

A NOTE FROM PASTOR JOHN

“... Yes, Yes, and YES ...”

As you are aware, this issue of The Brother's Keeper covers the end of Summer – the hottest part – and the beginning of Fall! I love the Seasons of the year, but with the changes in weather come a host of new questions and concerns. We always have health concerns – either our own or those of whom we love and care about. This year we can add concerns that haven't been around for several years – those being the result of inflation. Will I be able to afford heating oil, propane, or natural gas? And that grocery bill keeps getting bigger and bigger. Shortages in both necessities and “nice to have” things are everywhere. And it costs quite a bit in gas money just to get to work. Crime is also on the rise virtually everywhere!



The answer is yes, yes, and YES! YES ...we will face trials and temptations. YES ... we might have to tighten our belts just a bit and maybe do things a bit differently, and YES ... God is with us every step of the way. In the Sermon on the Mount, Jesus tells us that *“He causes the sun to rise on the evil and the good and sends rain on the righteous and the unrighteous.” (Matthew 5:45)*

While we face virtually identical problems as those of other faiths (or no faith at all, if that is possible), we have a distinct advantage over “the evil and the unrighteous” to use Jesus' words. Jesus is both our Lord and our Savior. By being our Lord, He is always with us and will never steer us in a wrong direction. The 23rd Psalm tells us that *“He leads us in paths of righteousness ...”* In Deuteronomy 31:6 we read that ... *“He will never leave you nor forsake you.”* In Hebrews 13:5 we also read *“Never will I leave you; never will I forsake you.”* By the leading of the Holy Spirit and Prayer, the issues we face become much less significant and can become opportunities to demonstrate to others that our faith is front and center as to Whose we are. We are not controlled by adversity or challenges. And as our Savior, we know the end here on earth – whenever and whatever the cause – is but the beginning of a new life with Jesus.

Again, quoting the 23rd Psalm: *“... my cup overflows.”* So much for looking at life with a half full cup. It overflows with blessings. The answer is yes, yes, and YES!

God Bless.

DO YOU HAVE A PRAYER REQUEST? Call Pastor John at home or on his cell. He'll put it on our Prayer Chain. Our prayer warriors will lift your prayer request to God.

CHURCH NEWS IN BRIEF

... Our summer baseball/softball players had a great season. Anthony, Brock, Parker, Roman, Junah, Paisley, Jared and Emily consistently displayed enthusiasm and good sportsmanship – win or lose. We're proud of them! We supporters had such a fun time watching the children play!

... We all had a great time of Worship followed by a picnic at our home (Pastor John's and Susan's) with the folks from the Ligonier CofB and the Roxbury CofB. Pastor James shared a wonderful message with us. Everyone brought covered dishes, Michelle manned the grill making hamburgers and hot dogs, and all pitched in and helped. If you weren't there you missed the great food, fellowship, hayrides, the "army jeep" rides and games. Thank you all!

... Quinn continues her training in a form of Karate (I can't pronounce it!) and advanced a "belt." Good job! She just started going to Pastor Frank's archery and we heard she's doing really well!

... Fred Hayes moved to North Carolina to be with his daughter Sherry and her husband Pat Laughrey. His new address is 109 Stapleton Way, High Point, NC 27265

... A new roof was installed on the Church and parsonage and it looks GREAT! New sidewalks in the rear of the building are also planned.

... It was great to see Matt Rummel home from college over the summer – the "poor boy" is on his way back to college in Hawaii!

... The stitchers have been working on neck pillows, over the handle t-towels, and organizers for armchairs for the Faith in Action Ministry in Latrobe. (They made a few extras for the folks at the Church!) And, they continue to work on prayer shawls and chemo caps. Busy ... busy ... busy doing God's work! Let one of the ladies know if you know of someone who could use one of the items listed above.

... The Men's Breakfast is held the second Saturday of the month beginning at 9:00am here at the Church. Enjoy a great breakfast and fellowship. They invite Guest Speakers to come and share also. In July they heard from Derk Matson who walked the 2,200 miles on the Appalachian Trail! All the men said it was very interesting.

BE WATCHING AND LISTENING at 405 Route 271 –Our very own pavilion in the backyard is coming soon, thanks to the efforts and generosity of Becky Kwak and her family. This will be a great addition to our Church for picnics, informal times of fellowship, making Apple Butter, maybe even Bible Study, Sunday School classes, Women’s stitching and more – weather permitting. Be watching! (NOTE: Pastor John and I hope you’ll still come over the farm to our pavilion once in a while!!)

CAMP HARMONY HERE WE COME! ... Several youth from our congregation will be attending Summer Camp at Camp Harmony the end of July. Quinn invited two friends to go with her – Eva and Myla / Elaine and Jack Boyd’s Granddaughters Violet and Haven will be attending also. Please keep them in your prayers – Have fun girls! We can’t wait to hear all about it! Carolyn Roddy’s Granddaughter went to Camp Harmony the week of July 17th and Carolyn told us that she had a great time.

SUMMER CAMP – A neighbor was asking my young son about his summer camp. ‘Tell me,’ she asked. ‘How is the food there?’ ‘Oh,’ he replied without hesitation, ‘the food they serve is wonderful, and they don’t make you eat it either.’”

DID YOU KNOW - BECKY KWAK IS THE “KEY LADY” AT THE CHURCH? ... Becky organized the Church keys - and it was a real project – but she completed it! All of the keys are marked so we know what door they’re for, and they’re organized. Thank you, Becky for taking on this project AND completing it. When you need a key see Becky! Because she’s the “Key Lady”!!

SUSAN AND I HAVE BEEN THINKING (that can only mean trouble!!!) ... What do you think about having a Hymn Sing maybe on a Sunday evening??? Would you come?? Right now the idea is in the “thinking” stage, but we want you to think about it also. Wouldn’t it be great to get together at the Church on a Sunday evening and lift praises to our Lord and Savior through song and have worship through music and fellowship? Let us know what you think!

“He lives, He lives, Christ Jesus lives today! He walks with me and talks with me along life’s narrow way. He lives, He lives, salvation to impart! You ask me how I know He lives? He lives within my heart.” (Hymn #220 “He Lives”)

OUR DEAR FRIEND EDITH HAY passed away in June. Her private graveside service was held on Saturday, July 9th. Our dear sister will be greatly missed. God blessed her with a good, long life. She touched the lives of so many people in our congregation and beyond. She was a special part of the Stitchers and she did beautiful work. Many, many people have been blessed by the lovely prayer shawls she made. Edith made delicious fudge called “Tiger Butter”. She brought it several times to Stitchers and it was a big hit and she shared her recipe with us! It was suggested that we share the recipe with you in the Church Newsletter. Here you go ...

TIGER BUTTER

Ingredients: 2 c. milk chocolate candy making wafers
2 c. white chocolate candy making wafers
2 c. smooth peanut butter

Directions: 1. Melt milk and white chocolates in separate containers.
2. Spread milk chocolate in a 12” x 12” pan.
3. Combine peanut butter with the white chocolate.
Pour mixture over the milk chocolate and swirl to marble.
4. Cool at room temperature and cut into 1” squares.

SO YUMMY!

THE WOMEN’S FELLOWSHIP MEETING HIGHLIGHTS ... A meeting was held on Sunday, July 24, led by Jo McWherter, President. Cathy McMaster shared that \$675 was received so far by the women-sponsored “Bakeless Bake Sale”. Cathy will be sending thank you notes to all who donated. Just think – we had a Bake Sale and none of us gained any weight!!! The date for the Fireside Chat and Silent Auction is Sunday, November 13 after Church. Pastor John will be sharing a devotional. December 11th is the date scheduled for the women’s Christmas Party. The men are invited! Be watching for more information on these events. In the meantime, mark the dates on your calendar! It was suggested that we invite someone to come and speak to our women’s group. Amy McClendon, from Faith in Action in Latrobe, was asked to come and share. It was thought we would do this sometime in the Fall/Winter. Our stitching ladies support the Ministry of Faith in Action by making some of the items you see displayed on the rack in the sanctuary. Be listening for more information on the women’s activities and programs. Mark your calendar – the next Women’s Fellowship Meeting will be held Sunday, September 25 after Church.

Jo McWherter, President

BIBLE STUDY continues even in the Summertime on Wednesday at 6:30pm in the Fellowship Room. We're in the Book of Proverbs so feel free to join us at any time. We have such interesting discussion in an informal setting. We all feel comfortable to share and we learn from each other. Like any Church function, we have refreshments afterward! **GRACE** = **G**od's **R**edemption **A**t **C**hrist's **E**xpense. Hope to see you.

RITA'S CLOSET a ministry of our Church, continues to help people in our community. There are folks from our Church who volunteer regularly every Monday, putting the clothing out in the Fellowship Room so visitors to the Closet can browse through the racks. Also, some clothing items are folded and placed neatly on the tables. There is an area where there are books and some toys on display for people to take. At the end of the day the volunteers put the clothing and racks back into the storage room. This ministry couldn't function without the volunteers who come to help regularly each week. It's not too late to volunteer. See or Call Darlene or talk to any of the volunteers.

HAVE YOU TAKEN NOTICE OF THE GROUNDS AROUND THE CHURCH

... How beautiful they look. The plants are blooming beautifully with color and the flowering tree in the backyard is lovely. The gladiolus around the Church sign are beautiful – they catch your attention. The lawn is always nicely cut also. Some of you may know who does the lawn and beautifying of the Church grounds. For those who don't know – it's our own David Fish! When you see him, be sure to give him a high five or a big hug (he won't mind!) and thank him for sharing his God-given gifts. He'll appreciate it.

*“For the beauty of the earth, for the glory of the skies
For the love which from our birth Over and around us lies;
Lord of all, to Thee we raise. This our hymn of grateful praise.”
Hymn 560 “For the Beauty of the Earth”*

*“Give thanks to the Lord for His unfailing love and His wonderful deeds.”
Psalm 107:8*

DON'T FORGET TO TAKE THE TIME to look at the bulletin board at the bottom of the steps of the Narthex. There's a lot of good information there ... and while you're there, notice the new table and tablecloth in the opposite corner at the window. It looks lovely. Thank you Becky for taking care of that. Also, can you guess what's in the little jar on the table?

AND, be sure to check your mailbox in the Sunday School wing. You could have some mail! If there isn't a mailbox there for you, please let Pastor John know. We'll take care of that!

**FIRST CHURCH OF THE BRETHREN
405 ROUTE 271
LIGONIER, PA. 15658-9245**

EMAIL: lcob1888@gmail.com

CHURCH WEB SITE: Ligonierfirstcob.org



**LIGONIER FIRST
CHURCH OF THE
BRETHREN** is a community
of believers who seek to walk
passionately with Christ -
reaching out in His name –
preaching and sharing His
Gospel and teaching all to
love Him.

**PLEASE JOIN US FOR ...
SUNDAY SCHOOL – 9:30AM
CLASSES FOR ALL AGES –
PRE-SCHOOL THROUGH
ADULT STUDY CLASSES**

**WORSHIP - 10:30AM
BIBLE STUDY – WED. 6:30PM
EVERYONE IS WELCOME!**

DISTTRICT CONFERENCE * WESTERN PA. CHURCH OF THE BRETHREN*
10/15/22* CAMP HARMONY – 1414 PLANK ROAD, HOOVERSVILLE, PA. *
REGISTRATION FEE: \$25.00 (INCLUDES LUNCH, CONFERENCE BOOKLET
MATERIALS AND FACILITY FEE)