PITSBURG CoB
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APRIL 2020

Note:
If we have not listed your birthday or anniversary, please contact the Pastor so we can correct the list.

Castine Area Food Bank
April food item is Cereal

Psalm 100:1–5 (NRSV)
1 Make a joyful noise to the LORD, all the earth. 2 Worship the LORD with gladness; come into his presence with singing. 3 Know that the LORD is God. It is he that made us, and we are his; we are his people, and the sheep of his pasture. 4 Enter his gates with thanksgiving, and his courts with praise. Give thanks to him, bless his name. 5 For the LORD is good; his steadfast love endures forever, and his faithfulness to all generations.

We have temporarily canceled worship and Bible study at Pitsburg CoB. We hope the danger passes soon and we can again come together. In the meantime, we will be more intentional in prayer and remaining connected. Please send me updates as appropriate.
Pastor Ken
If you do Facebook go to the page “Pitsburg Church of the Brethren”

PRAYERS
Dale COPD, son Kris, son Kirk and daughter-in-law Annetta
Peggy - back pain, awaiting surgery
Tom - son Jerri with degenerative brain disease
Jerrlyn - grandson Eric in National Guard - overseas
Betty - isolated
Penny - biopsy
Noah - young friend
Chelsea and Jordan - financial situation
Sarah
-Friend Dan - teacher in Mexico
-Friend Genna - Lyft driver in Chicago, can’t get riders, looking for a new job

Sandy - neighbor to church
Bobby - chemo, waiting on stem cell treatments
James Vandermark - Brethren pastor in Indiana - Cancer diagnosis

Those affected by virus here and abroad - especially Italy, Iran, and Spain
People in isolation - nursing homes, prisons, elderly at home.
Medical personal and first responders dealing with virus
Service personal and families all over the world.
EYN - Church of the Brethren in Nigeria attacked by Boko Haram
Israel protection and wisdom in choosing leaders
USA - a focus on what is good, and right for all
From Sue Strawser
- Dianna - Dianna is the food bank director.
- - Her brother Dennis is in Miami Valley.
- - Also her great granddaughter Rylee was ill.
- - Also her sister-in-law Linda was ill.
- - Melody with leukemia.
- - Richard and Karen - stuck on cruise ship

PRAISES
Melinda’s dad Ben in his recovery from a brain tumor
Spring, gardening, fresh flowers and vegetables
These skits are from the story in Genesis.
In this one, Abraham prepares to take Isaac

My team, the Anaheim Angels, was positioned to win a postseason series — against the New York Yankees no less. And my friend and radio colleague Hugh Hewitt, who could not use his seats (first row, near home plate), sent them to me. Only other diehard fans of such teams as the Red Sox and the Cubs can fully understand how much I wanted to go to that game with my young son. After all, who knows when such an opportunity will come again? But the next day, Major League Baseball announced that the game would be a day game, not a night game, presenting me with an insurmountable obstacle. You see, Friday night and Saturday until sunset are my Sabbath, and while I am not an Orthodox Jew, I am a religious one. I take the Ten Commandments seriously, and the Fourth says, “Thou shall remember the Sabbath Day to make it holy.” No amount of rationalizing could convince me that going to a baseball game is a holy act. And I really did try to rationalize. God will forgive me, I told myself. Hey, all in all, I’m a good guy. Anyway, this is a one-time event — what’s the big deal of one Sabbath afternoon lost in the scheme of all the Sabbaths I will have observed? And I can attend synagogue in the morning and then go to the game. I won’t even buy anything at the stadium (commerce is forbidden on the Sabbath). I tried every rationalization. But in the end, no argument worked, and I gave the tickets away. Why I didn’t go is the reason for this column, because the reasons — both religious and non-religious — can apply to everyone, whether religious or atheist. One religious reason was the need to affirm in action that God and my religion are more important to me than attending a baseball game, no matter how significant the game. If I had violated the Sabbath to attend it, I would have been saying that in the competition for my priorities, the Angels defeated God. And if a baseball game leads me to compromise my religious beliefs, what would happen if I were really tested?

What if I had to risk my life for a persecuted stranger, as Christians in Europe during the Holocaust had to (and only a noble few did)? We practice for big sacrifices by passing the tests of smaller ones. A second religious reason concerned my children. They have been raised to forgo some fun things like TV on the Sabbath.

How could I look them in the face and tell them that some of their desires have to relinquished, but mine don’t? My son will always remember that Dad, whom he knew to be a big Angels fan, gave up his final-game tickets because the game was on a Saturday. I hope that will count for something in his life. The non-religious reason is as important. I have devoted many years to studying, lecturing, and even writing a book on happiness (“Happiness Is a Serious Problem,” HarperCollins). One of the themes of my approach is that fun and happiness are often related, but at least as often they are in conflict. For example, eating desserts is a great deal of fun, but it can also lead to great unhappiness, as many overweight people can affirm. How does this apply to the playoff tickets?

Keeping the Sabbath, my weekly day away from the world, away from television, radio, and even from newspapers (the reading of which for me, a radio talk show host and columnist, is work), spent with family and friends and at synagogue, is a major source of my stability and happiness. The Angels game, when all is said and done, would have been great fun, but the Sabbath brings me happiness, and I opt for happiness.

A touching epilogue: Hugh Hewitt could not use his tickets, which he also cherished, because he had a commitment to a church retreat. So here were a Christian and a Jew, each forgoing a very rare pleasure for his God and religion. Now, two days after the great game, having had another meaningful Sabbath and having enjoyed watching the game Saturday after sunset on tape (without knowing the final score beforehand), I know I made the right decision. I suspect that Hugh feels the same. In much of Western life religion has descended into simply making people feel good. At its best, however, religion teaches what is ultimately important and what isn’t. Neither a good nor a happy life is possible without knowing that. That is why God must always be higher than the Angels.

Higher than the Angels - Dennis Prager - Submitted by Bruce Shank
Dear Pittsburg Church of the Brethren,

What a crazy couple of weeks for humanity. We grieve with many of you who have lost jobs, are dealing with uncertainty, or are fighting fear and anxiety right now. The burden is real, and yet we know that God is still in control.

Our own short-term plans have changed for this month. We're leaving early for New Hampshire, making the 21-hour drive over the next two days. Please pray for safety and alertness on the road. Also, pray that we will not pick up or transmit the coronavirus to others on the journey. To protect Nate's family and the community as a whole, we're making as few stops as possible and packing plenty of wipes and sanitizer.

- Unless God completely shuts the door or guides us otherwise, our plan is still to return to Thailand late this summer. Please pray for open doors and favor with those tasked with border control and visas.
- Thailand is joining many other countries in shutting down schools and businesses. Pray that God would use the Church around the world to bring Christ's hope to those struggling with fear or facing anxiety.

We appreciate each of you who are praying along with us and are giving sacrificially to support Bible translation. In these difficult times, we are so grateful for Christ's unchanging love and want more people to know of His hope.

We realize each of you will have unique challenges as you go through this season. We'd love to hear how you are doing and how we can specifically pray for you. If you have time, please email us with your own update.

Nate and Ivy
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Everyone is struggling to get through this virus. If you have prayer concerns, you may call Pastor Ken at 937-546-6808.

Abraham and the angel visitors