



## Life and Faith: Interesting Mysteries

Life is an interesting mystery.

First off, we do not understand how consciousness emerges. First you have one brain cell. Then you add a brain cell – and you have two brain cells. But when you add 100 billion brain cells with a trillion connections – then you have consciousness. You become a thinking person/being. But scientists do not know what happens to make the difference.

Secondly, consider for a moment how much of your life that you actually get to choose. When you are born, you get the genetics of your parents – for good or ill. That determines much of your size, strength, and even personality possibilities. Also, much of your physical tendencies to health or illnesses.

And, you are born into a certain social set up. You were very lucky to be born an American – one of the best, affluent countries in the world. Others were not so lucky. Also, you were born into a certain family and society. Maybe you had caring parents – maybe you did not. That would make a large difference in your life.

But you had absolutely no choice in any of these things. Now, you might have had a choice who to marry or whether to go to college or the military or start a career. That would be a major choice(s) to make.

But then you do not necessarily have full choice about those as well. Maybe that person that you liked did not like you. Or maybe you did not have much support in going to college. And then, when you married that person or went off to school, there is a whole other set of interactions that you are not necessarily in control of.

How do you get along with your in-laws? You may not have full control over that. And just imagine all of the personal interactions in college or in your first job.... every decision or indecision takes its own route – limits or increases possibilities.

And then there are accidents that can happen. And, by definition, you do not have control over those. They can be physically or mentally damaging. Or you could meet an amazing mentor who changes your life (on the

podcast, No Stupid Questions, the host's mother met her adoptive parents by sitting next to them on an airplane.)

You can choose a career path, but you cannot choose where the job openings are and what the circumstances at that job will be.

My point is, that there are many many aspects of your life that are simply the product of random interactions in life. You have far less control than you may think. (Even your personal psychological disposition may be mostly set in your genetics.) And so, yours and my life seem to be much more of a random gathering together of genetics and circumstances.

That should be a little bit humbling for you. And also give you a bit of understanding toward that person who may not be a blessed as you.

It seems to me that, in the midst of all of this randomness and chaos – you might learn to trust God more. Since you are not in complete control, you must learn to trust that the forces that are beyond your control are good and loving to you. After all, if you are reading this, you are pretty well off in your reading skills. And you are in America, etc. So, your life is probably better than 95% or 98% of the world.

And so, on the one hand, you can say "Thank You!" to God over and over and over throughout your day. And secondly, you can trust that wherever God is leading you – or whatever God is forming you into will be good.

And so, I would suggest that you pray all the time – with love and hope – because you are truly more dependent on the circumstances of life that are handed to you, far more than you may have imagined. You literally live in the hand of God and in the mercy of God – for so so much.

And so, your life is a mystery that has been formed by many circumstances outside your command. Smile. Love. Be graceful and merciful to others. Be generous. Enjoy good food and the sunshine. Today is the day you get to live in this wonderful mystery of life – surrounded and blessed by a God who actively loves and cares for you. In the Name of Jesus.

- Pastor Steve

## OUR CHURCH FAMILY IN OUR PRAYERS

**Homewood:** Alan Sterner      **Longview:** Janice Kneller

**Tree of Life:** Shirley Fritz      **Utz Terrace:** Stephanie Beyer

**At Home:** Lisa Dickensheets, Mary Ann Canouse, Pat Bechtel, Karen Amoss, Amber, Lori, Tammy Hershey, Hester Hershey, Diane Buvia, Carroll Wilson, Diana Hnat, Gloria Jean Werner, Asher, and Ed Morris.

**In the military service:** Mark Reeve, Joshua Mummert, and Doug Shaffer.

*Note: When a name is added to our prayer list, it remains there for three months. (If you would like a name to be on the list longer than this time, please provide us with a date for the name to be removed at the time of submitting your prayer request). This helps keep our prayer list current. Thank you for your understanding.*

## PARTICIPATING IN WORSHIP IN APRIL

<b>Scripture Reader</b>	<b>Worship Asst.</b>	<b>Children's Sermon</b>	<b>Acolyte</b>
7 – Dep Leppo	Liz Mickley	Pastor Steve	Jade Gass
14 – Sue Krumrine	Karen Amoss	Pat Berwager	Keegan Groft
21 – Liz Mickley	Carl Bachman	Chris Myers	Ashlyn Trone
28 – HOPE	Glenn Gobrecht	Ruth Neiderer	Olivia Bryan
<b>Worship Sound</b>		<b>Screen Presenter/Streaming</b>	
7 – Shaun Saltzgeber		Ruth Neiderer	
14 – Amy Gobrecht		Kelly Kuhn	
21 – Brian Butters		Amy Gobrecht	
28 – Barry Berwager		Heather Bair	

## OPPORTUNITIES TO SPONSOR IN APRIL

**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





**APRIL BIRTHDAYS**

4/01 – Carl Bachman  
4/03 – Glenn Feltch  
4/06 – Sheila Raubenstine  
4/06 – Jackie Redding  
4/07 – Russell Bolden  
4/17 – Sheila Ireland  
4/25 – Ruth Neiderer  
4/27 – Kevin Leppo

**MAY BIRTHDAYS**

5/06 – Harlan Markle  
5/07 – Christopher Erickson  
5/12 – Ted Cramer  
5/20 – Linda Moose  
5/25 – Thelma Martin  
5/26 – Dean Gobrecht

**JUNE BIRTHDAYS**

6/03 – Mary Pheabus  
6/16 – Deacon Deb McClellan  
6/25 – Joyce Schnell



**NEW TIME** Our Sunday School hour will begin at 10:45 a.m. starting April 7th. Our worship service will continue to be an hour long. This allows a fifteen-minute gap until Sunday School classes begin. Council appreciates your understanding!

**CONVERSATION AND COFFEE** Bring your coffee/beverage and chat with the Pastor and church family. The next one is scheduled for April 3<sup>rd</sup> at 10:00 a.m.



Scrapbooking

St. Bartholomew's Social Hall  
Saturday April 13<sup>th</sup>, 9am - 5pm

Do you have photos? Would you like to get them out of drawers, your phone, a shoebox? Come and get your photos organized and learn ways to preserve your memories. No experience required. Fee for the day: \$25. Included: Lunch, Fun classes, goodies bags, and a door prize. If you have questions, please contact Liz Kielley, Creative Memories Advisor at 717-451-8336 or [ekielley@messiah.edu](mailto:ekielley@messiah.edu) or ask me at church.



**PAINT NIGHT** April 13<sup>th</sup> from 6:30-8:30 p.m. All are welcome to join us in the social hall for an evening of fellowship and painting. Sign-up sheet is in the narthex. Snacks and supplies will be provided.

**WORK DAY** On April 13<sup>h</sup> at 8:00 a.m., there will be a property work day to clean up the church grounds. Breakfast will be provided at 7:30 a.m. Lunch will also be provided. All are welcome to help! There is a sign-up sheet in the hallway, please sign up so we know the count for breakfast & lunch. Please see Chuck Bock with any questions. (Rain date is April 20<sup>th</sup>.)



**WOMEN OF THE CHURCH** will meet on Thursday, April 25<sup>th</sup> at the church at 10:30 a.m. We are using the March/April Gather magazine for study and sharing. Please pick up a magazine from the shelf in the hallway and bring it with you.



**WATER WALK** Join us during the Sunday School hour as we raise awareness for the millions of people who do not have access to clean drinking water. Bring a bucket and join us on a walk on April 28<sup>th</sup> at 10:45 a.m.

**A HERSHEY HANDBELL ENSEMBLE CONCERT** sponsored by Music Gettysburg! (and free to the public) will be held on April 28<sup>th</sup> at 4:00 p.m. at 61 Seminary Ridge, Gettysburg, PA.



**LASAGNA DINNER** Please join us for a lasagna dinner on Saturday, April 27<sup>th</sup>. Dinner will be served from 5 pm – 6:30 pm. A gluten free pasta option will be available. All are welcome to attend! Donations will be appreciated. All proceeds will go towards the Investing in the Future Fund. There is a sign-up sheet in the hallway. Deadline to sign up is April 21<sup>st</sup>. Feel free to invite your friends and family! If you are able to help out with this event, please see Lisa Dickensheets.



**YOGA CLASSES** are held weekly on Thursdays 9:00 - 10:00 a.m. A new Yoga recording will be released to the website monthly and available on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Thursday of each month.



**SAVE THE DATE** VBS this year will be June 23-June 27 from 6-8 pm at St. David's Lutheran. The theme is Basic Elements: Science Inspired. Christ Focused. We are looking for volunteers to help with VBS. If you are interested in helping, please see Katrina.



**FAMILY CAMP** St. Bartholomew's is again inviting our families with children to attend Family Camp at Camp Nawakwa, July 14 -19. **(Please note: this year camp ends on Friday at 6:30 pm.)** Our church council has approved funding for half of the cost of members attending Family Camp. You may also choose just to attend Family Camp for a few days to try it out. If you are interested in attending, registration is available at [lutherancamping.org](http://lutherancamping.org) or by clicking on this link: [Family Camp Registration](#) More information regarding Family Camp is available on their website.



**Monroe S.E. Gobrecht Memorial Award** Any youth members of St. Bartholomew's who are attending or will be attending post-secondary education are reminded that a minimum of 10 hours of volunteer service are required, with 5 of those hours helping with worship services. There are other requirements that need to be met for this scholarship award. Youth members should have documentation of service hours and should NOT wait until the last minute. There are MANY opportunities to volunteer throughout the year at church. Applications for the scholarship are now available next to the bulletin board outside of the church's office. Deadline to submit application is June 30<sup>th</sup>.



**APRIL'S SPECIAL ENVELOPE OFFERING** will help with costs of sending St. Bartholomew's youth to retreats like Alive, the middle school retreat at Camp Nawakwa held in September.

**THANK YOU!** February's special envelope offering collected \$2,408 for Christian Ed/Youth Activities here at St. B's.

**COMMUNITY AID** Our Community Aid partner number is 20061. If you provide this number to Community Aid when dropping off clothing items to our local store, St. Bartholomew's will receive \$.06/lb.

## **HANOVER AREA COUNCIL OF CHURCHES' NEEDS**

**PAL** – single serve fruit cups, canned mixed vegetables, corn, green beans, potatoes, butter, scalloped potatoes, sugar, milk and snacks.

**Clothing Bank** – Winter clothing, socks, men's jeans (waist size 30-34), and coats for all ages.

**Changing Lives Shelter** – Hygiene Products (Shampoo, Conditioner, Soap, Body Wash), Clorox Wipes, Kitchen Trash Bags, Ziploc Bags, Cleaning Products (Please mark for changing lives shelter.)

**Meals-on-Wheels** – Throw Blankets, Adult coloring books, colored pencils, Word search books, compression socks, 3 compartment plastic to-go containers.

**Ruth's Harvest** – Single Serve of any Chef Boyardee Ravioli, Spaghetti, or other Pasta Entrée. Individual snacks.



**OUR COMMUNITY OUTREACH COMMITTEE** has put together an extensive list of local resources that provide assistance for a variety of needs. This list can be found on our website, <http://stbart-hanoverpa.org/>, by clicking on the “Community Resources” tab. It is also available by clicking on this link: [Community Outreach](#). Please check it out! You never know when you or someone you know may benefit from one of these services. **This committee's next meeting is on Monday, April 9<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 p.m.**

## **SENIOR HEALTH AND WELLNESS WORKSHOPS**

Guthrie Memorial Library holds health and wellness workshops, as well as social time for seniors, every Tuesday 10:15 a.m. – 2:00 p.m. in the Bare Center at Guthrie Memorial Library. 65 or older? Join them for a series of weekly health and wellness workshops. Plus, enjoy a hot lunch served after the program! To receive your hot lunch, please register in advance at the Adult Desk or call 717-632-5183.



**FREE TAX PREPARATION FOR SENIORS** The AARP Foundation Tax-Aide Program is again offering FREE tax service for York County taxpayers, especially adults 50 and older with low or moderate income, during the 2024 tax season. There is no fee and AARP membership is not required. AARP Tax-Aide volunteers can prepare most personal income tax returns, including those with basic self-employment income. They are not trained to do business returns such as corporate, partnership, limited partnership, farm income, or rental income. These types of returns are beyond the scope of the Tax-Aide program. You can make an appointment online at <https://www.yorkaarptaxaide.com/>.

## **REPORT FROM CHURCH COUNCIL**

*(March 14, 2024)*

New Sunday school time recommended by worship committee was approved. Social hall request for cub scout troop approved. Motion approved for music director to have off the month of July.

*Copies of full report are available in the hallway.*



**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](mailto:stbartchurch@comcast.net). Thanks!

# April 2024

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1	2	3 Conversation & Coffee 10:00 am  Choir 4:30 pm Bells 6:00 pm	4 Yoga 9:00 am	5 Yoga Recording 8:30 am	6
7 9:30 Worship Service 10:45 Sunday School	8	9 Prayer and Care Gathering (Zoom) 7:00 pm  Community Outreach 7:00 pm	10 Choir 4:30 pm Bells 6:00 pm	11 Yoga 9:00 am  Council Meeting 7:00 pm	12	13 Grounds Work Day 7:30 am Scrapbooking 9:00 am (Social Hall) Paint Night 6:30 pm
14 9:30 Worship Service 10:45 Sunday School 6:30 Confirmation Class	15	16 Prayer and Care Gathering (Zoom) 7:00 pm	17 Conversation & Coffee 10:00 am  Choir 4:30 pm Bells 6:00 pm  PAL	18 Yoga 9:00 am	19 <i>Office Closed</i>	20 Grounds Work Day (Rain Date)
21 9:30 Worship Service 10:45 Sunday School	22 Worship Committee 7:00 pm	23 Prayer and Care Gathering (Zoom) 7:00 pm  <i>Office Closed</i>	24 Choir 4:30 pm Bells 6:00 pm	25 Yoga 9:00 am  Women of the Church 10:30 am	26	27 HOPE Practice 9:00 am  Lasagna Dinner 5:00 pm
28 9:30 HOPE Service 10:45 Sunday School Water Walk Event 6:30 Confirmation Class	29	30 Prayer and Care Gathering (Zoom) 7:00 pm				

**ST. BARTHOLOMEW'S UNITED CHURCH (ELCA)**

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Website: [www.stbart-hanoverpa.org](http://www.stbart-hanoverpa.org)

**Rev. Steven E. Thomas, Pastor**

Cell phone: 717-476-9171

E-mail address: [3pastorsteve7@gmail.com](mailto:3pastorsteve7@gmail.com)

**Beth Crony, Office Administrator**

Office hours: Tues., Weds. & Thurs. 8:00 a.m.- 2:30 p.m.,

Fri. 8:00 a.m.- 1:00 p.m.

**Marlene Shilling, Music Coordinator**

**Erin Gobrecht Porter, Bell Choir Director**

**Erin Gobrecht Porter, H.O.P.E. Coordinator**

**Katrina Kaintz, Christian Ed Director**

**WORSHIP SERVICES**

**Worship on Sunday – 9:30 a.m.**

**Also available via Live Stream**

**Sunday School classes for all ages – 10:45 a.m.**

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

Contemporary Style Worship 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of each month

**2024 Council Members**

Carl Bachman	Sheila Ireland	Liz Kielley
Sonya Kuhn	Mark Miller	Ruth Neiderer
Brenda Warehime		