



The Bible As Social Commentary

Sometimes people have the understanding that spiritual things are separate from the everyday things of our lives. And yet, the entire job of the prophets in the Bible was to make social commentary upon the state of the nation. The state of the nation included the corruption of high officials as well as the overwhelming greed of the rich.

For instance, when King David steals his commander, Uriah's wife, Bathsheba. Then King David tries to cover up his wrongdoing by executing Uriah - sending him and his men on a suicide mission on the field of battle.

The prophet, Nathan then confronts King David in the King's court. First, Nathan tells a story of a rich man who took the one lamb of a poor man - and ate it. When King David gets outraged and condemns the rich scoundrel, Nathan says, "You are the man!" (2 Samuel 11-12:7)

So, the role of the prophet, or preacher is sometimes to confront the powerful - even in government.

In a second place, the prophet, Isaiah says that the Lord condemns Israel's alliance with Egypt against Assyria because Israel is trusting in Egypt's powerful army (their horses and chariots) rather than trusting in God. You can imagine that Israel's rulers and elite were not too happy to hear Isaiah's clear condemnation.

In another place, the prophet Micah scathingly condemns the dishonest merchants and rich, "The voice of the Lord cries to the city: 'Hear, O tribe and assembly of the city! Can I forget the treasures of wickedness in the house of the wicked, and the scant measure that is accursed? Can I tolerate wicked scales and a bag of dishonest weights? Your wealthy are full of violence; your inhabitants speak lies, with tongues of deceit in their mouths.'" Predictions of dire consequences follow. (Micah 6:9-12)

You can imagine Micah's popularity with the wealthy and merchants after that sermon.

In the early part of the 20th century, a famous theologian, Karl Barth once said that you must "do theology with a Bible in one hand and a newspaper in the other." That is, the Bible is directly applicable to everyday life.

You might be tempted to believe that Jesus was a little less socially outspoken than the prophets, but then you have to remember Jesus' parable of the rich man and Lazarus. Jesus' parable condemns the rich man to hell for not taking care of the poor man, Lazarus. (Luke 16:19-31)

And then, in His prediction of the final judgement of the nations, Jesus tells of the judgement of the sheep and the goats. And Jesus says that they were judged in this way: "Then the king will say to those at his right hand, 'Come, you that are blessed by my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world; for I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you welcomed me, I was naked and you gave me clothing, I was sick and you took care of me, I was in prison and you visited me.'"

Those who did not do these things were condemned severely. (Matt 25:31-46)

These are just some examples that the Bible is very socially conscious. Sometimes scathingly so. Jesus gives us fantastic grace and forgiveness, but He still calls us and our society to account. As Christians, we cannot ignore the social ills of our time and remain faithful.

- Pastor Steve

OUR CHURCH FAMILY IN OUR PRAYERS

Longview (Manchester, MD): Janice Kneller

Homewood: Eileen Grothey, Julia Mummert and Phyllis Frock

The Brethren Home: Shelva Laughman

Hanover Hall: Mildred Raubenstine

At Home: Karen Brown, Robyn Duppins, Eric Collins, Cindy, Lisa Galloway, Lori Shaffer, Jim Krumrine, Daryl Raubenstine, Larry Bixler, Cynthia Waters, Angie Britcher, Anita, Frieda, Mary Marrero, Marlene Redding, Harold Krumrine, Harold Bachman, Gladys Wildasin, Deb Sponseller, Cindy Graybill, Lindsey Crawford, Joyce Johnson, Kyle Wildeson, Leiland Smtih, Jimmy Bryan, Jeff Butler, Amber Shaw, Barb Butler, Isabella Taylor, Tammy Hall, and Katlyn Stremmel, Mara Small, Doug Deviny, Danielle Stislicki, Alan Sterner, Marleigh Myers, Frank George, Paul Chronister, Hannah Engle, Hope & Wesley, Ruth Gunnell, Joe Moxley, Donald Sterner, Sarah Iafrate, Ned Sterner, Chasidy Gladfelter, Donna Spaide, Kim Shultz, Vicki Creamer, Faye Gobrecht, Cole Stremmel, RJ, Kyle & Jamison Noel, Harlan Markle, Gordie Sager, Ryan Miller, Jack Shaffer, Brandi Avery, Vicki Gobrecht, Sharon Krumrine, Paul Schaum, Carroll Wilson and Ida Butler.

In the military service: Ryan Baummer, Marcus Gobrecht, Shea Mumma, Mark Reeve, Joshua Mummert, Alex Berwager and Doug Shaffer

PRAYER LIST UPDATE We need your help in updating our prayer list. Please take a moment to review and let the church office know of any deletions or additions that need to be made.

PARTICIPATING IN WORSHIP IN JULY

Worship Assistant

1 – Glenn Gobrecht
8 – Liz Mickley
15 – Karen Amoss
22 – Emily Beyer
29 – Deb Leppo

Worship Sound

1 – Brad Neiderer
8 – Brian Butters
15 – Toni Null
22 – Liz Kielley
29 – Barry Berwager

Scripture Reader

Hailey Kuhn
Wendy Fritz
Trisha Weaver
HOPE
Faye Gobrecht

Children's Message

Ruth Neiderer
Larry Brumgard
Ruth Neiderer
Pat Berwager
Kelly Kuhn

Acolyte

Sam Jemison
Kylie Iafrate
Olivia Wetzel
Cade Baumgardner
Carson Trone

Children's Time

Kelly Kuhn and Deb Leppo
Sue Krumrine and Toni Null
Amy Gobrecht and Faye Gobrecht
Lindsey Crawford and Karen Cramer
Amy Wetzel and Kelly Kuhn

Screen Presenter

Katie Higgins
Outdoor
Heather Bair
Ruth Neiderer
Liz Mickley

Greeter Ministry: July – Paul and Sue Krumrine Family August – Carl Gobrecht and Glenn Gobrecht

OPPORTUNITIES TO SPONSOR IN JULY

Sunday bulletins @ \$10.00/Sunday

All Dates Open

Altar Flowers: If you are interested in sponsoring altar flowers for a worship service, see guideline paper in hallway or contact Ruth Neiderer. The flowers can be sponsored any Sunday





JULY BIRTHDAYS

7/01 – Ruth Strednak
 7/10 – Janice Kneller
 7/10 – David Mumma
 7/13 – Sterling Gobrecht
 7/14 – Gloria Baummer
 7/14 – Jerry Mummert
 7/18 – George Morningstar

AUGUST BIRTHDAYS

8/04 – Ted Becker
 8/04 – Dawn Sterner
 8/10 – Beverly Morningstar
 8/13 – Daryl Raubenstine
 8/14 – Bruce Shaffer
 8/21 – Mary Grace Graybill
 8/28 – Karen Raubenstine
 8/31 – Norma Jean Norton

SEPTEMBER BIRTHDAYS

9/05 – Edward Bortner
 9/11 – Loretta Ness
 9/13 – Phyllis Frock
 9/13 – Rev. Ivan Mechtly

CONDOLENCES to the family and friends of Shelley Saltzgeber who passed away on Monday, May 28th. Please keep them in your prayers.

CHANGE OF ADDRESS Molly Berwager will be moving later this summer. Here new address will be:

Flemminggasse 4/7
 1190, Vienna, Austria

A SPECIAL THANK YOU for all the prayers, cards, visits and food since I've been in the hospital and Homewood. – Alvin Schuchart.



WOMEN OF THE CHURCH'S JULY PICNIC at Clair Sterner's woods is scheduled for Tuesday, July 24th. This is an intergenerational event and all are welcome. Drink and utensils are furnished, attendees bring food if they can, or just come and join a relaxing evening of food and fellowship. Come when you can, any time after 5:30 pm and stay until dusk. You may want to bring a lawn chair. The address is 1918 Beck Mill Rd. almost at the corner of Beck Mill and Grand Valley roads

Women of the Church will not hold their regular meetings in July and August.

The **Women of the Church** thank the volunteers who came to play games with residents at Homewood on May 22nd. They included Ted and Eileen Becker, Diane Buvia, Mary Ann Canouse, Dean Gobrecht, Eileen Grothey, Jerry Gobrecht, Pauline Mosebrook, Toni Null, Francis Saur, Gladys Shank, Marlene Shilling, Alan Sterner, Edna and Don Sterner and Sadie Whisler. The residents had a wonderful time and we all enjoyed it. One resident refused to give up, continuing to play as we cleaned up. He said "I don't go to sleep until very late and tonight I was not bored!" "Thank you for coming."

Lutheran Women's Church Convention is on August 18th at St. Paul in Carlisle. Women from St. B's will be traveling to the convention on this day. Please sign up to get more information if you would like to come along.

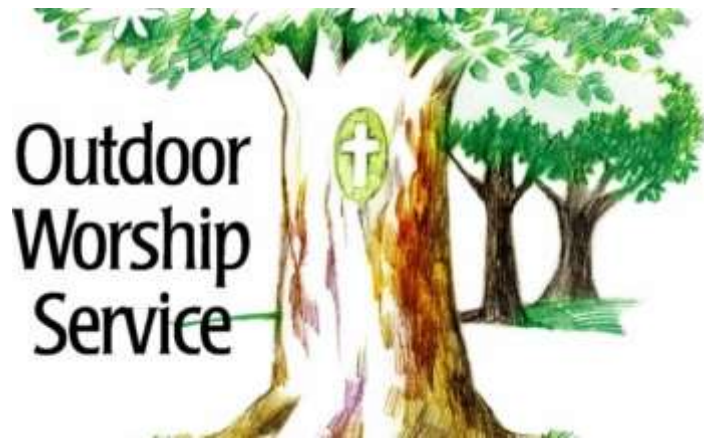
ANNUAL WOMEN'S RETREAT will be held at beautiful Camp Hebron, November 2 and 3. Information about this event is on the shelf in the hallway. If you have questions, call Edna Sterner, 717-637-5722 or Marlene Shilling, 717-637-0185.

MUSIC IN OUR CHURCH DURING THE SUMMER

Volunteers, please sign up in the music room to furnish prelude music or anthems, solos or duets, etc. during the summer time. Sign-up sheet is on the music stand by the door of the music room. Questions? See Erin or Marlene. The orchestra is scheduled to play for the two outdoor services. July 8th and August 26th.



PIE CLASSES will be available for all ages. Time and date to be determined by interest. The cost will be \$15 per class. Profits will be given to church. See Faye Gobrecht if you are interested.



SUNDAY, JULY 8TH
WORSHIP AT 9:00 am AT THE PAVILION AREA
PLEASE BRING A LAWN CHAIR.

If weather does not allow, we will worship in the sanctuary.

FAITH@HOME

SUNDAY JULY 22ND THRU AUGUST 12TH

We will be using a 4-week worship series called FAITH@HOME.
This series encourages Christians to express their faith not only
in church and in the world but especially in their home.

The home is where growing in faith occurs.

July 22	The Home is a Seminary
July 29	The Home is a Trauma Center
August 5	The Home is a Filling Station
August 12	The Home is a Safe Place



SAVE THE DATES

Sunday, August 5th – Back to School Blessing and Scholarship Presentation
Sunday, August 26th – Outdoor Worship and All Church Picnic

ANNUAL CHICKEN BBQ The figures are in for our chicken BBQ held this past April. We made a total of 440 chicken dinners. Also, 42 freshly baked pies were donated and sold. The profits for the day were \$2971.80. The proceeds will be divided between helping to fund St. B's Family Camp at Nawakwa and the Hanover Area Council of Churches. A huge "Thank You" to all who helped to make this a very successful day!

JULY'S SPECIAL ENVELOPE OFFERING will benefit "For the Love of a Veteran". Their mission is to help those who selflessly protect us every day. They are here to give aid and raise funds for Military families in need and homeless Veterans. They also aim to raise awareness and help in the fight against PTSD.



COUPONS FOR THE TROOPS Please bring in your unused/unwanted manufacturers coupons. We will be sending them to military personnel overseas. The dates on the coupons do not matter. Two red bins have been placed in the narthex. One bin is to gather coupons, and the other bin is for coupons that have been cut out. We can save costs by having the coupons cut out. I am also looking for some volunteers to help cut out coupons. If you are interested in cutting out coupons or have questions please see Rachel Kaintz (717-316-5353).

SUMMER LUNCH PROGRAM St Bartholomew's, in cooperation with St. David's Lutheran and UCC Churches and Black Rock Church of the Brethren, is again providing a Summer Lunch Program for the children of West Manheim and Manheim Township, who otherwise might go without daily healthy lunches during the summer. Bags of healthy lunch items for five lunches and snacks will be packaged and distributed for each child in qualifying families for the ten weeks this summer. **But, we need your help!** We will be collecting specific menu items each month. Below are the items assigned to us for July:

18 oz. jar of peanut butter
12-18 oz. box of Rice Krispies cereal
64 oz. Apple Juice
15 oz. can of baked beans

These items may be placed in the baskets at the rear of the church. All donations will be greatly appreciated.



HELPING HANDS MINISTRY This ministry provides care, support and many services to our church family who are in need. If you are in need of assistance, please read the list of services posted on our bulletin boards. Examples of services provided are small home repairs, limited yard work, picking up prescriptions, transportation to appointments and much more. All you need to do is contact the church secretary if you or another member needs assistance. If you are interested in being a volunteer for this ministry, see Judy Mummert.

HANOVER AREA COUNCIL OF CHURCHES NEEDS IN JULY

PAL – Ketchup, Salad Dressing- Ranch, Italian or French, Coffee, Dish washing soap

Clothing Bank – Bath towels, Hand towels, Family size toiletries

Changing Lives Shelter – Boxers sizes XL to 3X, Tee Shirts – XL to 3X, Shorts/Joggers – XL to 3X, Deodorant Woman/Men - Solid

Ruth's Harvest – *(All single serving size, please!)* Entrees and drinks expiration date after 9/2018

Prayer Requests:

Week of July 1 – Clothing Bank Ministry

Week of July 8 – Community Health Ministry

Week of July 15 – Community Needs Committee

Week of July 22 – Executive Committee

Week of July 29 – Faith at Work Ministry

GO GREEN Our newsletter is available online. If you would like to "go green" and receive the newsletter and calendar via email, please contact the church office at 717 632-1952 or by email at stbartchurch@comcast.net. Thanks!



ST. BARTHOLOMEW'S UNITED CHURCH (ELCA)

1204 Grand Valley Road Hanover, PA 17331

Telephone: (717) 632-1952 Fax: (717) 633-9267

E-mail address: stbartchurch@comcast.net

Website: www.stbart-hanoverpa.org

Rev. Steven E. Thomas, Pastor

Cell phone: 717-476-9171

E-mail address: 3pastorsteve7@gmail.com

Office hours: Wednesdays – 9:30-11:30 a.m.

Mrs. Beth Cronney, Office Administrator

Office hours: Tues and Weds 7:30 am – 2:30 pm, Fri 7:30 am – 12:30 pm

Mrs. Marlene Shilling, Music Coordinator

Ms. Erin Gobrecht, Bell Choir Director

Ms. Erin Gobrecht, H.O.P.E. Coordinator

WORSHIP SERVICES

Worship on Sunday – 9:00 a.m.

Sunday School classes for all ages – 10:30 a.m.

H.O.P.E. Worship *He Offers Peace Everyday*

Contemporary Style Worship 4th Sunday of each month – 9:00 a.m.

Opportunities to serve the Lord!

Adult Choir and Bells meet every Wednesday

Council meets the second Thursday of each month

Women of the Church meet the last Tuesday of the month

Join the Church/Sunday School orchestra

Membership with the congregation is not required

for participation in any programs of the church.

2018 Council Members

Carl Bachman Chuck Bock Wendy Fritz

Allen Gobrecht Amy Gobrecht David Hoff

Roger Krumrine David Schnell Kim Trone

July

<i>Sun</i>	<i>Mon</i>	<i>Tue</i>	<i>Wed</i>	<i>Thu</i>	<i>Fri</i>	<i>Sat</i>
1 9:00 – Worship/Comm. 10:30 – Sunday School Pastor Steve on vac. →	2	3	4 NO YOGA <i>Office Closed</i>	5	6	7
8 9:00 – Worship <i>Outdoor Service</i> 10:30 – Sunday School 11:30 – HOPE Practice	9 Summer Lunch Packing – St. David’s 7:00 pm	10 Summer Lunch Distribution St. David’s 4:00 pm Worship Meeting 7:00 pm	11 Yoga 5:30 pm	12 Council Meeting 7:00 pm	13	14 Revs Game 6:30 pm
15 9:00 – Worship/Comm. 10:30 – Sunday School 11:30 – HOPE Practice Family Camp →	16	17 <i>Office Closed</i>	18 Yoga 5:30 pm PAL <i>Office Closed</i>	19	20 <i>Office Closed</i>	21
22 9:00 – HOPE Worship 10:30 – Sunday School Pastor Steve on vac. →	23	24	25 Yoga 5:30 pm	26	27	28
29 9:00 – Worship <i>Healing Service</i> 10:30 – Sunday School Pastor Steve on vac.	30 Summer Lunch Packing – St. David’s 7:00 pm	31 Summer Lunch Distribution St. David’s 4:00 pm				

2018