

Remember God's Faithfulness

"Remember the former things of old; for I am God, and there is no other; I am God, and there is none like Me." Isaiah 46:9

A tradition held by many families during Thanksgiving is to go around and share something from the last year for which they are thankful. Things shared may range from experiences on a vacation, a promotion or new job, another year of school accomplished, or any number of experiences. I'm thankful for tremendous blessings this year: finishing class at seminary, a great internship, and a caring church family to name a few.

Last Thanksgiving, it was more of a challenge to remember the blessings of that past year. My memory of most of that year was a foggy haze, dominated with images of my father losing his battle with brain cancer. What is there to be thankful for when the heaviness of pain or loss or anxiety weighs so heavily upon your heart?

This past year in my quiet time in Scripture, I have observed a common theme relating to this exact question. The theme is the importance of remembering—specifically remembering—God's faithfulness. I see it in Deuteronomy where Moses exhorts the people to remember God's mighty acts in the Exodus before they enter the Promised Land. I see it in the Psalms where David remembers the faithfulness of God while in the dark caverns of the wilderness fleeing from Saul. I see it in Isaiah as the prophet calls the people to repentance and to remember their God. I see it in Paul's letters as he encourages Timothy to remember the Scriptures and what he was taught as a boy as he now faces persecution and hardship.

How do we live lives of thanksgiving? By remembering God's faithfulness in the past. Difficult circumstances in life cause us to experience tunnel vision, where it becomes challenging to see God as faithful in those hard times. Taking time to remember God's faithfulness gives us a broader perspective of truth. Remembering brings us out of our present circumstances and reminds us of God's consistency of faithfulness. Our present circumstances may seem insurmountable, but God has proven in action that He has overcome insurmountable obstacles before. This broader perspective enables us to "rejoice in our sufferings" (Romans 5:3). With this mindset, my family and I were able to thank the Lord even during my father's last months.

God was at work on His people's behalf throughout the Bible, and He is at work in your life today. Look for examples of His faithfulness. This is not always an easy task; it takes discipline. Our temptation in times of trial is to question God's motives and to despair, but we must go to the Lord in prayers of thanksgiving and in reading His Word, as these are places where we remember His faithfulness.

As you consider your blessings this Thanksgiving, you might be coming from a year of great reward or one of great trial and loss. In either case, remember the Lord's faithfulness in ages past and His faithfulness to you in giving you His grace and love through faith in Jesus Christ.

In Christ, Vicar Brian Westerbur

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Dear Congregational Family,

Thank you so much for all the notes and cards that were both presented to us and sent our way throughout the past couple months! Your words (both written and verbal) of encouragement are of tremendous blessing to us and give us sustaining strength. Special thanks to the Women's Ministry for your gift card to us as well! Just as the Apostle Paul prayed blessings upon Onesiphorus and his family for their kindness to him (II Timothy 1:16), so we pray that the Lord would bless you for your kindnesses to us!

Pastor & Jen, Ben, Sadie, and Sam

Member Profile

By Mettelise Ziegler

Grace and Fritz Motzer

For nearly all of their 66 years together, Grace and Fritz Motzer have been members of Ruthfred. The church has been important to both of them, and Grace claims this church has changed her life.

The Motzers were a couple of farm kids from Tionesta, Pennsylvania. Fritz was raised on a dairy farm in an area known as German Hill. He is now the last of six siblings. His family worshipped at Mt. Zion Lutheran Church where he expects to be laid to rest one day. Grace, from a farm family of four, has just one remaining sibling. Her family worshipped in a Methodist Church.



Fritz and Grace met at a square dance in high school. Soon after graduation, they married and moved to the Pittsburgh area so that Fritz could start a career as a structural ironworker. Not fond of heights, Fritz still managed to work on several of the city's major bridges and cooling towers and the PPG Wintergarden building—his final and favorite project before retiring. Grace stayed home to raise a family of three. However, she also found great satisfaction working in Bethel Park school cafeterias for twenty-five years.

Their three children, Becki (Jim) Kuklish, Mary Hoberg, and Steve Motzer have produced four grandchildren and seven great-grandchildren between them. When they were younger, Fritz and Grace enjoyed roaming the country in their truck camper. They remember one trip with a Mississippi destination that took them through the Smokey Mountains, Virginia, and Nashville so they could see where former presidents Madison, Jefferson, and Jackson once lived. They especially love Virginia, and will soon be travelling to a favorite spot, Massanutten Resort, with their son Steve and his wife.

Since joining in 1960, Fritz has served as deacon and usher. He has helped to maintain the baseball field and bell tower and changed many lightbulbs on the sanctuary ceiling. When Fritz awakes in the morning he exclaims, "This is the day which the Lord has made, let us rejoice and be glad in it." Then he recites the Lord's Prayer. Fritz enjoys cultivating a large garden, sharing the surplus. He recalls a pie Kristin Molstre made from his rhubarb. Grace has canned countless jars of tomatoes, beans, and zucchini.

Grace has been a loyal Mary Circle member and has cooked for Craft 'n Sew, weddings, showers, and funerals. She has taught Sunday school and Vacation Bible School. She has sung in the choir.

Fritz and Grace are very grateful for family and are pleased that their grandchildren are all educated and doing well. The Motzers include church in their definition of family. If you are in need of a hug or a listening ear, you can count on Grace. Do not hesitate to ask.

Official Acts

September 16, 2019 – October 20, 2019

Baptisms

*David Scott Grafton – September 22, 2019

*Indicates Members

Funerals

*William Passavant Stewart – September 11, 2019

*Helga Wente – September 22, 2019

*Rodney Hatten – September 28, 2019

*Mary Knobloch – September 28, 2019



SWAP Retreat 2019 at Seneca Hills Bible Camp

Song of the Month

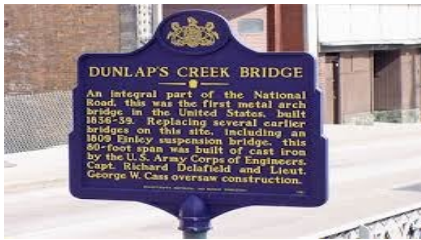
By Tom Glasser

Psalm 137

Lyrics: Scottish Psalter and Paraphrases

Music: Dunlap's Creek (Attributed to S. McFarland)

A couple of months ago Pastor Carlson approached the worship team and requested that they learn a song to a tune called "Dunlap's Creek," with the hope that they could perform it as part of the November 3rd Sunday worship service. Tom Leech arranged a piano accompaniment for it, and the team has been diligently practicing it. Depending on when you read this article, it could be a preview or a review.



If you are familiar with Fayette County here in Southwestern Pennsylvania, you might know of a creek that winds through it called Dunlap Creek (or as some might say, Dunlap Crick). It empties into the Monongahela River in Brownsville, and there is a bridge that crosses it there, which was the first cast-iron bridge built in America. Now it happens that there was a fellow by the name of Freeman Lewis who served as the county surveyor for Fayette County in the early 1800's. He was also an amateur musician on the side and played organ for a time at a

Presbyterian church in Uniontown. He compiled a volume titled "Beauties of Harmony" and that is where the tune "Dunlap's Creek" is first known to appear. It is attributed to an "S. McFarland," but no one seems to know for sure who that was.

As is common, several sets of lyrics have been set to this tune, including notably "For Thy Blest Saints." Because the first Sunday of November is when we observe All Saints Day, my first thought was that this was the song Pastor had in mind, but no—he was requesting "Psalm 137" lyrics. This Psalm deals with the sadness of the Jews in Babylonian exile, and ends with the psalmist yearning for the day when God would allow horrible vengeance to befall their captors. This was a bit of a head-scratcher, so I asked Pastor about it. Turns out the first Sunday in November is also International Day of Prayer for the Persecuted Church, and Pastor had chosen to preach on that theme with Psalm 137 as the text. Those of us who have known Pastor Carlson for a while know that this is an issue that is near and dear to his heart. One website I reviewed estimated that in our world today persecution of one kind or another affects approximately 1 in 9 Christians!

Another website opined the following: "I would venture to say that you will not hear many sermons on Psalm 137 in your lifetime. It's not the kind of psalm that lends itself to easy preaching. Some texts are fun to preach because they're obviously helpful and easy to apply; not Psalm 137. It contains difficult words." (Bible.org) With the help of the Holy Spirit, I'm confident Pastor will be up to the task.

By Babel's streams we sat and wept,
when Zion we thought on.
In midst thereof we hanged our harps
the willow trees upon.



Note: For those of us familiar with the musical "Godspell," Psalm 137 may also bring to mind the song "On the Willows." "Godspell" has a Pittsburgh connection as well in that it started out as a project by drama students at Carnegie Mellon University.

Washington City Mission

On Friday, October 4th, eight women from Craft and Sew traveled to the Washington City Mission. We were met by the Mission's Capital Campaign Coordinators, Judi Kovacicek and Shelley Kubincanek, for lunch and a tour of the facility.

We donated 54 pillow cases for the women and children, 18 patriotic pillowcases for the veterans, and three quilts that Mary Habovick made. What a wonderful Christian-based facility.

After the fire in June 2015, a beautiful new kitchen, women's wing, veteran's wing, and chapel/all-purpose room were built.

The facility is very warm and welcoming.

About City Mission:

For 75 years, the City Mission has shared Christ, sheltered, healed, and restored the homeless to independent living without discrimination.

Their comprehensive program addresses both short-term needs like food and shelter, and long-term needs, including drug and alcohol counseling, mental health and medical treatment, legal aid, and employment training. Their goal is to help each man, woman, child, and veteran who walks through their doors to become a healthy, productive member of society.



Pictured: Kathy Rostauscher, Jane Snitzer, Sue Rotz, Judi Kovacicek, Arlene Ball, Linda Geletei, Mary Habovick, Grace Motzer, and Martha Matthews.

In His Service

Kathy Rostauscher and Arlene Ball

Announcements

Craft and Sew Update 2019

The Craft and Sew ladies who volunteer their time and talents have been very busy this year. The crafters make 320 tray favors each month for Concordia Home in Cabot, PA and the Baptist Home in Castle Shannon. The recipients enjoy a little piece of life outside the nursing homes. Creating tray favors is a way of telling them that someone is thinking of them. Kathy Rostauscher manages to come up with some adorable tray favors for the ladies to make.

The sewing ladies have been busy making pillowcases for the Avis Arbor Women's Shelter at City Mission in Washington, PA, including some patriotic pillow cases for the men. The ladies have also been making eyeglass cases, tissue holders, and walker bags. The walker bags have a packet of tissues in the pocket. Please let us know if you hear that someone from our church family would like to have a walker bag or an adult bib. Adult bibs are being made for Concordia Home and the Baptist Home. All items have a label ironed on the inside with Ruthfred Lutheran Church and a Bible verse.

Our own in-house crocheter, Dorothy Kratz, has been busy in her spare time making crocheted lap robes, blankets, chair bags, walker bags, slippers, and scarves. We're so grateful that she uses her God-given talents to make others happy.

Craft and Sew meets from 9:30 AM until around 1 PM the 1st and 3rd Mondays of the month, September through May, in the Fellowship Hall. They can always use extra hands to help—no special talents are needed! Please consider joining the group. Donations of candy or materials can be left in the storage room outside the kitchen.

The sewing ladies are currently in need of new or gently-used hand towels large enough for bibs (15" x 28"). The crafters' request is for snack-size Hershey's, Twix, and Kit-Kats. M&Ms and Kisses are always appreciated.

PLEASE, NO NUTS!

Thanks so much.

In His Service,
Kathy Rostauscher and Arlene Ball

XYZ

Our November meeting will be here before you know it. We will meet on November 22, 2019 instead of the last Friday due to Thanksgiving being late this year. We are excited to have Bill Haberthur from the School House Arts Center bring us a presentation about all of the wonderful things happening at this historic site. You won't want to miss his talk. Sign-up sheets will be available on the bulletin board outside Pat's office after October 25. Come and share the fellowship and a wonderful lunch prepared by our own Peggy Cox!

-Submitted by Pat Lutz

NOVEMBER 2019

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
					1 Men's Prayer Group 6:30 a.m. @ Panera's	2 TURN YOUR CLOCKS BACK
3 ALL SAINTS SUNDAY INTERNATIONAL DAY OF PRAYER FOR THE PERSECUTED CHURCH Holy Communion 8:30 Sunday School 9:45 Holy Communion 11:00 Holy Communion 6:00 Daylight Savings Time Ends	4 JTW Leaders Meeting 9:15 Craft & Sew 9:30 Elders' Meeting 7:00	5 DON'T FORGET TO VOTE 	6 9:15 JTW 5:45 Children's Choir 6:30 Bell Choir 6:45 JTW/Kids Club 6:45 Jr. & Sr. Confirmation Classes 7:30 Senior Choir	7 HAPPY 92 nd BIRTHDAY EVELYN MEYER Young Adult Group 7:00	8 Men's Prayer Group 6:30 a.m. @ Panera's	9 HERALD ARTICLE DEADLINE 9:30 Mary Bible Study 6:30 MOVIE NITE "I Can Only Imagine"
10 POINSETTIA SALE BEGINS Worship Service 8:30 Sunday School 9:45 Worship Service 11:00	11 JTW Leaders Meeting 9:15 Elders' Prayer Time 7:00 Council Meeting 7:30	12	13 9:15 JTW 12:00 Esther 5:45 Children's Choir 6:30 Bell Choir 6:45 JTW/Kids Club 6:45 Jr. & Sr. Confirmation Classes 7:30 Senior Choir	14 Knit Wits 10:00 am Young Adult Group 7:00	15 Men's Prayer Group 6:30 a.m. @ Panera's	16
17 Worship Service 8:30 Sunday School 9:45 Worship Service 11:00 CONGREGATIONAL MEETING AFTER 8:30 & 11:00 SERVICES Evening of Prayer & Praise 6:00	18 HAPPY 90 th BIRTHDAY RAY FELLER JTW Leaders Meeting 9:15 Craft & Sew 9:30	19	20 HERALD MAILING HAPPY 91 st BIRTHDAY JIM MacMANUS 9:15 JTW 5:45 Children's Choir 6:30 Bell Choir 6:45 JTW/Kids Club 6:45 Jr. & Sr. Confirmation Classes 7:30 Senior Choir	21 HAPPY 92 nd BIRTHDAY LORRAINE GRAHAM HAPPY 90 th BIRTHDAY RALPH THOMPSON Ruth 2:00 Men's Night 7:00 Young Adult Group 7:00	22 Men's Prayer Group 6:30 a.m. @ Panera's XYZ 12:00	23
24 Worship Service 8:30 Sunday School 9:45 Worship Service 11:00	25	26	27 5:45 Children's Choir NO CONFIRMATION CLASSES 7:30 Senior Choir	28 THANKSGIVING DAY Service 10:00 a.m. HAPPY 90 th BIRTHDAY ALMA VOGEL	29	30

November 2019

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
					1	2
3 Sunday School 9:45am SWAP 6-7:30pm @ Church	4	5 TNT 7-9pm @ Church	6	7	8 TNT Fall	9 Camping Trip
10 <u>@ Mingo Park</u> SWAP 6-7:30pm @ Church	11	12 TNT 7-9pm @ Church	13	14	15	16
17 Sunday School 9:45am SWAP 6-7:30pm @ Church	18	19 TNT 7-9pm @ Church	20	21	22	23 <u>Football in the Field</u> <u>@ Church 4-6pm</u>
24 Sunday School 9:45am SWAP 6-7:30pm @ Church	25	26 TNT 7-9pm @ Church	27	28	29	30

Ruthfred Youth Ministry Calendar