



UNITED PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

GOOD NEWS!

Fall 2023

CLOSING THE ENTHUSIASM GAP

Rev. John White

As Christians, we believe the Good News that Jesus died for our sins, that He rose from the dead, and that when we call out to Him to save us from our sins and repent from our sins, He gives us eternal life. These are some of the essential tenets of our faith. So, how do these truths affect us? How do these realities impact the enthusiasm with which we live out our lives of faith?

In Revelation 3:20, Jesus said to the church in Laodicea, *“Behold, I stand at the door and knock; if anyone hears My voice and opens the door, I will come in to him and will dine with him, and he with Me.”* Jesus was addressing Christians who believed the same Good News that we do, but when He said this to them, it was after He diagnosed them as being “lukewarm” in their faith. The people in the church in Laodicea were definitely “saved,” but they lacked enthusiasm for who they were in Christ. In the preceding verse 19, Jesus exhorted them to *“be zealous, therefore, and repent.”* He wanted them to drop their lukewarm

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CLOSING THE ENTHUSIASM GAP, CONT'D

reception of *Him*. He wanted them to not only believe the essential tenets of their faith, He wanted them to be enthused about having Him in their lives. Essentially, Jesus was saying, “I’m standing on your front porch. I’m here, but you’ve got the door closed. I’m knocking. I’m calling to you. Open the door, let Me in, and we’ll have some awesome time together.”

As most of us have presumably experienced before, there’s nothing like spending time with Jesus, when we are aware of His presence, when we can hear His voice, when we see in the moment how He is directly in the midst of circumstances. Recall the feelings we’ve had, the zeal, the enthusiasm such personal intimacies with our Lord enkindles...and so long as we have breath in our bodies, we have the opportunity to sup with Jesus each and every day!

Perhaps, it follows that much of the enthusiasm we can have in Jesus begins, first, with our recognition that we lack such enthusiasm and, second, that we desire to have more zeal where our faith is concerned. Once we arrive at this place, then we are no longer content to leave Jesus standing outside and we will choose to open the door and let Him in. Surely, we do this when we pray, read His Word, serve others, attend worship, and when we receive His Body and His Blood around the Lord’s table. From what He said to the church in Laodicea some two thousand plus years ago, it stands to be true today that Jesus will not force Himself upon us, but He will let us know what will make a big difference in our lives of faith, what we need to do to love our neighbors better, and WHAT MAKES JESUS MOST HAPPY!

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BEHOLD, I STAND AT THE DOOR AND KNOCK; IF ANYONE
HEARS MY VOICE AND OPENS THE DOOR, I WILL COME IN
TO HIM AND WILL DINE WITH HIM, AND HE WITH ME.

REVELATION 3:20

“

HERITAGE SUNDAY CELEBRATING OUR 240TH ANNIVERSARY

Pat Rockas

Our annual Heritage commemoration will be celebrated on October 15th with a recognition of members of our church who have belonged to UPC for 40 years or more and a potluck after church. We would like to have a list of those members listed in the bulletin, ask those members to stand as their names are called, and meet after the service for a picture. We hope to take the picture on the steps leading up to the church (if bad weather we will use the stage steps). We will send the picture to the Herald and have copies available to those in the picture.

Butch Woodard and family have agreed to prepare the pulled pork again – Hurrah!! We will need volunteers to bring buns, vegetables, salads, drinks (coffee and water will be provided – will need sweet and unsweet tea and lemonade) and desserts. There is a sign-up sheet in the back of the sanctuary or you may call Marilyn Allen or Pat Rockas.

MISSION & OUTREACH PROJECT

Leslie Ferguson & Pat Rockas

The Christian Life Center is supported by the churches in our community – UPC regularly donates money and collects food every month to aid the needy, and several of our members are volunteers there. We have become aware of a need the Center has for toiletry bags. Harrodsburg has a large number of homeless people, and they come to the Center for assistance. These people can go to the Baptist “Rock” to use a shower and be allowed to use towels there, but they don’t have the basic soap and shampoo items one would need. Mission and Outreach would like for our church to put together some bags for the director of the Christian Life Center to have available to hand out to those in need.

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MISSION & OUTREACH PROJECT, CONT'D

We would like to start by trying to put together 50 bags – 100 would be even better. We have attached a list of desired items. The best bulk prices were all found on Amazon. We can arrange this in multiple ways:

- **you can select an item or items you would like to pay for and order them yourself from Amazon and let Leslie or Pat know what you have chosen to pay for**
- **you can select an item or items and the Mission and Outreach committee will order the item for you and you can give money or a check to Pat Alexander**
- **you may decide there is a item or items you would like to purchase yourself and have available to the committee by Nov 5 – of course letting Leslie or Pat know**
- **you may decide just to give a donation to the committee however small or large to help with the CLC (Christian Life Center) Toiletry Project and give a check to Pat Alexander by Nov 5.**

All items donated should be at the church by Nov 5 or checks to Pat Alexander by that same date. The committee would then be able to assess what needs to be ordered so everything will be in place by the potluck.

We would like to put the bags together as a congregation. We plan a simple potluck Nov 19 – “Hunger and Homelessness” Sunday. We will eat first immediately following the regular Sunday service, and then form assembly lines to put the bags together.



EACH OF YOU MUST GIVE AS YOU HAVE MADE UP YOUR
MIND, NOT REGRETFULLY OR UNDER COMPULSION, FOR
GOD LOVES A CHEERFUL GIVER.

II CORINTHIANS 9:7



HUNGER & HOMELESSNESS SUNDAY NOVEMBER 19TH

Pat Rockas

Following the church service, we will have a simple potluck meal – soup, sandwiches, drinks and cookies. The volunteer signup will be posted Oct 29th. After eating we will be filling the Toiletry bags for the Christian Life Center – see article by Mission and Outreach for details.



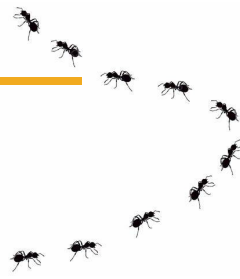
ETIQUETTE RULES FOR CHURCH POTLUCKS

Shared by a member of the Hospitality Committee

1. **Once you volunteer to bring a dish from the categories listed, try to bring that dish.**
 2. **Try to bring a dish that needs no preparation at the last minute (cooking in the oven, etc.) unless you have contacted the chairperson earlier.**
 3. **Consider others – be mindful of allergies and food sensitivities. Label your dish if it has peanuts, artificial sweeteners, etc.**
 4. **Try to arrive on time – it's sad if no one eats your dish because it was put on the table late.**
 5. **If you do not bring your utensils, use the ones the church has. Be sure to leave them in the spot designated by the chairperson.**
 6. **Do not touch dishes brought by other church members. When you need to leave, collect your dish and allow others to take theirs.**
 7. **Allow socialization following the formal meeting and business for which the meeting was held. Generally it should be 15 to 30 minutes after the final prayer. Cleanup committee should wash church utensils which have been placed in the designated spot in the kitchen. Empty ice containers and relocate drinks. Major cleanup such as removal of all decorations and changes of tables should be scheduled if at all possible for a later date.**
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PLEASE HELP!

Jackie Corbit



Many of us have enjoyed the before Sunday School and after worship visits to the donut room to sample various items prepared by fellow members. Thanks to all those who volunteer regularly to provide these delicious treats!

Unfortunately, we are not the only ones who enjoy the treats; ants... ants... ants have invaded and found those bits of food that fell to the floor and were forgotten. We've even gotten careless about taking out the trash from that room at the end of the morning. We need to tighten our efforts so that we can avoid sharing our bounty with these pesky insects. If you see crumbs on the floor, try to pick them up and place in trash can; if you are the last one out of the room, take the small garbage bag to the outside trash can.

We have limited our custodian to 4 hours a week, and keeping the sanctuary, the upstairs hallways, and bathrooms clean is just about all she can do in 4 hours. This means we all have to become helpers in keeping our facility clean and neat. If we are all diligent, we can avoid these and other insects or bugs. See you in the donut room!!!

UPCOMING EVENTS

October 1 - World Communion Sunday

**October 7 - Blessing of the Animals, 11am at Old. Ft. Harrod State Park
(Rain Date October 14th)**

**October 15th - Heritage Sunday + 240th Anniversary
Potluck following worship**

October 29th - Annual Congregational Meeting - Election of Elders

**November 19th - Hunger & Homelessness Sunday; Communion
Potluck following worship**

December 24th - Christmas Eve

December 25th - Christmas Day

ACTIONS TAKEN BY SESSION

Jackie Corbit, Clerk of the Session

STATED SESSION MEETING, JULY

1. **Manual of Operations will be updated to reflect the responsibility for finding appropriate Elders to serve communion for Communion observances.**
2. **Rev. Glenn Ferrell approved as pulpit supply for August 27.**
3. **Scheduled the congregational meeting to elect officers (Elders and members to Foundation Board) for October 29, 2023.**

STATED SESSION MEETING, AUGUST

1. **Leslie Ferguson moved that UPC donate \$250 from Mission Funds to the Gideon's. Motion passed.**
2. **Leslie Ferguson moved that Session request from Foundation Curry Fund \$1,000 to donate to Habitat for Humanity and \$500 for Maui fire relief through the Transylvania Disaster Relief Fund. Motion passed.**
3. **Approved the use of UPC sanctuary on Oct. 14 from 2-4 to receive those who wish to come by to greet the family of Joyce Sanders' sister, Janice, in celebration of Janice's life.**
4. **Sherri Prigmore made a motion to dismiss services at UPC on June 16, 2024 in order for members to attend a community service held at the Mudd House in celebration of Harrodsburg's 250 -year anniversary; Rev. John White has been invited to preach that service. Motion passed.**

STATED SESSION MEETING, SEPTEMBER

1. **Poinsettia orders begin Nov. 26 and run through Dec. 3**
2. **Decorating the sanctuary is scheduled for Dec. 2 at 10:00 AM**
3. **Lessons and Carols Sunday is Dec. 17**
4. **Sherri Prigmore moved that we cancel morning services on Dec. 24 in lieu of the Christmas Eve service. Motion passed.**
5. **Leslie Ferguson moved that the financial statement for Aug. be accepted as written. Motion passed.**



BIRTHDAYS & ANNIVERSARIES

OCTOBER

11th - Ron Corbit
15th- Martha Brackett
25th - Pat Rockas
26th - Jan Woodard
31st - Joyce Sanders



NOVEMBER

15th - Jackie Lindberg	10th - George & Carol Noe
15th - Leona Berg	18th - Gordon & Beverly Woodard
19th - Carol Noe	
27th - Alex Prigmore	
28th - Lauren Ferguson	

DECEMBER

13th - Margaret Woodard	26th - Doug & Leslie Ferguson
15th - Jane Gilbert	28th - Mike & Pat Rockas
26th - Dick Howe	

FINANCIAL SUMMARY

June		July		August	
Total receipts:	\$6,563.31	Total receipts:	\$9,582.71	Total receipts:	\$6,659.93
Expenditures:	\$5,619.66	Expenditures:	\$8,555.76	Expenditures:	\$5,318.69
Balance June 3:	\$11,389.85	Balance July 31:	\$12,416.80	Balance Aug. 31:	\$13,758.04

Needed to meet weekly budget \$1,576

June: 4 X \$1,576 = \$6,304

July: 5 X \$1,576 = \$7,880

Aug.: 4 X \$1,576 = \$6,304

Total Needed = \$20,488

Total Received = \$22,805.95

Quarterly gain of \$2,317.95

Thank you for your faithfulness in giving!
