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The Messenger

Evangelical United Methodist Church

157 East Water Street, Middletown, PA 17057

717.944.6181 www.eumch.org



From the Pastor's Pen

As a pastor, people ask me to pray all the time. Especially before meals and meetings. Even my family will nominate me to pray before a meal. When I first started ministry, this bothered me. In the church or my family, I know I am not the only one capable of praying.

I do not mind anymore because I realize how hard public prayer can be for people. It is much easier to pray privately. No one has taught most of us how to pray in public. The leaders of my home church's youth group asked me to pray at my very first meeting. I just sat there with a deer in the headlights look.

In seminary, I should have taken more classes on worship. In preparing for my first Sunday as a pastor, I realized the church had a pastoral prayer in the order of worship. What is a pastoral prayer? On some level, whatever the pastor prays at that moment. I had to muddle through it.

Two persons requested sermons related to prayer this year. One wanted to experience sermons on the historical, biblical, and theological aspects of prayer. Another wanted sermons related to actual ways to pray. In August, Deacon Megan and I are going to try something we have never done before in worship. I will preach sermons from some of the most powerful scripture passages related to prayer. After the sermon, we will teach different ways of praying.

For me, learning different ways to pray has been helpful to my prayer life. Like most things in life, practice is helpful. Just experiencing prayer helps us pray. Being experienced in prayer makes public prayer easier. Please consider joining us this August as we grow in our prayer lives together.





The Red Bird Mission, located in Beverly KY, has been serving the people in the Appalachian Mountain area since 1921. They have three major outreaches. **The Red Bird Mission** does community outreach covering emergency needs, clothing, clean water, and a food pantry. The mission's elderly outreach helps with housing, a senior center, home care, respite care and Meals on Wheels. The family ministries has an adult education program, farming support, Christmas assistance and Grow Appalachia. This program is in conjunction with Berea College and aids in improving healthy food options for families, creates potential income opportunities and educates people on basic gardening.

The Red Bird Clinic includes a dental clinic which serves about 600 patients a year. The community health services department gives health education to 3000 low-income individuals in 3 counties per year. It provides health promotion and screenings at the Red Bird school. It also provides over 300 home visits to home bound seniors. The community health nurse assists low income, uninsured individuals to complete applications for free and reduced prescriptions. These and other services are offered to the community.

The Red Bird School centers on developing the full potential of each student from Pre-K through 12 in a Christian atmosphere. The school is accredited by the Southern Association of Colleges & Schools and the University Senate of the United Methodist Church and Christian School International. Students in the Red Bird area may attend regardless of their ability to pay. Classes in physical education, foreign language, music, and library are available to all students. Christian education is incorporated into the curriculum for all grades. Children outside of the Red Bird area may also attend the school. There is a dormitory program available. Each dorm has an apartment for the dorm parents and a lounge for watching TV and playing games. All graduates leave with a diploma in either general, college prep or academic study. In 2011, The Joy Center, became a licensed Day Care Center. It serves children aged 3-4 with a preschool program.

Evangelical supports this mission in two ways. We send a yearly gift, supported by the Kuhn memorial fund, for the community nurse. Also, a general gift is sent to the Mission itself. Any additional gifts sent in by members are always forwarded directly to them. If you would like to help support this wonderful outreach you can click this link <https://rbmission.org/support/current-needs/> or send a check to Evan with Red Bird in the memo. Thanks for your consideration.

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

The Presbyterian Congregation and Evangelical UMC combined to present VBS on Water Street. "Creation" was the theme, as we looked at the creation of living things. On Sunday, the children learned about John the Baptist, and were treated by a visit from Ryan Bridge, "The Bug Man." He showed the children many insects and bugs, and let the children touch them as well. Monday's story was Noah's Ark, and we were visited by Partyanimalz, which is a petting zoo of farm animals: piglets, goats, chicks, and bunnies were among the animals the children got to get up close with. Tuesday night's story was Adam and Eve, and the children experience "forgotten Friends Reptile Sanctuary." Snakes, lizards, an alligator, and other reptiles were presented. The children were able to pet and hold many of the animals. Our last evening the children learned about Jesus with the Animals, a lesson about Jesus in the stable, Jesus in the Wilderness and Jesus on a donkey on Palm Sunday. Zoo America entertained the children bringing a variety of wild animals including a falcon, a bat, and a skunk.

A total of 22 children attended our VBS this year. Many parents stayed for the programs, making this a uniquely family VBS. Many nights there were over 40 people who experienced VBS on Water Street. In addition, 55 dollars was collected and will be donated to our local fire department. VBS on Water Street will be held next year from June 12 – 15, 2022. Mark your calendars!!



VBS Day #1

We learned about
John the Baptist
with Ryan the Bug Man.





VBS Day #2

We heard the story of Noah's Ark and got to see and pet chicks, ducks, goats, pigs, bunnies and more with Partyanimalz!



There were snacks and craft time available for everyone each night. Here the kids are painting rocks for the garden.



I ♥ VBS



VBS day #3

Left is Erich Schlicher teaching the bible story.

We had a visit from Forgotten Friends Reptile Sanctuary.



VBS day #4

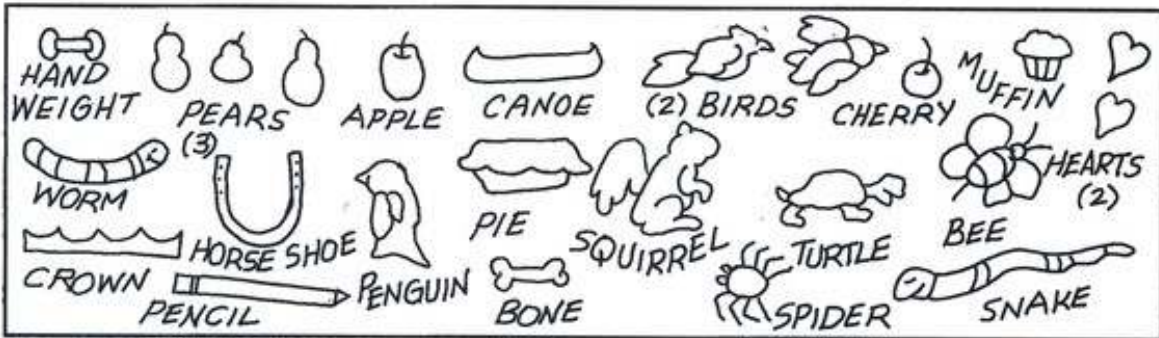
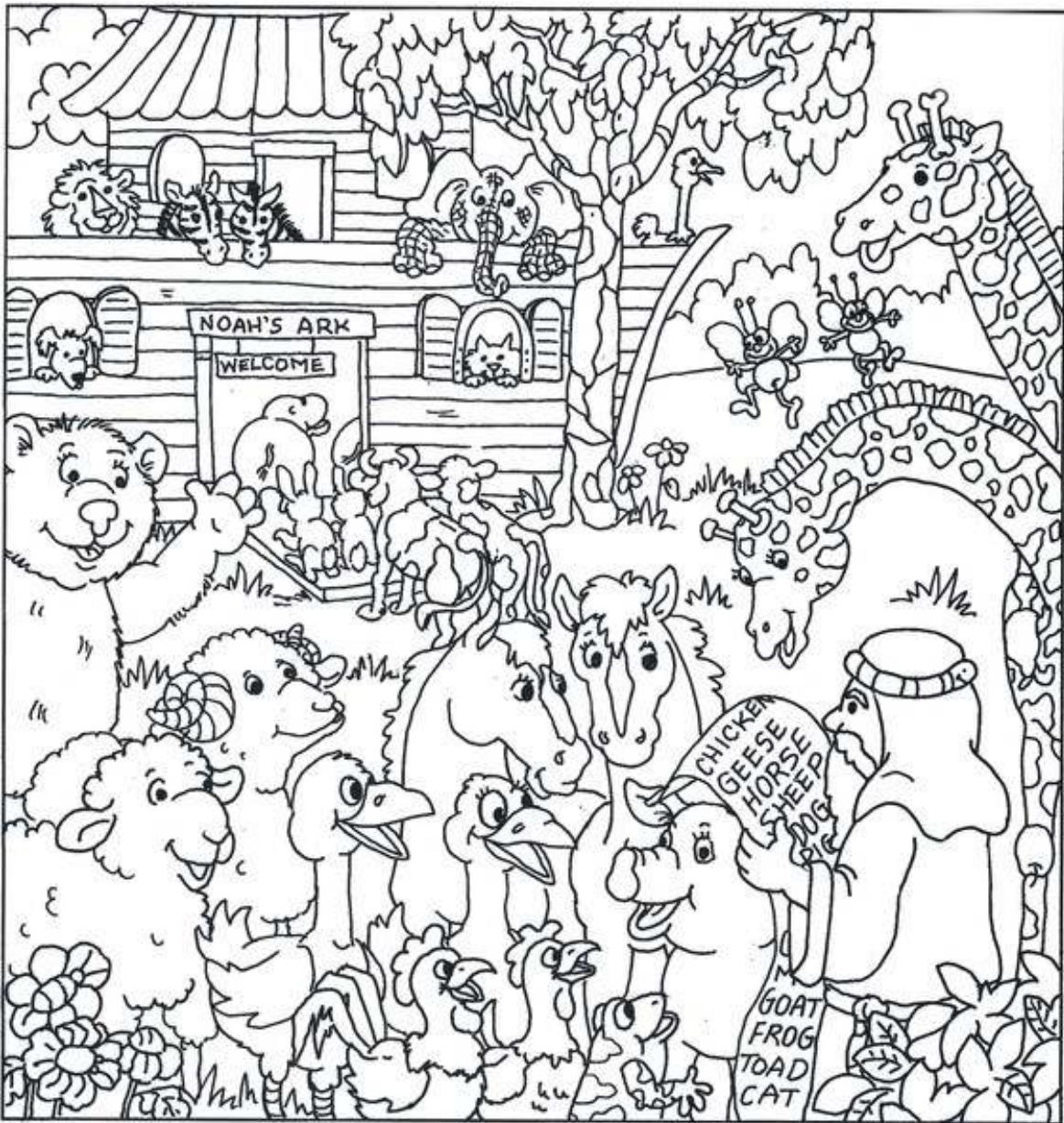
On our last day of VBS we learned about Jesus and animals.

Zoo America came and we got to see many different types of wild animals.

Left is a skunk that we were lucky didn't have her stink any longer.

On right is a falcon.





Find the hidden objects in the picture above.

Noah's Ark (Genesis 6–9:17)

God told Noah to build the ark, and then the animals came.

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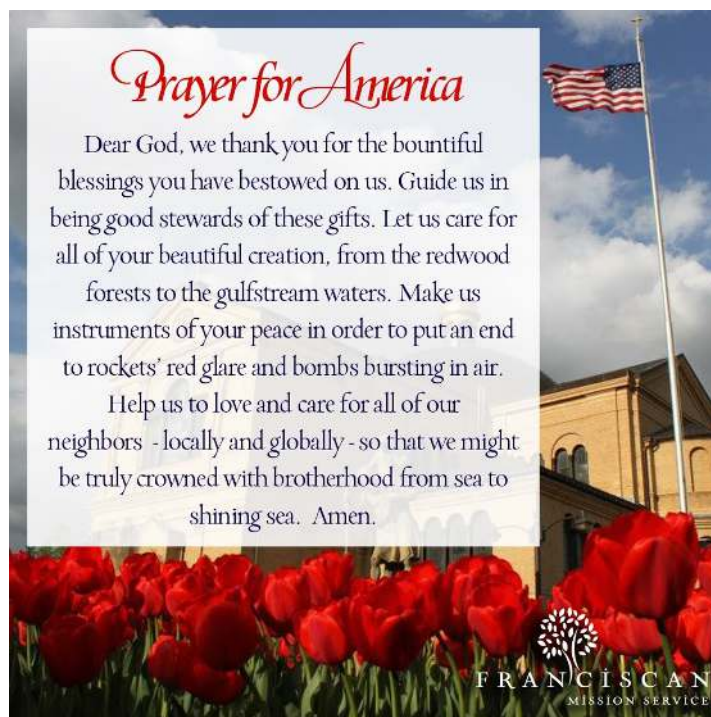
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