

BEULAH BEACON

WHAT DOES IT MEAN TO SEEK GOD?

By Pastor Don Gibson

Dear friends, let us love one another, for love comes from God. Everyone who loves has been born of God and knows God. Whoever does not love does not know God, because God is love. 1 John 4:7-8

In recent months and in this medium, the “Beulah Beacon,” I have set out to help us all better understand our church-wide mission/vision statement; Transforming Lives as we Seek, Share and Service God. We began our understanding of the statement by inspecting each of its components; what does transforming mean? Who does the work. How about seeking? What does this mean? Who do we seek? This month we are moving toward better understanding sharing. What does share mean? What are we sharing and why?

Today every facet of our Christian life is being confronted with all kinds of outside (worldly) influences, and practices. The challenge that the early Christians faced, those who heard these words spoken, becomes real to us today; how do we share the love of Jesus- love that we have received. This love, not any love, but the love of God is a powerful force that can move mountains, heal wounds, and transform lives. It is an attribute that defines God, who is love itself. In fact, the Bible tells us that “God is love” (1 John 4:8). This means that God’s love is not just an emotion, but an essential part of God’s character. Those who want to know God, are called to share this love with others because we are growing in the character of God, Christlikeness.

Our Christian faith teaches us that Jesus came to earth to show us what God’s love looks like in action, in the flesh. Jesus gave His disciples an important commandment: “Love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one

another” (John 13:34). As I understand it, this commandment was not and is not now optional. It is at the very heart of what it means to follow Jesus and what is means to share Jesus. Galatians 5:22-23 tells us that “the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control.” These are not just nice qualities to have. They are the evidence that the Holy Spirit is at work in our lives, and they are the qualities that enable us to love others as God loves us.

So, what are some practical ways to share God’s love?

Practice kindness: Be intentional about showing kindness to others, even in simple ways. Listen to others: Take the time to truly hear what someone is saying. Serve others: Serving others is a tangible way to show God’s love. Pray for others: Prayer is a powerful way to show love and care for others. Share your resources: Whether it’s your time, money, or possessions, sharing what you have with others is a way to show love and generosity. Speak words of encouragement and be a peacemaker. The incredible gift of God’s love is meant to be shared.

So, we are trusting God to transform lives as we Seek God and Share God - sharing a message of salvation, hope and love!

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MUSIC NOTES

By Deborah Wenrich

I chose to do the hymn story on "God of Grace and God of Glory". God of Grace and God of Glory is a poem that was written in 1930 to be sung for the opening of Riverside Church in NY on October 5, 1930. It was written by Harry Emerson Fosdick, a Baptist minister, when the nation was facing the great depression which had started in 1929. It is a petition to God requesting him to pour out his power on his church, to grant wisdom and courage for the perilous days ahead.



God of grace and God of glory, on thy people pour thy power;
Crown thine ancient church's story; bring her bud to glorious flower.
Grant us wisdom, grant us courage
For the facing of this hour, for the facing of this hour.

Lo! the hosts of evil round us scorn thy Christ, assail his ways!
Fear and doubts too long have bound us; free our hearts to work and praise
Grant us wisdom, grant us courage
For the living of these days, for the living of these days

Cure thy children's warring madness, bend our pride to thy control
Shame our wanton, selfish gladness, rich in things and poor in soul.
Grant us wisdom, grant us courage
Lest we miss thy kingdom's goal, lest we miss thy kingdom's goal

Save us from weak resignation to the evils we deplore
Let the search for thy salvation be our glory evermore
Grant us wisdom, grant us courage
Serving thee whom we adore, serving thee whom we adore

Hymn Story God of Grace and God of Glory Donovan, Richard Niell 2006
<https://sermonwriter.com/hymns/hymn-stories/god-of-grace-and-god-of-glory/>



By Barry Iglehart
root-cellar.org

I, personally, cannot think of a more "Spring" month than April. March still involves some of winter and May is eyeing summer, sometimes in a bad way.

We've now had Passover (Pesach) and are moving toward Pentecost (Shavuot). The day immediately after Passover is the Feast of First Fruits, a day we refer to as Easter, Resurrection Day. Many Jews, even believing ones, choose to use the latter because of a horrific medieval antisemitic past.

Paul refers to Messiah Jesus, the Anointed One (Mashiach) as the "First Fruits of those risen from the dead". Easter is the first of three harvest festivals all Israelite men were scripturally commanded to attend in Jerusalem. They were to bring and raise before God at the Temple the first portion of that harvest to be declared holy before God. With this, the rest of the harvest was also considered holy. And, so, with Jesus, are we.

The Hebrew word for spring is "Aviv". We know it as a season of birth and rebirth, renewal and release. Jesus says in John's Revelation "Behold, I make all things new!" If we believe on Him, if we live in the "Aviv" of His grace and mercy, this will be true for us. Shalom.



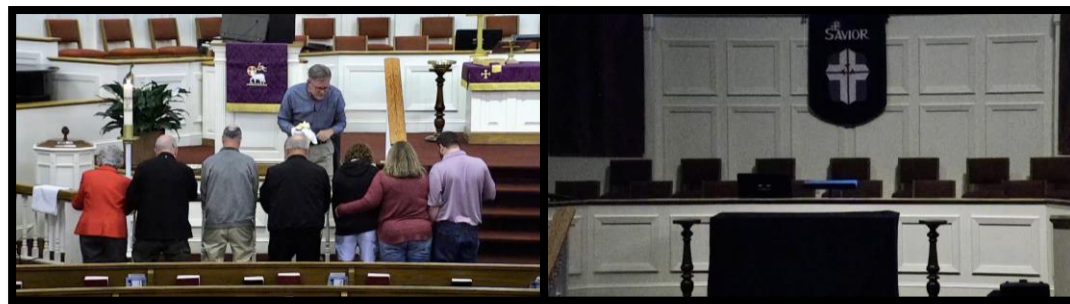
THE MONTH IN REVIEW

On **March 18**, A-1 Steam It cleaning did a fantastic job of cleaning all the pews in the Sanctuary. Thank you to everyone involved in this project.

Holy Week was from **March 24 to March 31**. We reflected on the meaning of this week starting with Palm Sunday and how we actually declare God's presence in our everyday lives.



Thursday, March 28, the Beulah Men's Ministry cooked a fish dinner to finish out the Worship meal season. After the meal we gathered in the Sanctuary for the Maundy Thursday Service. During the service we remembered Jesus' last week before His crucifixion and stripped the Sanctuary of worship elements leaving it in a shroud of darkness, reflecting Jesus's death for us.



Friday, March 29, Pastor Don led us online for a special Good Friday message. You can listen to this message and all of the service from Holy Week on our [YouTube](#) and [Facebook](#) pages.

Saturday, March 30, was the Annual Easter Egg Hunt. The egg hunt was originally scheduled for March 23, but was pushed to the 30th because of rain.....



Sunday, March 31, was Easter Sunday, and we celebrated the resurrection of our Lord at 6:30 am with a Sunrise service on the front lawn and at 11:00 am with the Easter Service. We also welcomed Karen Morton into the Beulah Church family.



PRAYER SHAWL MINISTRY

The prayer shawl ministry is an important part of our church body as they assist in sharing the love of Christ to the friends and family of Beulah Church. On Sunday, April 14, there will be a “blessing of the shawls” during the worship service. There will also be a special opportunity to financially assist this ministry during the service.



ABOUT THE PRAYER SHAWL MINISTRY

OUR MISSION: The prayer shawls are created to show God’s love and presence to people during difficult times in life. They are created to give joy and hope to those who receive them.

PURPOSE: Our intention is that shawls will be given to those who need them regardless of whether they are members of our church or not. God has given us a talent to create and use that talent to help spread the ministry of Beulah Church. We make other items throughout the year as well. Some of these items are blankets for new babies, chemo hats, and scarves/hats for needy families through the Christmas Mother program.

OUR HISTORY: The idea behind the Prayer Shawl ministry did not begin with us. The history goes back to 1998 when a lady gave a shawl to a friend who was being treated for breast cancer. In 2005, Ellen Stamps and Pat Compton got together and started the ministry at Beulah Church with 18 members participating. It has grown and many churches now have a Prayer Shawl group.

HOW TO PICK OUT A SHAWL: The shawls are kept in the cabinet at the Information Center. There are many types and colors. There are also newborn blankets available. Please feel free to take one to share with your loved one. We ask for you to add the name of the person on the clipboard provided there. This helps us to keep track of the shawls and to keep from duplicating shawls to the same person. A shawl blessing is attached to each shawl. Please fill in the name and date before you present it to the recipient.



HOW TO JOIN THE MINISTRY: We welcome anyone who would like to join our ministry. Many knit or crochet at home. Others attend a monthly meeting at the church in room 111 on the third Tuesday from 1:30-3:00 PM. Our shawls are blessed by the group and presented to the congregation for blessing from the pastor. We make shawls for our college students (with school colors) who start in the fall of each year. If you are interested in joining this ministry, please contact the church and let us know. All are welcome.



COMMUNION OFFERING



<https://www.lvsrva.org/>

(Article adapted from the LVS website)

Liberation Veteran Services is dedicated to providing a safe haven exclusively for veterans in crisis. Beyond offering transitional and rapid rehousing, they take time to counsel each and every one of their vets, treating them with the dignity and respect they deserve. They believe this personalized approach to rehabilitation is the reason why their veterans are able to successfully go on to lead productive, fulfilling lives in the community.

While LVS is proud of their success, they still have a long way to go in ending veteran homelessness. As a non-profit organization, they look to the generosity of the community to help them help their veterans.

Liberation Veteran Services believes there is not a one-size fits all solution to veteran homelessness. They are committed to working with veterans and restoring them in mind, body, and spirit. When veterans arrive at their facility, they address the presenting issues of addiction, mental health, and PTSD as the barriers they have to safe and affordable housing. Respecting the dignity of these men is central to LSV's work of leading them back to a life that matters

BIBLE READING CHALLENGE

APRIL READING

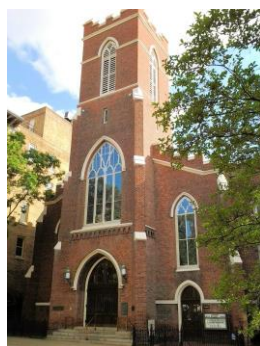
01	Proverbs 24-27	15	Isaiah 33-36
02	Proverbs 28-31	16	Isaiah 37-40
	Ecclesiastes 1	17	Isaiah 41-43
03	Ecclesiastes 2-6	18	Isaiah 44-48
04	Ecclesiastes 7-12	19	Isaiah 49-51
05	Song of Solomon 1-7	20	Isaiah 52-57
06	Song of Solomon 8	21	Sunday (Catch-up day)
	Isaiah 1-4	22	Isaiah 58-62
07	Sunday (Catch-up day)	23	Isaiah 63-66
08	Isaiah 5-8	24	Jeremiah 1-3
09	Isaiah 9-13	25	Jeremiah 4-6
10	Isaiah 14-18	26	Jeremiah 7-9
11	Isaiah 19-23	27	Jeremiah 10-12
12	Isaiah 24-28	28	Sunday (Catch-up day)
13	Isaiah 29-32	29	Jeremiah 13-16
14	Sunday (Catch-up day)	30	Jeremiah 17-20



SHERBOURNE FOOD PANTRY

During the month of April, the Sherbourne Food Pantry is asking for donations of canned fruit and vegetables. The benefits of most canned fruits are that they contain the same amount of nutrients as fresh and frozen produce. Fruit canned in water or its own juices is healthier than those canned in syrup, but any canned fruit will be accepted. Donations can be left on the wire rack by the Information Center or in the white after-hours donation cabinet in the Breezeway.

LOCAL MISSION OPPORTUNITY



We are looking for volunteers to help with our missionary work with the food program at Centenary Church in downtown Richmond. We go on the 4th Friday, on the odd number months (May, July, Sept. and Nov.). We leave Beulah at 9:00 am and are back by 1:00 pm. Call Jane Schmierer (804-778-4993) if you are interested with preparing and serving food to those in need.



United Women in Faith

UWF MISSION WITNESS

The Daily Prayer Guide is published annually by United Women in Faith. It invites us to pray as one people responsive to God's call to relationships of caring, connecting and healing in a world of uncertainty in all but the love of God. Each month we share a testimony from a person in mission for Christ through the United Methodist Church.

Scripture for the Month

Be glad in the Lord always. Again, I say be glad!

- Philippians 4:4

Witness

"While they were eating, he took a loaf of bread and after blessing it he broke it, gave it to them, and said, "Take, this is my body" (Mark 13:22). Driving home from my job at the hospital where I work as chaplain, I just felt so broken. My office, the department of pastoral care, had to be retooled for a completely different mission. Our previous mission was to provide pastoral care to patients and their families who were facing difficult situations. Then COVID-19 came. No more visitors. No more pastoral care to family members, either. Our mission in pastoral care had changed to caring for the staff who were literally risking their lives. There was a code blue (cardiac arrest) at 2:45 a.m. for a 45-year old COVID patient. There were no family members present. All I could do was pray. I prayed for that young man and those brave people trying to save him. I felt so unequipped and so broken.

When Jesus broke the bread and gave it to the disciples, he did more than give them nourishment. He gave them hope and he gave them joy. In Jesus' example of his own brokenness, he shows us that when we are broken, we are most like him.

- Denise Walling, Order of Deaconess and Home Missioner,
Ellis Hospital, Schenectady, N.Y. and Jonesville/Shenendehowa
United Methodist Churches, Clifton, N.Y.

Prayer

Please pray for international missionaries serving in Ecuador, El Salvador, Ghana, Greece, and Guatemala, and our United States missionaries serving in Illinois, Iowa, Kansas, and Kentucky.

UNITED WOMEN IN FAITH MISSION GIVING

The Beulah UWF receives no funds from the Beulah Church budget. We have our own budget, and our funds are raised by our members through fund-raising projects and our purses. In addition to local and area missions, we donate an annual Pledge to Mission of \$2,500 to our District UWF to be sent through the Conference to the National Office. In 2022, our \$2,500 joined with other dollars from across the country to raise \$7,308,887.46 for undesignated giving, going to support more than 160 international and national mission projects, regional missionaries, and scholarships. With designated giving and The Legacy Fund, the grand total was \$8,697,283.04, and that's just from members in the United States. If you want to see where our dollars are at work across the globe, check out the UWF bulletin board in the entryway of the Fellowship Hall for our mission maps. A list of the missions will be available on the UWF bookcase in the Fellowship Hall. We thank everyone who supports our fund-raising efforts!

SAVE THE DATE

Sunday, April 14, is United Women in Faith Sunday. Ellen Stamps will be the guest speaker during the 11:00 am service.

MOTHER/DAUGHTER MAY DAY POTLUCK

All women of the church are invited to attend (and bring a daughter/guest) to the Mother/Daughter May Day Potluck dinner on Tuesday, May 7, at 6:00 pm (You do not have to be a member to attend). Please stay tuned for more details.

CLEANING SUPPLIES FOR IRC

Our church (through the United Women of Faith) will be gathering cleaning items for the IRC (International Rescue Committee) this spring. The Department of State allocates funds to support each family's resettlement, but these funds are limited. By receiving these cleaning items through donations, the IRC can provide them to newly-arrived clients, enabling their funds to stretch further as they are getting on their feet. Our drive will be April 14 – May 5. Please help us gather these items to help those new in our area. **(PLEASE NO LAUNDRY/DISH DETERGENT AND NO ALL-PURPOSE CLEANERS. THOSE ARE BEING PROVIDED THROUGH A GRANT THAT THE IRC HAS WITH ANOTHER PARTNER.)**



THE ITEMS REQUESTED ARE:

- Mops
- Mop buckets
- Brooms and dust pans
- Vacuum cleaners
- Cleaning rags
- Toilet brushes
- Trash bags
- Trash cans
- Kitchen size
- Bedroom/bathroom size
- Toilet Plungers

BEULAH SCHOLARSHIPS

Beulah is pleased to offer a number of scholarships to its members. Scholarship awards are based on church and community involvement, demonstrated scholastic achievement, financial need, and the quality and content of the completed application. Scholarship application submissions will be accepted from April 1, 2024 until May 1, 2024. Applications can be found on the church's website at <https://www.beulah-church.com/scholarships>. If you have any questions, please contact the church office at 804-275-2325 or email us at office@beulah-church.com.



BEULAH SCHOLARSHIPS

Helping to build tomorrow's leaders

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL



Vacation Bible School is Tuesday, June 25 - Friday, June 28. We are happy to announce that the Registration for VBS 2024 – Breaker Rock Beach is Open! This year we will be learning about Romans 12:2 and how God's Truth is the solid rock in a world of shifting sand. Please go to Beulah-church.com/VBS to find the Registration Form! You may also find the registration form at the Information Center. If you know of any students who will be in Elementary School as of Fall 2024, share with them this great news about this year's VBS!

BEULAH MEN'S MINISTRY

The Beulah Men's Ministry meets every Monday, at 10:00 am, in room 107 for Bible study. They also meet the 3rd Tuesday night of the month, at 6:00 pm, in the Fellowship Hall for good food and fellowship. The men's ministry is open to any men looking for a place to fellowship with other Christ-centered men. Louis Corde (804-748-9862) is available if you have a questions about the ministry or it's meeting times.

UMCOR RELIEF KITS

Even though we are no longer UMC, we can still participate in the disaster relief efforts of UMCOR (The United Methodist Committee on Relief), an organization open to anyone of any denomination. We will be providing relief kits this year, as in years past. Instructions will soon be available at the Information Center.

BEULAH'S BEST

Beulah's Best will meet April 16, at 10:00 am in the Fellowship Hall. Our program will be the Beulah Land Quartet. Come enjoy refreshments, fellowship, and singing by the quartet.

CALENDAR

APRIL

- 01 **CHURCH CLOSED**
- 05 Mariners Dinner
- 08 Ruth Robertson Friendship Circle
- 09 Mary Farmer Circle of Love
Rebekah Fellowship
- 10 VBS Meeting
Beulah Day Planning Meeting
- 12-13 Scouts Pine Derby
- 13 Hearing Loss Association
- 14 UWF Sunday
Start of IRC Drive
- 16 Beulah's Best
Prayer Shawl Ministry
Finance Committee
Beulah Men's Dinner
- 17 Wesleyan Stratton
- 23 Springdale Bible Study
- 24 Prayer Meeting

REOCCURRING WEEKLY

Sunday

- 8:30 Worship
- Sunday School
- 11:00 Worship
- Youth Group

Monday

- Card Ministry
- Men's Bible study
- Women's Chorus rehearsal
- Bells of Praise Rehearsal
- Scouts

Tuesday

- Cub Scouts

Wednesday

- Children and Youth Bells

Thursday

- Beulah Land Quartet Rehearsal
- Sanctuary Choir Rehearsal

BIRTHDAYS

APRIL

- 02 Hilda Taylor
- 03 Cindy Hubbard
- 05 David Dudley
- 07 John Koenig
Jerry Lane
- 09 Karen Tatum
- 10 Jack Lunsford
- 12 Elaine Johnston
- 12 Olga Leon
- 13 Robin Cyrtmus
Sarah Ramey
- 15 John Kuti
- 16 Nancy Morris

- 17 Connie Beck
- 18 Nancy Goff
- 19 Jerry Skaggs
- 19 Carol Zimmerman
- 25 Donald Vaughan
- 27 Melanie Akoi
- 29 Theresa Meadows
- 30 Larry Zimmerman

MAY

- 05 Mary Anne Huband
- 06 Pastor Don Gibson

THANK YOU

TO: Beulah Church

FROM: Howard and Priscilla Bareford

There are no words to tell you how much you mean to us especially during the recent passing of our son H.T. Bareford Jr. H.T.'s brothers and mother were so touched by all that attended and all that was done. All of your cards, calls, food, flowers, and donations to Beulah were overwhelming. To David and Barbara Dudley, thank you isn't enough. To Emma Bradley and the Bereavement Committee you all do such outstanding work. You truly are God's blessing and greatly appreciated. A special thank you to Pastor Don for being with us at the hospital and for such a special service to honor H.T. God's blessing on you all.

TO: Beulah

FROM: Jann Niccoli

We feel so blessed to be in a loving, supportive, wonderful family. Thank you for all the prayers, calls, texts, etc. for Neely Owen as he has awaited God's timing for his kidney transplant. He is doing well as they are continuing to tweak his many medications and dosages. He and Martha, his wife, express such gratitude for the prayers and the beautiful cards from our card ministry. God bless you all!!!

TO: Beulah Church

FROM: Margaret Burke

Thanks to Pastor Don, and each of you for the beautiful cards and notes, phone calls, delicious food, visits and caring prayers. We are so blessed to have a congregation of friends who are always ready to give each other their time and encouragement. God Bless you.

TO: Beulah Family

FROM: Gloria Bradmon

Thank you for all of the thoughts, prayers, and beautiful cards I have been receiving. Everyone has been very encouraging. It has meant so much. Thank you for your caring.