



The Messenger

MAY 2021

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Associate Pastor Emeritus

ISN'T IT FUNNY?

ISN'T IT FUNNY how big twenty dollars look when you take it to church, but how small when you take it to the grocery store?

ISN'T IT FUNNY how much effort it takes to read a chapter or two from the Bible every day, but how easy it is to read the newspaper?

ISN'T IT FUNNY how much of a sacrifice it seems to spend an hour worshipping God, but so easy to spend an hour watching TV?

ISN'T IT FUNNY how easy it is to talk to your friends about your views on politics, but how hard to speak about your faith in Christ?

ISN'T IT FUNNY how difficult it is to work a meeting at church into your schedule, but how easy it is to work in a social function?

ISN'T IT FUNNY how easy it is to teach your children how to play ball, but how difficult to teach them to pray, grow spiritually, or obey the Gospel?

ISN'T IT FUNNY how easy it is to talk with a friend on the phone for "hours," but how difficult it is to have anything to say to God after two minutes in prayer?

I wonder what these things say about us?

Do you think God thinks these things are funny?

Jesus said,

"But seek ye first his Kingdom and his righteousness and all these things will be given to you as well." (Matthew 6:33)

Blessings,
Pastor Dan

The Church of the Covenant

267 East Beau St.
Washington, PA 15301
724.222.0190

churchoftheco@comcast.net

www.churchofthecov.org

Worship Services

Sundays: 9:43 & 11:00am

SUNDAY SCHOOL

Adults 9:30

Children ~ ONLINE 10:05AM

Church Office Hours

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

NEW OPTIONS FOR ONLINE GIVING

New opportunities to contribute to the church are coming your way! For several years now we've offered electronic giving by credit card on our website. Soon there will be options to make contributions by text, through an app, by ACH check, and the choice to use credit cards will still be available. Watch for more information in the very near future!

NEW
GIVING
OPTIONS
COMING
SOON

@abundant

NEWS FROM THE FAMILY OF FAITH



In Memory Of

Jane Wagner

Memorial Harry and Nancy Johnston

Tim Grantz

Memorial Harry and Nancy Johnston
 Memorial Timothy J. Orlosky
 Choir Daniel and Barbara Ianni

John "Moe" Dean

Memorial Joseph and Ann Kibelbek

Peg Flynn

Memorial Martha Paul Chapter #404, O. E. S.

BIRTHDAY CARD SHOWER

Longtime member **Emma Lee McMurtry** celebrated her 90th birthday on Monday, April 19th. Cards from the congregation would be a blessing!

Address: Emma Lee McMurtry
 4331 Bridlespur Ln.
 Rocheport, MO 65279.

WEEKEND SECURITY POSITION

The Personnel Committee is looking to fill a part-time position for a **Weekend Security Person** at The Church of the Covenant. If you are interested in this position and would like to review the job description or apply, please contact George Jones ~ g.jones@comcast.net



MANY THANKS!!

I would like to send a warm thank you to all of my church family and our Pastors. I so appreciate all of the cards, the prayers, and the beautiful flowers that I've received over the past several months. Hopefully, I can be back among you all very soon. In the meantime, please know how much all that the church does mean to me.

Feeling Blessed,
 Mary Anne Magnone

PASTOR SCOTT'S MUSINGS

Last month we finally moved! It has been a long-awaited event with a multitude of ups and downs. I noted a couple of things leading up to moving day and thought I might share them with you as I saw some similarities in our discipleship. First, moving takes much preparation, and that is putting a gentle spin on it. It took months of searching and trying to find the right house. At the same time there was the preparation of the house we were selling. Then there are all the hoops that one must jump through to get to the actual closing of the sale.

Then there is the endless packing! There were so many boxes! This leads to the second observation. Boy! Can we collect stuff through time! Trying to decide what to get rid of to not do it later was a huge challenge.

It got me thinking about our spiritual lives and our discipleship. Living out the Gospel in our lives and living into the life of Christ, being obedient to all He has commanded, takes preparation. Just as one is not going to suddenly, one day, up and move without preparing for that move, so one is not going to automatically live and walk in the footsteps of Jesus without preparation of the body, mind, and spirit.

We cannot expect to be effective witnesses of the saving love of our God if we do not prepare ourselves to receive what God has to offer us. That leads to the other problem. Our lives tend to be filled with stuff, not just in the material sense, but in the spiritual sense as well.

We can get caught up in what we believe is right, or we can place other gods ahead of the one true God. We can allow other philosophies to become our master instead of being filled by the truth of the Master. Just like we need to clear out the unnecessary stuff before we move into our new home, so too we must move out the unnecessary stuff in our lives to make room for what Jesus has in store for us as the Holy Spirit moves in.

I am thinking that this journey was designed to help me see where I need to do more preparation in my spiritual life and where the stuff I need to throw out might be. Just some food for thought as I go get ready to unpack another box.

In Christ's service,

Pastor Scott

MAY PREACHING AND WORSHIP SCHEDULE

May 2, 2021 (Communion)

Sermon Title: **“NEEDED: People with a mission...”**

Preaching: Pastor Dan

Scripture: Matthew 9:36-10:8

“Then he said to his disciples, ‘The harvest is plentiful but the workers are few, Ask the Lord of the harvest, therefore, to send out workers into his harvest field.’” vv. 37-38.

Synopsis: God doesn’t use extraordinary people. God uses ordinary people with an extraordinary passion for Christ’s Kingdom of love. God uses people who know of a need in somebody’s life and meets that need in Jesus’ name. Who does Christ need? Christ needs people who are on a mission for God.

May 9, 2021

Sermon Title: **“Hannah: A Model of Motherhood...”**

Preaching: Pastor Dan

Scripture: I Samuel 1:9-20

“So in the course of time Hannah conceived and gave birth to a son. She named him Samuel, saying, ‘Because I asked the Lord for him.’” v. 20.

Synopsis: Moms and Dads, if you want your children to be brought up in a Christian home, make sure that Christ is at home in your heart. If Christ is, then spend the rest of your life giving your children back to the Lord...they belong to God anyway.

Special Notes: Mother’s Day



May 16, 2021

Sermon Title: **DIVINE INITIATIVE**

Preaching: Pastor Scott

Scripture: John 16:6-19

“I have manifested your name to the people whom you gave me out of the world. Yours they were, and you gave them to me, and they have kept your word. Now they know that everything that you have given me is from you.” v. 6.

Synopsis: God has taken the initiative to provide us with everything we need to be faithful disciples. In Jesus’ High Priestly Prayer, He reminds us of that and that we are not left to our own devices.

May 23, 2021 (Pentecost Sunday)

Sermon Title: **“Power Speaking...”**

Preaching: Pastor Dan

Scripture: Acts 2:1-13

“Then how is it that each of us hears them in his own native language? We hear them declaring the wonders of God in our own tongues!” v. 2: 8, 11.

Synopsis: The Holy Spirit exploded into the world that first Pentecost, and that explosion spread over all creation. That same Holy Spirit continues to fan the flame of God’s love for you in your heart.

May 30, 2021

Sermon Title: **“Trinity what?...”**

Preaching: Pastor Dan

Scripture: John 16:12-15

“But, when he, the Spirit of truth, comes, he will guide you into all truth.” v. 13

Synopsis: We Christians are TRINITARIAN. “In the name of the Father, Son and Holy Spirit.” What does that mean? How does it affect my daily life?

Special Notes: Memorial Day Weekend



UPDATE FROM THE PASTOR NOMINATING COMMITTEE

The PNC has taken a major step in the pastoral search by completing the Ministry Information Form (MIF). The MIF is a document outlining for prospective pastors the qualities, experience, and character traits the Church of the Covenant is seeking in a Senior Pastor. The members of the PNC used the feedback from the congregation received in the Holy Cow survey to prepare the MIF. The MIF was presented to the Church of the Covenant Session at its April 12th meeting and the Session approved the document for forwarding to the Washington Presbytery. The

Presbytery’s Committee on Ministry will review the MIF and authorize it to be posted on the webpages of the Presbyterian Church, USA (PCUSA).

Once posted on the PCUSA website, prospective candidates for our church’s position will be able to read about the position. Those who are interested in applying for the position will submit a Personal Information Form (PIF) in response to our posting. A PIF is essentially a resume enabling interested candidates to place their qualifications before the PNC for consideration in our pastoral search. Based on the guidelines contained in our church’s MIF, PCUSA will screen applicants, identify qualified candidates, and direct their PIFs to the PNC for review. The members of the PNC will review all PIFs directed to it. Applicants meriting further consideration will be contacted for more detailed information such as sermon examples and, if appropriate, scheduled for detailed interviews.

Use of the PCUSA website is not the only means available to the PNC for attracting applicants. We anticipate advertising in church journals to generate responses. Furthermore, we expect to receive recommendations from pastors in our Presbytery who know of the vacant position. We also invite recommendations from members of the congregation. For example, while on a trip to North Carolina, one of our members mentioned our vacancy to a friend who happened to be an ordained Presbyterian minister. The friend was immediately interested and is waiting the publication of our MIF on the PCUSA website to explore the position further.

As always, your PNC is interested in your feedback, ideas, and questions. Please don’t hesitate to contact anyone on the Committee.

Chuck Neff	Lynn Sylvis	Gordon Core	Rachel Gladden
Beth Smith	Jason Dille	Deb Evans	Steve Johnson



PARISH NURSE CORNER

May is American Stroke Awareness Month. Hypertension or high blood pressure, if untreated, can over time lead to strokes. Often called the “silent killer”, a person can have hypertension and have no symptoms. The most common symptoms are severe headache, blurred vision, nosebleed, irregular heart beat, confusion and chest pain. Before the pandemic, Hands and Hearts offered blood pressure screenings the first Sunday of each month but this service was suspended due to the need for social distancing. If you would like your blood pressure taken, please contact me and I would be happy to monitor your blood pressure before or after a worship service. Be aware of your baseline blood pressure reading, take medication as prescribed and see your doctor regularly. In between physician office visits, have your blood pressure monitored here at the church. Any questions? Please contact me at 724-263-7911. Good health to all, Linda Grimm, RN.

PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN ANNUAL BIRTHDAY OFFERING

From the January/February edition of Horizons: “The Birthday Offering of Presbyterian Women celebrates our history of generous giving. Launched in 1922 to celebrate the 10th anniversary of the Women’s Auxiliary in the Presbyterian Church in the United States, the Birthday Offering has become an annual tradition. It has funded more than 200 major mission projects to impact people in the United States and around the world. “This year’s recipients are: Garden Gate Ranch / Education Center In Des Moines Iowa -\$150,000; Memorial Drive Ministries Inc. Gymnasium Capital improvements - \$77,061; and Nkhoma Mission Hospital Woman’s Health/OBGyn Theatre, Nkhoma, Malawi-\$129,145.

Many unmet needs are met through this offering. We ask for your continued support. Please give as you have been blessed, generously, as you are led by the Holy Spirit. Offering envelopes are at entrances in the Commons and at the Covenant Center. Offerings due by May 31, and can be mailed to PW Treasurer, Joan McCrory at the Church’s address ~ 267 East Beau St., Washington, PA 15301.

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES



LOOKING FOR A FUN AND MEANINGFUL WAY TO VOLUNTEER THIS SUMMER? ADULT AND TEEN GROUP LEADERS ARE NEEDED FOR VBS!

Volunteering for vacation bible school is an amazing way to have a truly meaningful impact on a child's faith Journey at our church. When I signed up to be a VBS group leader in 2018, I never knew the lasting impact that the experience would have on me. The children's enthusiasm each day re-energized my own faith and love of God. To see their faces filled with joy was an invaluable gift and blessing. Our mission at the Church of the Covenant is *to know God and to make him known to the next generation*. Would you share your time and talents with us this summer to help our church continue to fulfill this mission?

What does a group leader do?

Group leaders are responsible for guiding their group of approximately 15 child "Knights" through their VBS journey each day. Each group will have 2 adult guides, and 2 youth guides. As a group leader, you get to: Provide a warm welcome each morning; Sit with your group during opening/closing; assemblies and experience the fun skits and music; Lead your Knights to VBS sessions (bible storytelling, arts/science, recreation, and snack); Say a blessing before snack time; Interact with your Knights and have fun! To volunteer, [complete the online volunteer form](#) or contact Amy Dille (724-678-4456) amy.dille06@gmail.com.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!

Sometimes it is the *small* act of help that makes a *big* difference in a person's life. If you have an extra hour a week or a few hours a month, Faith in Action would like to talk with you. Volunteers are needed to provide support to our neighbors who are older or who have disabilities. Your help will allow folks to remain in their own homes and active in the community.

Volunteers offer support with:

- Transportation
- Shopping and errands
- Relief for caregivers living in the home
- Reading or helping with paperwork
- Supportive visiting
- Telephone reassurance
- Meal preparation



LIGHT HOUSEKEEPING/MINOR HOME MAINTENANCE (Currently the greatest need)

Please contact Faith in Action at 724-223-5115 for more information or to sign up to volunteer.
YOUR *SMALL* EFFORT COULD MAKE A *BIG* DIFFERENCE IN SOMEONE'S LIFE.

2020 Mission giving: 1,500.00; 2021 budgeted: 960.00

**DEADLINE FOR THE June
MESSENGER is May 15th.**

MISSION MATTERS

MISSION FUND RAISER ~ JUST IN TIME FOR MOTHER'S DAY!!

The Missions Committee will be having a Flower Sale on Saturday May 8th from 10-2 in front of the Commons doors. Hanging baskets are \$25.00 and full flats are \$20.00. You can pre-order by completing an order form and placing in envelope with check made out to The Church of the Covenant. You can also contact Kathy Nassar at 724-350-5000 or e-mail knassar03@gmail.com Last day for advanced orders will be May 1st. There will also be flowers available at the sale on a first come basis. Proceeds benefit the Mission Trips Fundraising Fund. (Please see the back page of this newsletter for order form.)



MISSION TEAM NEWS

Plans are being completed for a Mission trip to southern West Virginia the week of September 18-24. West Virginia is part of Appalachia and has many areas in need of Mission Team help. Will you prayerfully consider being part of the Mission Team?

Will you be a missionary? Exact location not known at this time but there is the possibility of our being able to return to the Greenbriar County where we were before. There is a need for multiple skill levels and abilities. Please decide as quickly as you can so that the organizer can make necessary arrangements. Anyone who has participated in mission trips can tell you that you receive more than you give. Deadline 8/15/2021. For further information contact Pat Boyer at 724-225-5374

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 cards are available in each pew. Completed forms may be placed in the offering basket.

THE STEWARDSHIP COMMITTEE

IS ON A MISSION: "From Stimulus to Fabulous!"

The Covid19 Pandemic has been incredibly hard on so many who have lost so much. The Federal Stimulus payments of 2020 & 2021 have been a "God-send" to millions. However, there are also millions that are very fortunate, and actually don't "need" the payments. The Stewardship Committee is reaching out to anyone in the latter situation should there be a desire to donate a symbolic 10% tithe amount from the most recent \$1,400 payment. Of course, more than 10% is allowed!!

More details will be forthcoming, but funds collected from this effort would be 100% applied to restoring/increasing the church's Mission budget for 2021; with a goal of raising \$15,000 that would be fabulous for the Mission Committee to use where they see the greatest need. If you're able, wouldn't it be awesome to be part of the effort to convert this latest payment from Stimulus.....to Fabulous.....??!!!!

COVID-19 VACCINATION HELP

Washington Presbytery has partnered with Curtis Pharmacy to help our congregation minister to senior citizens needing vaccines. If you know a senior who is unable to get on a COVID-19 vaccine list, contact Linda Grimm at 724-263-7911. You will receive further instructions on how you can help that person receive a vaccine. Curtis Pharmacy and Washington Presbytery want to make sure our seniors are not missing out on vaccines because they lack an internet connection or support persons.

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION NEWS



PRESCHOOL COUNTDOWN!!

The children just finished their Spring unit of Creation. We made a mural that went through all that God created in those 7 days. The kids enjoyed doing a project that was huge in size and that they were able to talk about at home with their Moms and Dads. Can't get any better than that. We have such little time left of this crazy school year but we reflect back on it all and how wonderfully blessed we are to have been in person to teach our little ones since September. We are still planning our Spring program for the families with modification of videoing it for their families since they can't be here in person to watch. The kids are still excited to perform for their family. The songs they will sing and bells to ring all center around our creation unit and how wonderful it is that God created me!

Are we counting down? Yes we are, but with the realization that the children growing and moving on to kindergarten and the 3-year-olds coming back for their next year and new families joining us is filled with excitement. Our last day of Preschool is May 14th so we intend to always finish the school year with plenty of energy and looking forward to summer fun.



TUESDAY SPEAKER SERIES

April 27th – May 25th Dr. Jim Platt
What Christ Says to the Church:
A Study of the Letters to Revelation's
Seven Churches

Chapters 2-3 of the Book of Revelation are comprised of a series of seven letters, directed to important churches in Asia Minor (modern Turkey). Join us as we look through the lens of these seven letters and wrestle with some of the troubling issues in our own society today including: the overall decay of society, the breakdown of morals, and the disturbing ways in which this breakdown has infiltrated the contemporary church. Drawing from the wisdom of seven very ancient, yet very relevant letters, we will discover together: "What Christ Says to the Church"! In addition to wrestling with the content of the Biblical text, this class will also incorporate photographs of the cities represented by these churches as an object lesson speaking very directly to what happens when God's church fails to heed the voice of Jesus. We hope you will join us as we confront this important topic!



Our mission is

to provide an energetic summer camp experience that includes:

- ◆ **Mission and service**
- ◆ **Scripture study**
- ◆ **Daily fellowship**
- ◆ **Athletic activities**
- ◆ **Field trips and adventures**

We want to enrich the lives of the students while focusing on their spiritual growth. Our goal is to help them develop a personal relationship with Jesus Christ and encourage them to make a positive impact on the world around them all while having a fantastic summer.

Tuesdays, Wednesdays, Thursdays

7:30am-5:30pm

5 Weeks ~ Beginning June 8th and ending July 15th

(There will not be camp on June 29, June 30 & July 1)

CAMP TUITION

- ◆ **\$25 non-refundable registration per child**
- ◆ **\$100 Activity Fee per child**
- ◆ **The tuition is \$325**
- ◆ **Total cost \$450 for 5 weeks**

Contact: Yvonne Gayle: yvonnegayle20@gmail.com or 304-282-1104

The last day of Covenant Kids Online will be May 16th!

During May we will be studying the verse

"Training the body has some value. But being godly has value in every way. It promises help for the life you are now living and the life to come."

1 Timothy 4:8, NIV

Planning, Practicing and Praying help us to stay in the Race for serving Jesus. We pray you have a fantastic summer and we look forward to being together again on Rally Day, September 12th.



DAILY SCRIPTURE READINGS FOR MAY**Saturday, May 1**

Jer. 31:23–25
Col. 3:12–17
Luke 7:18–28 (29–30) 31–35

Sunday, May 2

Isa. 32:1–8
2 Thess. 2:13–17
Matt. 7:7–14

Monday, May 3

Jer. 32:1–15
Col. 3:18–4:18
Luke 7:36–50

Tuesday, May 4

Jer. 32:16–25
Rom. 12:1–21
Luke 8:1–15

Wednesday, May 5

Jer. 32:36–44
Rom. 13:1–14
Luke 8:16–25

Thursday, May 6

Jer. 33:1–13
Rom. 14:1–12
Luke 8:26–39

Friday, May 7

Deut. 31:30–32:14
Rom. 14:13–23
Luke 8:40–56

Saturday, May 8

Deut. 32:34–41 (42) 43
Rom. 15:1–13
Luke 9:1–17

Sunday, May 9

Deut. 15:1–11
1 Tim. 3:14–4:5
Matt. 13:24–34a

Monday, May 10

Deut. 8:1–10
or Deut. 18:9–14
James 1:1–15
Luke 9:18–27

Tuesday, May 11

Deut. 8:11–20 *or* Deut. 18:15–22
James 1:16–27
Luke 11:1–13

Wednesday, May 12

Deut. 19:1–7
James 5:13–18
Luke 12:22–31

Thursday, May 13

Ezek. 1:1–14, 24–28b
Heb. 2:5–18
Matt. 28:16–20

Friday, May 14

Ezek. 1:28–3:3
Heb. 4:14–5:6
Luke 9:28–36

Saturday, May 15

Ezek. 3:4–17
Heb. 5:7–14
Luke 9:37–50

Sunday, May 16

Ezek. 3:16–27
Eph. 2:1–10
Matt. 10:24–33, 40–42

Monday, May 17

Ezek. 4:1–17
Heb. 6:1–12
Luke 9:51–62

Tuesday, May 18

Ezek. 7:10–15, 23b–27
Heb. 6:13–20
Luke 10:1–17

Wednesday, May 19

Ezek. 11:14–25
Heb. 7:1–17
Luke 10:17–24

Thursday, May 20

Ezek. 18:1–4, 19–32
Heb. 7:18–28
Luke 10:25–37

Friday, May 21

Ezek. 34:17–31
Heb. 8:1–13
Luke 10:38–42

Saturday, May 22

Ezek. 43:1–12
Heb. 9:1–14
Luke 11:14–23

Sunday, May 23

Isa. 11:1–9
1 Cor. 2:1–13
John 14:21–29

Monday, May 24

Deut. 4:9–14
2 Cor. 1:1–11
Luke 14:25–35

Tuesday, May 25

Deut. 4:15–24
2 Cor. 1:12–22
Luke 15:1–10

Wednesday, May 26

Deut. 4:25–31
2 Cor. 1:23–2:17
Luke 15:1–2, 11–32

Thursday, May 27

Deut. 4:32–40
2 Cor. 3:1–18
Luke 16:1–9

Friday, May 28

Deut. 5:1–22
2 Cor. 4:1–12
Luke 16:10–17 (18)

Saturday, May 29

Deut. 5:22–33
2 Cor. 4:13–5:10
Luke 16:19–31

Sunday, May 30

Deut. 6:1–9 (10–15)
Eph. 4:1–16
John 1:1–18

Monday, May 31

Deut. 11:13–19
2 Cor. 5:11–6:2
Luke 17:1–10



Dorothy Opfer	5/1
Cindy Barnhart	5/1
Chaleece Trapuzzano	5/2
Tammy Locy	5/3
Paul Leake	5/5
Sharon Valentine	5/6
Kyle Hamilton	5/6
Jack Metcalf	5/8
Maggie Warren	5/9
Matthew Georgalas	5/9
Chelsea Kearns	5/9
David Opfer	5/11
Shawn Jacobs	5/11

MAY BIRTHDAYS

Margaret Thompson	5/11
Paula Lane	5/13
Sheryl Leckie	5/14
Kerri Lacock	5/15
Audrey Moss	5/16
Margaret McCarrell	5/16
Barbara Weber	5/17
Sydney Bury	5/17
Madison Zajdel	5/18
Brian Teagarden	5/19
Dennis Myers	5/20
Wallace McCarrell	5/20
Amanda Weaver	5/20

Douglas DiGiovanni	5/20
Kelsey Osbourne	5/22
Carol Carnes	5/23
Mary Wichterman	5/23
Dan Halulko	5/23
Hilary Burchett	5/23
Chuck Neff	5/27
Christine Crompton	5/27
Connie Hornickel	5/28
Patrick Grimm	5/29
Jill McIlvaine	5/30
Brittany Hamilton	5/31
Alexa Holik	5/31



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 gently-used books were donated anonymously. The Library committee thanks the donors.

The True Story of Hansel and Gretel, a Novel of War and Survival, by Louise Murphy. A poignant and suspenseful

retelling of a famous fairy tale set in a war torn world. In the last months of the Nazi occupation of Poland, two children are left by their father and stepmother to find safety in a dense forest. Because their real names will reveal their Jewishness, they are renamed “Hansel” and “Gretel”. They wander in the woods until they are taken in by Magda, an eccentric and stubborn old woman called “witch” by the nearby villagers. Magda is determined to save them, even as a German officer arrives in the village with his own plans for the children. This novel powerfully depicts how war is experienced by families and especially by children, and tells a resonant, riveting story.

Daily Wisdom for Women, by Carol L Fitzpatrick. This book offers practical, Biblical insight for today’s woman. These devotions are designed to acquaint you with every book in the Bible. You will come to know how much God loves you and at the same time, gain a better understanding of yourself as a woman.

Showing up for Life, by Bill Gates Sr., shines a bright light on the values and principles that Bill Gates Sr. has learned over a lifetime of showing up—from childhood experiences during the Great Depression to his roles as a father and a husband, from his philanthropic and community work in the Seattle area to his on-going efforts to make a difference around the globe as the co-chair of the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation. From revealing snapshots of his life, and that of his famous son and two daughters, Bill Sr. reflects on the importance of hard work, getting along, speaking out, family traditions, and other lessons from over fourscore years of living.

Operation King Cobra, by Steve Doherty. A tidal wave of terror sweeps southern Asia after the Japanese capture of Hong Kong and Singapore. Over one hundred thousand prisoners of war are put to work building a Japanese railroad in some of the toughest jungle terrain in Asia. Tens of thousands die of malnutrition, malaria and Japanese treatment. Thousands of allied military and civilian prisoners are killed by illegal biological and chemical experiments. The Japanese appear to be unstoppable. When the U.S. Army Chief of Staff implements Operation King Cobra and sends highly trained special missions agent, Jonathan Preston, into Asia, to team up with two British Special Operations Executive agents, things begin to turnaround. After nearly a year of solid success, a Japanese hit team is now after the Cobra trio. When the two teams collide, there is only one outcome: death.

Prayer, a Personal Testimony, by Alfred Stanway. “The aim of this book is to get people to pray. I want those who have stopped to start again; those who have never started to begin, and those who pray, to persevere.” Alfred Stanway.

Knowing You Are Loved, What It Means to Know with Certainty That God Loves You, by John Guest. Many people pay lip service to the statement, “God is love,” without fully experiencing that love in their own lives. In *Knowing You Are Loved*, John Guest brings the truth of God’s intimate love into sharper focus. He points out that none of us can truly love until we know that we are loved by the most important person in the world—by God himself.

The Miraculous Journey, Anticipating God in the Christmas Season, by Marty A. Bullis. Foreword by Eugene H. Peterson. Christmas usually brings to mind cards, carols, Christmas programs, trees, tinsel, white lights, stockings, shopping and more shopping. How do you focus on the birth of Christ during the most frantic, consumer-driven holiday of the year? It’s time to slow down and rediscover the beauty and meaning of Christmas! If you have never celebrated the Advent season, this beautiful collection of devotions will get you started. If you have used other guides for Advent, you’ll find this one refreshingly different in its ability to help you or your small group engage with the Scripture and prepare your heart for Christmas.

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My Dead Parents, by Anya Yurchyshyn, is a gripping, novelistic page-turner about a couple whose love collapsed into grief and pain, and the daughter who, while sorting through the mess they left behind, found something wholly unexpected. We all wish we could understand who our parents were before we existed, especially if their lives or deaths were shrouded in mystery. In this remarkable, unflinching work of art, Anya Yurchyshyn comes closer than anyone else ever has to achieving that impossible goal.

State by State, A Panoramic Portrait of America, edited by Matt Weiland and Sean Wilsey. Want to know what makes one state different from another? What are each state’s particularities and idiosyncrasies, their prejudice and biases, their beauty marks and moles, their cadences and jokes? This book captures something essential, something fundamental and distinctive about each state. 50 states, 50 writers.

God’s Treasury of Virtues, An Inspirational Collection of Stories, Quotes, Hymns, Scriptures and Poems. *God’s Treasury of Virtues* is your family’s complete handbook of distinctively Christian values.

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