

Pastor Anne's Message, September 2024

Our lives are like a candle! Jesus said that we are to shine our light in the world. In Ephesians 5:15-20, Paul said, "Be careful then how you live, not as unwise people but as wise." But what does that really mean? Paul gives us four steps to living a wise life. See what you think!

Step #1: "Live life as a gift from God." Paul simply says, "make the most of the time." Isn't that a great motto?! This is the life to which we are called, as Jesus says, "Life in all its fullness" – and "making the most of our time." These are the first steps to living a wise life.

Step #2: "Work hard to get to know God." Paul said, "Do not be foolish, but understand what the will of the Lord is." If life is a gift, then God is the gift-giver, and he has given you the gift of life for a purpose. God has given each one of us a brain and a mind, gifts and talents, and we can search to find the meaning and purpose for our lives. When we discover what our purpose, passions, gifts, and talents are, we shine as lights in the world as we have been graciously born to do and choose to do! We are here as a part of a community of life, a community of friends to support one another, and to share out to the world.

Step #3: "Let your faith transform how you live." Paul wrote, "Be filled with the Spirit." When we are developing wisdom and discerning purpose for our lives, we will inevitably shape how we behave. The wise life is not one in which we allow ourselves to feel defeated. Instead, we keep trying to overcome, to grow, and to honor God by the way we live. Yes, we will fail sometimes. Yes, we will struggle sometimes. But we always keep trying, and we do not give up hope. See life as a gift! Try to know a path and purpose for your life that you are genuinely called to and allow your faith to affect how you think and behave.

Step #4: "Commit to the church." Paul said, "Sing psalms and hymns and spiritual songs among yourselves, singing and making melody to the Lord in your hearts." Here is a call for us to participate often and regularly in worship together. We need each other. We need each other's support and encouragement if we are to develop a wise life.



There is a story about two people who were sitting in front of an open fire one night, talking about matters of faith. One said, "I don't think you need to go to church to be a Christian." The other person did not say a word. She then leaned forward and took the tongs by the fire, reached into the fire and took one of the burning, red-hot coals OUT of the fire and placed it sitting by itself, outside the fire. The coal then transformed from a burning, red-hot coal into a cold, dark coal. Sitting on its own, by itself, the fire and heat soon went out of the coal. Both friends said nothing. They didn't need to. The point was obvious! Understood!!

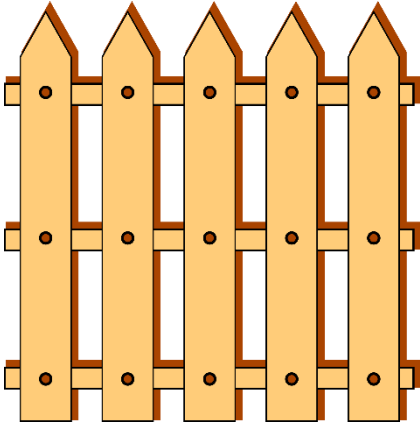
You see, it is the connection to fellowship with others, the love of fellowship with others, the "fire" and the "heat of our faith" that needs to be warmed by the fire of community. We need each other! Be wise. Choose life and live wisely.

Blessings to you! Pastor Anne

Trustees Report

The four new windows are in place in the over-flow room. It was decided to go with single hung windows. Mike Loftus managed the purchase and installation.

The next project in line for completion for this summer is installation of gates into the park allowing snow removal equipment to access the area. The large patio area catches a large amount of snow from the north Gymnasium roof. It is very hard to keep the snow pushed away from the building and the Trustees are hoping the use of an ATV with a plow blade might make it possible to push the snow farther away from the basement windows and wall. Two 4 ½ foot gates have been ordered, and we should see installation sometime in September.



A water leak in the sprinkler system was reported several days ago, and the Town maintenance workers were quick to get the water turned off. Robert repaired the break quickly, and the water is back on.

Plans for additional projects will be discussed prior to the September 9th Church Council meeting.

We want to thank Mike and Robert for the work they do around the church. You are greatly appreciated.

Suzanne Bellotti Trustee

Trustees: Mike Loftus, Julia Cox, Sue Bellotti, Tilda Evans

September Noisy Offering for Maui

Collbran Congregational Church collects funds for a Noisy Offering each month. At the beginning of the year specific charities and non-profits are designated for each month except for September. We have learned to keep September open for unexpected emergencies either locally, nationally, or internationally.

This year, the month of September has been designated to support the Plateau Valley 4-H. 4-H has a strong presence in our valley. The children who participate learn leadership skills, responsibility to others and their animals, service to others, and many more life skills.



Women's Fellowship Report

Womens Fellowship will begin meeting September 10th at 10:00 AM in the over-flow room. Please plan on attending if you can. We will be discussing the Turkey Dinner Plans for November 16th. We will also talk about upcoming events and work done over the summer.

Sue Bellotti
President

Moderator's Report

Wow! What a busy Spring and Summer we've had!

In conjunction with our regular Sunday Services, we celebrated Easter, Mother's Day, Senior Tea, had Collbran's Memorial Day activities here, Father's Day, Farmer's Markets, and, once again, a very successful Vacation Bible School. In addition, the rentals for our facilities have increased due to the Collbran Community Center being closed for the summer. It's a blessing to see how the community is looking to us for a place to have their gatherings.

Thank You to our church members for your thoughts, get well cards, flowers, Pastor Anne's Friday visits, and most of all your prayers before, during, and after my shoulder replacement surgery. I strongly believe in the incredible power of prayer! Thank you all!

Thank you also to my Church family for the thoughts, prayers, and cards concerning the passing of my brother, Dallas

Warm Regards, Bev Loftus, Moderator

THE MUSTARD SEED
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Children's Time



Be Jesus' Light
