as “Dedication”. At the end of this month, the exchange will reverse, and I will travel down to Phoenix, Maryland to share my own reflections and musical selections at Dr. Bachman’s church: Chestnut Grove Presbyterian. Through the helpful efforts of Reverend Spooner, Norm Diefenderfer, and Sam Shallcross, we shared Gintaras Januševičius’s video of thanks for our missions fundraiser with the congregation. A young man in his early 30s, Gintaras has already created a number of international musical initiatives which benefit selected pianists from all over the world. I am so pleased that Faith Immanuel was able to partner with him, and I look forward to the possibility of our congregation establishing additional connections with him going forward.

As we have discussed a number of times in the past six months, the purchase of our full sized, 9’ Steinway Concert Grand was a strategic decision which makes many more things possible musically. Already we have seen it used in worship and concert settings by some wonderfully acclaimed artists living in and around our region. Jamaican-born Canadian pianist Maria Thompson Corley, Bach Competition Prize Winner Eric Fung, and Dr. Matthew Bachman, referenced above, have each shared with us. Later this summer, I hope to welcome two more pianists to present their work with us. One, that I can share information with you about now, is the German concert pianist, Caroline Oltmanns, who “is fast becoming a star in the piano world, which is heavily evident in her refined, crystalline playing and charismatic persona” (Donald Hunt, Pianist Magazine), and we are currently working on a date for her to give us a sneak preview of her seventh solo recording which will be completed this fall and is comprised of pieces inspired by wind. In addition to these events, work will be underway organizing and finalizing plans to officially announce a concert series which has been in talks for some time.
Finally, as we are about to kick off the Summer Special Music, I am excited that, through the kindness and generosity of Bob Dash, we will not only be seeing familiar faces, but continuing to gradually expand the network of talented musicians joining us in worship! This is also underway, but I know for certain you will want to be in Worship on June 2, when we welcome the incredibly talented Christopher Earhart. Regularly active as a soloist, Chris is a soloist at Pine Street Presbyterian, and is embarking on a tour of various churches this summer as he prepares to release his first recording later this year. Possessed with a gorgeous, seemingly effortless voice, Chris will share three selections with us including “Lord, God of Abraham” from Mendelssohn’s Elijah and Malotte’s well known setting of “The Lord’s Prayer”. What a wonderful start to June he will be!

MISSION COMMITTEE NEWS

Billie Hawk and Barb Dugan will be attending the Human Trafficking Seminar that will be held on June 9 from 2-4 pm at Monaghan Presbyterian Church in Dillsburg. This seminar will explore the problem of human trafficking as well as what we can do to prevent it. This is a seminar put together by the Education Committee of the Presbytery of Carlisle.

There is still time to get a group of golfers together for the HELP Ministries Golf Tournament on June 3.

Stay Tuned for possible volunteer opportunities related to the revamped Adopt-A-Family Food Pantry in late summer or early fall.

Please don’t forget about Faith Immanuel’s Ongoing Mission Projects! See Anita Klaboe or Sue Dinges to buy Giant Gift Cards to support the church.

Donate gently used clothing to the Community Aid Donation Box located in the back parking lot.

Donate empty pill bottles for a local missionary doctor who helps bring medical supplies to Papua New Guinea.

Bring in canned goods or packaged products to church and drop them in the bin labeled for the Central Pennsylvania Food Bank.

Donate personal care items for Downtown Daily Bread. To volunteer to serve at DDB contact Kelly Berry at kberryonmt@aol.com.

The Mission Committee is looking for additional members. If you are interested, please contact Barb Dugan.

The Mission Committee Welcomes Your Input! See any of the mission members with your comments/questions. Mission Committee members include Barb Dugan, Billie Hawk, Linda and Keith Graham, Bob MacIntyre, and Ken Zimmerman.
WORSHIP SCHEDULES

LAY LEADERS for June
2—Peggy Manning
9—Cheryl Caplan
16—Jack Andren
23—Bub Manning
30—Carolyn Souders

USHERS for June
2—Wendell and Rose Jewell-Jordan
9—Holly Dash and Marge Barner
16—Mickey Hoffman and Lori Beamer
23—Joe and Ginny Stimmel
30—George Hope and Paulina Marshall

Pentecost Sunday—June 9 (Wear Red)

LAY LEADERS for July
7—Holly Dash
14—Norm Diefenderfer
21—Mike Legg
28—Bob MacIntyre

USHERS for July
7—Randy Knapp and Sue Skelly
14—Shirley Cleaver and Marge Barner
21—Fred and Jean Muncert
28—Gary Souders and Terry Hack

INTERESTED IN JOINING FAITH IMMANUEL?

If you’ve been worshipping with us for a little while now and are considering joining us in membership, there will be an informal gathering following worship on June 23 in the library. The purpose of this gathering is to help you discern if now is the right time for you to take this step, to help you become more integrated in our church family and to grow in fellowship together on this journey of faith. Please let Allison know if you plan to attend!

THE MOTHER/DAUGHTER BANQUET WAS GREAT...

The evening began with Allison welcoming everyone and saying some very lovely words about why it is important for us to gather for such an event. Prayer was then offered and we enjoyed a nice meal. Our waiters for the evening, Ken Zimmerman, Gordon Humbert, and Bob Dash served the desserts and make sure we had everything we needed. After dinner, we gathered in the sanctuary for the entertainment provided by Jim Milbrand and the “One More Time” band. A good time was had by all!

Thank you to our waiters and to all the ladies that provided the desserts for the banquet. A special thank you to Jim Milbrand and the band for providing the entertainment.
JUNE 19 AT 10:45 AM—PARLOR

June’s book is A Land of Permanent Goodbyes by Atia Abawi.

July’s book is Before We Were Yours by Lisa Wingate.

Questions, contact the church office at 717-545-4631.
Northwood Nursery School

Over 50 years of ABCs, 123s, and TLC
See you in September.
Have a great Summer!

FROM THE NURTURE COMMITTEE

Philip Yancey is a Christian writer who speaks to many of the questions that modern day Christians are asking.

Where is God When It Hurts?
Is God Unfair?
Where is God?

We have available in our church library a good many of his books to help you deal with these questions. Some of them will be on the table in the Gathering Area on Sundays in June and July. Feel free to sign one of them out for three weeks.

A few examples:

“In this book Where is God When it Hurts, Philip Yancey gives us permission to doubt, reasons not to abandon faith, and practical ways to reach out to hurting people.” “There are reasons to ask, once again, the question that never goes away. Where is God when we suffer? And Yancey, once again, leads us to faith when it is most severely put to the test.”

“In Prayer, Does It Make Any Difference? Yancey says, “Yet prayer, which should be the most nourishing and uplifting time of the believer’s day, can also be frustrating, confusing, and fraught with mystery.” Yancey comes up with a fresh new approach to this timeless topic.
CALENDAR OF EVENTS FOR JUNE

Saturday, June 1—Beaver Student’s Recital at 4 pm, Sanctuary and Gathering Area

Sunday, June 2—Worship at 10:30 am

Monday, June 3—Bible Study, Meet at Colonial Diner at 12:30 pm

Tuesday, June 4—Counseling in Parlor 10 am—9 pm
   Jim Milbrand Band Rehearsal in Shaffer Hall 7:15—8:30 pm

Wednesday, June 5—Colonial Crest Meeting 7-8:30 pm Parlor
   Jim Milbrand Band Rehearsal in Shaffer Hall 7:15—8:30 pm

Sunday, June 9—Worship at 10:30 am—Pentecost Sunday (Wear Red)
   Communion, Ordination and Installation of Officers

Monday, June 10—Bible Study, Meet at Colonial Diner at 12:30 pm

Tuesday, June 11—Counseling in Parlor 10 am—9 pm
   Faithful Stitchers 1 pm in Library

Sunday, June 16—Worship at 10:30 am—Happy Father’s Day

Monday, June 17—Bible Study, Meet at Colonial Diner at 12:30 pm

Tuesday, June 18—Counseling in Parlor 10 am—9 pm
   Jim Milbrand Band Rehearsal in Shaffer Hall 7:15—8:30 pm

Wednesday, June 19—Faith Immanuel Book Club in Parlor at 10:45 am

Saturday, June 22—Colonial Crest Picnic in Shaffer Hall 3:30-7:30 pm

Sunday, June 23—Worship at 10:30 am

Monday, June 24—Bible Study, Meet at Colonial Diner at 12:30 pm

Tuesday, June 25—Counseling in Parlor 10 am—9 pm

Sunday, June 30—Worship at 10:30 am
Monday, July 1 — Bible Study, Meet at Colonial Diner at 12:30 pm

Tuesday, July 2 — Counseling in Parlor 10 am — 9 pm

Thursday, July 4 — Office Closed

Sunday, July 7 — Worship at 10:30 am

Monday, July 8 — Bible Study, Meet at Colonial Diner at 12:30 pm

Tuesday, July 9 — Counseling in Parlor 10 am — 9 pm

Sunday, July 14 — Worship with Communion at 10:30 am

Monday, July 15 — Bible Study, Meet at Colonial Diner at 12:30 pm

Tuesday, July 16 — Counseling in Parlor 10 am — 9 pm

Wednesday, July 17 — Faith Immanuel Book Club 10:45 am in Parlor

Sunday, July 21 — Worship at 10:30 am

Monday, July 22 — Bible Study, Meet at Colonial Diner at 12:30 pm

Tuesday, July 23 — Counseling in Parlor 10 am — 9 pm

Sunday, July 28 — Worship at 10:30 am

Monday, July 29 — Bible Study, Meet at Colonial Diner at 12:30 pm

Tuesday, July 30 — Counseling in Parlor 10 am — 9 pm
Happy Birthday!

We’re sorry if we missed your birthday.

Please notify the office at 717-545-4631.