

Dear Members and Friends OF New Bedford Church

I want to share with you a book I read a couple of years ago and is now being used as our devotions at our weekly staff meeting. It is entitled With written by Skye Jethani.

In this book Jethani five different ways we can relate to our Lord. We can have a “Life from God,” or “Life Over God,” or “Life For God,” or “Life Under God,” or finally “Life With God.” You may have guessed from the title of the book, it is the final means of relating (With) that is the Biblical goal of the Christian.

I am going to look at three of these because they are the most common seen in people active in church. First is “Life Under God.” The “Life Under God” central tenant is that if we are obedient to God, if we are a “good” person we deserve to be blessed by God. Allow me to share some quotes from Jethani

“This still happens in Christian communities today. Many Christians are told that if they obey God’s commands, if they worship him, give financially, to the church, and abstain from immorality, then he will bless their lives.”

“The irony of “Life Under God” is that we are seeking to exert control over God through strict adherence to rituals and absolute obedience to moral codes. It is Eden’s rebellion all over again. Through our obedience we put God in our debt and expect him to do our bidding in exchange for our worship and righteous behavior.”

“The “Life Under God” view puts its emphasis on appeasing God through our behaviors—either in the form of rituals or morality. Formal religions, and those leading them, often create elaborate and arduous lists of requirements for their followers—the “heavy burdens” Jesus condemned.”

The reality is this... many faithful followers of Jesus Christ live lives that are very difficult. Sometimes it is their faith that causes the difficulty. Many still today are persecuted because they are Christian.

The second posture that many Christian pursue is “Life for God.” In summary, “Life For God” believes that the primary purpose of the Christian life is to discover the mission God has called us to do. Again, allow me to quote With.

“The “Life for God” posture is especially evident within the activist streams of Christianity. Evangelicalism is a prime example. Among more traditional evangelicals the emphasis has been on evangelism...the verbal proclamation of the gospel and persuasion of non-believers toward faith in Christ. Pastors and missionaries are particularly esteemed for devoting their lives to God’s mission.”

“cutting open the “Life For God” cosmic apple would reveal a mission at the core. Some great goal—understood to be initiated by God and carried forward by us—defines everything and everyone. An individual is either on the mission, the object of the mission, an obstacle to the mission and aid to the mission, or a fat Christian who should be on the mission.”

“I don’t wish to be misunderstood; I too, long to see more Christians engage in the good work God has called us to, but a life spent *for* God is not what even Paul desired most for himself or others. Although God’s mission dominated his life, it did not define it. A more careful reading of Paul’s letters reveals something remarkable—everything in the apostle’s life, including god’s mission, took a backseat to his paramount goal: God himself. The first failure of “Life for God”—it puts God’s mission ahead of God himself.”

Finally, we will look at “Life With God.” Jethani states this posture this way:

“The “Life with God” posture is predicated on the view that relationship is at the core of the cosmos. God the Father with God the son with God the Holy spirit. And so we should not be surprised to discover that when God desired to restore his broken relationship with people, he sent his Son to dwell with us....God himself came to be with us—to walk with us once again as he had done in Eden in the beginning. Jesus entered into our dark existence to share our broken world and to illuminate a different way forward. His coming was a sudden and glorious catastrophe of good.”

“But “Life with God” is different (than the other postures) because its goal is not to use god, its goal is God.”

“Sadly, this is what many churches and ministries fail to understand. The primary purpose of our worship gatherings, preaching, and programs should be to present a ravishing vision of Jesus Christ. When people come to see who he is and what God is like, treasuring him becomes the natural outcome. But in many places the vision of Christ remains hidden behind shadows while lesser glories—often some variation on the culture’s values of the church’s mission—are given the spotlight. And then we scratch our heads in bewilderment when people leave the church disappointed and unsatisfied or fail to engage.”

Jethani then continues in his book describing how we are to live life with God. This is my invitation. Discover the wonderful intimate relationship our Lord desires to have with us, live a life with God.

In Christ,

Doug

COUPLES RETREAT

WHEN: This March 3rd to 4th we will have our annual couples Retreat.

WHERE” It will be held at the Hampton Inn in Union Township (note the new location). It is a wonderful time of fellowship, discovery and time with your spouse.

WHAT: It will be a time of fellowship, laughter, discovery, worship, time with your spouse, swimming,

STUDY: We will look at Tommy Nelson’s series on The Song of Solomon. Some topics include.... “The Art of Intimacy,” “The Art of Deepening,” “The Art of Conflict,” The Art of Faithfulness.”

COST: The cost will be \$130.00 per couple. First time couples (part of the New Bedford Church family) will receive a discount of \$30.00. This includes the cost of the room, the cost of food (Pizza Joe’s for dinner), and the cost of the study guides. We ask each couple to bring an appetizer or a dessert and a bottle of pop to share. Scholarships are available.

PICK UP A REGISTRATION FORM FROM THE ENTRANCE WAY OR SEE PASTOR DOUG

THANK YOU'S

Thank you to....

Bob Exley for installing the back stage curtain track. This completes Bob's remodeling of the stage and the new storage closet.

Nancy Bretz for sewing the new backstage curtains

Joyce Shaffer for joining our Bell Choir

All the Elders and deacon's for attending the officer training time.

Nathan Book for updating all the computers in our building (sound room, library and Addie's office), installing a WiFi booster system in the church, overseeing the purchase and set up of three new computers (Pastor Doug's office, Dawn's office and Jocilyn's office), installing an in house computer cloud system in the church

The 19 men who joined together to cut down the trees on the church property. A total of 29 dead ash trees have been cut down. Three more trees still need to be removed. The lawn needs to be restored and new trees will be planted.

Garry Greene and Dennis Jones for mounting the two new T.V.'s in the two classrooms. Also thank you to Dennis for installing the new children's signs on the restrooms.

The Woman's Association for hosting the breakfast for the Congregational meeting.

The worship Committee for decorating and de-decorating the church for Christmas

SESSION HIGHLIGHTS

Elected Glenda Fulkman as the new Clerk of Session

Elected Lee Harris and Dennis Jones to the Nominating Committee

Elected Gary Geisinger and Ray Pence to Personnel Committee

Elected Brad Marshall and Judy Riethmiller as Auditors

Approved the Summer Mission Trip for the youth to The Pittsburgh Project. Approved youth fundraisers

Approved the Communion schedule for the year

Scheduled Lenten Dinners for March 12th (Baked Potato) and March 26th (Soup)

Approved inviting Simple Gifts, a community choir made up of many combined choirs including many from our church, to perform a Easter Cantata at our church on April 9th (Palm Sunday) at 5:30

Received report from the Personnel Committee on all Staff reviews

Elected Brad Marshall as our Elder Representative to Presbytery meeting

Heard report that \$2353.00 was received in our Special Christmas Offering. This was split for relief work in Haiti between Autumn and the Ayers.



Paul Cummings.....	02
Nancy Phillis.....	02
Megan Allison.....	03
Dawn Harris.....	03
Bobbie Morehead.....	03
Harry Cornman.....	04
Shirley Freeman.....	04
Alexandra Lambert.....	04
Austin Whiting.....	04
Pam Liddell.....	05
Marty Marshall.....	07

Martha Miller.....	07
Nancy Rudzik.....	07
Len Halt.....	08
Laura Harshbarger.....	08
Barbara Sander.....	09
Wilhemina (Sis) Hartzell.....	15

Shirley Snyder.....	15
Lisa Magee.....	22
Amanda Quinn.....	22
Donald Pence.....	26
Don Craig.....	27



MARCH BIRTHDAYS

Gene Bicehouse.....	03
Steve Fox.....	03
Sally Withers.....	04
Emily Withers.....	05
Sue Bluedorn.....	08
Doug Houk.....	13
Larry Bluedorn.....	15
Dakota Boyer.....	16
James Allison.....	17
Jake Emery.....	17
Sandy Saulpaugh.....	17
Dan Dieter.....	19

Ed Rudzik.....	20
Perry Boyer.....	21
Beth Kendall.....	22
Jennifer Saulpaugh.....	24
John Book.....	25
Erick Boyer.....	25
Jackie Hall.....	25
Jamie Phillips.....	26
Robert Bretz.....	27
Ryan Morse.....	27
Judy Stuhlmann.....	29
Helen Bicehouse.....	30

Please remember in prayer the following persons who are hospitalized, receiving treatments, recuperating at home and those who have requested prayer.

Nancy Templeton-----Overlook Medical Clinic
Dot Jones-----Avalon Nursing Home
Marie Snyder-----Home
Gladys Barnhart-----Home
Jo Ruby-----Home
Henry and Pearl Reed-----Overlook Nursing Home
Don Jones-----Avalon Nursing Home-Rehab
Carl Black-----Clen-Moore Place (Greer House)



**Shirley & Frank Davidson
Avon - Rose Senior Living
33200 Health Campus Blvd.
Avon, OH 44011
PH: 724-510-4677**

COMMITTEE MEETING DAYS & TIMES

All Committees meet once per month

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION ~ 1st Thursday @ 6:30P.M.

EVANGELISM ~ 1st Thursday @ 6:30P.M.

WORSHIP ~ 2nd Thursday @ 6:30P.M.

ADMINISTRATION ~ 2nd Monday @ 7:00P.M.

MISSION ~ 2nd Monday @ 7:00P.M.

******These committees are looking for new members!!!! If you are interested in joining one of these committees, please see Pastor Doug******

Do You Know Someone Going Through a Difficult Time?

Do you have a friend, neighbor, co-worker, or relative who has been struggling with the loss of a loved one, loneliness, cancer, a layoff, relocation, divorce, a spiritual crisis, recuperation, single parenthood, or any of countless other life challenges? Our Stephen Ministers can provide them with the focused care, encouragement, and support they need to make it through the crisis. If you know of someone who is hurting, talk with one of our Stephen Leaders: Judy Riethmiller or Diana Halt. They can talk with you about how we can connect the person you know with one of our Stephen Ministers. It's a great way for you to show how much you care!
Judy Riethmiller 724-730-6495 or Diana Halt 724-977-8268

WOMEN'S NEWS

Deborah Circle ~ meeting on Tuesday, February 14th @ 9:30A.M. at Judy's house.

Elizabeth Circle ~ meeting on Thursday, February 16th @ 6:30P.M. at the church.

Rebecca Circle ~ meeting on Saturday, February 18th @ 9:00A.M. at Bedford Trails Restaurant.

Ruth Circle ~ meeting on Tuesday, February 21st @ 9:30A.M. at the church.

*****PLEASE NOTE MEETING DAY IS CHANGED ONLY FOR THIS MONTH*****

Lydia Circle ~ meeting on Tuesday, February 21st @ 1:00P.M. at the church.

WOMEN'S ASSOCIATION UPDATE

Faithful Christian women are the women that make up the Women's Association of New Bedford Church. Wouldn't it be wonderful to have faithful Christian women friends who will stand with you through the highs and lows of life? We are fortunate that you can have that kind of woman-to-woman relationship here.

If you are not involved in the Women's Association, I am inviting you to become a part of this ministry. Our annual membership drive is coming to a close but you are welcome to join a circle any time of the year. We would love to get to know you!

Currently, we are beginning a "Share the Love Event". Help us collect items for the Crisis Center in New Castle, PA. Details are in the bulletin or give me a call at 724-730-6495 if you would like more information.

Planning for the Women's Retreat is in full swing. I encourage all ladies of the church to participate in the retreat at The Castle in Franklin, PA. Scholarships are available to help fund the cost. Don't miss out because you may be facing difficult times. We want you to join us and we are willing to give you a helping hand to make that happen. The retreat is from March 31-April 1 with March 30 and April 2 as optional days to come and relax, get to know each other, have fun and experience worship together at the chapel. I know women are 'always busy' but it is important for us to make time for ourselves. Come experience a time of both spiritual refreshment and relational refreshment. It will do you a world of good!

If you are new to the Women's Association and would like to be included in our email list please send me your email address so I can add you. My email is jriethmiller@aol.com.

Our next scheduled meeting is Saturday, March 11 @ 9:00a.m. at the church. If you want to know what is happening with our association or to be a part of the decision making process please come. Hope to see you there.

In His Service,
Judy Riethmiller

The Women's Association will be collecting items for the 'SHARE the LOVE Event' for the Crisis Center in New Castle. The Crisis Center houses women and children who have been involved in domestic violence. We would like to collect as many items that we can to show our love to these women & children who are going thru a very troubling time. Please pray for them and consider giving what you can. There will be a box in the narthex during the month of February for needed items. The following are a list of suggested items the Crisis Center is in need of:



All types of bedding (new & used)
Towels & washcloths
HE laundry detergent pods
Toiletries of all kinds (shampoo, toothpaste & personal hygiene items, etc.)
Gift Cards (Walmart, Save-a-lot, ShopNSave, etc.)

***Any questions, please see Beth Kendall or Margie Matthews. ***



Thank you so much for all the prayers, concerns, and all acts of kindness during my recent illness. Also for the thoughtfulness of my church family during my sister Helen's passing.

Love and Blessings ~ Linda Canami



Wednesday 3/1 – Ash Wednesday Service @ 7:00P.M.

Sunday 3/12 – Lenten Supper @ 5:00P.M.

Sunday 3/26 – Lenten Supper @ 5:00P.M.

Sunday 4/9 – Palm Sunday Cantata @ 5:30P.M.

Thursday 4/13 thru Sunday 4/16 – Prayer Vigil

Thursday 4/13 – Maundy Thursday Service @ 7:00P.M.

Friday 4/14 – Good Friday Service @ 7:00P.M.

Saturday 4/15 – Community Easter Egg Hunt

Sunday 4/16 – Sunrise Service @ 8:30A.M., Easter Breakfast @ 9:30A.M., Traditional Easter Worship Service @ 10:40A.M.



Awana Clubs-----Wednesdays
Preschool- Grades 6 5:15-7:00
(Music is from 5:00-5:15)

Dawn Harris, Awana Commander
dawnhnbpc@aol.com 330-881-8110

February 1st - Regular Club Night

February 8th - Double, Double Point Night

Clubbers will get double the points for attendance, bringing their Bible & Handbook, and completing sections

February 15th - Love, Love, Love the Lord Night

Clubbers will get a guess at the Heart Jar for every section completed. Closest guess without going over wins.

February 22nd - STICK with Jesus Night

Clubbers will get a sticker to put on their leader for every section completed.

Remember if school is cancelled because of weather then Awana will not meet that day**

Awana CAN make a difference for the CITY RESCUE MISSION

For the remainder of the year we will continue to collect food for **The New Castle City Rescue Mission**. It is a Christian ministry providing spiritual and physical care to the hurting, hunger and homeless of our community. Visit www.cityrescuemission.org for more information. Awana Clubs are collecting can goods/non-perishable food for the Family Care Ministry at the City Rescue Mission.

Our goal is to collect 300 pounds of food! To date there is 164 lbs collected!

Needed Items:

Canned Soup	Cereal	Canned Fruit	Syrup
Boxed Rice	Pancake Mix	Crackers	Jelly

Any of the above items can be donated at any time. However, there is a 'Most Wanted Item of the Month'.

MOST WANTED ITEM FOR FEBRUARY – MAC N CHEESE

Thank you for helping to provide this ministry with food for families in need.

CHILDREN & YOUTH MINISTRY VOLUNTEERS—

Thank you to everyone that made an effort to attend one of the Children's Protection Policy Meetings. If you volunteer with any of the Children or Youth Ministries then you need to review the Child Protection Policy and complete the forms. The Policy and Forms are available on the wall next to Dawn's office. Please help yourself to this information.

*****WANTED*****Children At Worship Leaders*****WANTED*****

Children At Worship is held during the 10:30 Worship Service for children K-Grade 6.

Interested in helping with Children At Worship? Not sure what is involved or what to do?

There is a sign up calendar in the church narthex. Contact Dawn Harris to discuss this ministry and how you can be part of this ministry.

Sunday School Teachers Needed: The children's Sunday School year is being taught by quarters. The following openings need to be filled: Grades 3 & 4 and Grades 5 & 6. The next quarter will begin March 5th. The Spring Quarter will be March, April, & May. Please be in prayer for this ministry. If you have any questions please contact Dawn.

LOOKING AHEAD-SAVE THE DATES.....VBS will be June 12-18, 2017!

Please continue to save the empty wrapping paper tubes. Thank you

Contact Info: Dawn Harris Call/Text: 330-881-8110 Email: Dawnhnbpc@aol.com



afO is very busy with events and fundraisers so in addition to this newsletter: make sure you follow our Facebook page at New Bedford Evangelical Presbyterian Youth Group, and Instagram account at [epic_youthdirector](#) for updates! This Sunday, February 12th we will be meeting at the Mohawk Coffee House in Bessemer from 5:30 until 7:oop.m. What's better than coffee and Jesus!! Please feel free to join us!! The youth has their winter retreat from the 24-26; make sure to get me your final payments by Feb 19! afO will be going on a mission trip this June, so naturally we will be fundraising. My mom, Angela Houk, will be in charge of our first fundraiser of selling coupon booklets. They are \$5 per booklet and \$2.50 of the profit goes to the youth member who sold you the booklet. She will have the booklets starting in February so parents and youth: make sure to contact her if you'd like to sell them! To wrap up this month, the youth will be hosting a Dine to Donate at Bob Evans in Union on February 28th from 9 am to 9 pm. If you're not familiar with this type of event, the restaurant has agreed to give our youth group 15% of a customer's bill who presents a flyer about our cause. It will be the youth's responsibility to pass out flyers this month to anybody and everybody; it's up to the diners to choose if they want to present the flyers at the end of their meal and donate to us. Also, the youth will be working on a project throughout this spring of making mats for the homeless to use as bedding. These mats are made solely from plastic grocery bags, so the youth are asking for your donations of extra shopping bags you may have. Each mat uses around 500 bags so any amount you can give will help! Please make sure if you donate that your bags are clean! There will be a box labeled "Blessing Bags" outside the sanctuary every Sunday for you to drop off any bags.

The college group is changing their meeting time for THIS MONTH ONLY. We are meeting on Monday, February 6 from 5:30-7:00 pm at my house. The following week on February 16, the college group is going to the Stone Church restaurant in Hermitage for dinner and trivia night. It's a blast so make sure you write this event in your calendar! Again, thank you parents, community, and church for constantly supporting us and walking with us in Christ!

NBEPC Women's Association TELEGRAM



My Heart will be Blessed with the Sound of Music Women's Retreat



INFORMATION & REGISTRATION

All women are encouraged to join us as we go to the hills for a Sound of Music themed weekend. A special guest speaker, Kim McCormick, will be leading the sessions. Kim is a Reading Specialist & Music Teacher, Author, and Cancer Survivor who will be sharing her faith journey with us and guiding us deeper into Scripture-STOP-

Theme: My Heart will be Blessed with the Sound of Music

Dates & Times: Friday, March 31, 2017 begin 6:30 PM

till Saturday, April 1, 2017 ending at 5:00 PM -STOP-

Cost: \$55.00. This covers Friday night lodging, two meals, fun and a refreshing time of fellowship. Scholarships are available -STOP-

Last day to Register is March 12th.

Additional Days options:

*Thursday, March 30th Join us for a MAJOR time of fun & fellowship with Sisters in Christ (meals not provided)

*Friday, March 31st Tour of the Tiffany Stained Glass windows at St. John's Church in Franklin Time-12:55 PM

*Sunday, April 2nd Breakfast followed by Sunday Service in the Chapel located on the hill of the Castle grounds-STOP-

Location: The Castle in Franklin PA -STOP-

-----Return by March 12th-----



REGISTRATION FORM



Name _____

Address _____

Email Address _____

Home Phone _____ Cell Phone _____

\$55.00 Retreat Cost

\$10.00 Thursday, March 30th Lodging

\$10.00 Saturday, April 2nd Lodging

I am including a donation of \$____ for the Scholarship Fund

Total Due (make checks payable to NBEPC Women's Association)

I will be attending the St. John's Church guided tour of the Tiffany stained glass windows.

Cost is \$5.00 pay on the day of the tour. Do not include this payment at time of registration.

Money is nonrefundable after March 12th.