



The Presbyterian Light

October 2020

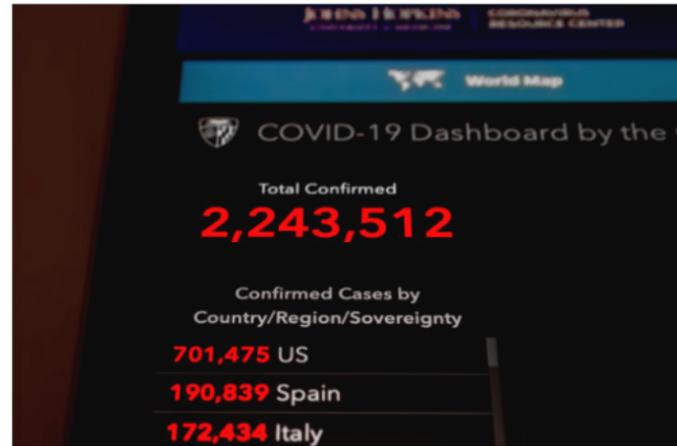


Volume 35, Issue 10



Two apples on a branch (1834–1895) by Johannes Reekers (II). Original from The Rijksmuseum

October 2020



Storms

By Pastor Ray

As we turn the corner on hurricane season, we are aware that it has been a busy season, with storms surpassing the names allotted for the year, turning to the Greek alphabet to identify the latter storms. We are very grateful that we have been spared, and prayerful regarding the remainder of the season. We are also aware and prayerful for areas that have been struck by the winds and rains of several storms that have made landfall this season. As we well remember, the cleanup and

rebuilding of infrastructure, and businesses and personal property, takes much time, effort and money. Please continue to pray and help where possible these people and areas that have been hit.

Yet all storms are not driven by natural causes. Our nation is under the strain of several storms as we enter the fall of 2020. It is often difficult to discern what is truth. These storms are constantly in the news, but it seems that more often than not they

are reported with an agenda, a political slant. And it is not helpful!

We continue to pray for health care workers who are closest to the Covid-19 virus. We pray for their physical, mental and spiritual health. We pray for stamina and grace. We pray for those yet afflicted with the virus or lingering effects. We pray for protection for those who are most vulnerable to it. We pray that this virus subsides. And we pray for healthy treatments. We pray against a "spirit of fear," knowing such is not from God.

We are so thankful for the Lord's mercies as we have gathered for worship since restriction were lifted in May. We are thankful for our state and community leadership. We pray for communities where restrictions remain on church gatherings, while allowing people to gather for other functions. It really does matter whom the "They's" are determining what is "essential". For "they's" who do not participate in corporate worship in any regular manner, and who have little idea about what that means to worshipers, it is easy to determine worship as "non-essential." (They treat worship like I do Brussel sprouts. Totally non-essential, at best. Gross and to be avoided in actually.) Except they then make decisions for others regarding the ability to worship. Please pray for congregations and leaders in these areas. Pray for wisdom in how to gather. Pray for God's protection and blessing upon them.

We pray regarding the storms of civil unrest throughout our nation. We pray for government leaders to have wisdom and courage. We pray that wherever there is injustice, that be addressed. We pray for righteousness in handling all these situations. And we pray against those who step into situations, not with a concern for justice, but for destabilization of the basic structures of our society (marriage, family, faith, community, government,

law). All of those are good gifts from God. There is certainly much work yet to be done in reforms. But anarchy is nothing but a power-grab that never ends well for any but those who seize power. Please pray for these storms.

Finally, as we enter October, we are reminded of the storms of politics that are so pervasive and brutal the last few weeks before our national election. **Brothers and sisters, we are reminded about how to pray, for whom to pray, and the expectations of our prayers, in 1 Timothy 2:1-4.**

"First of all, I urge that supplications, prayers, intercessions, and thanksgiving be made for all people, for kings and all who are in high positions, that we may lead a peaceful and quiet life, godly and dignified in every way. This is good, and it is pleasing in the sight of God our Savior, who desires all people to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth."

Please pray for this election. Pray with your eyes and Bibles open. Pray mindful of the desirability of leading a "peaceful and quiet life, godly and dignified in every way," for everyone. Ask the Lord to help you discern whether what politicians are saying track with what is happening, and where they actually are in that. We need the Lord's help with that. Dig deeper than news shows and major media. (Know that by easily verified sources, 90%+ of major media is owned by 6 corporations.) That is a huge concern for those who value democracy. (PBS agrees.)

Finally, brothers and sisters, first pray, then vote! This is not about personalities. A national election is first of all about policy. About national platforms. And working through slogans, to what the implementation of those ideas mean for freedom, and human dignity and flourishing. May God have mercy upon us.

- Pastor Ray



That Gritty Feeling

By Barbara Thayer



A few days ago, I spent a good deal of time cleaning our tile and wood floors. We have a good sized home so it takes a while to do the job. I cannot stand to walk on floors that feel gritty and having a dog who loves to run in our back yard through the bushes doesn't help. He always finds a patch of dirt to go through and then happily brings it into the house. We have a vacuum, a robo cleaner and a dust mop, but no matter what I try, the Florida sand keeps coming back. That's the price we pay for having a dog and living in sand country.

As I thought about it though, our lives are a lot like that gritty sand on the floor. When we come to Christ in true repentance, He cleans us up and fills us with His Holy Spirit. Then, before we know it, old sinful habits, unkind words, or thoughts we ought to avoid can come creeping back into our lives just like that nasty sand. We can feel it in our hearts as the Holy Spirit convicts us. It seems like a never ending cycle, but we must remember that while Jesus Christ has forgiven us of our sins and made us new creations in Him, we still carry with us the old flesh until we

go home to be with Him.

Paul knew all about that struggle. Read all of Romans chapter 7 for a full exposition, but let me highlight verses 15-20: "For I do not understand my own actions. For I do not do what I want, but I do the very thing I hate. Now if I do what I do not want, I agree with the law, that it is good. So now it is no longer I who do it, but sin that dwells within me. For I know that nothing good dwells in me, that is, in my flesh. For I have a desire to do what is right, but not the ability to carry it out. For I do not do the good I want, but the evil I do not want is what I keep on doing. Now if I do what I do not want, it is no longer I who do it, but sin that dwells within me." Then Paul asks a good question in verse 24b: "Who will deliver me from this body of death?" He concludes by saying in verse 25a "Thanks be to God through Jesus Christ our Lord!" It is only through the blood of Christ that we find forgiveness for these daily sins that still weigh us down in the body. One day, we shall see Him and be made perfect as He is but until then, we have a great remedy given to us to get rid of that sin in our soul.

I John 1:9 tells us: "If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness." That is why, along with Paul, we can thank Jesus Christ for what He has done for us. We do not have to keep that grit in our souls any more than I need to keep it on my floor. Long ago, I learned that a good practice is to stop and take a daily moral inventory as we pray each morning asking God to reveal to us where we have fallen short of His glory. Then, we confess those sins

He brings to mind and ask forgiveness for those things which we did that we are not even aware of doing. This clears our heart, and sets us free to begin the day walking by the Spirit.

God is at work in each of us conforming us to the image of His dear Son. He will finish the work He has begun in us, but we must make certain to keep our hearts clean before Him. We should rejoice along with Paul in saying "Thanks be to God through Jesus Christ our Lord!" One day we will leave the flesh behind, but until that day, we have the privilege of coming to God to repent when we stumble. I wish it was that easy in keeping my floors clean, but that is another story! May God help us to quickly turn to Him when we have sinned that we might walk by His Spirit and not in the flesh.

Selah!





Chords and Sequences: An Ordered Relationship

By Joshua Klatt

The Bible's concern with order and structure is evident from its very first chapter where God grants humankind dominion over the creatures and to the creatures "every green plant for food," (Genesis 1:28-30). Hierarchical relationships abound in the Scriptures, as do instructions concerning what the Catechism terms people's "several places and relations, as superiors, inferiors, or equals." The New Testament carries on this theme of authority, picturing the church as a building "built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Christ Jesus Himself being the Cornerstone," (Ephesians 2:20).

We see evidence of a parallel hierarchy in the realms of science and music as well. As we discussed in last month's article, each pitch of the scale carries its own harmonic signature. The relationship of these notes to one another forms what theorists call a *tonal center*, a single pitch which our ears perceive as being the most important of the set. This pre-eminent note—the *tonic*—colors the way we hear the others, so that every note of the set implies at least one chord or harmony in relation to this central pitch.

Growing out of this, theorists recognize that a chord's "most natural behavior is to move toward the tonic through a series of descending-fifth root

movements," (Ralph Turek, *The Elements of Music*, vol. I). Without getting too technical, this means that there are some chords that are subservient to others and that some changes of harmony make more compelling or logical sense than others. We recognize this principle intuitively whenever we think to ourselves that a particular harmony was odd or nonsensical, much as parents recognize a mistake when they hear their children practicing a new song for the first time. As we observed last month, all of these phenomena have their roots in scientific principles of sound and physics.

The Bible first records resistance to God's established in the third chapter of Genesis as Satan beguiles Eve into rebelling against God, Adam abandons his divinely given role as Eve's head and protector, and the Lord warns that resentment of authority will be one of the ongoing effects of sin entering the world. Romans reinforces this lesson, soberly warning us, "The mind that is set on the flesh is hostile to God, for it does not submit to God's law; indeed, it cannot," (Romans 8:27).

This rejection of Scriptural authority has steadily gained in popularity as people have celebrated immorality and evil in the guise of "freedom," "equality," and "personal choice." As moral decisions have become equated with matters of pleasure, expedience, and personal convenience, rebellion against Biblical principles has extended even to music. Modern composers, steeped in the teachings of Nietzsche and Freud, expressed their antipathy to Christianity by writing music that disregarded the whole system of traditional theory and was increasingly sexualized and psychedelic, mirroring the emptiness and fragmentation of a worldview without God (for more on this subject, read Francis Schaeffer's *How Should We Then Live?*).

While these trends seem to have passed by the church to a large degree, there is perhaps some evidence of an erosion of Biblical worldviews in present-day Christianity. Few people within the church are comfortable talking about the distinction between various qualities of music, and questions of discernment and appropriateness are rarely discussed. Beyond reacting against the opinionated declarations of by-gone, so-called "experts," this attitude is also characteristic of our anti-Christian and supposedly tolerant age.

So where do we go from here? We should remember that Paul reminds us that we find true freedom in serving God rather than becoming slaves to our own rebellious desires (Galatians 5:13, Romans 6:15-19). We also need to be wise in recognizing that the false freedom that the world offers and its pretense of egalitarianism only lead to frustration and emptiness—a fact poignantly illustrated by the modern composer John Cage's composition "4:33," which consists of four minutes and thirty-three seconds of *silence*. Finally, we should affirm our acceptance of God's authority over music and all parts life, gratefully acknowledging His guidance and proclaiming with the apostle, "from Him and through Him and to Him are all things. To Him be glory forever. Amen!" (Romans 11:36).



Romans 11:36



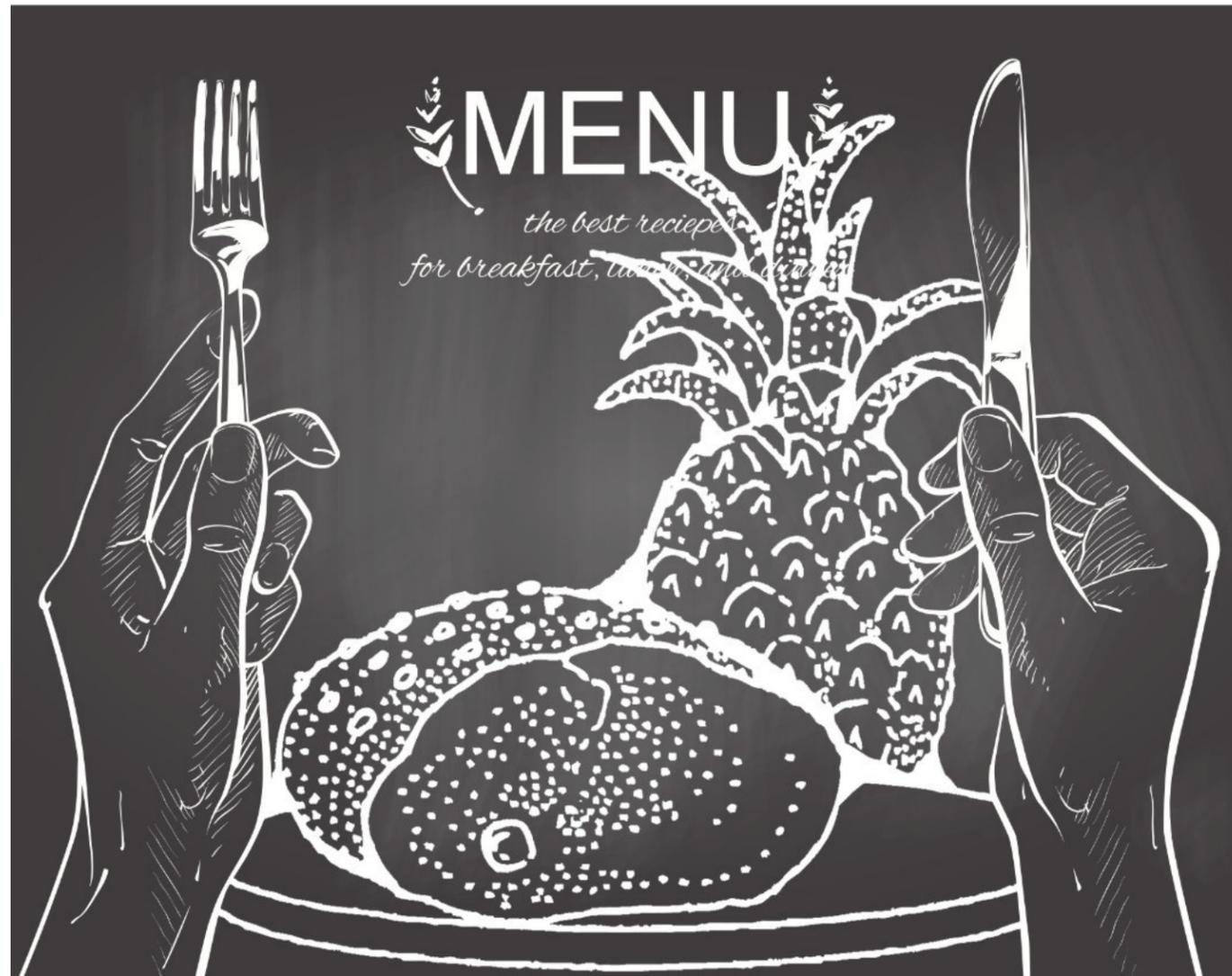
OCTOBER Anniversaries

Timothy & Barbara Sewell	October 1, 2011	Years Married: 9
Don & Linda Childress	October 5, 2004	Years Married: 16
Stanley & Cathy Perry	October 6, 1990	Years Married: 30
Mack & Peggy Scott Payne	October 25, 2014	Years Married: 6
Richard & Mary Rucker	October 27, 1979	Years Married: 41
Richard and Jody Young	October 29, 1982	Years Married: 38



Global

Missions Dinner



“An Unchanging Gospel for an Ever-Changing World”

Plan to join us for a fellowship dinner on Wednesday, October 14th, at 6:45 pm in the Genesis Center.

The menu will consist of:

- baked ham
- pineapple casserole
- vegetables
- dessert

Be encouraged as several missionaries share (virtually) how the Lord continues to change hearts and lives through the good news of Jesus Christ --- despite the challenges of the Covid virus.

Missionaries that plan to share will be:

- Frank Van Dalen (Lithuania)
- Rebekah Carson (Germany)
- Joshua Thomas (Germany)

To sign up for the dinner, please call the church office (863-465-2742). The evening will include a challenge to financially support our missionaries.



Gideon's Bible



Isaiah 55:11

“11. so shall my Word be that goes forth from my mouth; it shall not return to me void but it shall accomplish what I please, and it shall prosper in the thing for which I sent it.”

While researching information for this article, I came across this description of the Bible: The president of the Gideons International at the time was Samuel Boggs (early 1920s) and he gave a speech entitled: *The Bible, the greatest book in the world.*

In his speech he quoted an evangelist called ‘Uncle Jimmy Johnson’ from Pennsylvania. This is his description:

The Bible contains the mind of God, the state of man, the way of salvation, the doom of sinners, and the happiness of believers. Its doctrines are holy, its precepts are binding, its histories are true, and its decisions are immutable.

Read it to be wise, believe it to be safe, and practice it to be holy. It contains light to direct you, food to support you, and comfort to cheer you. It is the traveler’s map, the pilgrim’s staff, the pilot’s compass, the soldier’s sword, and the Christian’s charter.

Here too, heaven is opened, and the gates of hell disclosed. Christ is its grand subject, our good its design, and the glory of God its end. It should fill the memory, rule the heart, and guide the feet. Read it slowly, frequently, and prayerfully. It is a mine of wealth, a paradise of glory, and a river of pleasure. It is given to you in life, will be opened at the judgement, and be remembered forever. It involves the highest responsibility, rewards the greatest labor, and will condemn all who trifle with its sacred contents.

Joe Barney,

Gideons, Highlands County South Camp



Home Missions



July 19, 2020

Hey Team!

Greetings from State College, Pennsylvania! What a crazy time to be alive. There have been challenges here like every place but I want to report to you the provision of God.

As you know, I've been raising support for over three years now. We've been praying and planning toward the local congregation taking on more and more of our budget and me doing less fundraising.

Well - in the midst of the global pandemic - our expected Wellspring giving went from 76% to 108% to close out our fiscal year. Additionally, we received a 1 time gift of \$70,000 in mid April from a Wellspring couple. Isn't that wild?! That is GOD my friends.

When our congregation and community needed financial support the most, we have been able to be more generous than we've ever been. Additionally, our current financial scenario sets in motion Wellspring becoming an autonomous church January 1, 2021 with a full local elder team, our own HR systems, etc. We will still be 100% a part of the Salt Network - just in partnership and not authority. Being in this place financially allows us to be more of a sending church - sending people on mission locally, nationally, and globally. We have already sent two ladies to Fort Collins, CO to help plant the newest Salt Network church and in October we'll be

sending our first full time missionary to Bangkok, Thailand to start a new church with a Salt Network team!

All this to say, your faithful partnership over the years has been CLUTCH [instrumental] in making all these things possible. I can't tell you how grateful I am for your financial support and for your prayers. THANK YOU.

I will continue to raise support until December 31, 2020 (5 months) and then I will be finished. So, if you could continue to support me through the end of the year, I'd be grateful. If you'd rather jump off now, I'd understand.

Praise God. He provides for His people and He loves building His church.

You're partnering with Him.

Grateful,
Joel Vint
 Lead Pastor | [Wellspring Church](#)



Foreign Missions



August 19, 2020

Greetings praying friends and family!

We are encouraged by the ways that you continue to support us and pray for our family. We are grateful for you and for your prayers, and we pray the peace of the presence of God over your heart today.

After our time of confinement ended, our children returned to school on a limited basis for the last two weeks of the school year which ended July 3. We are proud of their perseverance in attending French school and for finishing the academic year well. During summer break they have enjoyed spending more time outdoors with our puppy, riding their bikes, and relaxing. We are grateful for a summer season that has helped them both feel more refreshed and rested.

Our church resumed meeting in person in June with required signups online, masks, and social distancing. Pray for the church leadership as they continue to adapt to new norms, as well as remain in

contact with those that are out of town or unable to attend church for health reasons. We are hopeful to start meeting again with our small group when they are able to return for university.

Our local team has been able to continue our monthly prayer meetings on Zoom to connect believers within the local church community who share the same heart for loving our neighbors well. It is a joy to pray together (often in different languages) and to hear testimonies of how God is at work, to share specific prayer concerns near and far, and to pray for our local contacts by name. We look forward to resuming our prayer meetings in person in September.

Pray for the Lord to bless and guide relationships that our team is building with local churches and believers who share the same heart for reaching out and loving their neighbors.

Our family lives in a neighborhood with over 60 nationalities and it is here that the church plant of our French church is opening their community

center. The center will house the church plant and its ministries which include a coffee bar. There are intentional services and opportunities being provided here to assist and support immigrant and refugee populations. During the summer our family was privileged to paint, clean, decorate, and run errands alongside the leadership team. More recently, Colby has embarked on barista training and Emma with serving behind the scenes with opportunities like baking for the cafe to hopefully continue to be a hands-on encouragement for our friends. What a neat opportunity to be up close to the work the local church is doing as we seek to spur others on to love and good deeds in the name of Jesus.

It is wonderful to have this cafe so nearby to invite our contacts to for coffee and to converse in French. Oh, and did we mention that in addition to quality coffees and teas, there is air conditioning?! Our new favorite hangout for sure! Pray for relationships being formed to strengthen and grow, and for Christ to be boldly proclaimed through conversations and time spent together. Pray for our contacts to be connected locally to Christians and to churches who are open to discipling and sharing life with them.

Pray for peace as tensions can run high in our neighborhood as it is highly affected by unemployment and other stressors, and for the new community center to be seen as a resource of help and encouragement. Pray for the leadership team of the church and community center as they officially launch this week, and for all that enter its doors to sense the love and peace of Jesus.

In September, our son (15) starts yet another new school as he enters French high school for 10th grade, and our daughter (14) returns to the same

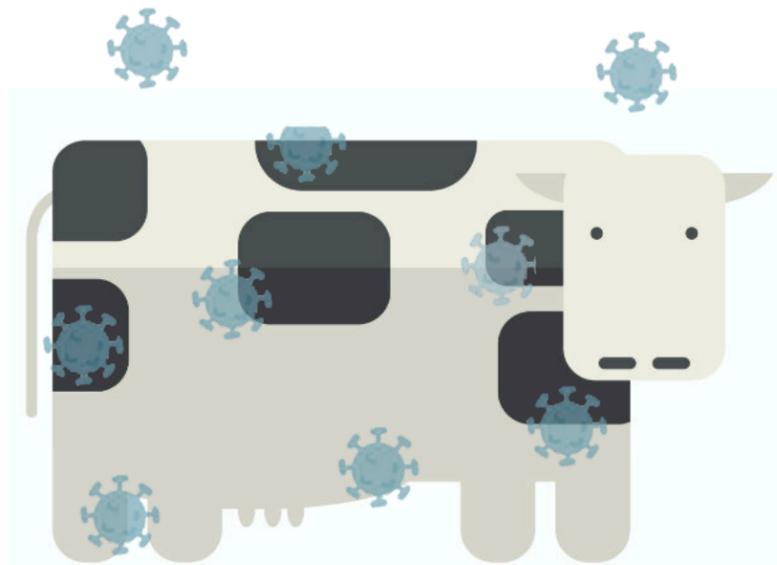
French middle school as before for her 9th grade year.

Please pray for them regarding ongoing adjustments related to COVID-19 restrictions, for their transition into new class schedules and routines, for new and continued friendships among their peer groups, for spiritual growth, and for wisdom for all of us as we navigate many new experiences and expectations simultaneously.

August 19 marks exactly 2 years of living in France, and to say that we have all grown is an understatement! We praise God for His goodness in calling us here to teach us more about our need for Him as He reveals to us His heart for the nations here among us.

Just as we are all experiencing in 2020 the unexpected changes and challenges of navigating the hard, our family can give testimony that we have been held and sustained the past two years by the promises that our God knows the plans for us and He is faithful. We are living proof of his goodness as we look back in thanksgiving at how God has led us and sustained us, how He has gifted us with community in a foreign place, how He has enabled us to engage in a new language and multiple cultures, and to see roots slowly sinking into this new soil. Therefore, because of our complete assurance in Him, we can step forward into the uncertainties of each new day with the confidence that He will continue to lead and to provide for His children. Join us in praying for those around us to also share in the hope and joy that we have, and for the body of believers here to multiply and grow.

In Christ alone, Colby and Emma



Nurse's Notes



Old Uncle Sam had a country and in this country he had a Covid-19 virus. With a virus here, and a virus there, here a virus, there a virus, everywhere a virus..... Like Old McDonald, Uncle Sam has his problems and they are going to be getting more confusing with the upcoming arrival of the annual flu season.

Everyone should try to do what they can to help. The first and most important step is to get a flu shot as soon as possible. Then we need to continue with social distancing, wearing a mask, and washing hands frequently.

PLEASE MAKE A PLEDGE TO GET YOUR FLU SHOT SOON. Help to protect yourself and your family from further viral threats. Sue Shillady, R.N.



Database Update



A new church directory is in the planning stages.

We would like every household worshipping with us to fill out this form so that we may cross reference with the current information on file.

Please place it in the offering basket on your way out after the worship service. You may also drop it off in the mail slot at the front door of the church office. If you wish to call in your information, please call at 863/465-2742.

Name _____

Home Mailing Address _____

Email Addresses _____

Home phone _____

Cell phone numbers _____

Emergency Contact _____

Please let us know if you do not wish to have your information published publically.

We will need help with the church directory. If you are interested in helping, please call the church office, 863/465-2742.