

The Falling Waters Messenger

Issue Ten

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Living Faith By Pastor Debra September 28, 2017

I don't know about anyone else, but I'm just about fed up with all the angry, self-righteous attitudes (including my own), and bickering over the whole athletes and national anthem business. I was curious about how the tradition began and while I'm sure there are lots of other sites with useful information, I found a helpful article at this site: <http://www.history.com/news/why-the-star-spangled-banner-is-played-at-sporting-events>. As unpopular an opinion as it will likely be, I confess that personally I'd be happy if I never hear the national anthem at a sporting event ever again. I don't see the point, frankly. Even in the earlier days of the tradition Baltimore Orioles general manager and World War I veteran, Arthur Ehlers was frustrated by the lack of respect the fans showed during the playing of the song. Evidently, folks kept talking and laughing as it played. Ehlers stopped the playing of the anthem until members of the Baltimore City Council pressured him to reinstate it, which he did a month or so later.

I've sung the National Anthem at sporting events, and frankly I was a little less nervous about it thanks to those talking and laughing fans. Even so, I understand Ehlers' perspective and part of me wishes he had stood his ground and resisted the pressure of the city council members. If he had, maybe others would have followed his example and Americans wouldn't be having this debate at all.

Can you imagine what it would be like if we

watched, listened to, and attended sporting events at any level without being subjected to that 2 1/2 minute song? I can. And as I was imagining, I began to wonder where we would hear the anthem if not at sporting events. Originally, the song was played at public events like parades, Independence Day celebrations, and the Navy's raising of the flag. So, what if those were the only times it were played these days? For one thing, I'd wager a guess that there would be a whole lot more people than those who've sung it at sporting events who don't remember the words.

It seems to me that the tradition of playing the anthem at sporting events serves to remind us of our heritage, our history, and our common identity as people who choose to live in the United States of America. It seems to me that it's not unlike the praying of the Lord's Prayer, or saying the Apostles' Creed in many Christian churches each Sunday. These things may not seem connected and the truth is, for folks who aren't Christians, they aren't. But for those of us who are followers of Jesus the Christ, there is, in my opinion, a clear and definite connection.

We who gather each week to be nurtured and challenged by God's Word talk a lot about how to live our faith in the world. Each week we hear a charge and a blessing that often begins with words like, "Now go out from this place and into the world..." and these words are followed with an invitation to live our faith beyond the weekly worship service. Most of us make a concerted effort to "seek justice, love kindness, and walk humbly with God" (Micah 6:8). And most of the time our efforts are well received and appreciated. But sometimes, as we're working our faith out in fear and trembling, our ideas about what God wants from us and how God wants us to behave are different from those of our neighbors' ideas. I would like to think that

those who are currently kneeling at the sidelines share the same love of God and Country as their teammates and competitors who stand tall with their hats or helmets in their left hands and their right hand over their hearts. I think if I were on a playing field each week I'd do some of each because while I've always been one who stands, with my right hand over my heart, proudly, gladly singing along, I'm also moved to kneel and be prayerfully reminded that there are too many in our nation who do not have the privileges I enjoy. And while I might prefer the playing of the National Anthem be removed from sporting events, I appreciate and value the reminder that freedom, including the freedom to live out one's faith in the world is never without cost. My hope and prayer is that as we practice living our faith beyond the walls of our places of worship, we can come to appreciate, respect, and accept that others, including those with whom we disagree, are seeking to do the same.

"Reform our deformed lives" A prayer of Walter Brueggemann prayed at Columbia Theological Seminary/January 13, 1994

The words are familiar to us and we are filled with yearning. So we say them glibly, passionately, filled with hope - liberty, mercy, freedom, release, grace, peace. We have some fleeting notion of what we must have in order to live our lives fully. And we have some wistful certitude that these gifts are given only by you, you with the many names ... you ... holy, merciful, just, long-suffering, forgiving, demanding, promising. We gather ourselves together to subsume our hopes under your rich names.

We name you by your name, harbinger of liberty: hear our prayers for liberty. We are mindful of those caught, trapped, held, imprisoned by systems of enslavement and abuse, by ideas and ideologies that demean and immobilize, by unreal hopes and ungrounded fears. We ourselves know much of unliberty, too wounded, too obedient, too driven, too fearful. Be our massive way of emancipation and let us all be "free at last."

We name you by your name, power of peace: hear our prayers for peace. We dare ask for the middle wall of hostility to be broken down, between liberals and conservatives in the church, between haves and have-nots, between victims and perpetrators, between all sorts of colleagues in this place, and in all those arenas besot with violence, rage, and hate. We know

we are not meant for abusiveness, but we stutter before our vocation as peacemakers. Transform us beyond our fearfulness, our timidity, our excessive certitude, that we may be vulnerable enough to be peacemakers, and so to be called your very own children.

We name you by your name, fountain of mercy: hear our prayer for mercy. Our world grows weary of the battering and the vicious cycles that devour us. We seem to have no capacity to break those vicious cycles of anti-neighborliness and self-hate. We turn, like our people always have, to you, single source of newness.

Waiting father, in your mercy receive us and all our weary neighbors. Remembering mother, hold us and all our desperate friends. Passionate lover, in your mercy cherish all our enemies. Gift giver, in your mercy embrace all those who are strangers to us, who are your well-beloved children. Make us, altogether, new. Hear our prayers for liberty, for peace, for mercy. Form us in freedom and wholeness and gentleness. Reform our deformed lives toward obedience which is our only freedom, praise which is our only poetry, and love which is our only option. Our confidence matches our need, so we pray to you. Amen



Pray Without Ceasing

Pat Baumbaugh
 Bill and Billy Berg
 Jimmy Cloud
 Kenny Cushwa
 Mary Hodges
 Irvin Horst
 Ted Largent
 The McKune Family
 Pete & Scott Mekkelson
 Virginia Snyder
 Bill Zombro



Happy Birthday -October

October 1 Bill Berg, Jr.
 2 Crystal Mason
 8 Tina Sloan
 13 Naithan Lamb
 15 Lauren Ruble
 26 Trey Arvon
 26 Chad Cushwa
 29 Andrew Ruble



World Communion Sunday

October 1, 2017

World Communion Sunday is an ecumenical celebration started by Presbyterians in the 1930's. It affirms the power of the Lord's Supper to unite the churches of Jesus Christ. Join us on October 1st as we join Presbyterians and other denominations all over the world to celebrate communion.



On World Communion Sunday, Presbyterians are challenged to support the annual **Peace and Global Witness Offering**. This offering is used in various ways to promote peacemaking in innovative ways to alleviate violence whether it is domestic or otherwise. This offering is one of the four offerings of national and international scope that we at Falling Waters Presbyterian church support. **It will be collected on October 1st.**

The offering is divided so that 25% goes to our own Amazing Grace Fund, another 25% links congregations in ministries of peace and reconciliation throughout presbyteries and synods. 50% advocates for Christ's peace and justice in cultures of violence through education and Christian witness. Checks may be made payable to FWPC and marked "Peace" on the memo line. **The Four Cents A Meal Offering will be postponed until October 8.**

Greeters for October

(Kathy Goodell- Head Elder)

1 Kathy, Pete and Sue Mekkelson
 8 Kathy, Deborah and Kirk Chambers
 15 Kathy, Becky Hawthorne, Diana McKinley
 22 Kathy, Sherry and Pat Dockeney
 29 Kathy, Pamela Fleagle, Shelly McFillan

It's Time for the BGB!

The Men's Big Greasy Breakfast is scheduled for October 21 at 9:00 a.m. Fellowship and food - can't get any better



than that! If you are interested in volunteering to help, please let John McDonald know, 304-274-2372.

Nursery Attendants

October 1 Laura and Paul Peach
 October 8 Fawn Fleagle, Pamela Fleagle
 October 15 Bill and Judith Lawrensen
 October 22 Nancy Shipper, Tiffany Henry
 October 29 Renee Campbell, Ellie Sloan

How Can I Help?

Are you a new member or a new regular attendee of our congregation and looking for a way to volunteer your time and get more involved in the life of the church? Are you a long time member looking for a new way to serve? Here are just a few ways you can help:

Host a coffee hour.

Our church enjoys a spirited coffee hour after worship on Sunday mornings. It is a fun time to connect with our church family, catching up with established friends and getting to know our new members. Traditionally, coffee hour consists of a hot beverage in the winter and a cool one in the summer along with a cookie or donut. Some in our congregation, however, enjoy using this time to make favorite recipes or to experiment with new ones. Please remember that if you sign up, all that is expected of you is a simple treat to accompany the beverage. Those volunteering are responsible for set up and clean up. If you have any questions please call Kathy Goodell at 754-3607.



Become a Nursery Attendant:

Do you have a heart for toddlers? - volunteer once a quarter to watch the cutie patooties in the nursery during worship. There are always two attendants per Sunday. Parents usually bring their own diapers, wipes, etc. but there are also diapers in the downstairs women's restroom. If you would like to be included on the nursery attendant list, see Fawn, 754-8211.

Fix something.

Are you handy? The Maintenance Committee is always looking for willing hands to maintain our beautiful historic church, grounds and pavilion. Jobs currently needing attention are posted on the bulletin board in Fellowship Hall. See John MacDonald to volunteer your services.

Help with the order of worship on Sunday mornings.

Pastor Debra is always looking for ways to get the laity (translation: the nonclergy - you and me) involved in the worship service. Are you willing to read scripture, collect the offering, sing in the choir, or be a greeter? Call the church office - 754-8211 - if you would like to assist with worship.

Make a visitor feel welcome.

We have all been newcomers at one time or another and know how it feels. Welcome our visitors with a smile and give them a Guest Bag located in the vestibule and on the small table directly inside the sanctuary. Show them where the bathrooms are located. If they have small children, accompany them to the nursery if they so desire. Invite them to stay for coffee hour.





We have **9 Sessional Committees** dedicated to overseeing the work and ministry of the church. Many hands make for light work. Assess where your talents can best be of use and get involved.

Christian Education oversees anything to do with the education of our members, i.e. children and adult Sunday School, the Sardines (teen youth group), Vacation Bible School, the church library, Confirmation or new member classes.



Congregational Nurture responds to members in crisis, coordinates visitation, and keeps the pastor informed of the congregation's needs through the Shepherd Program and the Prayer Chain.

Outreach concentrates its efforts on service in the community, seeking ways to reach out to the unchurched in our community, and church growth.

Fellowship and Recreation strives to keep our congregation connected through hospitality - covered-dish meals, picnics, after worship coffee hours and other special occasions.



Finance works with the Session on budgetary and financial matters. Formulate the church budget.

Maintenance is responsible for the church building and property, the pavilion and the manse. (excluding the cemetery) It recruits volunteers for snow removal, and grounds maintenance.

Mission coordinates the participation of our congregation with mission projects of the Presbytery, Synod and General Assembly, by promoting special offerings and seeking opportunities to participate in overseas and local mission programs.



Mission Needs

Personnel serves as a liaison between the Session and church employees, reviews employment responsibilities and policies annually and conducts yearly reviews of all paid employees.



Worship Committee

Worship assists the pastor in the planning, evaluating, and enhancement of the worship service, prepares and sets up the elements for communion, coordinates greeters and ushers, supports the work of the church organist and choir director and makes arrangements for sanctuary decoration for special occasions and holidays.

These are just a few of the many ways you can make a difference. Our church has remained vibrant and alive for 260+ years because the enthusiastic ministry of all who enter it's doors. Help us continue to keep it that way.



Operation Christmas Child

Is our heart broken by the desperate plight of millions of children around the world? Whether they are refugees of civil war, survivors of a natural disaster or victims of extreme poverty, these little ones need to know that they are precious to God. That's the motivation behind **Operation Christmas Child**, the unique project of Samaritan's Purse that enables caring people to share God's love with hurting girls and boys in the far corners of the globe.

Plastic boxes will be provided with content guidelines inside. Fill it with toys and other presents, and you have an extraordinary gift for a child in need of joy and hope.



FWPC will again this year participate in OCC. Content guidelines are small toys, school supplies, hygiene items, hard candy, T-shirts, socks, ball caps, sunglasses, hair clips, toy jewelry, and watches. Do not include used or damaged items, war-related items such as toy guns, knives or military figures, chocolate or food, liquids or lotions, medications or vitamins, breakable items such as snowglobes or glass containers or aerosol cans.

Shoe boxes will be collected on October 29.

Please donate \$7.00 for shipping costs. Watch your bulletin for further information.

October Movie Night



Please join us for **Movie Night** on October 24. We will eat dinner at 5:00 p.m. at Kitzi's in Falling Waters followed by the movie "October Sky" at 7:00 p.m. in Fellowship Hall. We will have door prizes.

The Splendor Of Christmas

The National Christian Choir and the National Christian Children's Christmas Choirs will be performing their annual Christmas Concert with Orchestra at the International Community Church, 123 Byte Drive, in Frederick, MD, on Saturday, December 2, 2017 at 1:00 and 5:00 p.m. This is the same venue as last year.

Jeanie Cushwa has tickets for both performances. There is an Early Bird Special until October 15 for General Admission Only. Buy 1 ticket at regular price of \$20.00 and get 2nd ticket \$5.00 off. The Director's Circle Tickets are \$30.00 and Chairman's Circle are \$50 (Limited Availability).

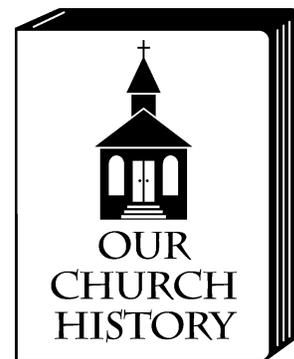
History and Heritage Night

October 19, 2017

6:00 p.m.

Come for dinner and stay for an in depth history presentation by Ron Hansen and Bettie Jane Porterfield.

Fried chicken and drinks will be provided. Please bring a covered dish to share.



Trunk Or Treat



Please join us after the Fellowship Dinner on Sunday, October 29, in the back parking lot for a **Trunk or Treat** time for our children, with hot cider/punch to follow up at the pavilion. You can decorate your trunk anyway you desire – not necessarily scary, but any theme which catches your fancy (within reason, of course). Invite your grandchildren, nieces and nephews and/or your neighbor to join us for church and then fun and games that day. This will be a grand opportunity to interact with the future of our church, so don't be a stick-in-the-mud and come join the fun.

Ladies of FWPC

You are cordially invited
to attend a bridal shower
in honor of Katie Fallon

Sunday, October 15, 2017
at 3:00 p.m.

Falling Waters Presbyterian Church
2928 Hammonds Mill Road
Hedgesville, West Virginia

Please RSVP (304) 676-8175 by October 12

Katie and Michael are registered at Walmart
and Bed Bath & Beyond

EPMC Fall Music Festival

Gerrardstown Presbyterian Church
October 15, 2017
4:00 p.m.

Looking Back with Bettie Jane Porterfield and Ron Hansen

We dedicate this article to Pastor Debra, since she is one of those kids who rode a church bus to Sunday school.

In 1938 pastor Joseph McMurray brought to the congregation the need for a bus to transport folks to church. This was during the great depression. Many people had no job or transportation.

It was decided to approve \$175 to buy a used bus to bring people to church. The first driver was Monroe Janney. He kept the bus at home. Church member William Patterson kept the old bus in good running condition. The old bus was built with a wooden body, had dual wheels on back, no power steering or power brakes and no heater or starter. It had no lights except by a battery that frequently needed replaced. Chains for the tires was standard equipment. Capacity was approximately 50 people.

The route covered was approximately 23 miles. It took 1 ½ hrs on gravel and dirt roads covering Cumbo, Nipetown, Eagle Orchard, Dam 5, Little Georgetown, and McCoys Ferry Rd. After 3 yrs the old used bus was worn out. The congregation was brought "Three options", put more money in the old bus, buy a "newer" one for \$450, or stop running a bus altogether. The church had \$10 in the "bus fund". Two weeks later Mr. Janney was driving a new bus and there was \$200 in the "bus fund" !

The second bus driver was James Sims. Soon after he was drafted into the army and 16 yr old Jimmy Cloud became the new bus driver. Jimmy faithfully drove the bus for another 10 years bringing all who needed a ride to church. He also made sure everyone had a ride to Christmas programs, driving the challenging wintery roads.

We thank Jimmy Cloud for his interview and his memories for this article. Jimmy remains one our cherished members.

A picture, dated 1944, of Jimmy Cloud and his sisters with the 1934 Chevrolet bus is in the display case in Fellowship Hall.

Volunteering at Spring Mills Middle School

Our first opportunities to serve at SMMS will be the following:

1. Attend a meeting of the Local School Improvement Council on October 17 at 2:45 p.m.
2. Volunteer to supervise students during a school dance. Contact Jessica Ruqus if you are interested in helping with the dance on Thursday, October 19, at 2:35 p.m. Jessica can be reached at Jessica.ruqus@gmail.com. Put "School Dance" as the subject of your email.
3. Help with Movie Night hosted by the Family School and Community Club. We don't have the date yet, but I'll send out an email when we do. If you think you'd like to help with this, depending on the date, please let me know so I can get back in touch with you when we have the date and time.

It isn't too late to get a background check if you do so right away; it usually takes about 2-3 weeks to get your card allowing you access to the school. Go to www.berkeleycountyschools.org. On the left side of the page toward the bottom you'll see "For Community." Under this heading is "Secure Volunteer." Click on that and you will be guided through the process. The cost for the background check is \$19.95 and it is good for two years. If you wish to be reimbursed for this charge, please let me know and we'll be happy to do so. Let's join together to serve our community!

Outreach = Evangelism
Kate Lewis Brown



Elisabeth von Trapp in Concert

Elisabeth is the granddaughter of Maria and Baron von Trapp whose story inspired the Sound of Music. Singing professionally since childhood, Elisabeth has enthralled audiences from European cathedrals to Washington, D.C.'s Kennedy Center and hundreds of performance halls and churches across the United States.

We are privileged to be able to feature Elisabeth in a performance at FWPC. Her concert will be held on Friday, October 27, at 7:00 p.m. Doors will open at 6:00 p.m. You are welcome to purchase tickets in advance. Please help to spread the word about this concert.

Kate Lewis Brown

Voices Needed

Cantata practice will be starting on Wednesday, October 4, at 7:00 p.m. We will be performing "Morning Star". There will be voice part CD's so you can practice your part at home. We will practice every Wednesday (except Thanksgiving week) until the cantata performance on Sunday, December 17 during morning worship. Please come and join the choir for the cantata.



Paula's Community Day At FWPC

Thank you all for helping to make PCD at FWPC a huge success last Saturday. From baking cookies and cakes, to advertising, to manning the booths and different stations, our first Community Day in seven years could not have gone better. God blessed us with a beautiful day. We estimate 150 visitors, counting the welcome bags distributed and the basketball players who didn't stop to get a bag in their hurry to get to the court. The Henry clan reported the Petting Zoo was constantly visited, and most of our vendors expressed a desire to return next year.

We collected over \$400 for Presbyterian Disaster Assistance through the vendor booths, Cake Walk (which was way too much fun) and Sam's pork sandwiches. The Sardines earned \$200 profit from their work at the Concession Stand.

Everyone worked tirelessly throughout the day, although we were all very happily exhausted when it was over. Besides our Sardines and Adults who worked all day, a special thank you needs to be made to our younger help -- Jacob Hylton, who was the perfect minion, Chloe deLong, Van and Scarlett Collis, who hung out all day long with very little complaining. Katie and Gabby Peach were also very good helpers for a good portion of the day.

We also need to give a huge thank you to Steve Grant (DJ Steve G) who volunteered to play music for us all day (oh, the wonderful songs he had for the Cake Walk, too), to Michael T and to the Blue and Gray Quartet, who not only sang at the pavilion but walked around and serenaded the folks in the booths down near the church. If you should meet up with these folks in the community, please tell them how much we appreciated their help and contributions to our most wonderful day.

A meeting will be planned in a month or so to talk about our strengths, weaknesses and changes and ideas for next year . . . just a little time to let the dust settle.

With a grateful heart,
Renee Campbell

