



Restoration's Journal

Restoration Presbyterian Church (PCA)

www.restorationpca.org

April 2022

He restores my soul...

The LORD is my Shepherd;
I shall not want
He makes me lie down
in green pastures,
He leads me beside
still waters.
He restores my soul.
He leads me in the
paths of righteousness
for His name's sake.

Even though I walk through
the valley of the
shadow of death,
I will fear no evil,
for You are with me;
Your rod and Your staff,
they comfort me.

You prepare a table before me
in the presence of my enemies,
You anoint my head with oil;
my cup overflows.
Surely goodness and mercy
shall follow me
all the days of my life,
and I shall dwell in the house
of the LORD forever.

Psalm 23 (ESV)



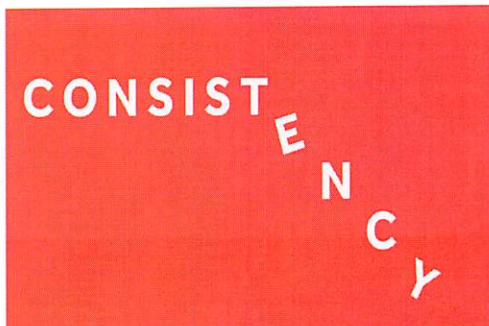
Golf Is A Game Of Consistency...

by Pastor Steve Wilson

How consistent are you???

In golf one tends to remember, vividly, their best shots and their best holes, while they are quite happy to forget their worst, even MOST of their shots. It is an exceptional golfer who consistently hits the ball the way he intends to.

This is a lot like life. We tend to remember the times when we do well, when we are successful, and are quite happy to forget when we mess up, or at least we would LIKE to. We remember when we do things which others admire and do our best to forget those times when we embarrass ourselves. Someone once said that if we were ever to be judged by our own standards, not one of us would be able to stand. Not one of us is truly consistent in living as we intend to, no less as God would have us live. Just as in golf, some are more consistent than others, but none of us, if we are truly honest with ourselves, speak, act and feel the way we know we should consistently.



This truth can help us see our need for grace, for God's grace to us—and for us to extend grace to others. As we are more aware of our failures, specifically what the Bible calls sin, then, and only THEN, can we appreciate the depth of God's amazing and unconditional love for any and all who will put their trust in Christ. Then we will find ourselves more motivated to be patient with others who mess up. It is easy to be critical of others who mess up in areas where we tend to be more consistent, and we find it easier to be patient with others who struggle in areas where we, ourselves, struggle.

There are two ways that we tend to forget about God's grace: When we mess up... and when other mess up! When we are struggling, we

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HELLO
MY NAME IS

What's in a Name?

Welcome to our brand new newsletter! Restoration's *Journal* is the Newsletter Team's working title. Do you have a suggestion for an attention-grabbing name? The team is looking for your input! Please pass your ideas on to Beth McCarrick or Angel White.



STUCK IN THE HOUSE

and unable to join us for our Sunday Worship service? It is live-streamed! Please check us out on FaceBook: www.fb.com/restorationpca

We would love to have you drop in!

Golf is a Game of Consistency...

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want others to bear with us. We are embarrassed—not because God has been dishonored, but because OUR honor has been tarnished—and often react in such a way that only makes things worse. When OTHERS mess up, at least when their failure negatively impacts us, we tend to get angry, and often assume the worst.

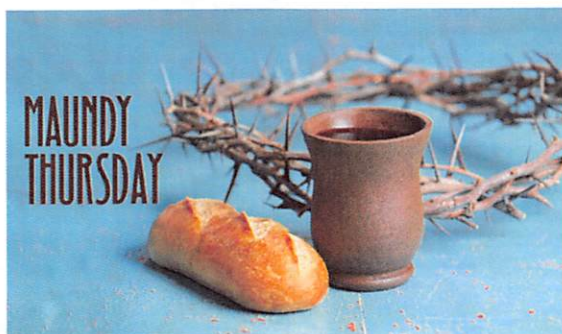
So, the next time you struggle with inconsistency, or with the pain of failure—yours OR someone else's, or your inability to do what you know you OUGHT to do in life, **remember** that Jesus willingly went to the cross because of our inability to consistently do what is right—or, to put it even more strongly, to EVER do things with completely pure motives. He knows our worst and loves us anyway. He NEVER punishes us for our failures. He already took all the punishment we deserve! He DISCIPLINES us—for our own good, but that is never just to punish us, to make us pay. Remember that and be at peace. Don't let others get under your skin; and don't let your own failures discourage you.



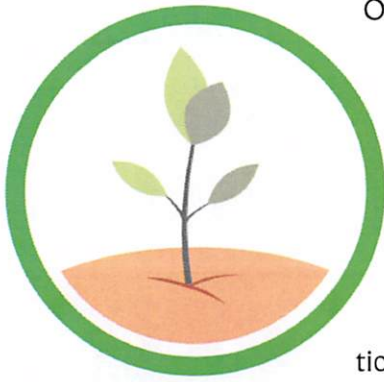
We do not have to, nor CAN we impress God. He wants us to recognize this and accept it so that we can receive His love and grace, and then extend that grace to those around us. Rather than push failure out of your mind, confess it to God (who knows it already anyway) and glorify Him for His amazing grace to each of us! Neither your failure, nor that of those you were counting on can thwart God's plan. He can take our worst blunders and make them good. So let us give Him the glory and bear with each other, and willingly acknowledge our own weaknesses and shortcomings... to the praise of His glorious grace!

Ephesians 1:3 & 6-7 [ESV]: Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in Christ with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places... to the praise of his glorious grace, with which he has blessed us in the Beloved. In him we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of our trespasses, according to the riches of his grace!

Please join us in-person or on live-stream for our **Maundy Thursday** service on **Thursday, April 14th, 7:00pm**. We will walk through the Upper Room discourse in John 13-16 with a celebration of the Lord's Supper, readings, short reflections, prayer, and singing as we prepare our hearts to celebrate Resurrection Sunday.



'The word *Maundy* comes from the Latin, 'mandatum' or 'command' which refers to the instructions Jesus gave His disciples at the Last Supper.



Our Kid's Ministry is sponsoring two special events in April! These times are GREAT opportunities to which you can invite your family and friends to participate AND introduce them to Restoration at the same time!

April 9: Parent's Night Out, 5pm to 8pm

Restoration PCA is offering a FREE child care opportunity to parents, families, and guardians with children ages 2-12. Quarterly, we will be providing a chance for you, you and your spouse, or you and your partner to plan an evening away while our serving and caring staff host the kids. It will be a time for food, crafts, and games in a safe environment. All of our staff and volunteers have child protection training and are PA background checked. **Registration is required, no walk-ins.**

Go to www.restorationpca.org/night-out.

April 29: Community Family Game Night, 6:30pm to 8:30pm

Enjoy an evening out FOR ALL AGES on the last Friday of every month with games, an ice cream bar and prizes! Please see or call our Kids Ministry Director, Rachel Lamb, or visit www.restorationpca.org/gamenight.

RESTORATION
KIDS MINISTRY

A Challenge to Ask, "What If?"

by Crystal Phipps

At times we can be filled with questions of "What if". What if I had made different choices? What if I'd taken that job right after college? What if I married someone else or never married in the first place? What if I sent my kids to a different school? What if I never got involved in that conversation? What if I bought a different house or chose a different career path? What if I had parents that poured love and truth into me instead of judgement and criticism? But these kind of "what if" questions often lead us down a path of doubt, regret and sometimes a fantasy world that we begin to long for and covet. These are the kinds of questions that fill me with misery, anxiety, self-doubt, and a lack of faith. When our lives get hard, and obstacles get in the way of us working out our plans, we might be tempted to let ourselves dwell in the imaginary "what ifs" of life.

I am convinced that this kind of thinking is not living at all. Maybe it's a way of escape from the harsh realities of what you must deal with every day. Maybe it comes from a place of guilt and sorrow over the hardships and circumstances of your life that don't seem to make sense or are not at all how your younger self imagined your life to be. Imagine with me, for a moment, what would happen if we started asking ourselves different "What If?" questions...

We come to church (or listen online) and fill ourselves with knowledge. Most of us can quote scripture verses, and spout off facts about Biblical history, and the lives of certain characters of the Bible. Some of us can recite doctrinal statements about what we believe and how it should be put into practice. We have spent decades learning about the Bible, and about what it should look like to live as a believer. But what do we do on Sunday afternoon with the knowledge we gain? All that knowledge we have acquired is empty, and useless, without putting it into practice. We can compare it to what James 2:17 says, "faith without works is dead."

What if we took these truths to heart? **What if** we actually believed that the God of the universe cares about our pain, cares about our sorrows, our confusion, our lack of faith, our struggles, our joys and our victories? **What if** all of our pain and sorrow, regrets and struggles are actually hidden blessings from a loving and kind heavenly Father who always does what is best for us? **What if** we allowed our beliefs to impact our day to day lives? **What if** we began to love each other the way Christ loves us? **What if** we valued each other and those in the community the way God values us? What would our lives look like? What would our church look like? Would the community

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LADIES! Save April 11th for Wilmington Women's Connection - Do you have a female friend or relative that you would love to share the gospel with but just don't know the right words to say? The Wilmington Women's Connection (an outreach of Stonecroft Ministries) presents just that at our bi-monthly meetings in a non-threatening way. Our meeting is on April 11th from 11:30 to 1 p.m. at Iron Hill Restaurant 620 Justison St. Wilm.DE. on the riverfront. Our special feature is Tanisha Bullock CEO of Bella Bleu who will introduce us to her exclusive boutique of dresses, accessories, and skincare. Grace Fabian of Douglasville, PA. will then share her story of unrelenting grace, forgiveness and redemption resulting from tragedy. Her story is entitled, "Outrageous Grace". The cost is \$22 for a buffet luncheon of multiple entrees, and we provide dessert. For more information and reservations contact Beth McCarrick 484-432-5527.

Youth Workers Seminar

by Alan McCarrick

Whether we have teens in our families or not, we should be concerned about the church's next generation. Every week, I am reminded that MY taste in songs used in worship is not the important thing. Beth and I attended the Youth Worker's Training seminar held at Crossroads PCA in Middletown, DE. This seminar is conducted annually by the youth leaders of Heritage presbytery. This year, the Youth Worker's seminar had two speakers: Tommy Carrington and Fredrick Hagan.

Tommy is well known in youth ministry circles. His first talk was entitled "Penetrating Student Culture." We read I Corinthians 9:19-23 where Paul wrote "I have become all things to all people so that by all possible means I might save some." He emphasized that the church must address youth in terms they relate to rather than what our adults feel comfortable with. Five cultural aspects that youth have are: (1) a comfort with contradiction (I'm right, and you're right too), (2) a strong desire for relationships, but (3) a feeling of abandonment (loneliness), (4) a strong interest in spiritual things, but not "religion" and (5) seeking purposes in life (e.g. feeding the poor, or environmentalism). When ministering to youth, all five categories should be kept firmly in mind.

His second talk was on LGBTQ issues. Churches tend to respond to this in one of three basic ways: (1) ignore the issue, (2) condemn all such feelings and behaviors with insensitive or ignorant statements or (3) openly accept every lifestyle as acceptable to God. The first two responses have driven many away instead of engaging them in any way. Tommy spoke on the issue of "same sex attraction" (or SSA) which is what youth mainly would be dealing with. He emphasized that SSA is a temptation among many temptations reminding us that we all have temptations that can be very powerful. We will continue to experience temptations throughout our lives. However, we often create a hierarchy of sins that is not Biblical. He suggested four things to keep in mind: (1) the Bible is God's given authority over all issues, (2) don't primarily use the Old Testament (Lev 18) in discussions since there are many other OT laws that are not considered to be in force now, (3) take a strong stand against acting on the temptation and not the temptation and (4) do not dismiss the often heard comment that "I was born this way" as there are many biological causes that we don't understand. During question time, it was apparent, that many youth groups have issues in this area.

Fred Hagan should be familiar to some of you as Heather Musgrave and Beth Suloff's brother-in-law and Don Korb's son-in-law. Fred spoke on drug/alcohol abuse and counseling. He is a counselor at a school for students removed from regular schools because of behavioral issues. We learned that loneliness is a critical



Youth Workers
Build The Future!

Continued on page 6

Tony and Carol Zimmerman

by Beth McCarrick

I'd like to introduce you to our newest members, Tony and Carol Zimmerman. Tony and Carol met in the Navy. When Tony first met Carol it was not under the best of circumstances. See, Tony and Carol had the same last name and when it came to distribution of pay checks, "Carol Zimmerman" was called, but not Tony. He was sure that Carol had gotten his paycheck. Long story short, it all worked out. Tony jokes that she's been taking his paycheck ever since.

Tony and Carol are residents of Fox Hills Farms and live in the same cul-de-sac as Bob and Sherrie Strain. The Strains invited them to an Easter service and they liked the message and the friendly people. Their faith journeys were different. Carol grew up in church and when there was an altar call at a church in Elysburg, she went forward. Carol is from coal country – she tells everyone Shamokin because they haven't heard of her small town of Paxinos, PA. Tony grew up in Baltimore as a Roman Catholic. He thought that he and Carol would raise any children they had in the Catholic church. Carol said "no," which led Tony to explore her faith. He was greatly influenced by his father-in-law who was an elder in his church. His lifestyle and the way he prayed for Tony led to Tony's gradual acceptance as Jesus Christ as his personal Savior and he's glad of it



Tony and Carol both work, Tony for Penn-Dot and Carol for a pharmaceutical company which seems to be the employment choice of everyone else in their family. They have one son, Matthew who is married to Katherine and they have two daughters Nora and Zoe.

When they have free time, they both enjoy reading and going for walks on the trails near their home. Tony enjoys following sports especially the Baltimore teams and Carol can be found doing counted cross stitch. If you like to send cards, their birthdays are Carol, August 5th and Tony, October 18th. Make sure you take time to introduce yourselves to them.

Our Neighborly Outreach Ministry...

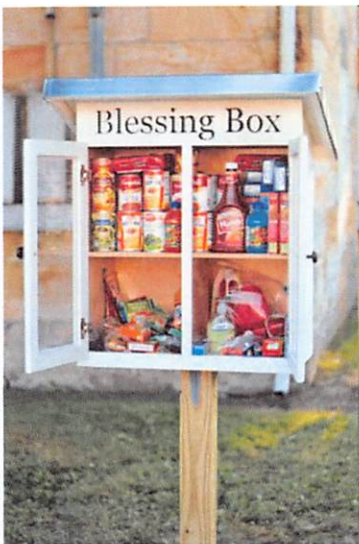
by Laura Durkovic

John 6:35

Jesus said to them, "I am the bread of life; whoever comes to me shall not hunger, and whoever believes in me shall never thirst."

Restoration seeks to love our local community. During Covid, many people were hungry. While we were not able to open a traditional soup kitchen, we decided in the summer to provide ready-to-eat canned soup with spoons and water bottles to the community, served from a humble, help-yourself cooler. This ministry continued until in November we expanded it, setting up a permanent Blessing Box in front of the church in addition to the cooler. That first week, we received a touching note of gratitude from "a hungry husband and wife", encouraging us that God was indeed using our box to bless the local community. We would like to expand the ministry to include personal connections with those who are blessed each week by our

offerings, which have expanded to include items such as toilet paper, diapers, peanut butter, bread, cereal, hot chocolate, granola bars, canned goods, tuna, and cold-hardy produce including cabbage, potatoes, carrots, onions, and apples. We have weekly needs for donations of non-perishable items that are nutritious and useful. Instant potatoes and ramen are popular. There are collection bins in the coat room for donations. You are encouraged to place items directly in the box or cooler if there is room. Please donate regularly and pray for the expansion of our food ministry to the community of Upper Chichester. We would love to meet our neighbors and share with them the gospel that they may hunger and thirst no more!



A Challenge to Ask, "What If?"

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around us be able to see a difference in our lives? Would we be filled with joy and contentment instead of regret, sadness, emptiness?

YES!!! YES!!! YES!!! Our lives would be radically transformed, and the love we receive from the Father would spill out of the overflow of our hearts to other's hearts. Healing and restoration are possible!



Brothers and Sisters of Restoration, we are rich in knowledge. We have been taught the truth. We have heard decades of sound teaching from the pulpit, in Sunday School classes, on the radio or in our Bible studies over the years. So... **what if** we work together to live out the truths we know, and actively seek to apply those truths with each other

as well as those we don't know. Knowledge puffs up, but love builds up. (1 Cor 8:1). **What if** we use our time and energy to love one another, building each other up and reflecting our Savior to the community, rather than gaining knowledge that puffs us up and is dead. I am committed to building up, are you? I challenge you to ask, "what if?"

Youth Workers Seminar

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issue for youth and a leading cause of drug and alcohol abuse. Our culture is very "individualistic," but individualism can be the "other side of loneliness." Loneliness itself can have long lasting psychological and physical effects as young people's brains are still developing, particularly the regions that assess risk. Fred also emphasized that substance abuse issues and depression can have biological roots and that medical therapy may be appropriate. He provided a loneliness assessment scale from UCLA (<https://bit.ly/366GAW8>) that can assist in recognizing symptoms and a NIH booklet "Drugs, Brains and Behavior" (<https://bit.ly/3idwmWD>).

Those that are involved in youth ministry are at the front line. With our hope of reaching our community, we will see more and more youth with these needs. We need to communicate in a language they recognize, offer friendship and wise, compassionate and Biblical counsel.

Are you looking for ways to be of service to God's Kingdom and our community?

In the church...

We have volunteer opportunities available in the areas of:

- ❖ sound and live-stream
- ❖ children's church workers
- ❖ in-service power point operation
- ❖ nursery workers

Please go to our church website www.restorationpca.org/volunteer for a full description of help needed.

In the community...

- ❖ Saturday, April 2nd from 10am to noon the Bethel Township Preservation Society will clean Bethel Rd from Garnet Mine to Larkin Rd. We provide pinnies, work gloves, and trash bags. We also have a waiver to sign and if you are between the age of 12 and 18 - a parent must also attend. Call Beth McCarrick.
- ❖ On Saturday April 9th and 23rd, the Brandywine Summit Camp Meeting located in Chadd's Ford will be having spring workdays. A light breakfast and lunch will be provided. If you have questions and would like to join in either of these opportunities to serve, please call Beth McCarrick at 484-432-5527
- ❖ Upper Chichester – Community Action Agency of Delaware County, Inc. (CAADC) is seeking volunteers for its free Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA) sites. CAADC is looking for dedicated, enthusiastic individuals who would like to serve their community by helping low- and moderate-income families in Delaware County complete their taxes. Assistance is urgently needed! CAADC expects that it will be one of only a few organizations that continues to provide this necessary assistance to low-income families. CAADC will utilize PPE equipment at all of its sites as necessary. Call CAADC [484-383-8126] for more information.



"God does not ask about our ability or our inability, but our availability."

Anonymous

Find the hidden pictures below in the puzzle.

Jesus told the story of the Good Samaritan as an example of loving your neighbor. Read the story in Luke 10!

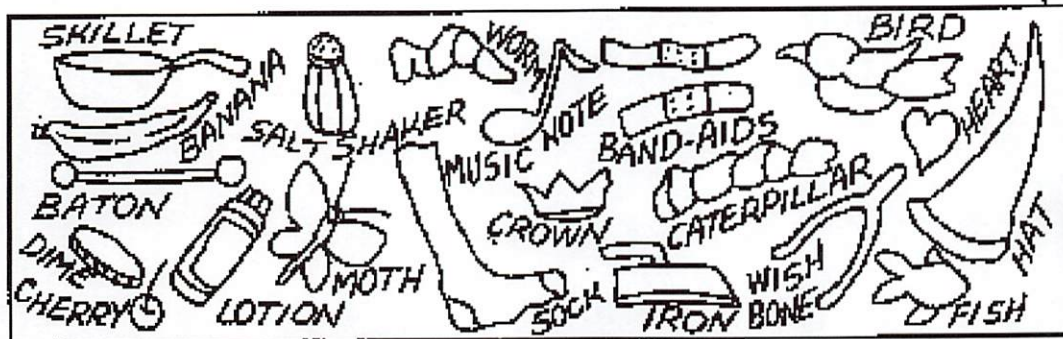
The Good Samaritan



I think his head hurts.



Do you have a First Aid kit?



Mark your APRIL calendar and plan to join us!

(LS: live-streamed)

- 3 ... Worship, 10:15am, LS
- 6 ... Coffee Break - Ladies Community Bible Study, 10:00am, church
- 6 ... Prayer Time, 7:00pm, church
- 7 ... Women's Bible Study, 6:30pm, Sherrie Strain's home
- 9 ... Parent's Night Out, 5:00pm to 8:00pm
- 10 ... Worship, Palm Sunday, 10:15am, LS
- 12 ... Women's Bible Study, 6:30pm ZOOM, Crystal Phipps
- 13 ... Coffee Break - Ladies Community Bible Study, 10:00am, church
- 13 ... Prayer Time, 7:00pm, ZOOM
- 14 ... Maundy Thursday Service, 7:00p, LS
- 17 ... Worship, Easter, 10:15am, LS
- 20 ... Coffee Break - Ladies Community Bible Study, 10:00am, church
- 20 ... Prayer Time, 7:00pm, church
- 24 ... Worship, 10:15am, LS
- 26 ... Women's Bible Study, 6:30p, ZOOM, Crystal Phipps
- 27 ... Coffee Break - Ladies Community Bible Study, 10:00am, church
- 27 ... Prayer Time, 7:00pm, ZOOM
- 29 ... Community Family Game Night, 6:30pm to 8:30pm



**Need more information?
Please check
www.restorationpca.org
for all the details!**



RESTORATION

PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH, PCA

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**The 2022 Church Directory
is available! Please call the church office
and leave a message - with your name -
if you would like a directory mailed to you!**