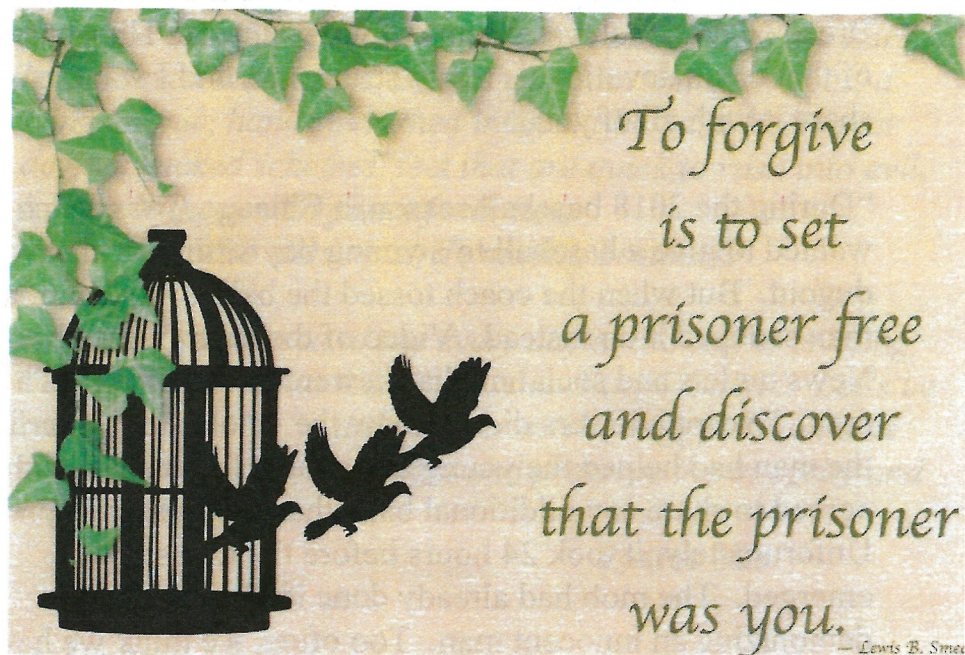


# *West Barre Witness*

*October 2021*



## Dear Church Family,

It seems like we can get a little “God wink”, or what Kim calls a “whoosh” in the strangest places and circumstances, where God gets our attention. Last week I was buying a sandwich in Subway, and low and behold, the “Our Daily Bread” devotional was on one of the counters. The content of that day’s devotionals really struck me, and I want to share it with all of you.

“During the 2018 baseball season, a Chicago Cubs coach wanted to give a baseball to a young boy sitting by the dugout. But when the coach tossed the ball toward him, a man scooped it up instead. Video of the event went viral. News outlets and social media skewered this “brute” of a man. Except, viewers didn’t know the whole story. Earlier, the man had helped the young boy snag a foul ball; and they agreed to share any additional balls that came their way. Unfortunately, it took 24 hours before the true story emerged. The mob had already done its damage, demonizing an innocent man. Too often, we think we have all the facts when we only have fragments. In our modern *gotcha* culture, with snippets of dramatic video and inflamed tweets, it’s easy to condemn people without hearing the full story. However, Scripture warns us not to “spread false reports.” We must do everything possible to confirm the truth before leveling accusations, making waves of judgment swell. We want to safeguard ourselves from “follow[ing] the crowd in doing wrong.” As believers in Jesus, may God help us not to spread falsehoods. May He provide what we need to exhibit wisdom, making certain our words are actually true.

*Continued.....*

In a world where we are separated by ideologies, theologies, philosophies, and political views, it is important now and always, that we get our facts straight. Especially when the information may reflect badly on someone else's character or reputation.

Proverbs 6:16-19 reminds us: *There are six things the Lord hates, seven that are detestable unto him; haughty eyes, a lying tongue, hands that shed innocent blood, a heart that devises wicked schemes, feet that are quick to rush into evil, a false witness who pours forth lies, and a man who stirs up strife among brothers.*

*As the sergeant used to say every day at the end of briefing, "let's be careful out there". To that I say "Amen". Let's be careful. Let's be "a little slower on the trigger." Let's be sure we get our facts straight and preserve the integrity and unity of the body.*

**Pastor Jim**

*You cannot do a kindness too soon, for you never  
know how soon it will be too late.*

"Prepare to meet your Maker. Every single member of this congregation is going to die," thundered the minister to the people one Sunday. "What's so funny?" he asked one man who seemed to enjoy his stern words.

"I'm not a member of this congregation," the man answered.



## WORDS

Sticks and stones may break our bones  
But our bones can all be healed  
When hurtful words are spoken to us  
The brokenness is often concealed  
Hidden away deep down inside  
Where nobody can ever reach in  
Only God's hand can heal the hurt  
If we allow His love to come in.

Lord, please help us speak the words  
That will build up and edify  
Words that will bring comfort and hope  
That will truly unify  
It's so easy to come out with words  
Filled with anger and hurt  
Words that divide sisters and brothers  
That hasn't been laced with God's word.

How easy it is to speak the words  
That discourages one another  
Giving our own opinions and advice  
Without understanding each other  
Lord, I pray you'll speak through us  
With words that truly uplift  
Words that always encourages  
And hearts willing to forgive.

Help us, Lord, to realize our words  
Can bruise the human soul  
And can build a wall of indifference  
Where our spirits slowly grow cold  
Help us, Lord, to realize the pain  
That others can feel inside  
When we speak negativity  
And discouragement into their lives.

We must be ever mindful of  
The words we come to speak  
And ask ourselves - "Will they build up?"  
For words can cut so deep  
If we could only grasp this  
We would only speak words of hope  
That bring blessing and encouragement  
And helps one another to grow

*Michelle Lowndes*

## AUTUMN SOUP

½ pound ground beef  
½ cup chopped onions  
2 cups hot water  
¾ cup cut-up celery  
¾ cup cut-up potatoes  
1 teaspoon salt  
¼ teaspoon pepper  
½ bay leaf, crumbled  
Pinch of basil  
3 whole fresh tomatoes, stems removed

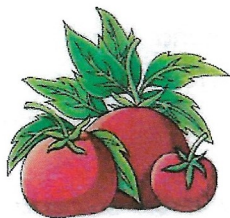
Brown ground beef slowly in a little hot fat in a heavy kettle.

Add onions and cook 5 min. more.

Add remaining ingredients except tomatoes and mix thoroughly, loosening the brown crustiness from bottom of kettle.

Bring to boil; cover, then simmer 20 min.

Add tomatoes and, if necessary, more water; simmer 10 min. longer.



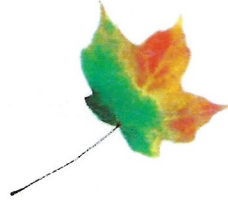
## Prayer Requests

### PRAISE/JOY

Samantha & Karen Markle  
Joy & Reed Markle  
Those recently retired  
Hugh Dudley  
Jim & Kim Heiler  
Ashley Preston  
Justin Preston  
Dana Markle  
Ed & Diana Pask  
Start of beautiful fall season  
Jessie & Andrea Farwell's newborn boy

### PRAISE/CONCERN

Jess Markle's (AZ) father  
Service for Margaret McKenna



### CONCERNS

Family of John Kettle  
Family of Karen Reed Alexander  
Betty Hazel  
Carolyn Unger  
Judy Durrant  
Lanor Markle's Aunt Bev  
Sanders family  
Cheryl Maxon's cousin Corey  
Sharon Schlegal's daughter Sarah  
Janet Silker  
Ron Carr  
Karen Gaylord and husband  
Rob & Hilary Carr's pastor  
Hilary Carr's uncle  
Lady member of band  
Kathy Huffman's brother Dan & his wife  
Victims of Louisiana hurricane



## Happy October Birthday & Anniversary\*

- 7 Richard D. Miller
- 13 Steve & Melanie Hickman\*
- 17 Jim Peglow
- 23 Richard S. Miller
- 24 Roberta Call
- 26 Isaac Hickman
- 30 Dana & Karen Markle\*



*One kind word can change someone's entire day.*

### Table Top Sale

Our church is having a sale of donated household items in our 'store' on Saturdays from 9-5 and Sundays from 10-5.

Please come and help yourself for just a donation.

### Ladies Bible Study

Every Monday at 6:30 the Ladies Bible Study is held in-person or zoom. You may join at any time.

Call 716-523-7542 for any information.

### October's Mission

The Shoe Box Ministry is October's Mission.

Shoeboxes are available at the church.