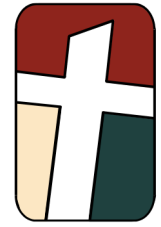


140th Anniversary

# Covenant

## CHURCH



Covenant Echoes  
August & September, 2024



### From the Pastor's Desk...

By Pastor Derrick Gutierrez

In 2024, political discourse has done more to divide us than unite us. It has become harder to “agree to disagree”. We all want certainty in our lives. We want to believe that in one nation and one church we all believe in the same things. The truth is we are all a little different in how we live our lives and what is important to us.

In a diverse community, Christians are set apart in how we respond to disagreements. We are called to unity under Christ. So, we reflect the character of Christ in all of our relationships, even with non-Christians. Our behavior bears witness to the power of Christ to transform our lives.

So how do we respond to the challenges of diverse views? How do we stay unified when we cannot agree on everything? The apostle Paul offers this advice to the church in Galatia in his letter to them:

“For the entire law is fulfilled in keeping this one command: “Love your neighbor as yourself. If you bite and devour each other, watch out or you will be destroyed by each other. So I say, walk by the Spirit, and you will not gratify the desires of the flesh.”

“But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, forbearance, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control. Against such things there is no law.” Galatians 5:14-16, 22-23 (NIV)

The fruit of the Spirit are virtues that are cultivated within disciples of Jesus Christ by the Holy Spirit so that when things get hard we can live according to His teachings. So, let's take a closer look at each one.

**Love** is the divine, selfless, “agape” love that reflects God's nature and is the foundation of the fruit of the Spirit. **Joy** is a deep and abiding sense of happiness that stems from a relationship with God, trusting in his promises, no matter what trials we face. **Peace** is the wholeness that comes from one's relationships with God, self, and others; based on the assurance that God is in control and surpasses our instinct to act in our own self-interests.

**Patience** (Forbearance) is the ability to endure difficulties and delays without frustration or anger; trusting in God's timing and sovereignty bearing with others' faults and weaknesses and extending grace as we have received it. **Kindness** involves a disposition of merciful benevolence towards others; reflecting God's kindness to us, prompting us to show empathy, compassion, and support to those around us. **Goodness** is moral integrity and a generosity of Spirit, manifesting in actions that are honorable, just, and beneficial to others, showcasing a life that seeks to honor God in all things.

Continued on next page...

## Sidelights

### COVENANT'S VISION AND MISSION STATEMENTS

Our Vision Statement: **Bringing Christ's Light into the Community and Beyond.**

Our Mission Statement: **We Invite, We Welcome, We Nurture, We Serve.**

### WAYS TO CONTINUE GIVING

Thank you to our faithful members who continue to support Covenant Church. Here are options for you to give your personal tithes and offerings:

- Mail checks to 110 N. Mulberry St., Lancaster, PA, 17603
- Give online. Go to our website [www.covenant-umc.com](http://www.covenant-umc.com) and click on the GIVING link and follow the directions.
- Text 717-769-1063. After the initial setup, giving is easy.

Please call the church office with questions.

## Sidelights

### PRAYER CHAIN

If you have a prayer request, please call Patti Willard at 717-872-7561. If she is unavailable, please leave a message. Also, if you are interested in being a member of the Prayer Chain, please contact her to add your name to the list .

### HOSPITAL VISITATION

Don't forget to notify the church office when you or a loved one is in the hospital. Our Care Team is available to visit and share prayer.

### UPPER ROOM

You can purchase the Upper Room daily devotional for only \$2. We have regular and large print in the office.

### LOBBY GREETERS

1st Sunday of the Month  
Bob & Cindy Hean

2nd Sunday of the Month  
Carole Horn

3rd Sunday of the Month  
Linda Henning

4th Sunday of the Month  
Barry & Bonnie Miller

5th Sunday of the Month  
Janice McElroy

## We Worship Together

### Sunday Worship

In-person worship will be held each Sunday at 10:30 am. The service will also be livestreamed on Facebook for those who wish to worship at home.

### Additional Online Opportunities During the Week

- Wednesday at 10 am join our prayer group in the church library.

## MEET THE NEW BISHOP

Bishop Cynthia Moore-Koikoi has been assigned to serve as the episcopal leader of United Methodists of Eastern Pennsylvania and Greater New Jersey, effective September 1, 2024, following the retirement of Bishop John Schol. She was first elected as a bishop during the 2016 Northeastern Jurisdictional Conference and has previously served the Western Pennsylvania and Susquehanna Conferences. Prior to entering the ministry, she worked as a school psychologist for 17 years and served in church leadership roles as a layperson. Her great grandfather, her father, and her husband have all served as pastors.



Bishop Cynthia Moore-Koikoi

Upon hearing the call to ministry herself, she attended Wesley Seminary and was ordained as an elder in 2010. After serving as a pastor in a small church in East Baltimore and then as an associate pastor at Calvary UMC, a large congregation in Annapolis, she served on the conference staff working with churches on discipleship. Later she served as district superintendent for the Greater Washington Area and then for the Baltimore Metropolitan District when she was elected bishop. Bishop Moore-Koikoi serves as the President of the Board of Directors of the General Commission on Religion and Race as well as the team leader for the Mission Engagement Leadership Team on the Council of Bishops.

In her work as a bishop, she believes a key component is leaving space for the transforming movement of the Holy Spirit, especially during the challenges the denomination has faced and is facing for the future. "That's spiritual work—remembering who God is and who God has called us to be," she said. "We got God, so we got this."

Continued from front page...

**Faithfulness** denotes loyalty and dependability with steadfast adherence to God's truth and reliability in our relationships with others, echoing God's unwavering faithfulness to His promises and His people. **Gentleness** is strength under control and involves humility and a willingness to mirror the heart of Jesus for the benefit of others. **Self-control** is the ability to govern one's desires, emotions, and actions with the discipline to make choices that align with God's will.

The fruit of the Spirit is not a checklist of virtues to achieve through sheer willpower; rather, it is the natural outcome of a life surrendered to the Holy Spirit. As we walk in step with the Spirit, He transforms us from within, gradually producing these attributes in our lives. This process of spiritual growth requires intentionality, prayer, and immersion in God's Word.

As the contention in our society grows, let us strive to allow the Holy Spirit to bear His fruit in us, enriching our lives and blessing those around us. In all things, let the light of Christ shine through us to brighten our communities and nation.

# Here's to Good Health!

**Metabolism** is basically responsible for how food we eat gets turned into energy. As we age, metabolism slows down. The result is that we find ourselves becoming overweight and having less energy. Choices that we make about what we eat and drink can influence our weight, emotions, physical well-being, and mental clarity. Smart choices support mental and physical energy levels and can increase your zest for life. But some foods can drain your energy and lead to fatigue, sleepiness, and brain fog.

No one can eat smart all the time; we can have good intentions about eating the right foods that will give us more energy, but we do fail at times. I have some ideas to help you eat foods that will give you more energy to do what you must do and what you want to do.

You have heard breakfast is the best meal of the day. Well, don't skip breakfast. After sleeping you need to refuel your body and mind to enable you to function at your best. You might not eat as soon as you are up, but don't wait until you are really hungry.

Eat foods that are natural rather than processed. Think about foods that are low in sodium. Your meals should be salads, fruits, veggies, chicken, turkey, and fish. Watch out how much red meat you eat. Watch your carbs, but we do need them to

fuel our bodies. Whole food carbs like fresh fruit and vegetables, whole grains like oats, brown rice and barley, nuts, and beans help to stabilize blood sugar because the fiber helps the food move slower through the digestive tract, providing a steady supply of energy.

Eat protein. Plant and animal sources of protein supply energy producing B vitamins, antioxidant vitamin E, oxygen carrying iron, zinc for your immune system, along with magnesium to help build strong bones and release energy from muscles. Eat mostly chicken, turkey, pork (cut off the extra fat), eggs, black beans, and peas.

Stay away from energy drinks. Those types of drinks are usually full of sugar, and really high in caffeine. Choose green tea, coffee, and smoothies made with banana, a little almond butter, yogurt, almond milk, and frozen peaches.

Three healthy meals a day can keep your energy going, A snack made of protein and complex carbs can help stave off hunger. Try nut butter on whole wheat crackers, Greek yogurt with berries, a hard-boiled egg, a few carrots, and celery are some suggestions.

Cindy Smith,  
Parish Nurse

## Sidelights

### COVENANT MEMBERS IN BUSINESS

#### **Aunt Sandy's Attic**

Sandy Leonard—Antiques, Collectibles, Books, Art, etc.  
545 W. Market Street, Marietta,  
PA 17547, 717-426-5091

#### **Dale Building Designs**

[www.DonDaleDesigns.com](http://www.DonDaleDesigns.com)

#### **Groff Family Funeral & Cremation Services, Inc.**

Thomas S. Buter, 394.5300  
528 W. Orange St.

#### **Miller Optical**

Glenn & Maryanne Miller,  
393.2020  
Glasses, Contacts, and Exams  
Lancaster & Willow Street

#### **Willard Hypnosis Center**

Roger J. Willard  
3304 Main Street, Conestoga PA  
17516, 717.872.7561 or  
[willardhypnosis.com](http://willardhypnosis.com)

### WE WANT YOUR STORY!

In honor of Covenant's 140th Anniversary, you are invited to come and tell us how Covenant is a part of your life, and reflect on your history with us! We are looking to sit down in the Church library and record your personal and impactful stories, lasting about 3 minutes. Please call the office at 717-393-1561, or send us an email at [office@covenant-umc.com](mailto:office@covenant-umc.com) if you or anyone you know is interested.



## Sidelights

### THE WOW FELLOWSHIP

The women and men's group that has been meeting once a month after church for lunch and Bible study is now called The WOW Fellowship, which means **W**orship God, **O**bey His Word, and **W**itness to others. The group will be meeting the second Sunday of every month in Bethany Hall following the Worship Service. Lunch is provided.

### GROCERY CARDS

Please check the News to Go for Sundays when grocery cards will be available in the lobby.

You can also continue to support the Mission Outreach of Covenant by purchasing your grocery store gift cards through the mail. Please mail your check to Covenant UMC at 110 N Mulberry St 17603 with a note. We have \$50 Stauffer's cards; \$25 and \$50 Giant cards.

Please make your checks out to Covenant UMC. After receiving your check, we will mail your grocery store cards to your home.

### A/V HELP NEEDED

There is room for you on the sanctuary sound board. Interested? Training will be provided. Please see Darwin Tyson for more information.

## Summer to Fall Adult Sunday School Classes

As summer continues, so does the Sonshine Sunday School Class throughout August with their study focused on "The Chosen, Season 3." Then after taking a break for Labor Day weekend, the class will resume on September 8 and return to their former study of "Loving the Jesus Way," based on I Corinthians 13. New members are always welcome from 9:00 to 10:00 A.M. in the Sonshine Class, which is led by Ginny Brown and Patti Willard in Room B1 on the lower level next to the elevator.

The Faith Walk Sunday School Class, which meets in the Chapel Library, will begin a new DVD study in August: "Wrestling with Doubt: Finding Faith" by Adam Hamilton. The class will tackle some of the hard questions about the Christian faith as they renew their trust in God. Then in mid September, the class will begin a series of lessons entitled "On Purpose: Finding God's Voice in Your Passion" and presented on DVD by four different United Methodist pastors. Scripture exploration and discussion will follow as led by a rotation of teachers, including Carole Horn, Chris Kimmich, Lois Neidermyer, and Cindy Smith. The Chapel Library doors are always open at 9:00 A.M. on Sunday mornings to all interested in growing in their Christian faith.

## Chocolate Chip Cookie Series for August - Lancaster Red Rose Chorus



The Lancaster Red Rose Chorus has been sharing the joys of music in Lancaster County for quite a while. The Chorus was chartered in 1949 and has been sharing music and excitement as part of the Barbershop Harmony Society ever since. Under the direction of Penny Renoll, the chorus also performs throughout the year at various facilities and produces an annual Cabaret that has featured top quartets from the Mid-Atlantic District.

Barbershopping has changed over the years...the singing gets better...the production gets more elaborate...but the basic elements will never change -harmony, good fellowship with the greatest guys in the world, and the satisfaction of seeing the audience have a good time. These things never change. And it's what the Lancaster Red Rose Chorus is all about.

# Worship Surveys Provide Feedback

The Worship Task Force extends a sincere thank you to all who took the time to share their input on the worship survey that was circulated during the month of June. A total of 36 surveys were received, providing information about the demographics of those members who completed the surveys as well as their impressions and suggestions regarding our current worship service. All feedback has been compiled and examined thoroughly by the Worship Task Force.

Now begins the challenging task of determining recommendations for how to provide a worship experience that truly enhances communication with God for our congregation and for potential new members. As might be expected, the feedback from the surveys was somewhat mixed. So while the survey results will be a major consideration, the task force will also take into consideration its recent research into current practices and recommendations regarding worship.

The role of the Worship Task Force is to provide recommendations regarding future worship at Covenant and to report them to the Pathways Team and more importantly to share them with Covenant's Worship Committee. That committee in turn will examine the recommendations for their feasibility at Covenant. The recommendations with any revisions will then be forwarded to Church Council, which will have final say regarding their approval.

During the month of September Pastor Derrick will be sharing more with the congregation about worship survey results and considerations for making recommendations for future worship services. The tentative timeline is to put into place the approved worship recommendations beginning on October 13. Please pray for the whole process, enlisting the Holy Spirit's direction and the congregation's working together to enhance the worship experiences at Covenant Church.

The Worship Task Force, appointed by our Pathways Team, includes Pastor Derrick Gutierrez and Lois Neidermyer as members of the Pathways Team. The additional members intentionally extend beyond members of that Team and represent different generations, a range of longevity at Covenant, and various personal preferences for worship. They include: Asher Hadgu, Linda Henning, Sandy Leonard, Barry Miller, Bonnie Miller, and Laura Rappoldt.

# Vacation Bible School a Success!

Vacation Bible School is an opportunity to engage our neighbors with the Gospel of Jesus Christ with fun activities, good stories, and entertaining songs. This year VBS ran from Tuesday, July 22 through Friday, July 26th. Students learned that Jesus invites all to the party in celebration of the Good News: God loves you and wants to be your friend forever. Twenty students from ages four to twelve learned about friendship, belonging, forgiveness, abundant life, and purpose through biblical stories, games, crafts, and songs. They sang about the joy in their hearts and learned that an obstacle course game is a great metaphor for life. Adults and children alike were blessed by this week of evangelism. A parent even wanted to know if we were going to have VBS again next year because her children enjoyed it and want to return. What a great testimony to the work done by our faithful group.

Though the 2024 production of vacation bible school was humble in comparison to previous ones, it received much attention and help from volunteers and members. We are thankful to the 37 volunteers who put in 394 hours of work into making VBS a success! (pictures on next page)

On the last day of VBS, we took the opportunity to invite all 12 families to our next movie night event and we invite you to join us as well. After all, eating and sharing time together is the way we make connections that lead to making disciples of Christ. Again, we want to thank everyone for your prayers, your donations, your snack contributions, your time, your energy, and your love!

You have made known to me the paths of life;  
you will fill me with joy when I am with you.

Acts 2:28

## Sidelights

### 90+ BIRTHDAYS

Christinana Miller

8/12

### COMMUNITY AID

Covenant Church is in partnership with Community Aid. In addition to adding specific items, as needed, to our Community closet they send us checks for a percentage of any items dropped off at Community Aid by our members. Give them our #40070 when you drop off donations.

### SEPTEMBER COOKIE CONCERT

The American Guild of Organists will be performing on September 6th at 6:00pm.

Dr. Karl E. Moyer, F.A.G.O. has prepared a list of the stops on the Casavant organ, and included a credit-line to Dr. Harry A. Sykes, locally-highly-regarded organist-choirmaster at Trinity Lutheran Church in downtown Lancaster a century ago. He presided for quite some years at the Casavant organ in that church and brought particular knowledge and skill to the tonal design of the Covenant Church organ as well.

The Trinity organ was later replaced in 1962 by the M.P. Möller firm. He would go on later to design the large four-manual concert organ for the newly-built Hershey Theatre, finished by the newly-founded Aeolian-Skinner organ firm. That organ remains extant.

## SCENES FROM VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL



## Music in Summer Worship

Worship services this summer at Covenant Church have featured a variety of musicians well known to our congregation. On June 16 Lola Rublesky returned to Covenant to play her violin along with her sister Darla Easley on guitar. In July two vocalists enriched our worship: Sue Kresge on July 21 with her heartfelt renditions of “I Will Lift You There” and “The Goodness of God” and then tenor Brenten Megee on July 28 with his heart-stirring performances of “Were It Not For Grace” and “Beautiful Savior.”

In August Covenant Church will welcome back Tiffani Iraheta, pianist and vocalist, the second Sunday of the month. Then on August 18 our own Ginny Brown and Debbie Tyson will sing a duet of “Great Is Thy Faithfulness.”

While our Chancel Choir has most of the summer off, they blessed our worship services once in June and once again in July. They will return August 4 with the anthem “This Little Light of Mine.” The choir welcomed Celeste Stalk-Ortenzio and Greg Smith as guest choir members for these summer Sundays. The Chancel Choir will resume singing on a weekly basis on Sunday, September 8, with its regular rehearsals beginning on Wednesday, August 28.

Our Praise Team has led in singing worship songs several times this summer and will continue to do so in August. They have helped to teach the song “Selah III (Fruits of the Spirit)” to the congregation since Pastor Gutierrez is preaching a series of sermons on Galatians 5:22-23.

Both Larry Rappoldt and Benjamin Wesley have continued their faithful service with instrumental music throughout our Sunday services on the organ and piano respectively. “Praise him with stringed instruments and organ...Let everything that hath breath praise the Lord.” Psalm 150:4,6.

# August 2024

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
28	29	30	31	1 Church Office Closed 7a MOOS 7p Praise Team Rehears;	2 7a MOOS 6p Chocolate Chip Cooki	3 12p Care and Share Lun
4 Holy Communion 9a Adult, Children & You 10:30a Worship & FaceE	5 7a MOOS 12p Church Office Close 7p Narcotics Anonymou:	6 7a MOOS 12p Church Office Close 1p Staff Meeting	7 7a MOOS 10a Conference Call Pra 10:15a Prayer Group	8 Church Office Closed 7a MOOS 7p Praise Team Rehears;	9 7a MOOS	10 10a Food Box Distributic
11 9a Adult, Children & You 10:30a Worship & FaceE	12 7a MOOS 12p Church Office Close 7p Narcotics Anonymou:	13 7a MOOS 12p Church Office Close 1p Staff Meeting	14 7a MOOS 10a Conference Call Pra 10:15a Prayer Group	15 Church Office Closed 7a MOOS 7p Praise Team Rehears;	16 7a MOOS 6p Family Movie Night	17 9a IMPACT! Missions Woi
18 8a Nurture Team Meeting; 9a Adult, Children & You 10:30a Worship & FaceE	19 7a MOOS 12p Church Office Close 7p Narcotics Anonymou:	20 7a MOOS 12p Church Office Close 1p Staff Meeting 7p Trustee Board	21 7a MOOS 10a Conference Call Pra 10:15a Prayer Group	22 Church Office Closed 7a MOOS 7p Praise Team Rehears;	23 7a MOOS	24
25 9a Adult, Children & You 10:30a Worship & FaceE	26 7a MOOS 12p Church Office Close 7p Narcotics Anonymou:	27 7a MOOS 12p Church Office Close 1p Staff Meeting 7p SPRC Meeting	28 7a MOOS 10a Conference Call Pra 10:15a Prayer Group 7p Chancel Choir Rehea	29 Church Office Closed 7a MOOS 7p Praise Team Rehears;	30 7a MOOS	31

# September 2024

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<b>1</b> Holy Communion <b>9a</b> Adult, Children & Youth <b>10:30a</b> Worship & FaceE	<b>2</b> <b>7a</b> MOOS <b>12p</b> Church Office Close <b>7p</b> Narcotics Anonymous:	<b>3</b> <b>7a</b> MOOS <b>11a</b> Outreach Team Meeting <b>12p</b> Church Office Close <b>1p</b> Staff Meeting	<b>4</b> <b>7a</b> MOOS <b>10a</b> Conference Call Prayer <b>10:15a</b> Prayer Group <b>7p</b> Chancel Choir Rehearsal	<b>5</b> Church Office Closed <b>7a</b> MOOS <b>7p</b> Praise Team Rehearsal:	<b>6</b> <b>7a</b> MOOS <b>6p</b> Chocolate Chip Cookies	<b>7</b> <b>12p</b> Care and Share Luncheon
<b>8</b> <b>9a</b> Adult, Children & Youth <b>10:30a</b> Worship & FaceE	<b>9</b> <b>7a</b> MOOS <b>12p</b> Church Office Close <b>7p</b> Narcotics Anonymous:	<b>10</b> <b>7a</b> MOOS <b>12p</b> Church Office Close <b>1p</b> Staff Meeting	<b>11</b> <b>7a</b> MOOS <b>10a</b> Conference Call Prayer <b>10:15a</b> Prayer Group <b>7p</b> Chancel Choir Rehearsal	<b>12</b> Church Office Closed <b>7a</b> MOOS <b>7p</b> Praise Team Rehearsal:	<b>13</b> <b>7a</b> MOOS	<b>14</b> <b>10a</b> Food Box Distribution
<b>15</b> <b>9a</b> Adult, Children & Youth <b>10:30a</b> Worship & FaceE	<b>16</b> <b>7a</b> MOOS <b>12p</b> Church Office Close <b>7p</b> Narcotics Anonymous:	<b>17</b> <b>7a</b> MOOS <b>12p</b> Church Office Close <b>1p</b> Staff Meeting <b>7p</b> Trustee Board	<b>18</b> <b>7a</b> MOOS <b>10a</b> Conference Call Prayer <b>10:15a</b> Prayer Group <b>7p</b> Chancel Choir Rehearsal	<b>19</b> Church Office Closed <b>7a</b> MOOS <b>7p</b> Praise Team Rehearsal:	<b>20</b> <b>7a</b> MOOS <b>6p</b> Family Movie Night	<b>21</b> <b>9a</b> IMPACT! Missions Workshop
<b>22</b> <b>9a</b> Adult, Children & Youth <b>10:30a</b> Worship & FaceE	<b>23</b> <b>7a</b> MOOS <b>12p</b> Church Office Close <b>7p</b> Narcotics Anonymous:	<b>24</b> <b>7a</b> MOOS <b>12p</b> Church Office Close <b>1p</b> Staff Meeting	<b>25</b> <b>7a</b> MOOS <b>10a</b> Conference Call Prayer <b>10:15a</b> Prayer Group <b>7p</b> Chancel Choir Rehearsal	<b>26</b> Church Office Closed <b>7a</b> MOOS <b>7p</b> Praise Team Rehearsal:	<b>27</b> <b>7a</b> MOOS	<b>28</b>
<b>29</b> <b>9a</b> Adult, Children & Youth <b>10:30a</b> Worship & FaceE	<b>30</b> <b>7a</b> MOOS <b>12p</b> Church Office Close <b>7p</b> Narcotics Anonymous:	<b>1</b> <b>7a</b> MOOS <b>12p</b> Church Office Close <b>1p</b> Staff Meeting	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b>



# REMEMBER THE “WHY”

## Thoughts About Visitation by Pastor Sally Ott

Many years ago, I was born in Grand Rapids, Michigan. When I was 2 years old, our family moved 50 miles north to Big Rapids, MI. My father had accepted a teaching job at my hometown’s small college, now known as Ferris State University. At that time it was enjoyable, especially on a Sunday afternoon, to go for a drive and visit friends. Often our drives were back to Grand Rapids, to visit former neighbors and others who were important to us. We didn’t tell them we were coming. We just showed up. If no one was at home at our first stop, we would leave a note and move on to visit someone else. Early on in my life, I remember these visits being very important!

Now, Whenever I think about why my Heart is stirred by this church’s Ministry of Visitation in which I am blessed to be involved - and as I read the reports of the other Covenant visitors who give of themselves by reaching out to church members who are not able to come to worship, I think of the Biblical rule, “So in everything, do to others what you would have them do to you, for this sums up the Law and the Prophets.” (Matthew 7:12 and Luke 6:31.)

Occasionally, I find myself wondering what I might want and need, if I were “shut in” or “homebound” or “differently abled.” I would need to be visited! Some of us may find ourselves in such a category temporarily, (like in times of serious illness) but for others this may be the daily reality of their lives. In either case, I would need to have my basic needs met (food, clothing, shelter), and I would definitely need Companionship. I would not wish to feel lonely. I would not wish to feel afraid that I might fall (and not be able to get up.)

Our Ministry of Visitation has heightened my awareness of how important it is to know that, even if we are living alone, we are not forgotten. Those we visit are quick to express their gratitude, whether a visit is in person or over the phone. Those we visit tell us that they miss their church. They ask how the church is doing. They often remember certain individuals who are important to them, and ask how they are doing. They appreciate receiving updates from their church family.

Recently I had the pleasure of partnering with Pastor Derrick, as we visited 3 members of our church family who reside at Brethren Village. This picture was taken during our visit with William (“Bill”) Balabanow. Bill loves to talk about his military service with the Merchant Marines.

In a previous visit, I asked, “Bill, do you ever feel like a VIP? This was following a recent trip which he had made with his sister. Bill’s quick response was, “Oh no!”

This is, of course, because he is too humble to feel that important. This trip included visiting Normandy on the occasion of the 80th Anniversary of D-Day. What a delightful person he is to be with.

If reading this article happened to inspire you to be a church visitor, please feel free just to let me know. Like me, you won’t be sorry.

In Christian Partnership, Pastor Sally



## COVENANT

### United Methodist Church

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Lancaster, PA 17603-3507

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Senior Pastor's Phone: 717.682.2374

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### Church Staff

The Reverend Derrick Gutierrez, Senior Pastor

The Reverend Sally Ott, Visitation & Witness

The Reverend Dr. Guy Carrigan, Dir. of Evangelism

Jeffrey McGary, Echoes Editor

### Email

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Web Page...<http://www.covenant-umc.com>

## First Friday CCC Concerts

As a part of our 140th celebration, we are hosting musical concerts here at Covenant on First Fridays. Please mark your calendars for Fridays, May 3 through Dec 6, at 6:00 PM. The first Friday of each month we will have a "Covenant Chocolate Chip Cookie Concert" series. You know what that means... cookies for everyone!! Watch the bulletin for a full insert of the musicians that will be highlighted during our concerts. If you would like to assist with making cookies, please see Cindy Smith. In addition, there will be artwork displayed by local artists for viewing and for sale in the Gathering Area. If you have any other questions about other ways you can be involved please contact Chris Kimmich.

Friday, August 2—**Lancaster Red Rose Chorus**

Friday, September 6—**American Guild of Organists**

Friday, October 4 - **Laus Deo**—Youth and Young Adult Chorale

Friday, November 1—**Music For Everyone Community Chorus**

Friday, December 6—**Christmas Carol Sing-Along**

Return Service Requested

Covenant United Methodist Church  
110 N. Mulberry St.  
Lancaster, PA 17603-3507