JUNE 2020

Sunday  9:30 am - Fellowship Hour
Sunday 10:00 am - Praise and Worship
Wednesdays 9:00 am Mom’s in prayer

--- CALENDAR OF EVENTS ---

Church active with masks and social distancing

Psalm 100:1–5 (NRSV)

1 Make a joyful noise to the L ORD, all the earth.  2 Wor-ship the L ORD with gladness; come into his presence with singing.  3 Know that the L ORD 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 L ORD is good; his steadfast love endures forever, and his faithfulness to all generations.

We are meeting for Sunday worship
- pray for protection as we gather.
- bring a face mask to wear
- bring smiling eyes, hopeful spirit.
- we will have 6’ separation
- families may be together
- no hugs, no handshakes
- the offering plate will be on the back table
- we will not have children go to the nursery.

As I write this morning, protests and riots are occurring all over the country.
I pray for justice for the senseless murder that started it all, but also for wisdom to see the root causes which set up the situation, humility to seek solutions beyond our selves and courage to act with a mixture of justice and grace.
We are presently studying Jacob in the book of Genesis.
In the story, it took an encounter with God for Jacob to begin to change from always seeking for himself, to being willing to give.
May we all encounter God - and find new ways to live in grace.
Pastor Ken

JUNE BIRTHDAYS & ANNIVERSARIES
1 Aden Strawser
4 Alex Morales
6 Ken Oren
8 Kenneth & Marilyn Miller
9 Dale Clark
10 Randall Westfall
12 Jennifer Westfall
15 Brandon Harriger
18 Ken & Daryl Oren
21 Heidi Westfall
28 Linda & Tony Taylor
30 Rita Custer

Castine Area Food Bank
June food item is Flour

Note:
If we have not listed your birthday or anniversary, please contact the Pastor so we can correct the list.
The 10th Apple Effect!!

A hunter once lost his way deep inside the jungle while chasing a deer. He used all his navigation skills but neither did he find any way out of the jungle nor could he find any food to eat for 8 days. He started feeling so hungry that he could eat an entire elephant at one go. Disappointed, he lost all hope. And that is exactly when an apple tree caught his sight. He collected a dozen apples to feed him for the rest of his search.

As he ate the 1st apple, his joy knew no bounds and he just couldn't stop feeling grateful and blessed. He thanked life. He thanked God. He could not believe his luck when he ate the 1st apple. He was less grateful while having the 2nd apple and even lesser grateful when he had the 5th apple. Somehow, with each passing apple, the hunger still kept on increasing and the joy kept on reducing drastically.

He just could not enjoy the 10th apple.

Why? He had already taken for granted the gift of having found an apple tree in the middle of a forest after 8 long days of wandering with hunger. When he took the 10th apple in his hand, he was still very hungry but he just did not feel like having it any more. Economics calls this diminishing marginal utility. I would like to call it diminishing gratitude, in simple words, taking things for granted. Or let's just call it the 10th apple effect.

The 10th apple did not lack taste, it did not lack the potential to satisfy his hunger but the only thing lacking was his gratitude for finding food in the middle of the jungle.

The hunter represents us. And the apple represents the gifts that life gives us. The 10th apple represents our lack of gratitude for these gifts of life and our 'take everything for granted' attitude. As we continue receiving the gifts of life, our hunger, our greed keeps on increasing and the joy we get from these gifts diminishes.

The 10th apple is as sweet as the first apple. If the 10th apple fails to give you as much pleasure as the first one, nothing is wrong with the apple, everything is wrong with you. If you get bored on a dull day, it is not because the day is dull and boring. It is because your gratitude has become dull and boring. The gift of life for another day cannot be taken for granted. The Nth year of life should seem as exciting as the 16th year, as the 25th year, as the 50th year.

Never let the '10th apple effect' make you take these gifts of life for granted. Never let your gratitude for life fade away. Happy life!
An old rabbi once asked his pupils how they could tell when the night had ended and the day had begun.

"Could it be," asked one student, "when you can see an animal in the distance and tell whether it's a sheep or a dog?" "No," answered the rabbi. Another asked, "Is it when you can look at a tree in the distance and tell whether it's a fig tree or a peach tree?"

"No," answered the rabbi. "Then when is it?" the pupils demanded.

"It is when you can look on the face of any person and see that it is your sister and brother. Because if you cannot see this, it is still night."

Frank Schaefer, Christ's Last Words
Everyone is struggling to get through this virus. If you have prayer concerns, you may call Pastor Ken at 937-546-6808.

Visit our Facebook page, “Pitsburg Church of the Brethren.” This is a scene from Mother’s day.