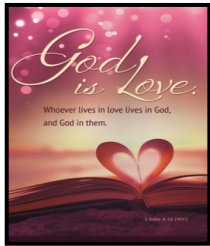


WEST HENRIETTA BAPTIST CHURCH

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(585) 334-0497; EMAIL: CHURCH@WHBAPTIST.ORG; WEB: WHBAPTIST.ORG
PASTOR: REV. DR. PETER E. GRINION; TEL: (585) 278-8520



HOW TO CALL BLESSINGS INTO YOUR LIFE

Many years ago, at the convocation that began my time in divinity school, I heard a sermon that I've never forgotten. The preacher shared the story of a woman who was walking along the beach on a cloudy day, lost in thought and enjoying the solitude.

Her reverie was interrupted by the sound of someone shouting just up the beach from where she stood. It was a man, just visible through the mist. His arms wide, he shouted, "Come, blessings!" He turned toward the water, then away from the woman, again shouting, "Come, blessings, come!"

The woman stopped in her tracks, taking in the scene. Her pensive mood deepening, she thought about the pure, direct spiritual appeal she was witnessing. Here was a man, she thought, who had made his way to the quiet, enduring presence of nature to call blessings into his life, to literally shout into the wind for the blessings he yearned for.

She started walking again, hoping to speak to the man and thank him for the much-needed inspiration she had gleaned from his spiritual practice. As she walked, the wind continued to carry his voice. "Come, blessings! Come, blessings, come!" She started to speak the simple, powerful words along with him, feeling buoyed and increasingly freed each time.

Then, just as suddenly as when she first heard

him, the man stopped shouting. And just as suddenly as when she first noticed him, the woman stopped walking.

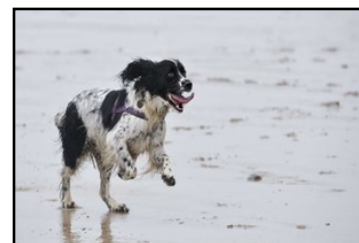
A big, floppy-eared dog bounded joyfully toward the man, seeming to have emerged mystically from the mist. The woman was close enough to the man to hear him, as he tousled the dog's fur, exclaim, "Blessings! There you are! I thought I had lost you!"

At first the woman felt silly, having confused a dog named Blessings for a profound moment of communion with the divine. But as she continued on her walk, she smiled contentedly. The message she had received, the inspiration to ask clearly and plainly for the goodness, hope, peace and other blessings she yearned for, was real, even if the bearer of the message had four legs and a tail.

Perhaps, she thought, it was not a coincidence that the man had named his dog Blessings. And perhaps the dog had not been lost at all.

How do you call blessings into your life?

By Holly Lebowitz Rossi
Inspiring Stories, Sept. 22, 2020



Cherishing Christs Kingdon!

By Evelyn M. Shoots

Where is the Bottom Line?
It may be above the stars
Where more moons may shine!

Living with Father,
Safe inside His wide Kingdom
We sing thankful praise!

We grow in His Love
And cling to Him through our fears,
Revived as He steers

Our Church glows in Love,
For there is so much caring
Within each dear soul!

Our Choir is filled
With souls who love our Father
And thank Him in Praise!

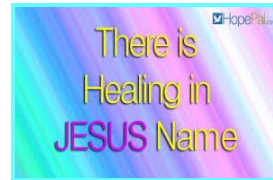
We carefully guard
Against any obstruction
We may meet off guard.

To be clean all ways
In body, mind and spirit
Protects everyone!

COVID thundered in
And took many lives away,
Sadly everyday.

We must keep praying
That Our Father, Life Commander,
Will wash that beast away!

Prayerful praises
Can still amaze us!
Alleluia!!



**PLEASE PRAY FOR
HEALING FOR
ALL THESE PEOPLE!!**

Joyce Shutts is in Strong-(4-1600) with atrial fibrillation. They are doing tests to find out what is really going on.

Joyce's step-son, Rich, remains in hospital waiting for a lung transplant – he is getting weaker. Please pray a lung becomes available, that is the right size.

Shawn Cronion who works with Rev. Grinion at Groveland Correctional has had cancer in the past. He has throat cancer now and is not doing well.

Linda Becker has constant ringing in her ears.

Ann Greco is having surgery to remove a growth on her forehead Friday, January 29th.

Rev. Clara White is moving to Woodcrest Commons on Friday, January 29th. It will be a big adjustment.

Loretta Hirschman is asking for prayers for her brother Dick. He has only one kidney and needs blood work. Please pray he gets good results.

Loretta had her first check-up post hip surgery. The Doctor was pleased and the x-ray looked good. Healing is progressing well and Loretta thanks God.

Debbie Covill has neuropathy and has to use a walker. She needs an MRI and awaiting insurance approval for it.

Continued prayers for Mary Bailey, Valerie Bandemer, Virginia Chase, Patricia Floyd and Josina McCarroll.

West Henrietta Baptist Church – Worship and fellowship together soon, be a loving community sharing God's love; not neglectful of our responsibilities; care for our Church building and fundraising for major projects.





THOUGHTS AND PRAYERS

As 2021 is moving right along, I am praying and questioning what God is calling us at WHBC to be doing. Yes, we need to be concentrating on taking care of the Church building and fund-raising for it. But we must not neglect our other responsibilities. Loving and sharing God's love with each-other and the wider world. Seeking peace and justice, feeding the hungry and taking care of the world. God gave us this world and commanded us to take care of it. We are called to spread God's word through worship and have been able to do this through zoom, Facebook etc., we also need to continue and add ways to share worship with more people.

Harold S. Kushner in his book *"When Bad Things Happen to Good People"* he states—"We cannot ask God in prayer to do something which is within our power, so as to spare us the chore of doing it." Then he adds words written by Jack Riemer, *Likrat Shabbat*.

"We cannot merely pray to You, O God, to end war;
For we know that You have made the world in a way
That man must find his own path to peace
Within himself and with his neighbor.
We cannot merely pray to you, O God, to end starvation;
For you have already given us the resources
With which to feed the entire world.
If only we use it wisely.
We cannot merely pray to You, O God.
To root out prejudice,
For You have already given us eyes
With which to see the good in all men
If we would only use our power justly.
We cannot merely pray to You, O God, to end despair,
For You have already given us the power
To clear away slums and give hope
If we would only use our power justly.
We cannot merely pray to You, O God, to end disease,
For you have already given us great minds with which
To search out cures and healing.
If only we would use them constructively.
Therefore we pray to You instead, O God,
For strength, determination, and will power,
To **do** instead of just pray,
To **become** instead of merely to wish."

May we at West Henrietta Baptist Church, pray unceasingly to GOD and at the same time live life full of strength, determination and devotion to make the world a better place, knowing God will work wonders through His faithful followers.

Leanna Shirley, Moderator

Editor: Sharon Scurlock



February Calendar

**You are invited to Worship by
Video in Sanctuary**

**Sundays at 10:00 AM for those who
feel comfortable coming to the
Church. (Video posted on WHBC
website, YouTube, Facebook, and
emailed, will be shown.)**

**Bible Study
Wednesdays at 10:00 AM**

**Prayer Group
Saturdays at 9:00 AM**

**For the above, EVERYONE will socially
distance and attendees must wear masks.
Gloves, masks and sanitizer are available.
The area will be sanitized before each
event.**

**Ash Wednesday
Wednesday, Feb. 17, 2021
LINK articles for March due to
Joyce Shutts Feb. 18**



**Feb. 5 ~ Amy Sugrue
Feb. 10 ~ Barbara Nice
Feb. 12 ~ Elaine Vandermeid
Feb. 14 ~ Della VanDoren
Feb. 16 ~ Jessica Tasciotti
Feb. 19 ~ Kathleen Serianni
Feb. 19 ~ Jacob Teeter
Feb. 21 ~ Lee Covill
Feb. 23 ~ Andrew Gress
Feb. 23 ~ Joanne Wilbert
Feb. 27 ~ John Miller**

**MISSION'S REPORT
GOOD NEWS! PRAISE BE TO GOD AND
THANK YOU TO ALL**

To all who gave so generously to West Henrietta Baptist Church this year: Wonderful news! We were able to pay our entire Mission Budget at the end of the year, (Actually it will show up in next year's report-because of the great offering in December.)

God calls us to take care of those in need of anything and at West Henrietta we put a great emphasis on giving to others. With the Church being shut down because of the Pandemic we were not sure how giving would turn out. Thanks to all, we gave generously with love and please keep supporting not only missions, but the whole Church budget.

Your Happy Mission's Committee



FISH / RHAFT, Inc.
Serving Residents in the Rush-Henrietta Central School District

THANK YOU NOTE FROM RHAFT

On behalf of RHAFT, I want to thank you and the West Henrietta Baptist Church for participating in our Holiday Adopt-A-Family program. Because of generous sponsors, we were able to bring some holiday cheer to 40 Rush-Henrietta families. It's been a rough year for many of us, and it's heart-warming to know that there are so many people in our community willing to lend a helping hand.

I welcome any feedback you have for our program.

Stay safe and take care,
Carolyn Buntich, Coordinator

"For Those Who Feel Afraid Right Now"

**By Becky Thompson
March 21, 2020**

Me: Okay, God, here's the thing. I'm scared. I'm trying not to be, but I am.

God: I know. Want to talk about it?

Me: Do we need to? I mean, you already know.

God: Let's talk about it anyway... We've done this before.

God: *waiting patiently, unhurried, undistracted, never annoyed.

Me: Okay. So, I'm afraid I'll do everything I can to protect my family and it won't be enough. I'm afraid of someone I love dying. I'm afraid the world won't go back to what it was before. I'm afraid my life is always going to feel a little bit unsettled.

God: Anything else?

Me: EVERYTHING ELSE.

God: Remember how your son woke up the other night and came running down the hall to your bedroom?

Me: Yes.

God: You were still awake, so when you heard him running, you started calling out to him before he even got to you... remember? Do you remember what you called out to him?

Me: I said, "You're okay! You're okay! You're okay! I'm here."

God: Why did you call to him? Why didn't you just wait for him to get to your room?

Me: Because I wanted him to know that I was awake, and I heard him, and he didn't have to be afraid until he reached the end of the dark hallway.

God: Exactly. I hear you, my child. I hear your thoughts racing like feet down the dark hallway. There's an other side to all of this. I'm there already. I've seen the end of it. And I want you to know right here as you walk through it all, you're okay. I haven't gone to sleep, and I won't.

Me: *crying. Can we sit together awhile? Can we just sit here a minute before I go back to facing it all?

God: There's nothing I'd love more.

News from David and Michelle Heed.

Drumroll..... The First Grade Building is complete! Final paint inside and out—done! Some of the pictures show the two buildings side by side. Thanks to aaaaaaIIIIIIII who helped to made this happen. The kids are excited to move in this week.



News from Harvest Home Coalition

Tom Riggs has told the Harvest Home Coalition that Thrivent has committed to continuing the partnership which we have had for last couple of years. Pending our discussion at a meeting early in 2021, I indicated to Ethel Dubel, Development and Marketing Director of Flower City Habitat for Humanity, Harvest Home Coalition would be willing to continue the arrangement for a 2021 home build.

In an email from Ethel Dubel to Tom Riggs, Harvest Home Coalition:

"I am truly excited that Harvest Home Coalition will likely partner with Flower City Habitat for Humanity and Thrivent for an upcoming 2021 house build!

Tom, I would like to express my personal gratitude for the consistent efforts of the Harvest Coalition on our behalf.... Specifically; the time, treasure and talent given by every member who has participated with our ministry over the years."

The next meeting is scheduled on Sunday, February 14, 2021 at 1:00 pm via Zoom to discuss this upcoming year.

Joyce Shutts

Biscuits, Old Farmer, Amen

By Bruce MacNaughton
February 17, 2018

A NEW Pastor was attending a men's breakfast in a rural area.

She asked one of the impressive older farmers in attendance to say grace that morning.

After all, were seated, the older farmer began: "Lord, I hate buttermilk."

The Pastor opened one eye and wondered to herself where this was going.

Then the farmer loudly proclaimed, "Lord, I hate lard."

Now the Pastor was worried.

However without missing a beat, the farmer prayed on, "And Lord, you know I don't care much for raw white flour."

Just as the Pastor was ready to stand and stop everything.

The farmer continued, "But Lord, when You mix 'em all together and bake 'em up, I do love fresh biscuits. So Lord, when things come up we don't like, when life gets hard, when we just don't understand what You are sayin' to us, we just need to relax and wait 'till you're done mixin', and probably Lord, it will be somethin' even better than biscuits. Amen."

2021 Annual Meeting

In spite of the COVID-19 Pandemic, WHBC's 2021 Annual Meeting was held on Sunday, January 17, 2021. Sixteen (16) members gathered together, observing all pandemic protocols. 2021 Annual Meeting was held in Fellowship Hall and called to order by Leanna Shirley, Moderator at 10:05 a.m.

Coming together we looked back on year 2020, in terms of ministry, fiscal and physical needs of our Church. There were many accomplishments in spite of the pandemic, too many to be addressed in this article. Some of them were:

- ♦ Loss of three members: Eleanor Terry Doe, Elizabeth J. Heisig and Alan F. McCarroll
- ♦ Video recording Pastor Grinion's Sunday sermon and distribution via website, social media, email and written form for those not having internet access
- ♦ Pastoral Care Ministry of our Church community with phone calls and visits with social distancing when possible
- ♦ Mission's Committee's support and activities through *LINK* articles and emails
- ♦ Responding to those needing help through Rush-Henrietta Area Food Terminal
- ♦ Ongoing Wednesday Bible Study Group when possible following pandemic protocols
- ♦ Replacement of basement steps, removal of fire escape and many other projects completed for both Church building and parsonage
- ♦ Exploring grants to help with replacing Church's roof and painting of Church building

We also looked towards the New Year, 2021; sharing our hopes, dreams, concerns and plans. We tackled 2021 Proposed Budget developed by our hardworking Stewardship Committee. Following discussion, 2021 Proposed Budget was adopted. The proposed slate of Church Officers and Board Members was also adopted. A few other items discussed were:

- ♦ A Capital Improvement Fund/Campaign
- ♦ A virtual "New-to-You" sale around Easter time
- ♦ Inviting Michelle Labell, Chair of Town Historical Committee to speak on rules of being a historical site
- ♦ Having a celebratory dinner when the time comes and we can once again break bread together
- ♦ Remembering, even though the Church is closed, the congregation is alive and well and still working hard

Do you have ideas? Hopes for our Church? Concerns for our Church Community? Would like to know what is happening? You are invited to attend an Advisory Council Meeting. Check our calendar in the monthly *LINK* Newsletter or on Church's website, WWW.WHBAPTIST.ORG, for all meetings.

Please contact me if you were unable to attend the meeting and would like a copy of the Annual Report.

Sharon Scurlock
Church Clerk

Editor: Sharon Scurlock



Taking Time to Love Yourself

"Teacher, which is the greatest commandment in the Law!"
 Jesus replies: "Love the Lord your God with all your heart
 And with all your soul and with all your mind.' This is the first
 And greatest commandment. And the second is like it:
 "Love your neighbor as yourself"
 Matthew 22:36-39

It's easy for any of us get so caught up in life's daily urgencies that we ignore the voice of our own souls crying out for rest and relief. While we gladly fulfill our duties and responsibilities that need tending, too many hours and days without a break can leave us feeling weary, frazzled, and overwhelmed. We nonchalantly chalk up our agendas to a normal way of living, right? After all, it's who we are and what we do. And we're thankful for a full life. But if we're honest with ourselves, we will likely recognize a very real inward struggle between balancing life's daily cares and caring for ourselves.

If we continually ignore our internal need for breathing space, refreshment, and physical, mental, and spiritual renewal, we'll eventually burn out. Balance and self-renewal require diligently paying attention to our own personal spiritual, physical, and mental needs. Learning to love ourselves is not always a priority, but perhaps, God's most beautiful secret of living our lives to the fullest is found in Jesus's second greatest instruction of loving others as we *love ourselves*.

Dear God,
 Humbly remind me and teach me that loving others
 Is best achieved by also loving myself.
Amen

By Susan Duke
"Soul Spa"

Alzheimer's Communication

- | | |
|---|---|
| 1. Never Argue .
Instead Agree . | 6. Never say " I Told You ."
Instead Repeat . |
| 2. Never Reason .
Instead Divert . | 7. Never say " You Can't ."
Instead say what they Can Do . |
| 3. Never Shame .
Instead Distract . | 8. Never Demand .
Instead Ask . |
| 4. Never Lecture .
Instead Reassure . | 9. Never Condescend .
Instead Encourage . |
| 5. Never say " Remember ."
Instead Reminisce . | 10. Never Force .
Instead Reinforce . |

Standing at Attention

A pastor was nervous before his Sunday sermon. His organist had called in sick, so he had to guide a substitute organist. He told her to play anything appropriate.

At the end of the service, there was a congregational meeting. The roof was in need of replacement, and the pastor had to inform his parish. He said, "If you are moved by our Savior to donate an additional \$100.00 this month, please stand." At that point, the organist played the national anthem!

Brenda Calandrillo
 Mahwah, New Jersey

5 Bible Verses to Help You Find Joy

There's an alternative to letting stress and anxiety rule your day.

By, **Rick Hamlin**, Posted in ***Positive Living***, July 2, 2020

It was a perfect example of pandemic paranoia. I was heading out of the pharmacy, and a woman was rushing behind me. Before I could even get out the door, she lowered her mask and coughed all over my back. In sheer panic, the first thing I did when I got home was spray Clorox bleach all over my shirt. Kill those germs.

Later, when my wife Carol came home, she looked askance at me. "What did you do to the back of your shirt?" I took it off and looked. My once blue-striped shirt was now full of blotchy orange and yellow. Ruined by my excessive bleach spraying.

Why not just take off the shirt at home and throw it in the laundry? Or why not just take a shower? These are stressful times, and anxiety can get the best of us. We do stupid even harmful things. I decided I needed a big dose of joy more than bleach. [Time to turn to the Good Book.](#)

1) *Rejoice in the Lord always. I will say it again; Rejoice! (Philippians 4:4)*

I like to think we rejoice when everything is going great. When we're at a wedding, say, and feel like celebrating with good food and friend and music. But it's worth remembering that Paul wrote these words when he was in prison. [Rejoice when you're in jail](#) and might not ever get out? Yes, rejoice.

2) *I thank my God every time I remember you. In all my prayers for all of you, I always pray with joy. (Philippians 1:3-4)*

I found myself entranced with this one short book of the Bible, full of help. Like these words from Paul right at the beginning. [What does Paul do when he's stuck?](#) He prays for others. Prays for the people of Philippi to whom he's writing. With joy.

Feeling anxious and stuck? [Pray for others.](#) I could pray for that woman at the pharmacy and her cough. With joy.

3) *In your relationship with one another, have the same mindset as Christ Jesus...He humbled Himself by becoming obedient to death—even death on a cross! (Philippians 2:5-8)*

Scholars suspect these verses were part of an early hymn of the church. Paul singing in prison? Sure. We can do just the same when we're stuck and anxious and scared. Sing of our closeness to Christ, who became just like us.

4) *I have learned the secret of being content in any and every situation, whether well fed or hungry, whether living in plenty or in want. I can do all this through Him who gives me strength. (Philippians 4:11-13)*

So where do we get the strength? How do we find [the joy we need?](#) Paul makes it pretty clear.

5) *Finally, brothers and sisters, whatever is true, whatever is noble, whatever is right, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is admirable—if anything is excellent or praiseworthy—think about such things. (Philippians 4:8)*

[Practice positive thinking.](#) Even now. Especially now.

Every morning during breakfast, instead of reading the news on my phone, and diving headfirst into the stress of our world, I read a couple of Psalms and then a chapter from one of the gospels. It puts my mind in a better place. The newspaper can wait. The Good News can't.