

Pastor's Message

Anxiousness is an expanding problem for many of us today. "The United States is now the most anxious nation in the world. The land of the Stars and Stripes has become the country of stress and strife" (Lucado ix-x). But this is not what was intended for us, this is not what we should be about in our walk with our God. In Philippians chapter 4:6 the Apostle Paul says: "be anxious for nothing." Paul didn't leave room for any leeway. He did however write this phrase in the present tense, meaning that he knew and we need to know that it is an ongoing process to rid ourselves of the anxiety that can weigh us down or swallow us up.

Max Lucado encourages us by saying: "don't let anything in life leave you perpetually breathless and in angst. The presence of anxiety is unavoidable, but the prison of anxiety is optional. Anxiety is not a sin; it is an emotion. (So don't be anxious about feeling anxious.) Anxiety can, however, lead to sinful behavior. When we numb our fears with six-packs or food binges, when we spew anger, when we peddle our fears to anyone who will buy them, we are sinning. If toxic anxiety leads you to abandon your spouse, neglect your kids, break covenants, or break hearts, take heed. Jesus gave this word: 'Be careful, or your hearts will be weighed down with... the anxieties of life' (Luke 21:34)" (Max Lucado, *Less Fret and More Faith* Intro). Is your heart weighed down with worry? You're not alone, and we have a relationship with One who can help.

Did you know what the most highlighted book on Kindle is the Bible and the most highlighted verse in the Bible is Philippians 4:6-7. Apparently we are all in need of a little comfort:

"Rejoice in the Lord always. Again I will say, rejoice! Let your gentleness be known to all people. The Lord is at hand. Be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication, with thanksgiving, let your requests be made known to God; and the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus. Finally, friends, whatever things are true, whatever things are noble, whatever things are just, whatever things are pure, whatever things are lovely, whatever things are of good report, if there is any virtue and if there is anything praiseworthy—meditate on these things" (Philippians 4:4-8).

And you know what, it is God who is ready to give you the comfort that you seek and are looking for. "With God as your helper you will sleep better tonight and smile more tomorrow. You'll reframe the way you face your fears. You'll learn how to talk to yourself off the ledge, view bad news through the lens of sovereignty, discern the lies of Satan, and tell yourself the truth. You will discover a life that is characterized by calm and will develop tools for facing the onslaughts of anxiety. It will require some work on your part. I certainly don't mean to leave the impression that anxiety can be waved away with a simple pep talk. In fact, for some of us God's healing will include the help of therapy and/or medication. If that is the case, do not for a moment think that you are a second class citizen of heaven. Ask God to lead you to a

qualified counselor or physician who will provide the treatment you need. This much is sure: It is not God's will that you lead a life of perpetual anxiety. It is not God's will that you face every day with dread and trepidation. God made you for more than a life of breath-stealing angst and mind-splitting worry. God has a new chapter for your life. And God is ready to write it with you" (Lucado xviii-xix).

Blessings and Peace for your journey,
Pastor Nate

Generations Conversation

On Sunday, October 29th during the Sunday School hour I am inviting everyone to join us for a conversation about the different generations that make up our church. There are currently the World War 2 generation, the Baby Boomers, Generation X, Millennials, and the I Generation all in our church life together. The conversation will talk about the 5 generations that are actively present in our church life. We will look at how each of these loosely created groups views the world, what they often times are looking for in their faith, and we will seek to find understanding and common ground on the ways we can work together and reach out to one another. This event is our second opportunity to share in conversations and discussions about topics and ideas where there may be diverse opinions and thoughts. It is our hope for us to be a community of faith that can share our thoughts while listening to the thoughts and understandings of others and be reminded that we are all a part of this diverse family of faith. It is our hope to have more discussions and conversations of issues of faith in the future. Come out and help us shape what these conversations will be.

Technicians Needed

With the additions of the televisions there is twice the need for running the equipment. We are grateful for Don Girton and Len Manbeck; who do a great job with this responsibility, but we need helpers and we need more folks who share this knowledge and help out in this area of ministry. So we are looking to have a training time for whoever is willing to learn. Please let us know if you are interested. It is not hard to learn the processes to running either the sound or the visual set ups. We are also looking for folks who are interested in helping us create visual presentations and slides that will be utilized in worship. This is a task that may be able to be done from home or at church. If you have any interest or questions please contact Don or the church office. Thanks in advance, your support and participation in this will help to make the presentations useful and meaningful.

Worship Schedule this month:

October 1st – (Theme of Worship: God's Sustaining Presence) Ezekiel 19:1-4, 25-32, Philippians 2:1-13, Matthew 21:23-32. We will be cleaning the highway and setting up for the rummage sale after church.

October 8th – (ToW: Wisdom for the Way) Isaiah 5:1-7, Philippians 3:4b-14, Matthew 21:33-46.

October 15th – (ToW: Praiseworthy Living) Exodus 32:1-14, Philippians 4:1-9, Matthew 22:1-14.

October 22nd – (ToW: Living Messages) Exodus 33:12-23, 1st Thessalonians 1:1-10, Matthew 22:15-22.

October 29th – (ToW: The Compassionate Life) Deuteronomy 34:1-12, 1st Thessalonians 2:1-8, Matthew 22:34-46. This is Reformation Sunday and the 500th anniversary of Martin Luther and the 95 theses upon the door of Wittenberg. The sermon will look at how the life of the church has changed and is changing into the future.

Looking Ahead a Little Further:

November 5th - (ToW: Partners in Service) We will remember loved ones who have left us in the past year with our All Saints Celebration in worship.

Consistory Update

Consistory this month had discussion about ways to engage members more actively in the life of the church. It's clear that some members are unsure about some of the needs and how they can help to meet them. Using committees and teams is beginning to help in this area but more needs to be done. We also discussed updating the ways in which people give to the church to include technologies such as cell phones and automatic contributions which match some of the more modern ways that people send money today.

The Consistory is going to invite the congregation to help us “Invest in our Future” as a church during our annual congregational meeting. By creating an opportunity for you to donate and replenish the capital funds that we have utilized for the visual technology system that has recently been added to our sanctuary. It is their hope that many will feel led to donate gifts to the endowment fund to replace the funds that were utilized for this capital improvement and help us invest in our future as a church and as faithful followers of Christ. We, as a church have been extremely blessed with a number of financial gifts that can aid the church in reaching out to future members and participants. Consistory believes that the video system was a capital investment to update and enhance the congregation’s ability to reach people and support their spiritual growth and as such it meets with the purpose of Dreisbach’s capital funds spending. So the consistory has decided not to conduct a fundraising campaign specifically to pay for the system. The consistory believes this project was an investment in our future and you are invited to contribute to the endowment fund as you feel blessed and called to do so; as we discern God’s next steps for us as His church.

Consistory discussed the potential need for strategic planning in our congregation. The purpose would be to better clarify our mission and vision so that the congregation is more in unison with the growth objectives of the church.

There was considerable discussion of the music needs of the church with several recent retirements. A search is underway to find a music director to help revitalize and expand the music ministry.

Consistory is preparing for the fall elections to organize next year's governing body. The outgoing members of Consistory (Sharon Magyar, Dean Wiand, Dave Humphrey, and Kyle Spangler) will form a nomination committee to identify a slate of candidates. If you have interest in serving on Consistory, please contact one of the committee members. The nominees list will

be prepared by Nov. 21 and a Congregational meeting will be held after church on December 17 to elect the new Consistory members.

The Deacons are working on the budget for 2018. A draft will be prepared for the November 21 Consistory meeting, and a full version is due for the Consistory meeting on December 19.

Fall Rummage Sale

The sale will take place **October 5th, 6th & 7th**. You may begin dropping off rummage this afternoon. **Sale hours will be Thursday and Friday 9:00 am – 5:00pm and Saturday 9:00 am – 12:00 noon.** Cleanup starts at noon on Saturday. Much help is required to make the sale a success. We welcome new volunteers; they are important as the sale grows in size. Please consider helping.

Dreisbach Community Fall Festival

Our **2nd Annual Fall Festival** is scheduled for **Oct. 14th** from 11AM – 5PM. The day includes FREE games for all ages, FREE hayride, FREE entertainment, and FREE entry into the pie baking contest! Food available for sale includes soups, pulled pork, hot dogs, Clyde's Fresh Cut French Fries, baked goods, and more! NEW this year will be an apple sundae bar! \$2 spoons will be available for pie tasting the contest entries. \$5 food vouchers are available for our congregation to give to local residents who may be interested in attending the event and seeking a church family of their own. Many volunteers are needed to make this event successful to both work the various booths as well as donate food items. Please sign-up in the back of the church on how you can help make this event a success! Plan to spend the day with your church family and enjoy all the beauty of fall God provides!

Prayer Shawl

The Prayer Shawl group will meet on Wednesday, **October 18, at 6:30 p.m.** We are beginning to make hats for shoeboxes! If you need yarn there is some in the storage closet.

Hurricane Disaster Relief

\$1000.00 has been given for Hurricane Disaster Relief from rummage sale funds. The money will be distributed by a disaster agency of the United Church of Christ.

Neighbors in Need

We will begin receiving out annual Neighbors in Need offering Sunday, October 1st. Envelopes are available in the back of the sanctuary. Offerings can be placed in the plate any Sunday throughout October. For more information on this mission please see the bulletin board in the rear of the sanctuary.

Thank You

I would like to thank the members and Pastor Nate for their prayers, phone calls, alter flowers, and delicious meals following my recent surgery. Your caring thoughts and concerns during my recovery are all greatly appreciated. Dreisbach truly is a great family who is always ready to lend a helping hand to anyone in need. Thank you for everything. Karen Mensch

All Saints Sunday

On November 5th, in worship, we will remember and honor those who have passed away since our last All Saints Celebration. If there is a member of the church, or a family member of yours, or friend of the congregation who you would like to include in our reading of the names portion of the service, please let the office know by October 23rd.

Committee Meetings

The **Fall Festival** committee will be meeting Monday, **October 9th** at 6:30.

The **Membership** committee's next meeting will take place on Monday, **October 2nd** at 7:00.

October Birthdays & Anniversaries

Remember the following people in your prayers as they celebrate special days this month.

3	Kayse Moyer Corrieri	14	Detra Dodge
4	Monica Berger Travis Shively Kyle Spangler	17	Rodney Walter Kay Reedy Karl & Barbara Buchholtz
5	Gavin Enders	18	Mike Willow Austin Aunkst
6	Daren Mensch	19	Dave & Tara Humphrey
7	Carol Snook Don & Roxie Girton	21	Ella Willow Nancy Boyer
8	Jeff Ault	22	Molly Childs
9	Cami Finerghy Kathleen Shemory Tricia Lloyd	24	Connie Bastian David Beckley
10	Dale Ruhl Nathan Pfirman Tim & Detra Dodge	25	Wanda Shively
11	Jack Troxell Rich Stup	26	Gary & Deb Hallock Ed & Melissa Miller
12	Larry & Deb Pfirman Barbara Comey	27	Melinda Noll
13	Seleca Solomon	28	Gabe Gabel Mark Berger Joy Catherman Judy Schenck
14	Jeff Solomon		

If you know of any additions or corrections to the birthday and anniversary list, please give or email them to Pam Pfirman, pam_adminsec@dreisbach.org.