

West Barre Witness

April 2021



Greetings:

Galatians: 6:9 Let us not become weary in well doing, for in due season, we will reap a harvest if we don't give up.

Spring is finally here. And there is much work to do. We talk about a "spring cleaning", but there's much more to do than that. Especially in a farming community. There's things we must do, and things we must do well. Things that we must apply all our skills and experience to, and continue to pray for God's favor and blessing, if we hope to reap a bountiful harvest. Things that we can't do too soon, and things that can't wait. But, we all know there can be some problems that can slow us down along the way – there always are. Even if the weather is perfect all year – and we all know it won't be all the time.

And, there are things that we do, things we work our hardest at, that we don't see immediate benefits from. That's where we are challenged not to become weary, that's where we are challenged not to give up.

For in due season, we shall reap. I had an uncle who worked for Corning Glass, Uncle George, who helped develop the glass that gets darker in the bright sunlight, and then clears back up in the shade for eyeglasses. It took time to get it right. He had a room in his house stacked high with unsuccessful attempts to get the glass to turn darker and back lighter: pieces about 3" square – hundreds of them – most of them dark – that stayed dark.

Uncle George had a saying. He encouraged the other members of the research team with it. Uncle George said: "T3 everybody, T3, Things Take Time." I encourage all of you this season with Uncle George's words. In this time of new beginnings, planning, planting, new projects, and yes, hard work. "T3 everybody, T3." Do not become weary in well doing, for in due season you shall reap if you don't give up. Welcome spring! Welcome!

Pastor Jim



MISSIONS FOR 2021

Each of these missions will be supported through 2021 but highlighted and promoted during the following months.

JANUARY – Community Action Food Pantry

FEBRUARY – Care Net

MARCH – UMCOR (United Methodist Committee on Relief)

APRIL – GOMOC (Genesee/Orleans Ministry of Concern/Albion)

MAY – Gold Cross Offering/Tina Nguyen

JUNE – CWS (Blanket/Tool Drive)

JULY – Flood Buckets

AUGUST – School Backpack Project

SEPTEMBER – Wesley Place

OCTOBER – World Communion (1st Sunday)
Samaritans Purse Shoe Boxes

NOVEMBER – Hands for Hope (Orleans County)

DECEMBER – United Methodist Student Offering (1st Sunday)
Jesus Gift to be determined.



Spring Clean-Up 4/17 - 9am - Noon
Lunch to follow.
Rain Date is 4/24.

**Lawn Mowing sign-up sheet is on the
bulletin board.**



APRIL THOUGHTS

~ In early April, I glimpse the first bluebird of the season inspecting a birdhouse; checking the accommodations, entering, leaving, entering again, deciding. It is a time for renewal, a time for a new generation of bluebirds to come forth and treat us with the splendor of their color.

~ Remember Earth Day. The first one was April 22, 1970.

~ Nobody is making any more land. What we've got is what we've got, so we'd better take care of it.

~ Plant a tree or two. Nothing speaks louder about your hope for the future. Recall Arbor Day at the country school when tree planting was often a part of the event. The first Arbor Day was April 10, 1872.

~ As I work in my garden, I often stop and smell the newly turned soil. I pick it up in my fingers and reflect on how everything depends on the land. It is land that feeds the world, but it's taken for granted and often abused, misused, exploited. How easy it is to forget our connection to the land.

~ Some four-letter words to ponder: Hope, Wait, Work, Play, Read, Love.





A Generous Spirit Works Wonders

The greatest cure for greed is generosity. It's also one of the most satisfying feelings in the world. We're not talking about giving your old clothes to the Salvation Army (the only thing you'll probably feel by doing that is the satisfaction of cleaning out your closet). The only way to feel the satisfaction of true generosity is to give away something you value.

This takes generosity beyond money to a realm that includes both possessions and time. That's what the apostle Paul meant when he wrote that we should "be rich in good works and should give generously to those in need, always being ready to share with others whatever God has given them" (1 Timothy 6:18 NLT).

The spirit of generosity has become rather stylish in recent years, and that's probably a good thing. The danger in popularizing generosity is that some people may want to publicize their giving. When that happens, you have to wonder about the true motive. There's also the issue of giving out of your abundance as opposed to giving sacrificially. Both kinds of giving can be useful, but only one gets God's attention.

When it comes to generosity, ask yourself two questions. First, does your generosity come from your heart? A truly generous person gives out of love and compassion, not from a desire to impress others. You also want to give cheerfully, not grumpily. Generosity is incompatible with criticism, resentment, or regret.

Here's another question to ask. Is your generosity productive? In other words, are you giving money, stuff, or time away without accepting responsibility for the consequences? Don't be foolish. Pay attention to the details of where your giving is going. Remember, each time you give to those "in need," you are making an investment of God's resources. Invest wisely. Be a good money manager by making sure your generosity is productive.

(Excerpt from 'God Is In The Small Stuff')

Prayer Requests

PRAISE/JOY

Soup kitchen
Those back in the fold
Those recovered from Covid
Women's Lenten Bible Study
Church getting back to normal attendance
Hugh Dudley's joy being back in church
Easter Banners & Signs
What we as members do for the church
Bill Caldwell
Pastor Jim Heiler
Hands for Hope
Jim & Jean Peglow & their friends
Emma Rose Mathes
Karen Markle's brother and niece



CONCERNS

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| Family of Mike Cunningham | Doris Antinore |
| Family of David Clark | Jim & Marge Davis |
| Family of Kathleen Modd | Victor Wainwright |
| Family of Bill Shuler | Mary Reabold |
| Mindy French & her husband | Karen Markle |
| Lynette Preston's brother Bob | Janet Silker |
| Erin Caldwell's friend's mother | Kim Heiler |
| Country to be unified | |
| Bonnie & Kelly Smith | |
| Lanor Markle's niece Erin | |
| Lanor Markle's youngest son | |
| Friends of Kim Heiler Lucy & Scott along with their son Scott | |
| Danny Shuler's grandson along with woman also involved in accident | |

BOTH PRAISE/JOY & CONCERN

Norm Caldwell's niece Julie and premature birth of twins
Kelly Dudley's brother Mike

Happy March Birthday & Anniversary*

- 7 Shellie Mull
- 8 Vicky Houseknecht
- 9 Doris Antinore
- 18 Bill Caldwell
- 22 Ed & Vicki Houseknecht*
- 24 Steve Hickman
- Lois Nesbitt
- 26 Bernice Embt
- 29 Melanie Hickman



Happy April Birthday & Anniversary*

- 9 Pastor Jim & Kim* (5 yrs.) YAY!
- 15 Dean Dibley
- Eleni Dudley
- 16 Kirk & Alice Mathes*



Easter Prayer

The veil of darkness
Transformed to the brightest light.

The most dreadful end
Became the most beautiful beginning.

The depths of despair
Fade to reveal hope everlasting.

The curse of death
Defeated by eternal life.

Thank you Lord, for the wonder of Easter.

