

FAIRVIEW AVE. CHURCH

Open Doors, Open Arms, Open Hearts

Volume 36 Issue 4
Pastor John P. Walker

— Summer Newsletter 2026 —

Summer at Fairview Ave

Global Worker Update
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When Prayer Matters



So, when does prayer matter? Does it matter when there's an emergency or crisis and we need God's help now? Does prayer matter when we've experienced a personal loss? Does Prayer matter when we go through serious illness or hospitalization? How about when relationships break down or depression sets in, or when we have anxiety, or parental challenges? Does it matter before major decisions or when we face temptation? What about in joyful times? It might be better if we ask, "When doesn't prayer matter?" The obvious answer, at least from a Biblical perspective, is "never".

According to **Barna Research**, slightly more than four out of five adults in the us (84%) claim they had prayed in the past week. That figure has stayed very consistent since they started tracking prayer in 1993 (Christian Post). A **U.S. News and Beliefnet** study showed that 75 percent of those were Christians. At least 64 percent of people pray more than once a day. Sadly, only 38 percent believe the most important purpose of prayer is intimacy with God. While we might pray and maybe pray often, it seems most of us aren't doing it to build or improve our relationship with God. Only 42 percent believe that prayers are often answered.



You may not be aware of this but there have been many studies done on the effectiveness of prayer. Most of these in recent years seem to have focused on how praying helps us, personally. The general and mental health benefits are indisputable. However, one study really stands out among the rest. In 1988, Dr. Randolph C. Byrd, conducted a study in the Cardiology Division at San Francisco General Medical Center which was published in the **Southern Medical Journal** in 1988.

Dr. Byrd studied 393 Coronary care patients that were randomly assigned to two groups. One group received intercessory prayer from Christians praying outside the hospital. The other group received no organized prayer. The study was randomized and double-blind. Patients and medical staff did not know who was being prayed for.

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www.youtube.com/fabicchurch

You can read the full study for yourself online at gpposner.com. But here's a summary of what they found:

- Less congestive heart failure
- Reduced need for diuretics and antibiotics
- Fewer episodes of pneumonia
- Fewer cardiac arrests
- Reduced need for intubation and ventilation



Dr. Byrd concluded that "Intercessory prayer to the Judeo-Christian God had a beneficial and therapeutic effect on coronary care patients."

It's exciting to see science catch up with faith and come to conclusions that Christians have known all along. God answers prayer. We all have testimonies of answered prayer in our lives and in our church. So, why don't we do it more? Doesn't it matter?

If we believe that God hears us and answers our prayers, why aren't we doing it more often? This summer, I will be doing a sermon series called "**In the Grip of Prayer**" based on a book written by my friend and fellow writer, Terry Magee. Through the series, we'll learn an easy way to remember how to pray. We'll examine prayers of praise, confession, thanksgiving, and intercession along with several other topics to help us pray regularly.

I want to give you a special invitation to join us for a short time of **Prayer, Thursday mornings at 8:30** in our church lobby. It's a time to pray for others, for the spiritual and numerical growth of the church, for our neighbors, and for the revival of God's people. In prayer, we experience God's powerful presence and see Him effect change in this broken world. I hope you'll join us.

In Christ,
Pastor John

Birthdays & Anniversaries



July 2	Janet Poe
July 4	Momo Thornton
July 5	Levi Reaver
July 7	Kenna Hadden
July 9	Bonnie Walker
July 10	Susan Moon
July 10	John Walker
July 16	Bill Dick
July 21	Evi Long
July 26	Shane Harkins
July 27	Michelle Dampf
July 30	Jon Taylor



Happy Anniversary!

Doug & Barb Miller July 30, 1983*

*global worker



August 1	Gary Wease
August 8	Karen Harbaugh
August 9	Devin Wease
August 14	Julie Miller
August 15	Jaime Wease
August 19	Kristy Hadden
August 22	Benjamin Smith
August 23	Xander Dampf
August 24	Steve Long
August 27	Drew Wease
August 29	Matt Kalmey
August 30	Sharrie Poper
August 31	Melody Cadiz

Happy Anniversary!

James & Andrea Bailes	August 4, 2007
John & Patti Walton	August 8, 1970
Charles & Angie Standridge	August 24, 1974

If you have a birthday in the summer months and it was not featured here, please email the office.

Global Workers Update

Estol & Kristen Bathurst

We have all been back in Malawi for a couple months now. It has been a very busy, rich time of ministry and hosting visitors. Several visitors have come for the purpose of exploring their call to missions and specifically learning about the Yawo people. We've also had family come to visit - Kristen's parents and one of our older sons, Leighton are currently here. We continue to be encouraged and thankful by the growth of several Yawo groups and the leaders coming out of them. These leaders are reaching out and starting new Bible study groups with their friends, acquaintances, or family.

As people start to attend these new groups, please pray that minds and hearts will be open to God's truth. Praise God that Kristen has recovered from a significant illness, as well as Ruth, who had a skin infection. Please pray for wisdom in each of us spending our time well; we still have quite a bit going on this summer. In our last newsletter, we requested prayer for our work visa to be approved, and it has been!



This group is popular with the children! The leader rides her bike about 45 minutes twice a month to lead the Bible study.

Life in Malawi can often be a combination of significant joys and difficulties, which is also true of the Christian life in general. God's Word has much to encourage us though.

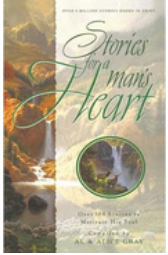
John 16:33 "I have said these things to you, that in me you may have peace. In the world you will have tribulation. But take heart; I have overcome the world."

Sincerely,
Estol and Kristen



Library News | Book Highlights

Our library has really grown over the past year and WOW! Do we ever have some really cool books for your summer time reading enjoyment! Whether you are researching a specific topic, looking for ways to grow in your relationship with God or needing something a little light and fun to read...we have it all! Stop by and see the latest, fantastic bulletin board that Sue put together and browse through our ever-growing assortment of good "reads." Happy reading! *Sue and Colleen*



Stories for a Man's Heart – Compiled by Al and Alice Gray

Over 100 stories of honor, courage and adventure to motivate you to be all you can for those who mean the most to you.



Secrets of Mary's Bookshop (series)

Escape to a charming seaside town, get to know the lively characters who call this community home and discover the mysteries in Mary's Bookshop. Summer reading fun at it's best!



Dear God

This beautifully written series helps to answer some of life's very hard and often complex questions that children may ask about God.

Reading is to the mind what exercise is to the body. - Richard Steele

Summer Events at FABIC



Pack a Lunch Sunday | August 30 | Following Service | Fellowship Hall

Whenever a month comes along that has a 5th Sunday, pack a lunch and bring it to church. After service, join us in Fellowship Hall, for a fun time of fellowship.

Check out our weekly email or visit our Facebook page for more info on upcoming events for the summer season.

2026 Summer Calendar

5th Sunday Pack a Lunch August 30, following service
 Ringgold Meeting House Hymn Sing August 30, 3 p.m.
 Roxbury Holiness Camp July 31- Aug 9

Check out our weekly email or visit our Facebook page for upcoming events.



Celebrate Recovery®

Wednesdays 6:30 – 8:30 p.m.

A Christ-Centered Recovery Program

Celebrate Recovery is a Christ-centered 12-step recovery community. It helps you celebrate freedom from all types of hurts, habits, and hang-ups including addiction. For more info call the church or email Pastor John at pastorjohn@fabicchurch.org

Missed A Sermon?

Listen on Apple podcasts, or visit our website,

www.fabicchurch.org/sermons

Watch on YouTube at

www.youtube.com/fabicchurch/live



Upcoming Events / Ministry Partners



Annual Hymn Sing

August 30 at 3 pm

The Meeting House is located at
 14426 Misty Meadow Road
 Smithsburg, MD21783.

Directions: Take Route 997 south from Waynesboro, PA. After you cross the border into Maryland, turn left almost immediately onto Barkdoll Road. Go half a mile and turn left onto Misty Meadow Road. Go 100 yards; the Meeting House will be on your right.



Roxbury Holiness Camp
 July 31 - August 9

GIVING
 IS EASIER THAN EVER



WAYS TO GIVE



Download the App!



Live Streaming of our Worship service
 every Sunday starting
 at 10:25 a.m., at
www.youtube.com/fabicchurch/live



Fairview Avenue Church Weekly Schedule

Our building is handicap accessible

hello
 SUMMER

Sunday mornings

Bible for Life Classes for ages 4– Adult 9-10 a.m.

Fellowship Time 10-10:25 a.m.

Worship 10:30 a.m.

Rios de Agua Viva Church 1:30 p.m. (service in spanish)

Wednesdays

Celebrate Recovery 6:30 p.m. Fellowship Hall

Thursdays

Morning Prayer 8:30-9:30 a.m. in the lobby

After School Kids Fun Club 3:30—4:45 p.m.

The Source Youth Group for grades 6—12 6:30-8:30 p.m.
 Youth Center (no Youth during summer months)

Final Friday Fun Night— last Friday/month 6-9 p.m.

Small Groups

Agape meets on 2nd & 4th Sunday, Lobby. A time of friendship, prayer & food.

Sunday Evening Small Group, meets every Sunday at 6:30 p.m., at the church. All invited!

Quincy Small Group, meets every other Sunday at members' homes. See Daria or Greg Smith for next meeting info.



FAIRVIEW AVENUE

BRETHREN IN CHRIST CHURCH

152 Fairview Avenue
Waynesboro PA 17268

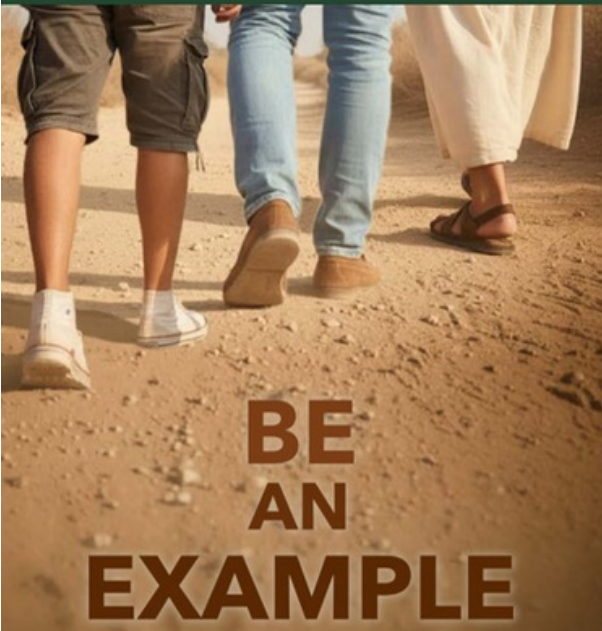
RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED



CAMP MEETING

Roxbury Holiness Camp

July 31- August 9, 2026



Scan for
camp meeting
website.



13763 Cumberland Hwy | Orrstown, PA 17244
(717) 347-5545 | email: campmeeting@roxburycamp.com
www.roburycamp.com

We are part of the Allegheny Conference of the Brethren in Christ; see www.allegheny.bicus.org. If you would like to receive the newsletter by email, call 717-762-3079, or email office@fabicchurch.org. To discontinue receiving this newsletter, please contact us.