

OUR NEWSLETTER:

Feel free to print copies off for yourselves, family, and friends. All previous newsletters can be found on CCAM's website at www.ccamchurch.org and our Facebook page. Everyone is welcome to submit something. Submissions can be emailed to Ann Meyers-annmeyers2003@gmail.com or Jack Keough-jackkeough@rochester.rr.com. Submissions received *before Wednesdays* will be considered for that week's publication.

ALL PREVIOUS SUNDAY ZOOM SERVICES CAN BE FOUND ON THE CHURCH'S WEBSITE AND ON OUR YOUTUBE ACCOUNT, CLARENCE CENTER AKRON MENNONITE.

BE. STILL. (PART 1) –SUBMITTED BY A CONGREGANT

Like a master gingerly offering an extended hand to a faithful dog, it crouched and offered of itself to me. It was an enticing challenge, there was something unusual and I figured that there was something that I was not understanding about the context or the time period. The words were meanderings about acceptable food, drink, and behavior and all in the context of what individuals do and how people may do these things differently than others.

The one clear passage that stood out was Romans 14:11-13. “‘As surely as I live,’ says the Lord, ‘every knee will bow before me; every tongue will acknowledge God.’ So then, each of us will give an account of ourselves to God. Therefore, let us stop passing judgment on one another. Instead, make up your mind not to put any stumbling block or obstacle in the way of a brother or sister.” That passage was clear, and it clearly put God in charge.

Then a Sunday came, and Pastor Dale continued his discussion about eremos, or wilderness, or solitude. The story of Elijah is a story of transformation, and we were challenged to think about where we stood on being emotionally connected to ourselves. We were challenged to be patient and challenged to listen. I went back to Romans 14, I shot baskets, I worked from home, I walked, I thought about things, and wondered how some things take so long to learn, even when the truth stares us in the face. *To be continued.....*

VERSE FOR VICTORY:

Don't be afraid, for I am with you. Don't be discouraged, for I am your God. I will strengthen you and help you. I will hold you up with my victorious right hand.

Isaiah 41:10

SONG SUGGESTIONS:

- ♪ *All That I Am* by Rend Collective
- ♪ *The Beautiful Things We Miss* by Matthew West.

TOGETHER –BY ANN MEYERS

Our culture seems to push each other away from community and togetherness but during this pandemic I am learning that is important to be together and stay together. My favorite band, For King & Country, just released a new song called *Together*. This song has encouraged me that no matter what we go through, we do not have to face it alone. I want to encourage you that even when we cannot gather in person, you can learn how to be together through our Savior, Jesus Christ. God wants to gather with you. Smile because we are in this together.

The official music video of *Together*:

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=IR1Hk0FVi_k

FAMILY RECIPE –SUBMITTED BY DIANE SCHROCK

3 cups of forgiveness, 1 gallon of loyalty, a pinch of hope, a spoonful of laughter and endless love.

A NOTE FROM JUNE MATHIAS:

Dear friends at CCAM,
Since the middle of March, I've been “commuting” to my living room to work on hardware I borrowed from the office. I continue to test Paratext. Meanwhile, Bible translations around the world send in bug reports daily. Scripture translation continues! Praise God! Thank you for your prayers and gifts. In Jesus, June Mathias. june_mathias@wycliffe.org
“and repentance and forgiveness of sins will be preached in his name to all nations...”

– Luke 24:47

A BIRD VIEW -BY CINDY COOPER

Look at the birds of the air, for they neither sow nor reap nor gather into barns; yet your heavenly father feeds them. Are you not of more value than they? Which of you by worrying can add one cubit to his stature? (Matt 6:26 NKJ)

The month of May in Western New York is prime bird watching season. Over the past few weeks, we have enjoyed spotting birds on our many walks at the Buffalo Outer Harbor, Chestnut Ridge Park, Knox Farm State Park and Iroquois National Wildlife Refuge. Other nearby places for birdwatching and walking/hiking are Tift Nature Preserve and Rhinestein Woods, neither of which allow dogs.

So far this season we have seen some lovely feathered beauties, such as: bald eagle, loon, bufflehead, wigeon, merganser, wood duck, great egret, flicker, bittern, bobolink, killdeer, goldeneye, brown-headed cowbird, song sparrow, gnatcatcher, waterthrush, harrier, and so many more we aren't skilled enough to identify. And we can't forget about the robins, cardinals, peregrine falcons, chickadees, and other city-dwelling birds we see at home.

For more information on local birds, check out <https://www.buffaloonithologicalsociety.org/>

ADVENTURE CLUB PIZZA PARTY

We are having an Adventure Club Pizza Party via Zoom - May 20 at 6:30 pm. Watch for an email with the link, and a postcard in the mail. Be sure to order your favorite pizza for dinner before the meeting and send the receipt to CCAM no later than May 24th and we will reimburse for the cost of the pizza. Regular attenders, leaders, and helpers are all eligible to order pizza. See you there. -Don Livingston (Children's Ministry Lead)



By Hannah Abbott

PANDEMIC POSITIVES:

- ✓ Lowe's sent \$1 million worth of flowers to isolated seniors to share the Mother Day love.
- ✓ Nike donated tens of thousands of shoes designed for health care workers.
- ✓ A Kenyan scientist made a breakthrough and discovered a natural microbe that completely stops Malaria in mosquitoes.
- ✓ A landlord gave his stimulus check to all 13 tenants to save on rent.
- ✓ An opera-singing couple has hosted many concerts in their driveways to bring their neighbors together.
- ✓ A FedEx man surprised a little girl with ice cream cupcakes for her birthday.
- ✓ A New York woman beat COVID-19 just in time for her 100th birthday.
- ✓ A Pennsylvania nurse recovered from COVID-19 and returned to taking care of patients at the hospital.
- ✓ A state trooper helped a woman deliver her baby while on the side of the highway.
- ✓ A 15-year-old boy saved a toddler from drowning in the ice-cold canal.
- ✓ A man mowed the lawn of a blind woman while she was in quarantine.
- ✓ 5 volunteers in New York helped clean COVID-19 patients' hospitals.
- ✓ Naomi's Village welcomed home a new baby boy whom they named Peter (stone) Jasiri (courage). Peter was born prematurely and abandoned at two days old. Now he has a home! Praise the Lord!
- ✓ A costumer gave a \$2,500 tip to their hairstylist and \$3,300 to the salon staff.
- ✓ A six-year-old boy played guitar for his grandparents 50th wedding anniversary.
- ✓ God is our HOPE!

MENTAL HEALTH MONTH -SUBMITTED BY JACK KEOUGH

May is mental health month and as a stark reminder of the consequences this illness may have on people. I think of mental illness as the hidden ailment because one doesn't wear a band aid on one's forehead to distinguish the injury. Many of us trudge through our day doing the best we can, even managing a kind smile when it feels like lifting a huge rock. Perhaps one of the most difficult challenges of this illness is the "stigma" we perceive is associated with it. I guess it might be easier to have a broken leg. During mental health awareness month, the biggest takeaway is to realize YOU ARE NOT ALONE, and there is nothing to be ashamed of. For a good resource check out <https://www.nami.org/Get-Involved/Awareness-Events/Mental-Health-Month>