



## Jesus Followers – Beckoned and Sent

Every congregation is unique and complex. Yet every congregation also works with a small set of core issues:

- Mission and how to achieve it
- Strengths and resources and how to implement them
- Anxiety and how to manage it
- Wholeness and how to maintain it

Motivated people and inspired congregations who name, tap, and focus their energy creatively and productively seem to be carried by two energy currents. My mentor, Howard, calls the first kind “sending energy” which generates momentum from within. People experiencing this kind of energy say things like, “something just woke up inside of me,” or “I don’t know where it came from, but I felt this thing inside of me that couldn’t go un-addressed”. It’s hard to explain yet many of you I’m sure have heard God’s voice. God told you to go and you did. Thank you for listening!

Another energy source for activating potential he calls “beckoning energy”, which invites from beyond oneself. Sometimes heard through people’s stories when they were reading a book or watching something on television. The Spirit called out to them. They didn’t really understand why or how. They simply responded by taking a first step – to do. Thank you for listening!

The Bible offers abundant examples of “sending energy” and “beckoning energy”, or some combination of the two. Paul told Timothy to stir the gifts of power and light within himself in 2 Timothy 1:6-7. The apostle said that “suffering produces endurance, and endurance produces character, and character produces hope, and hope does not disappoint us”. Ananias reported, as he touched Paul’s eyes and his sight returned, that he was sent to him by God (Acts 9:10-19). Isaiah, hearing the voice of God in the temple, said, “send me” (6:1-8). Paul urged his readers to know themselves as “ambassadors for Christ” (2 Corinthians 5:20). Jesus “set his face to go to Jerusalem” (Luke 9:51). The disciples responded to Jesus’ invitation to “follow me,” a man revealed in a vision beckoned to Paul from Macedonia, and Wise Men followed a star in the western sky.

Through years of prayer, bible study, and holy conversation – along with far too many late-night meetings – we are at a place and time where change is happening. We are discerning sending

energy and beckoning energy in our midst. We are becoming the motivated people and inspired congregation God calls us to be!

Getting to this point was hard work. It took removing barriers that blocked these energies. We had to break down silos, learn to share leadership, and identify harmful practices to prepare a space for the Holy Spirit to unleash all the blessings God wishes for us to enjoy. Perhaps the biggest barrier was intense resistance. Key leaders withheld supportive comments and prevented the congregation from forward movement early on. The inevitable result is that missed opportunities hurt this ministry and its people. And still we moved forward. We move forward because we’ve learned.

We’ve learned the more time you spend using your gifts, the better. If you can spend 80% of your time living out your giftedness and only 20% of your time on tasks for which you are not gifted, you’ll not only get that boost of *energy* you are looking for—you will feel like you’re living the dream. Hand in hand with using your own spiritual gifts is developing gifts in others and helping them make the best use of their gifts that they possibly can. It’s hard to imagine that others love doing things that you don’t—but it’s true. They are gifted differently than you are, and God made the Body of Christ like that on purpose.

We’ve learned creativity ignites good feelings and solid results. Maybe you don’t consider yourself a creative person—so get creative people in the room. God doesn’t need to have all the vision come through you. You’ll be amazed at the *energy* generated from the new visions and ideas that can arise from a diverse gathering of people. We need to continue to pull from all generations and groups of people who are part of our ministry, discover what matters most to them, and consider new ways our ministry can serve. We need to provide people and financial resources to empower these creative leaders to go out and make it happen.

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# CHANGE

By: Justine Alderfer

Change. People react differently to that word. For some, it makes them uncomfortable. For others, it is energizing. Often it is the type of change that drives these feelings. But in any case, change can be difficult and challenging.

If you were able to listen to the church service that immediately followed the return of those who were blessed to be part of the mission to Cuernavaca, Mexico and the surrounding areas (aired January 21, 2024), you would have heard a resounding theme that each of the youth independently determined as of utmost importance to communicate with the congregation about their experience...this theme was change. The youth were spot-on. There is change happening in Mexico because of Wellspring Karitas Foundation. Great change.

At Alem, wheelchair repair clinics are successful due to a small group of contagiously optimistic people, most of whom are wheelchair-bound. The initial plan for Alem was sparked from the idea of a handcycle bike but this plan needed to pivot after recognizing the terrain in the local areas would not be conducive for this type of mobility device and thus a change in course was necessary, leading to the current wheelchair repair initiative. Although I was not on the trip last year, while I was visiting the room where sewing of the wheelchair pads occurs, I heard others commenting that the sewing room was in a smaller room last year. Clearly, there has been change here.

At the cafeteria, Resiliente, a restaurant staffed by hiring impaired and intellectually challenged, I learned that the location had moved in the last year. This was due mostly to logistical struggles, but it was noted that the restaurant has expanded significantly in its staff as well as its clientele as a result. More change is evident here.

There are many more examples observed in Mexico where it is evident the change has been fueled by passion, but nonetheless very hard. And although the youth picked up on these changes, I interpreted their words to also be expressing their recognition of how much change is still needed. As adults, we are all aware of the deep pain that can be present in our world afflicted by sin. However, there is so much value in being present with the youth who have just observed real-life struggles of others (maybe for the first time), such as lack of water resources and living conditions consisting of a tiny concrete living space. It is almost like learning about our brokenness for the first time all over again. The amount of change needed can feel so overwhelming that it can feel impossible to even begin.

This all led me to 'Google' (because why not?). The first article that came up in my search of "Why is change so hard" was an article from 2020 in Psychology Today by Theo Tsaosides that noted that "While change requires effort, resilience, planning and support, there are some approaches to change that make it more difficult." These are as follows:

1. Changing too many things at once
2. One change involves other changes
3. The status quo is uncomfortable
4. Unclear about the benefits of change

5. The change is broad and vague
6. Abandoning efforts too quickly

Based upon this small Google search article, it can be considered that change may be a bit more manageable for many people if it is thought of in the context of smaller portions. Maybe there is change happening outside of one's control and the next step is to just make it through the next day of the change. In the context of implementing change, maybe it is just thinking about one small thing that each person can offer to provide support.

This takes me to another example from Mexico. Our group was provided the opportunity to visit a center where the seasonal farm laborers and their families can live in meager quarters when they arrive from southern Mexico to perform the painstaking work in the sugar cane fields. Wellspring Karitas and Resiliente provide a "small oasis in the middle of a punishing life with a colorful cafeteria where they can get a healthy and filling meal". As we were coming to the end our visit, one of the leaders plucked a fruit for each of us from a nearby lime tree with such genuine generosity. It may have seemed like a small gesture but it was impactful.

With all of this said, I urge you to think about what you might be able to offer in the name of change, even if it may seem small. And if you are not sure, maybe consider just keeping this dialogue going with the church youth, as they are wise beyond their years.

Romans 12:2: Do not conform to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God's will is – his good, pleasing and perfect will.

As an additional note, I would like to thank the congregation for allowing me to attend the mission trip with my daughter, Olivia. Although I am not a member of this congregation, the youth on last year's trip indicated that it took them several weeks upon their return home for their learnings to begin to sink in. If that same path holds true for this year's trip (which I expect will be the case), I am extra grateful to be able to relate to and understand the experience along side my daughter.



Students and Educators -  
you're invited to this special worship service!  
Let's gather together to offer prayer for  
everyone heading back to the classroom.

# HOW SHOULD WE FEAR THE LORD?

By: Cathy Krause

"The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom; and knowledge of the Holy One is understanding." Proverbs 9:10

"Now, Israel, what does the Lord your God require from you, but to fear the Lord your God, to walk in all his ways and love him, and to serve your Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul..." Deuteronomy 10:12

From a young age we are taught that God is love; he is caring; he is faithful; where two or three are gathered he is in our midst; all things are possible with belief in him; he is compassionate; he heals; he knows what we need and knows our hearts; he forgives; he is merciful. And, there are more attributes. Is this a God to be afraid of?

What is this kind of fear? It is not the fear of going to a dentist or a doctor, nor is it the fear of losing a loved one. It is not the fear of the lack of money to pay bills. It is not the fear of barking dogs or of wild animals. It is not the fear of war. This fear is not the kind of being scared or frightened. (I wasn't asked and would have chosen a different word.)

So, if fearing the Lord is not being afraid of him, what does it mean?

It is the acknowledgement of his divine supremacy. Holy fear is God-given; it enables a person to revere "God's authority, obey his commandments, and hate and shun all forms of evil."<sup>2</sup> It includes reverence, awe, and respect. It allows us to praise him, to glorify him, to give thanks to him, to worship him. Fear of God is to love him. It involves humility, lowliness, and sensitivity of the heart.

Fear of God can be taught. David says in Ps 34:11 "Come, you children, listen to me: I will teach you the fear of the Lord." This verse suggests one of the reasons we have small group learning, Sunday School and Preschool for the children. Fear of the Lord inspires the believer to seek a deeper relationship with God/Jesus. This is reflected in the believer's interactions with other persons.

Fear of the Lord can be summarized in Micah 6:8:

"He has told you, O Man, what is good. What does the Lord require of you but to do justice, to love kindness, and to walk humbly with your God?"

And by Jesus when he answered the Pharisee lawyer:

"'You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your mind.' This is the great and foremost commandment. And the second is like it, 'You shall love your neighbor as yourself.'" Matt 22:35-39.

Fear of the Lord is a good thing. It brings us into a closer relationship with him and his creation. It gives us the confidence to be his disciples. It teaches us to do his will. This fear is a heartening fear, not a disabling one. May we all say with the Psalmist, "How great is your goodness, which you have stored up for those that fear you." (Ps 31:19)

## Resources consulted:

"Fear of God: What Does it Mean to Fear the Lord?" 27 May 2024. 26 June 2. <[christianpure.com/learn/fear-of-god-meaning](http://christianpure.com/learn/fear-of-god-meaning)>

The New Bible Dictionary. Grand Rapids: Wm B. Eerdmans Publishing Co. 1974. 419-420. Piper, John. "What Does It Mean for the Christian to Fear God?" 1 Apr 2014. 26 June 2024. <[desiringgod.org/interview/what-does-it-mean-for-the-christian-to-fear-god](http://desiringgod.org/interview/what-does-it-mean-for-the-christian-to-fear-god)>

"What Does it Mean to Have Fear of God?" n.d. 26 June 2024. <[www.gotquestions.org/fear-god.html](http://www.gotquestions.org/fear-god.html)>

(continued from page 1)

Join me in tapping sending energy as we seek to discern call, giftedness, purpose, and passion. Join me in tapping beckoning energy as we focus on mission, vision, goals, and objectives for faithfulness and ministry.

When we name our purpose, we will find energy that is unparalleled in experience. An energy we don't want to control. An energy we want to experience as it is unleashed. An energy that drives us to live out the Great Commandment and the Great Commission, making more and better disciples who live to reach and serve others.

Be blessed!

Pastor Bob



## POTATO PROJECT - FALL HARVEST

Sunday, September 8

1:00 pm

Becker's St. Peter's Lutheran Church  
(265 Maidencreek Rd, Fleetwood)

## SUNDAY SCHOOL RESUMES

Sunday, September 15

9:30 am

## "LIFT"

## LIVING IN FAITH TOGETHER

Wednesday, September 11, 18, 25

6:00-7:30 pm

Fellowship Hall

Experience multi-generational learning,  
music and fun - dinner included!  
More details to come!

## Eagle Messenger Article Deadlines

**Monday, August 12** for September issue

**Monday, September 9** for October issue

**Monday, October 14** for November issue



# SOMETHING ATE MY SUNFLOWER: DEALING WITH DISAPPOINTMENT

By: Bethany Calderwood

This spring in preschool we did one of my favorite activities – seed planting. After significant deliberation, I selected miniature sunflower seeds. The seed packet promised me sprouts within two weeks and a mid-sized blossom within ninety days. This sounded just right: visible results for the kids at school, then a lesson in perseverance and patience if they chose to nurture the plant at home.

There was one plant left for me. I potted the tiny sunflower and placed it at the corner of my porch, where my family could watch it, water it, and enjoy its rapid growth. After a few cheerful weeks, disaster struck: an outdoor creature found my sunflower and snacked on it. Was it a deer? A group of hungry bugs? Another perpetrator? I am so disappointed! I really wanted to see that sunflower bloom, and now it might not happen.

Kids encounter disappointment early and often. Some disappointments are simple: a turn ends, a favorite snack runs out, a toy breaks. Some are more complex: a plan fails, a peer is unkind, a tragedy occurs. When your child faces disappointment, how can you help? As an example, we'll consider each of these steps in the context of my ruined plant.

**1. Validate the feelings.** The situation may seem small to you, but from the perspective of a child it may well feel as if the world is collapsing. The feelings of devastation are real. Children need to know that you see their feelings. Even if you do not share the feeling, you acknowledge that their feeling makes sense. *I know you are disappointed that your sunflower was eaten. You were looking forward to seeing that flower and you waited a long time.*

**2. Moderate the response.** A child may react to disappointment by displaying inappropriate behavior, whether verbal or physical. A child may strike out at someone nearby or withdraw into themselves and refuse to interact. Using what you know of your child's temperament and preferences, offer them an acceptable outlet such as a run, a shoulder to cry on, a soothing song or story, or a glass of cold water. *I know it's not the same as your sunflower, but maybe we can water the other plants, or read a book together, or go for a walk.*

**3. Identify the cause.** There are two potential sources of disappointment: external and internal. External disappointments are events such as uncooperative weather or upsetting social encounters, while internal disappointments stem from a child's own actions, such as making a mistake or failing to accomplish a goal. The sunflower's demise stemmed from an external cause—a wild animal. An example of an internal cause would be if I had a temper tantrum and dumped the sunflower out of its pot.

**4. Address the cause.** Once you and your child have identified the source of their disappointment, consider: Are there steps your child can take to change the situation, improve it, or avoid it in the future? Sometimes you must acknowledge that there was nothing you could have done to change what happened. A young child will need significant guidance with this step, but it is a step well worth teaching. *Could we move the sunflower's pot to a safer location? Or try planting another sunflower?*

**5. Pray.** While this is listed last, prayer should be a part of every step in this process. Pray in your heart as you approach your child to help, and then pray aloud with your child. Remember that God made you and your child, and God made us to be emotional people. Jesus experienced all types of emotions, and the Bible records the emotions of many other people as well (just check Psalms!). There

are so many ways to pray, and God loves to hear all of them. *God, please help me because I feel sad. God, thank You for the good things that did happen today – sunshine, hugs, fun.*

Establishing a foundation of appropriate emotional responses early on helps your child to deepen their understanding of both themselves and the people around them. Giving young children basic tools prepares them to face the increasingly complex challenges of the elementary and adolescent years. Teaching children to deal with disappointment is not a simple process, but it provides lifelong benefits.



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# WORSHIP MINISTRY

Date	Day	Time	Liturgical Day (Special Service)	Acolyte	Altar Assistant	Altar Guild	Assisting Minister	Lector	Media	Prayers	Sound	Ushers	Video
8/4/2024	Sunday	9:30 AM	11th Sunday after Pentecost	Philip Derr	Ashley Gheer, John Gheer	Bonnie Moatz	Madi Robb	Dave Long	Sarah Eidle	Bonnie Moatz	Ashley Gheer	Becky & Barry Erb, Ros & Brian Moatz	Jason Eidle
8/11/2024	Sunday	9:30 AM	12th Sunday after Pentecost	Delaney Hersperger	Bev & Joe Blake	Shirley Hartman, Sue Hill	Jen Schlegel	Jean Machamer	Shannon Omlor	Friz Family	Myles Omlor	Bev & Joe Blake, Ashley Gheer, John Gheer	Camryn Friz
8/18/2024	Sunday	9:30 AM	13th Sunday after Pentecost; <i>Back to School Blessing</i>	Camryn Friz	Melissa Eidle, Jen Schlegel	Dorothy Breitreutz	Lauren Jones	Brian Moatz	Jason Friz	Ros Moatz	Brianna Rohrbach	Phil Haddad, Lauren Jones, Ben Rohrbach, Bill Rohrbach	Abbe Grofe
8/25/2024	Sunday	9:30 AM	14th Sunday after Pentecost	Philip Derr	Bonnie Moatz, Becky Scheiry	Melissa Eidle	Mel Roth	Amy Moyer	Sarah Eidle	Nathan Wanish	Melissa Eidle	Martha Bentley, Jodi Dykie, Barbara Houpp, Nathan Wanish	Scott Scheiry
9/1/2024	Sunday	9:30 AM	15th Sunday after Pentecost	Grant Hersperger	Michele & Dave Eidle	Shirley Hartman, Sue Hill	Amanda Ehst	Karen Pollock	Shannon Omlor	Lauren Jones	Myles Omlor	Susan & Andy Varzally, Carol Sematis, Terry Wadsworth	Nathan Wanish
9/8/2024	Sunday	9:30 AM	16th Sunday after Pentecost	Tatum Friz	Amanda Ehst, Tom Engle	Mary Dierolf, Nancy Edwards	Melissa Geary	Ben Rohrbach	Jason Friz	Mel Roth	Ashley Gheer	Bunny & Ron Riffle, Jen Schlegel, Scott Scheiry	Justin Jones
9/15/2024	Sunday	9:30 AM	17th Sunday after Pentecost	Philip Derr	Lauren Jones, Jen Friz	Mary Kay Heimbach, Jean Machamer	Jason Friz	Mel Roth	Sarah Eidle	Tom Engle	Brianna Rohrbach	Mike Gilbert, Ed Schaeffer, Sandy & Terry Wade	Jason Eidle
9/22/2024	Sunday	9:30 AM	18th Sunday after Pentecost	Camryn Friz	Ashley Gheer, John Gheer	Dorothy Breitreutz	Lauren Jones	Randy Rupert	Shannon Omlor	Martha Bentley	Melissa Eidle	Mary Kay & Donnie Heimbach, Darin Moyer, Kevin Moyer	Camryn Friz
9/29/2024	Sunday	9:30 AM	19th Sunday after Pentecost	Delaney Hersperger	Bev & Joe Blake	Bonnie Moatz	Jen Schlegel	Becky Scheiry	Jason Friz	Michele Eidle	Myles Omlor	Martha Bentley, Jodi Dykie, Barbara Houpp, Nathan Wanish	Abbe Grofe

# AUGUST 2024

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				<b>1</b> 10:00a Chestnut Knoll Service 6:30p ScriptureDoodle 7:00p Jen's Handbells 8:00p Worship Broadcast	<b>2</b> 7:00a Men's Small Group Bible Study	<b>3</b> 4:30p Come to the Table
<b>4</b> 9:30a Worship Celebration 10:45a Love Does	<b>5</b> 6:30p Preschool MAG	<b>6</b> 6:30p The Power of Your Words 6:30p Madi's Handbells 7:30p Choir	<b>7</b> Oley Cluster 6:30p Worship Team	<b>8</b> Junior Beach Retreat 10:00a Chestnut Knoll Service 6:30p ScriptureDoodle 7:00p Jen's Handbells 8:00p Worship Broadcast	<b>9</b> Junior Beach Retreat 7:00a Men's Small Group Bible Study	<b>10</b> Junior Beach Retreat 4:30p Come to the Table
<b>11</b> 9:30a Worship Celebration 10:45a Love Does 10:45a Coffee & Conversation	<b>12</b> 5:00p Newsletter Submission 7:30p Optimist Club of Boyertown	<b>13</b> 6:30p The Power of Your Words 6:30p Madi's Handbells 7:30p Choir	<b>14</b>	<b>15</b> 9:30a Community Leaders 10:00a Chestnut Knoll Service 6:30p ScriptureDoodle 7:00p Jen's Handbells 8:00p Worship Broadcast	<b>16</b> 7:00a Men's Small Group Bible Study	<b>17</b> 4:30p Come to the Table
<b>18</b> 9:30a Worship Celebration. 'Back to School Blessing' 10:45a Love Does	<b>19</b>	<b>20</b> 6:30p Finance Team 6:30p The Power of Your Words 6:30p Madi's Handbells 7:30p Choir	<b>21</b> 9:30a Pottstown Soup Kitchen 6:30p Congregation Council	<b>22</b> 10:00a Chestnut Knoll Service w/Holy Communion 6:30p ScriptureDoodle 7:00p Jen's Handbells 8:00p Worship Broadcast	<b>23</b> 7:00a Men's Small Group Bible Study	<b>24</b> 4:30p Come to the Table
<b>25</b> 9:30a Worship Celebration 10:45a Love Does	<b>26</b> 7:30p Optimist Club of Boyertown	<b>27</b> 1:00p Joyful Sisters of Service 6:30p Building a Better Boyertown 6:30p The Power of Your Words	<b>28</b>	<b>29</b> 10:00a Chestnut Knoll Service 8:00p Worship Broadcast	<b>30</b> 7:00a Men's Small Group Bible Study	<b>31</b> 4:30p Come to the Table

# AUGUST BIRTHDAYS

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1 Kay Christman Sarah Eidle	2 Jen Schlegel	3 Virga Brown
4 Joe Blake III Shelba DiPietro Donna Little	5 Joan Marburger	6 Aiden Guinther	7 Barry Christman	8 Monica Herbert	9	10 Shannon Omlor
11 Ben Rohrbach	12 Dorothea Breitkreutz	13 William Daub	14 Arianna Koch	15 Dennis Shollenberger	16 Alex Vogt	17 Betty Long Ruth Schlegel
18	19 Elwood Heydt Robert Richards Luke Stofflet	20 Mark Stofflet, Jr	21	22 Ruth Ann Wren	23 Brian Moatz Roberta Lucarelli	24 June Tim
25	26	27 Alina Friz	28	29 Shirley Hartman Betty Keim Mark Rohrbach	30 Susie Allmendinger Lucille Gehris Cade Sennott	31



# EAGLE MESSENGER

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As children of God and disciples of Christ seeking peace and justice in the world, we welcome, affirm, and include all people into the fullness of God's love. We celebrate and lift up people of all races, cultures, ages, sexual orientations, gender identities, physical or mental abilities, economic statuses, political affiliation, appearances, family status, and citizenship as equally loved and valued in the eyes of God and in this place. All are invited to join this community as we worship God, grow in faith, and strive to love and serve one another.

All, without exception, are welcome in this place.

Return Service Request - Dated Material  
Mailed July 26, 2024

## WORSHIP

SUNDAY 9:30 AM

IN-PERSON & LIVESTREAM ON YOUTUBE

### Office Hours

*Monday-Thursday 8:30 am - 3:30 pm*

*Friday 8:30 am - 12:00 pm*

Pastor Bob Machamer

Kay Christman, Finance Team

Sue Grofe, Finance Team

Donnie Heimbach, Property

Bonnie Moatz, Finance Team

Shannon Omlor, Communications Coordinator

Madison Robb, Intern

Linda Rohrbach, Treasurer

Becky Scheiry, Parish Administrator

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