



The Covenant

Community Church of Buckeye
"To serve God and community that all may
be one"

July/August
2020

From the Pastor's Desk

I'm sure it's not news to you, but we have a wonderful church and a wonderful church family. It saddens me that at the present time we are not able to meet in person as a church. My love and appreciation for each one of you has grown during this time, and I am looking forward to when we can have in-person worship again. That old saying that absence makes the heart grow fonder really is true.

This is a time that calls for us to be patient. If you have ever prayed for God to give you patience, it is being answered now. When we ask God for patience, God gives us opportunities to practice patience. We have been worshipping on-line via Zoom for a little over three months now. Unfortunately, a date when worship at the church can resume has not been set yet. I am anxious for that date to come, and I am sure you are, too. I just ask for your patience to hang in there. I know other denominations have already started having in-person services, but we have largely a congregation that are in the more vulnerable categories of people. It is better for us to be safe and to practice the three simple rules.

Rule 1 is of utmost importance – do no harm. We want everyone to be safe and healthy, and we do not want to be the source of anyone contracting this virus. So, we wear masks and worship from home. Rule 2, to do good, we do by helping each other and others when we know of their need. Rule 3 is also of utmost importance – stay in love with God. Our relationship with God will serve us well now and forever. Hang in there.

In Christ's love,

Bob Lind

Pastor Bob



The Community Church of Buckeye

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UMW REPORT

Barbara Floyd, President

Although our church has been void of people during this Pandemic, one section is filling up nicely. And that is the storage rooms where we keep things for our annual Spring Sale. Many of you are like me and have been cleaning out closets. Leslie Schroeder will be so proud of us!

I also hope you have all been busy building up your inventory to sell your items at our Bodacious Bazaar this year. Hopefully, the virus will be under control by then.

And, I am sure, Marla will figure out a way to distribute our Coats for Comfort in November. Remember this project when you are cleaning out closets—coats, sweaters, hats, scarves, gloves—can all be put to good use.

In the meantime, stay safe!

UMM REPORT

James Gray, President

Although our men have not been able to do some of their regular events for the church, they continue to be “on call” when they are needed for any repairs, trimming, hauling, etc.

If you have items to donate for our Spring Sale, please do not hesitate to contact the church office or any one of our men and they can meet you at the church to drop off your items or come pick them up.

God bless!

VIRTUAL WORSHIP CONTINUES

We continue to worship and hold meetings over Zoom. If we have your email address, you are sent a message each week on how to access the link to participate in the worship service. If you would like to participate, but currently do not, please make sure the pastor has your email address. If you know of anyone else who would like to be in our worship service but who don't want to give us their email address, please feel free to share the link with them.

Keep the faith and we will get through this together regardless of how long it takes.



You may have noticed that our Sanctuary now has a **NEW ROOF!** And that is due entirely from your contributions! As God says: “Well done, my good and faithful servants!”

Now it is time to concentrate on Phase 2, which is a new roof for our Fellowship Hall. The cost for that project is: \$25,342.50. We have roughly \$5,300 so far, so our work is cut out for us. But now we know that is not an impossible task!

July Birthdays

6th – Dixie Bastian
8th – Jim Adams
Jim Yoder
10th – Celia Shanahan
14th – Jackson Lind
19th – Ryan Urban
20th – Louisa Burklow
27th – Steve Ross

July Anniversaries

21st – Eric & Monica Godfrey
25th – Jim & Shirley Adams

August Birthdays

4th – Cathy Calvert
5th – Ellen Mathias
6th – Colin Eades
8th – Eric Godfrey
15th – Connor Olson
20th – Virginia Hill
21st – Isabelle Lowe
23rd – Jakob Lind
30th – Jean Novak
Carol Hall

August Anniversaries

7th – Steve & Leslie Schroeder
23rd – Bruce & Ellen Bolen

Pray For Our Sister Churches

The churches of the Central-West District of the Desert Southwest Annual Conference are encouraged to pray for each other throughout the year.

In the month of **July** please pray for these churches:

- Lakeview UMC, Sun City
- Liberty UMC, Buckeye
- Maranatha UMF, Phoenix
- Mission Bell UMC, Glendale

In the month of **August** please keep these churches in your prayers:

- Mountain View UMC, Cottonwood
- New Church Start, Yuma
- New Song UMC, Surprise
- Nuevo Pacto, Phoenix

AMAZON SMILE

How many of you shop online on Amazon or have friends that shop on Amazon? I recently was introduced to an app called Amazon Smile. When you sign up for this program you can select to support a charitable organization. What that means is that every time you purchase something on Amazon, the company will donate 0.5% of the purchase price to that charitable organization.

It just so happens that Community Church of Buckeye is one of the listed charitable organizations. Instead of going to Amazon.com to shop, go to smile.amazon.com. You then sign up and select your charity. Bookmark smile.amazon.com because you need to shop from that site in order for your charity to receive the donation.

Our church is registered and set up now so you all can select **Community Church of Buckeye** as your charity and encourage your friends and relatives to do the same. It could be a great revenue for our church.

A little boy was drawing a picture and the Pastor asked who he was drawing. "God," was his reply. "But", the Pastor said, "nobody knows what God looks like." The boy looked up and said, "They will when I finish!"

Donations Needed for All-Faith Food Bank

We help support the All-Faith food bank on a monthly basis. Donations are accepted at any time, but we especially look for donations the first Sunday of each month. This was supported quite well when we first started, but donations have dropped off over time. The problem is that the need for food for people in our community never ends. Below you will see a list of the types of food the food bank would like to have us donate.

In addition to the items listed below we also collect egg cartons for a dozen eggs. The food bank receives eggs in bulk crates and packs them in the cartons for distribution, so they are in constant need of your used cartons. You can also donate cash by making a check out to All-Faith Food Bank and putting it in the offering plate on Sunday morning. We will make sure it gets delivered to them quickly.

We thank you for your support of this ministry. It is a wonderful way for us to serve our brothers and sisters who are less fortunate. If you have any questions or would like to help out in a special way, contact **Marilyn Taylor**, the coordinator for this effort.

Foods Needed For All-Faith Food Bank

Peanut Butter	Juice
Jelly	Boxed Pasta
Canned Meat	Cereal
Canned Beans	Rice
Hygiene Products	Dried Bean

POP TOP TABS: Keep saving those tabs for Ronald McDonald House. Ronald McDonald House is a place for parents to stay if they have a child in a local hospital.

In June 2020, they celebrated their 35th Anniversary. Since opening their doors in 1985, the House has undergone many changes. They now provide 78 rooms for families traveling to the Valley for medical care for their children.

Prayer: The world's greatest wireless connection.

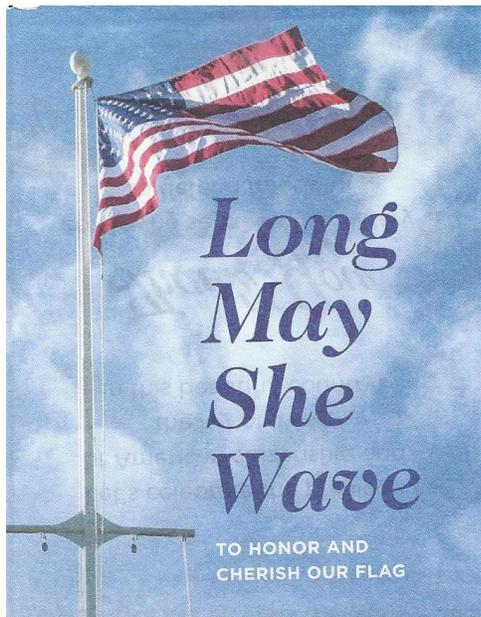
Just once I want a username and password prompt to say, "Close Enough".

To Mask or Not Mask

(Pastor Bob)

I find it frustrating that for some the use of masks is seen as a political statement. It probably is for some, but I guess for most it is not. It all depends on the intent behind wearing a mask or not.

We all have the right to choose to wear a mask or not, and no one should pass judgment on anyone whichever way they choose. I would encourage the use of a mask when out in public because I believe me wearing a mask means that I am concerned for the health of people in general and that I do not want to be the cause of anyone contracting the virus specifically. Scripture tells us that as Christians we are to think of others before ourselves and to love our neighbor as we love ourselves. I believe that is what wearing a mask means. It is Christian and social; not political.



Today's flag has 50 stars (the states) and 13 stripes (the original colonies). The colors are symbolic; red symbolizes hardiness and valor; white symbolizes purity and innocence; and blue represents vigilance, perseverance and justice.

KEEP YOUR EYES ON HIM

(Submitted by Gayle Hammond)

It was a beautiful summer evening, still early enough for us to drive along without the lights of the car. We were in too much of a hurry to remove the splatter from the windshield, a blotch left by a large bug.

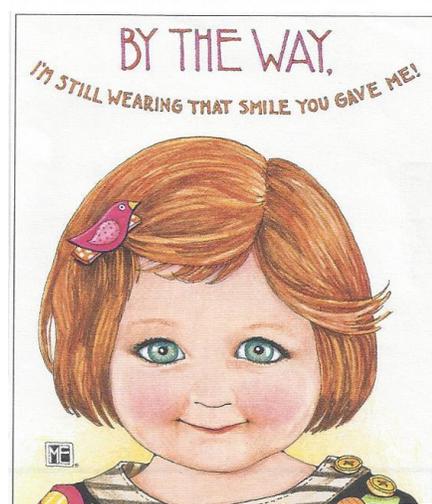
As we drove along, it seemed we just couldn't keep our eyes off that messy splatter. Again and again we found ourselves focusing our eyes to the short-range vision which ended on the pane of glass immediately before us. And each time we fixed our eyes on that ugly spot only inches away, we missed the beautiful scenery about us.

A bug bigger than the evening star! A bug big enough to blot out the flowing landscape of velvet green which stretched ahead. All because we concentrated on the ugly bug before us while we missed the beauty which surrounded us!

If only we could keep our eyes off the bugs on the windshield—the worries and the cares, the gripes, the irritations and little things which threaten to block out the eternal stars of hope and faith and love. If we could only keep our eyes on Him who is the way and upon the good news of the gospel that He has given us!

This story carries so much truth. How often we let the little things destroy our fellowship and usefulness in Christian service!

--Anonymous



LIVING TODAY

Today is a gift. Embrace it with joy and anticipation....realize the possibilities. It beckons you towards your destination in life. Be at peace you are exactly where you are meant to be at this moment. God has carefully chosen the people, events, joys and challenges on your path today. The things you will encounter are stepping stones of what is to come. Make the most of today.

Focus on "the present" – you will see and appreciate things you might otherwise miss. Follow your heart – search to find your purpose in life and you will find meaning and happiness. Use your talents, do your best, contribute. Make a difference, because you can. Be passionate about your journey – sing, dance, laugh, and love as you go. Give praise and allow time for prayer. The promise of tomorrow begins with the endeavors of today. Do not let the fast-forward pace of the world deprive you from savoring "the now". Seek things that fill you with love and bring you joy.

Have faith, it fosters hope – it makes the difference. Believe, with God all things are possible. Live well – live today, for it is a gift.

--Bonnie L. Mohr

The Upper Room

Our church makes available the Upper Room daily devotional booklets for your use. Each booklet covers two months, and both regular and large print editions are available. You can pick one up at the Church Office. We ask for \$1 donation for each booklet.

Recycling

Thank everyone for bringing cans and plastic bottles for recycling. The church is raising some good money from this program, but we have found there are some items the local recyclers do not accept. They do not want aluminum foil or tin cans, so only bring cans for drinks and put all others (such as cans for vegetables) in your own recycle bin at home.

In terms of plastic, they do not want the clear plastic wrapping like that for cakes and cookies and other such items. So please put those kinds of things in your recycle bin at home and only bring things like water and milk containers to the church.

I just did a week's worth of cardio after walking into a spider web.

My favorite exercise is doing diddly squats.

The adult version of "head, shoulders, knees and toes" is "wallet, glasses, keys and phone".

I didn't mean to push all your buttons. I was just looking for MUTE.

Dusted once. It came back. Not falling for that again.

**WHEN WE CAN'T WORK,
LET US PRAY**

If all the Elderly would join
In one great big prayer band
Just what would happen to the world
And in our own homeland?
Don't say, "My work is finished
There's nothing I can do."
Just use your great prayer power
That God has given you.

Prayer, in the hand of faith
To Heaven's storehouse is the key
To find the needed treasure there
Awaiting you and me.
'Twil lighten someone's burden
That you may help and share
Or someone less experienced
Their heavy burden bear.

Let's pray that God will shower us
With blessings from above
And let all Shut-ins join us
With prayers of faith and love.
And when so many daily pray
That those who can, won't shirk
But haste to finish God's harvest
Let's pray if we can't work.

--by Ruth S. Underwood

Just when the caterpillar thought the world was over, it became a butterfly.

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