

The Air Hill Breezes



2020

Air Hill BIC Church
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Office Hours Mon., 8 am - 1 pm
Wed. - Fri. 8am - 1 pm

“Marriage requires a radical commitment to love our spouses as they are, while longing for them to become what they are not yet. Every marriage moves either toward enhancing one another’s glory or toward degrading each other.” - Dan Allender and Tremper Longman III

“If you treat a man as he is, he will stay as he is. But if you treat him as if he were what he ought to be and could be, he will become the bigger and better man.” - Johann Wolfgang von Goethe

These two quotes begin the third chapter of a book called Sacred Marriage: What if God designed marriage to make us holy more than to make us happy? by Gary Thomas. (I didn't need to include the subtitle, but the subtitle contains the message of the book itself.) To see people in their potential, how hard that is! We are trained by life to respond to people based on who they are now and how they are acting. To envision what a person could be stretches our imagination. It takes a God event within us to begin to see what a person could be; we are usually so self-absorbed.

To see people in their potential not only applies to spouses within a marriage. This truth applies to all relationships: parents, sib-

lings, friends, co-workers, neighbors, and even enemies. When we begin to “agape” love someone (agape love- the choice of the will to treat a person with great honor, value, and respect), we begin to see something greater than the person is behaving. Often, we react with a knee jerk reflex, by putting a person down for an action or trait we don't like. However, “agape” love invites us to treat them with great value and to see them as something “more” than their action. When you live in the same house, those idiosyncrasies or peculiarities, at least from your point of view, can be very irritating. When they are more than idiosyncrasies, but mountain sized traits, responding with agape love can be an almost insurmountable task.

Let us travel back a couple thousand years. A man brought his brother to meet Jesus Christ. His brother was called Simon. Jesus looks at him and gives Simon a new name; he calls him Cephas in Aramaic or Peter in Greek. Whereas Simon seems to be a person who is impulsive and filled with self-will, yet Jesus gives him a new name meaning “rock.” Jesus saw within this unstable person a future stability. Jesus looked beyond the present in “agape” love to the future of what he could be. This man Peter would become one of the foundation

AIR HILL STATEMENT OF PURPOSE

“To grow a healthy, loving, Christ centered church family that has a passion for reaching the community and the world for Christ”



Cont. on pg. 2

Cont. from pg. 1

stones of a new group of gathered people called the “church.”

Several years later, a man named Paul wrote these words, “But God demonstrates his own love for us in this: while we were still sinners Christ died for us” (Romans 5:8) Isn’t that interesting he began loving us even when we were unloveable? He “agape” loved us when we had so many ugly and rebellious traits. He saw beyond what we were to what we could be. That love continues to transform us and mold us to what we will be.

As God has done that for us, that is what he invites us to do to others. It’s not easy. There may be some hurt. There may be some sacrifice. There is no promise of results.

Whether we apply this with our wife or husband, brother or sister, uncle or aunt, friend or neighbor, co-worker or boss, and even our enemy, we will need the work of the Holy Spirit to accomplish this task. We cannot “agape” love on our own; we need to walk in the Spirit to accomplish this. Thus, pray and ask God for help to “agape” love in ways you never dreamed or imagined, but in a way that he has done and is doing for you.

Pastor John

June Spiritual Exercise

As I was studying recently, I came across a man name John Hyde, also called “Praying Hyde.” He served as a missionary in India at the turn of the 20th century. He formed the Punjab Prayer Union, a group of missionaries who committed themselves to pray through these questions daily:

1. Are you praying for quickening (the Holy Spirit to bring new life) in your own life and in the life of the church?
2. Are you longing for greater power of the Holy Spirit in your own life and work? Are you convinced that you cannot go on without this power?
3. Will you pray that you may not be ashamed of Jesus?
4. Do you believe that prayer is the great means for securing this spiritual awakening?
5. Will you set apart one half-hour each day as soon after noon (or another set time) as possible to pray for this awakening, and are you willing to pray till the awakening comes?



If you take up this challenge, please let me know. I would like to be praying for those who have this goal; maybe we would call it the Air Hill Prayer Union.

CHURCH BOARD HIGHLIGHTS

- Meeting was via ZOOM
- Board discussed the Suggested Guidelines for reopening church services.
 - We will not open until we are in the “green phase”
 - Ideas were discussed on how to social distance and provide a safe environment.
 - Consensus of the board is to have two services and to continue the Facebook Live
 - Ideas were discussed on allowing Sunday School during the “yellow phase”

The Gospel Challenge: June



The challenge: This year read and meditate through the gospels. Begin each day (you may choose another time) and for at least 15 minutes read and ponder the gospel reading for the day. Before you begin each reading, ask God to help you know Jesus more. For added benefit to your life, write down every insight you gain from that time or from your thoughts about the gospel as you think of it throughout the day.

Each month I will give you the next month's readings. (It will take three months to go through each gospel.) Note: I will give you 25 readings for a month. If you miss a day, you may catch up another day.

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|-----------------|------------------|------------------|
| 1. Luke 1:1-25 | 10. Luke 3:21-38 | 19. Luke 5:33-39 |
| 2. Luke 1:26-38 | 11. Luke 4:1-12 | 20. Luke 6:1-16 |
| 3. Luke 1:39-56 | 12. Luke 4:13-30 | 21. Luke 6:17-26 |
| 4. Luke 1:57-66 | 13. Luke 4:31-37 | 22. Luke 6:27-36 |
| 5. Luke 1:67-80 | 14. Luke 4:38-44 | 23. Luke 6:37-42 |
| 6. Luke 2:1-20 | 15. Luke 5:1-11 | 24. Luke 6:43-49 |
| 7. Luke 2:21-40 | 16. Luke 5:12-16 | 25. Luke 7:1-10 |
| 8. Luke 2:41-52 | 17. Luke 5:17-26 | |
| 9. Luke 3:1-20 | 18. Luke 5:27-32 | |

Plan created by NavPress as part The Discipleship Journal Reading Plan
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"Praise the LORD, all you nations; extol him, all you peoples.

*For great is his love toward us, and the faithfulness
of the LORD endures forever."* Psalm 117

Warmer weather has come. The grass is green and the flowers are blooming. God's beauty is all around us. How can we help but praise Him.

"Who needs a Shepherd." We all have needs. We all need someone praying for us. We all need nurturing and love.

Psalm 142:4 says, "*Look to my right and see, no one is concerned for me. I have no refuge; no one cares for my life.*"

Shepherding is a relationship founded on the integrity of the individual. Such a relationship depends upon a caring attitude towards others which comes from our own experience of pain, fear, and loss and our own release from their grip.

God has been our Good Shepherd and we desire to share our blessings with others.

During this time of corona virus, stay- at-home, it is not easy to stay connected with our families as shepherds. But through phone calls, emails, cards, and creative drop offs; we are trying to do our best.

Colossians 1:9-12 says,...*we have not stopped praying for you and asking God to fill you with the knowledge of his will though all spiritual wisdom and understanding. And we pray this in order that you may live a life worthy of the Lord and may please him in every way: bearing fruit in every good work, growing in the knowledge of God, being strengthened with all power according to his glorious might so that you may have great endurance and patience, and joyfully giving thanks to the Father, who has qualified you to share in the inheritance of the saints in the kingdom of light.*

May this be our prayer.

S. M. coordinator, Rozanna Myers



FROM THE OBERHOLSERS

Dear friends, below are several updates and prayer points to lift up. Please let us know how we can pray for you as well.

Family:

Our children have been fighting Strep for the past two months. Just when we thought it was under control, someone would feel sick again, resulting in more doctor visits and antibiotics. Everyone has been off medication for the past week or so and the children haven't been complaining about being sick. We're praying that the Strep is gone for good!

The children continue in their homeschool studies. They'll be soon wrapping up the current school year.

The kids are also working hard at preparing their 4-H projects for the county fair this year. At this point the fair is set to take place in August. But even if it has to be canceled, we're encouraging the children to follow through with their projects because it's a great learning experience for them! Perhaps we can teach them how to make a video demonstration so that they could still share their projects with others.

Ministry:

In our April update we shared the promising news of Jason meeting with Anthony and Bekah and Cheryl for regular Bible Study and encouragement. While we've currently lost regular contact with both individuals, we're praying for the Holy Spirit to continue to move in their hearts.

On a positive note, Jason continues to have contact with 5 Navajo men who are believers and who exhibit a commitment to grow in their walk with Jesus. Pray for Alfred, TJ, Lambert, Larry, and Vaughan. Pray that they would make the commitment to regularly connect with Jason either through in-person visits or electronically. Pray that they would begin to take on leadership roles in leading others to Jesus. Bekah is attempting to connect with Lambert's children by offering them some type of online Bible lessons this summer while they don't have school work to do. Pray for her to have creativity to design something that'll be engaging and educational for them.

In past emails we've asked you to pray for our next door neighbor, Herlinda. We continue to have growing conversations with her and her children. We sense that they are beginning to see us as "safe people" that they can trust. Recently Herlinda opened up and shared about some deep struggles that her children are going through. Pray for us to have creativity as we seek to grow our friendship with her and to encourage her faith.

In this age of social distancing we've discovered that our neighborhood is still an excellent platform for engaging with people. We've begun taking regular walks/bicycle rides. Often times we strike up conversations with other people who are also outside enjoying the fresh air. We've discovered that there are approx 300 homes and businesses within a five mile radius, within in a week's time we can walk/bike past most of these locations. Pray for us that we would be directed by the Holy Spirit to the individuals/families in our neighborhood who would have a desire to learn about the Bible and have an interest in joining a small group.



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Covid update on the Navajo Nation:

Navajo people living on the Reservation and in boarder towns such our community continue to fight the virus. We know several people who've had Covid or who've lost loved ones to it. Pray for the peace of Christ to comfort all of those who are physically struggling and suffering. Pray also for the health care workers who are tirelessly working to save lives.

Tensions have been rising in our community between those who think that local businesses should reopen and those who think things should stay closed for health and safety reasons. Pray that people would learn to live in peace and harmony even in the midst of very differing opinions.

Because of the lock downs and restrictions in place, some Navajo People living in rural areas have found it difficult to get needed supplies. Efforts are being made in our community to meet some of those needs. We are expecting to partner with several other local pastors in the coming weeks to distribute needed supplies to Navajo People. We are particularly hoping to get some of our Navajo friends involved so that they can experience the joy of giving to others. We're also praying this would be a good opportunity to meet more people who might have an interest in joining one of our groups.

Jason, Bekah, Christy, Abby, Jessie, Caleb, Josh, Amos

We serve with Brethren in Christ U.S. World Missions. Contributions preferenced for our ministry may be sent to: BIC U.S. World Missions 431 Grantham Rd Mechanicsburg, PA 17055 or donated online



MY COINS COUNT

Thank you to everyone that gave to this project. We raised a total of \$255.59. This money will be used for education for those in need.

But my God shall supply
all your need according
to his riches in glory
by Christ Jesus.
Philippians 4:19

THE ORIGINS OF FATHER'S DAY



On July 5, 1908, a West Virginia church sponsored the nation's first event explicitly in honor of fathers, a Sunday sermon in memory of the 362 men who had died in the previous December's explosions at the Fairmont Coal Company mines in Monongah, but it was a one-time commemoration and not an annual holiday.

The next year, a Spokane, Washington, woman named Sonora Smart Dodd, one of six children raised by a widower, tried to establish an official equivalent to Mother's Day for male parents. She went to local churches, the YMCA, shopkeepers and government officials to drum up support for her idea, and she was successful: Washington State celebrated the nation's first statewide Father's Day on June 19, 1910.

Slowly, the holiday spread. In 1916, President Wilson honored the day by using telegraph signals to unfurl a flag in Spokane when he pressed a button in Washington, D.C. In 1924, President Calvin Coolidge urged state governments to observe Father's Day.

Father's Day: Controversy and Commercialism

Many men, however, continued to disdain the day. As one historian writes, they "scoffed at the holiday's sentimental attempts to domesticate manliness with flowers and gift-giving, or they derided the proliferation of such holidays as a commercial gimmick to sell more products—often paid for by the father himself."

During the 1920s and 1930s, a movement arose to scrap Mother's Day and Father's Day altogether in favor of a single holiday, Parents' Day. Every year on Mother's Day, pro-Parents' Day groups rallied in New York City's Central Park—a public reminder, said Parents' Day activist and radio performer Robert Spere, "that both parents should be loved and respected together."

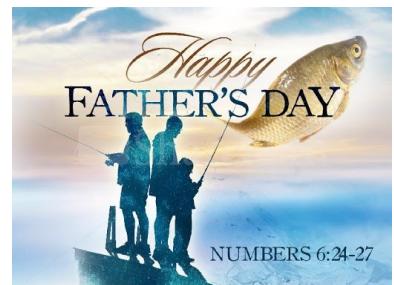
Paradoxically, however, the Great Depression derailed this effort to combine and de-commercialize the holidays. Struggling retailers and advertisers redoubled their efforts to make Father's Day a "second Christmas" for men, promoting goods such as neckties, hats, socks, pipes and tobacco, golf clubs and other sporting goods, and greeting cards.

When World War II began, advertisers began to argue that celebrating Father's Day was a way to honor American troops and support the war effort. By the end of the war, Father's Day may not have been a federal holiday, but it was a national institution.

In 1972, in the middle of a hard-fought presidential re-election campaign, Richard Nixon signed a proclamation making Father's Day a federal holiday at last. Today, economists estimate that Americans spend more than \$1 billion each year on Father's Day gifts.

Today, the day honoring fathers is celebrated in the United States on the third Sunday of June:

In other countries—especially in Europe and Latin America—fathers are honored on St. Joseph's Day, a traditional Catholic holiday that falls on March 19.



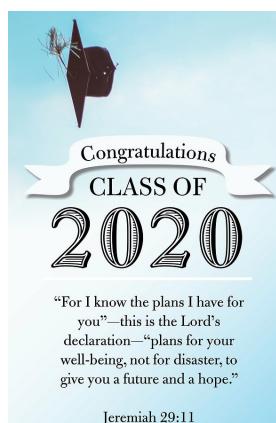
CONGRATULATIONS GRADUATES

Rachel Garling graduated from Shippensburg University with a Bachelors degree in Spanish Foreign Language. Rachel plans to earn her certification in Secondary Education and teach Spanish at the high school level.

"Although the ending of my senior year was not anticipated in the way it happened, I am still grateful for the education I earned & all that I was able to accomplish. I'm also grateful for the support I've had from my husband, family & friends throughout this journey.

Comprométanse con el Señor hagalo lo que haga, y Él establecerá sus planes. (Commit to the Lord whatever you do, and He will establish your plans.)

Proverbs 16:3



Ashton Heckman graduated from Shippensburg University with a bachelor's degree in Elementary Education. Ashton hopes to find a teaching position in grades K-4. Until then, she will be working for VIPKID teaching English to foreign students.

"It is upsetting that I was not able to finish student teaching along with many other events. This is a very uncertain time for us all, but I believe it is important to look at all our blessings in a time like this. No matter where life takes me I know God is in control. I have peace knowing he has a plan for my future."

Thank you for all the prayers over the years. It is a huge blessing to have such an amazing church family!

Jaymi Custer graduated from Fannettsburg-Metal High School and is scheduled to attend Shippensburg University in the fall to major in Spanish. Jaymi will start out as a sophomore due to taking early college classes while still at Fannettsburg-Metal High School. She is probably going to be valedictorian of her class but that's not yet official.

Jaymi's biggest thoughts about this year is the disappointment of no Prom or Senior Trip which she had been looking forward to all year. She is NOT looking forward to giving a speech at graduation Since half of her school day was already online it wasn't that hard for her to adjust to full online classes.

Lance Hawbaker graduated from Southern Huntingdon County High School and from the Collision Repair program at Huntingdon County Career and Tech Center

Lance plans to remain on the farm.

Lance is a man of very few words but he was more than thrilled that school ended in March (mom was too just a little). The graduation ceremony was a drive thru type, Lance got out of the car walked across the stage to get his diploma and we were front and center to get pictures. Once he exited the stage he got in the car and we drove away. The school would like to plan a regular graduation ceremony in June if permitted.

Philippians 4:8 (NLT)

And now, dear brothers and sisters, one final thing. Fix your thoughts on what is true, and honorable, and right, and pure, and lovely, and admirable. Think about things that are excellent and worthy of praise.

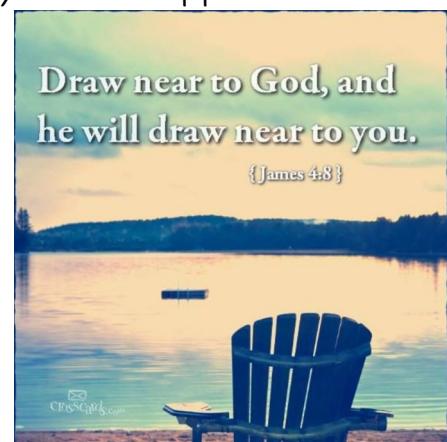
This verse comes to my mind quite often lately with all the “news” about COVID-19 and the negative political comments. When listening and reading the news, it’s hard to know what is true anymore. One thing that we can be sure of is God’s Word is true!

Let’s think about the positive things that have come from this very different and history making time. (yes, we are living in a future history lesson...we'll be able to tell our grandchildren and great grandchildren what is was like living in 2020)

- Families spent time together.
- Churches got creative.
- We found ways to entertain ourselves.
- We realized some things just aren’t as important as we thought.
- We also realized some things are more important than we thought.
- We learned to not take things for granted...like visiting our family, having an abundance of supplies at the grocery store.
- We learned that maybe...just maybe, we don’t need stores to be open 24/7.
- More people were enjoying the simple things of life like gardening, watching birds, taking hikes and enjoying God’s creation.

I believe all these thoughts are from God! Not only has Philippians 4:8 been on my mind but also the song “Draw Me Close to You” Maybe God is trying to slow us down and draw us back to Him.

*Draw me close to you
Never let me go
I lay it all down again
To hear you say that I'm your friend
You are my desire
No one else will do
'Cause nothing else can take your place
To feel the warmth of your embrace
Help me find the way
Bring me back to you*



**Draw near to God, and
he will draw near to you.**

{James 4:8}