



CLINTON UNITED
PRESBYTERIAN
CHURCH

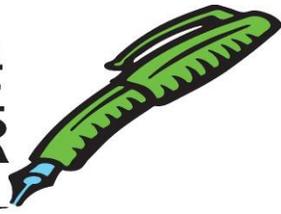
*"SHARING JESUS' LOVE AND
SCRIPTURE WITH ALL PEOPLE"*

THE CUP

REV. LAURA E
STRAUSS

MINISTER

FROM THE PASTOR



But Jesus often withdrew to lonely places and prayed. – Luke 5:16

Taize was founded in southern France as a monastery during the Second World War. It is ecumenical, meaning that all denominations are represented. In other words, the monastery is not Roman Catholic or Eastern Orthodox or Methodist or Presbyterian or Lutheran ---- it is open to all of the above and then some! All Christians have been welcomed to this monastery since its founding. That has been the intention of Taize since its' founding.

What has not been intentional is the way that Taize has become a monastery for young adults. Indeed, the founder of the monastery, Brother Roger, often expressed his puzzlement at the thousands of 20-something-year-old pilgrims who make their way to his monastery year after year. He never knew what drew them, but he celebrated this gift to such an extent that Taize is now a monastery that intentionally DOES focus it's' ministry on those ages 17 – 30.

The young adults typically spend a week at the monastery in Taize performing the following lifestyle. They pray three times a day in a lengthy, repetitive, meditative, candlelit prayer service that is filled with Scripture

reading, song, and silence. The pilgrims are assigned to small groups with other pilgrims from around the world where they converse together about Scripture, the work of Jesus in their lives, and promoting worldwide harmony in Christ's church. Everyone is assigned a task for the week, from preparing meals to cleaning commodes. There is also free time. Naturally, because this is a monastery, meals are modest and dormitories are humble. All pilgrims pack their own sleeping bag and pillows.

Why do I share all this with you? Because the West Allegheny Ministerial Association, under my leadership, with help from Pastor Nancy Stanny (Oakdale U.P.), the Rev. Lorrie Ghering-Burick (Hebron Pres.), and the Rev. Dr. Cindy McClung (Friendship Village) is leading a trip to Taize this month. We are a group of eleven individuals who will spend a week worshipping together, bookended by tours and worship in the cathedrals of Paris. (We very much look forward to Pentecost worship at Notre-Dame Cathedral!)

As I reflected during my sabbatical in 2017, I feel confident in our church's leadership of our young people in mission. We have, together, been a great support in teaching our youth and young adults about sharing the love of Jesus Christ through service outside of our church walls. This is ministry we MUST continue, and will continue through our two summer mission trips. However, I've come to the conviction that I have been lacking in nurturing our youth and young adults in spiritual direction. In their overworked, overcommitted,

busy lives, I haven't served them as best as I could to find Jesus' peace in the center of their lives. The intention of this trip to Taize is to create a space where our young adults may do just that.

Please pray for the young adults of West Allegheny as we go forth, "to a lonely place and pray." Ask God's Holy Spirit to be felt in and through our time together, that we may draw closer to Jesus as he draws closer to us. And may God's Spirit abide with you until we return, and share all about our spiritual adventure.

In Christ's Service,

Pastor Laura



Scripture Readings in May

May 6, 2018: The 6th Sunday of Easter

New Testament Reading: Revelations 7:9-17

New Testament Reading: Acts 1:1-11

May 13, 2018: The Seventh Sunday of Easter

Guest Preacher: The Rev. Derek Davenport,
Director of the Miller Summer Youth Institute
and Digital Market Analyst

May 20, 2018: Pentecost

Guest Preacher: The Rev. Tom Moore, Interim
Executive Director of Crestfield Camp and
Conference Center

May 27, 2018: Trinity Sunday

Guest Preacher: The Rev. Bonnie Taylor,
Resident Chaplain at the Veterans' Affairs
Pittsburgh Healthcare System

CHURCH NEWS

Ascension Day Prayer Service will be held on May 10 at 6:30 pm. Weather permitting, we will worship in the pavilion.

Mission Trip Pampered Chef Fundraiser Our youth are traveling to Houston, Tx in July to serve those affected by last year's hurricane tragedies. Your support at this fundraiser on **May 6th**, with attending and/or ordering is greatly appreciated. 25% of our sales will be donated to our youth to help them with the costs of airfare. Go to Pamperedchef.com/go/ClintonUP (orders won't be finalized until show date) Feel free to invite anyone who loves Mission work and Pampered Chef products.

Save the Date for Soul Shop: The West Allegheny Ministerial Association invites you to save Saturday, September 22 for a day-long event entitled "Soul Shop." This event trains church leaders and members in how to minister to those suffering from the desperation of suicidal depression. The goal is for the churches of West Allegheny to become, "faith communities that companion the desperate into hope and connection." Cost for the day is \$20, which includes curriculum and lunch. More information on this important workshop will be available in the early summer.

Male Chaperone Needed for Mission Trip! We are looking for a male chaperone for the summer youth mission trip to Crestfield Camp and Conference Center located in Slippery Rock, PA. The dates are June 17 - 22, 2018. Please let Pastor Laura know if you are interested

Hurricane Relief Mission Trip to Texas The West Allegheny Ministerial Association is leading a summer mission trip for adults to Port Arthur, Texas from July 15 - 20. The trip will be led by Pastor Laura and Pastor Jim Evans of Montours Presbyterian Church. Seven spots are available on a first come, first serve basis. WAMA is covering all on-ground costs. Participants are responsible for airfare to Houston. While the trip is open to all able-bodied adults, the particular need is for those skilled in drywall and flooring. Contact Pastor Laura (412-956-9438; revlaurastrauss@gmail.com) if interested.



BACCALAUREATE SERVICE

Baccalaureate Service is on **May 31 at 7:00 pm at Montours Presbyterian Church**. A signup sheet for cookies for baccalaureate is in the back of the church.



- Braydon Resio.....1
- Denny Macek 2
- Cassidy Thomas 2
- Brian Hart 4
- Sandi Cogis 5
- Annabelle Lapin 5
- Alli Messner.....8
- Riley Welte 9
- Rachel Miller.....11
- Meghan Adams 12
- Samantha Rossman 13
- Sharon Emling 15
- Frankie Frazier.....16
- Bill Metz 18
- Kathy Hughes 26
- Darsey Edmonds 27
- Kelly Stickley 28
- Mabel Wilson 28
- Grace Despot 28
- Lynn Kopko.....30

Trustee Church Spring Clean-up Day

It is time for annual Church Spring Clean-up Day! Please be at the church at 9 A.M. on Saturday May 19th with your wheelbarrow, shovels, rakes, and gloves. We will be edging the flower beds, spreading mulch, and doing general clean-up of the yard. The rain date is May 26th.

Thanks in advance for your help!





The pepperoni roll sale was a huge success! I want to thank everyone who participated in this mission fundraiser. Without our sellers, buyers, sorters, and deliverers, we would not have been able to sell 970 rolls and fund raise over \$984 for this summer's mission trips. I want to especially thank Skip Clydesdale & Joe Miller. They drove an hour to pack in 75 pizza boxes of pepperoni rolls into the back of their pick-up truck so that we could get the delivery date that we wanted!

Thank you to those adults who give of their time to chaperone our youth on these missions. Through the work of Jesus Christ and this church family, our youth will again be able to partake in a mission experience that will enhance their mind, body, and spirit. They will be able to see the need of those less fortunate, use their talents to serve those needs, and will feel a sense of pride & accomplishment when their mission is complete.

If you have always wanted to serve on a mission trip but have not been able to, consider giving of your time & talents in other ways here at Clinton UP. Every year, we are looking for new ideas & fresh talents to help our church & community grow stronger together in Christ. Each one of us has a special talent. Whether you may have a background in finance, public safety, technology, are great with fixing things or taking notes, enjoy singing, have a passion for teaching, volunteering, or even love planning special events, we

need you. Consider giving your time and sharing these talents with all of us in a special, unique way.

Our deacons meet once a month. They discuss how we can help the sick and the needy within our church and our community. They visit the sick, prepare them meals, organize the monthly food drive & take the donations to the food pantry just to name a few. Our elders meet once a month to discern the business of the church, keep things in working order, and approve all special events that we participate in within our church & our community.

It doesn't take much of your time to serve as a deacon or an elder. What it does take is talent. Whatever your talent may be, it can be used to help keep our church doing what we do best; Sharing Jesus' Love and Scripture with All People. If you have never served as a deacon or an elder on session, consider learning more about what we do. If it's been a while since you have served as a deacon or an elder, consider serving again. Without you, none of what we do would be possible.

Kind regards,

Jennifer Rossman

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**Congratulations to Jessica McFadden and her basketball team who won gold medal in a tournament in Pittsburgh!**  
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Thank you for my sweet gifts and cards for Administrative Professionals day. I truly love and enjoy working at this church and appreciate all the kindness and support from the church family. I don't know what I would do without my church! Love you all!

~Sophie Guzma

Dear Friends,

This note is really a thank you to all who have been so faithful in sending me cards and notes and keeping in touch. I sure do enjoy hearing from you. Whenever I get your notes, I recall memories of the good times we had together. That makes me smile. I love to read them over and over again.

Before I moved to Erie, I had made up my mind that I would try to respond to any notes or cards, but lately that takes more energy than I have to spare. Plus, my hand writing has gotten so bad that you may not be able to read it if I send something. Even now, my daughter, Karen, is typing this up for me.

I am trying to keep as active as I can, the arthritis in my hip has slowed me down. Keeping active takes more effort these days, but I thank Jesus for allowing me to do what I can.

Again, thank you all for keeping in touch. I miss being with you. But know that we will always be connected.

Love, Betty Thomas



Church members had a wonderful and relaxing time at the Villa Maria Spirituality Center in Pulaski, PA



The last meeting for the Women's group this year will be held at the Masonic home where our friend Lena Cool now resides. Lena has a wonderful room overlooking a courtyard and has made many new friends and is enjoying various activities. We are all so happy for Lena and her new "home", and wish her every happiness every day. We will be taking the van down, leaving at 6:00 from the church. Erma Wilson will have our lesson for the evening on "God of Family and God of me". As this is the last meeting for this season, it would be wonderful if lots of ladies joined us for this special adventure to visit Lena.



Down the Bowling Alley

Well, bowling is over for this year and we had a wonderful season with lots of fun and fellowship. Please search your hearts this summer and come and join us next season which will start on Wednesday August 29th at 6:30 at Center Lanes. If you are interested in joining us, please let Yum Groom or Skip Clydesdale know so that you can be added to the team roster.

Choir Notes



The choir will be finishing up its chancel singing on Pentecost May 20th. We will continue with practice on May 1st but no choir on May 8th and then our last practice will be May 15th at which time we will have our annual ice cream social. The choir has worked really hard this past year and even though we are a small bunch of folks, we are very faithful. As summer approaches, we look forward to a well-deserved time off and hopefully some special solo's or duets will be musically offered. If you are interested in doing some special music this summer, whether it is an instrument or a song, please contact me and I will help you find a date that will be good for all.



Golfing league

Yes, it is spring, and headed into summer....really????? You could not tell it from the current weather but here we go out onto the golf course to play. We meet Friday evenings at 5:00 at Ponderosa Golf Lands for 9 holes of golf and then stop in the restaurant for a bite to eat. Please feel free to join us for this great team activity. All are welcome, we just have lots of fun.

We are fundraising to support our Clinton UP Mission Team as they journey to Houston, TX this summer.



JOIN US in a fun, interactive Cooking Show after our 11am worship service

SUNDAY, MAY 6th 12:15p
Clinton United Presbyterian fellowship hall

25 Wilson Road, Clinton PA 15026

Spread the word, RSVP w/Jen Rossman by 5/2 @ 412.722.4611



For every special pink product purchased, \$1 is also donated to the American Cancer Society

25% of all sales will be donated by Amy Chess to offset airfare

Supporting Young Adult Volunteers

Mission co-worker reflects on her role as a YAV site coordinator in the Philippines

By Dessa Quesada Palm

As a mission co-worker and cultural worker in the Philippines, sometimes I am utterly exhausted.

There are periods that require quite a bit of travel related to meetings and theater based trainings for children, youth, church workers, teachers, women and others. When I am in Dumaguete, days sometimes stretch into late evenings, for rehearsals with our youth theater group or with Silliman University Divinity School students preparing for the annual church workers convocation. So a few years ago, when asked by the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.)

Young Adult Volunteer (YAV) program if my husband, Cobbie, and I would consider reopening the Philippines YAV service site, we pondered, could we? Should we? Could we say no? Other considerations were also swirling in my mind then. How would North American volunteers, mostly coming out of universities, deal with the grinding realities of living in the Philippines? During the program's mutual-discernment process where I would interview prospective applicants, I sometimes felt like a casting director for the game show series Fear Factor. Can you deal with pesky mosquitoes, humongous cockroaches, armies of ants and other critters? Will you try a taste of exotic fruits like durian or the duck's egg delicacy called balut? What about prolonged periods of scorching heat and humidity? Bucket baths and Spartan toilets? Frequent brownouts and, the potential deal breaker, weak or nil internet connections? The list goes on. The inclination to say no, however, began to shift to a yes as I got to know

individuals who had been nurtured by a year of service in the Philippines — people like Jed Koball, who is now a PC(USA) mission co-worker in Peru, and Richard Williams, coordinator of the PC(USA)'s Young Adult Volunteer program.

Cynthia Rigby and William "Bill" Greenway arrived in Manila in the summer of 1989 as the first yearlong volunteers sent by Princeton Theological Seminary with blessings from the PC(USA) to serve alongside the United Church of Christ in the Philippines (UCCP). The overall goal of the program, which was called Volunteers in Mission at that time, was for young people to develop a firsthand understanding of the church's ministry in the Philippines; then, upon returning home, they would be able to clearly and accurately communicate realities in the Philippines with their congregations. After two weeks of orientation, they moved to Cagayan de Oro in Mindanao, where the UCCP assigned them as assistant pastors. They also participated in Muslim/Christian dialogues in various parts of Mindanao. Both Cynthia and Bill are now on the faculty of Austin Presbyterian Theological Seminary. About his experience as a volunteer in the Philippines, Bill shares, "Now, many years later, I can say my year in the Philippines was among the happiest and most profound and formative years of my life. It is fair to say that my experience in the Philippines has and continues to inform every aspect of my teaching, writing and understanding, and that in such a way the goals of those coordinating the UCCP program definitely have been, and continue to be, fulfilled." Moments with these special people have given me the opportunity to value how the YAV program can build leaders. I could not turn away from the opportunity to be part of such an important ministry. How can one say no to a program that is proving to be transformative and instrumental in

creating a new generation of leaders for the church and our communities?

Thus, here I am now, deeply involved as the Philippines site coordinator of the PC(USA)'s YAV program, fully committed to the knowledge and hope that lives are changed and leaders are made through the experience of international volunteer work.

PROMOTE RESILIENCE AND RECONCILIATION

**Support the work of Dessa and Cobbie Palm in the Philippines:
pcusa.org/donate/E200393**



2016–17 YAVs Akilah Hyrams, Andrew Flanigan and Katheryn McGinnis, with Dessa Palm, YAV site coordinator in the Philippines



*An Excerpt taken from the Ludwig's Blog
"Out of the Dust & Us"*

Tuesday, April 17, 2018

Highly Motivated Fails



La Maestra waiting at the hosting center visit.

We usually try to be encouraging and write about the successes we're seeing in people's lives here or at least writing about the struggles that we hope people can have success in. But here are two blurbs that remind us that we aren't always successful or able to push ourselves on through whatever is troubling.

Cultural Faux-Pas – We pride ourselves on being sensitive to our church partner's advice and following their lead on how to do things. But we've had the chance to realize sometimes we too live dangerously when we assume one of our most natural attitudes, which I'd describe as a kind of mid-western, protestant work-ethic, we-don't-want-to-be-treated-any-differently-than-people-here, so-we'll-try-to-do-it-our-way-in-order-to-not-inconvenience-you sort of attitude. Recently we were traveling with four church leaders to visit a youth hosting center site so that we could help communicate with US supporters how this initiative is going. We thought we could more economically deal with having 6 passengers by

suggesting we use our car, which has been modified to have an extra small seat in the trunk area. But our car then broke down half way to the village. When the president of the church eventually made it back to us with his car, the leaders wanted to give La Maestra the position of honor in the passenger seat, and the three large men would squeeze in the back seat with me.

Our solution was for La Maestra to sit on my lap in the passenger seat. This seemed fine for us to squish together, but also no worse than what we see in every mini-bus or car carrying people with way too many people per seat. Our church companions thought it was a bad idea and warned us that the police wouldn't like it, but we insisted to try it. Not 5 minutes later we were stopped by the police, had to hand over our documents and the documents of the car, and were made to switch the seating. After about 15 minutes of waiting, the police told us they needed to take our names and the vehicle numbers to ensure that we weren't being smuggled through the area. Then they let us go to the village. We picked up the papers on the way back and proved that we were safe. It was a wild ride, but probably would have been smoother if we didn't insist on trying to solve it in a way that let us take on the burden.

Hot Season Slow Down – I've heard people say that much less gets done here in the hot season. But now I am seeing the "cold, hard facts" for themselves. We've missed most of the brunt of the hot season in past years. But this year we are clearly here and the heat is starting earlier. Wednesday was typical of the pattern that we've experienced at the edge of the hot season, which only gets worse as it goes along. During the day we lost electricity three different times for an hour or more. It was 105 degrees outside and that felt nice in the shade with a little breeze compared to the stifling 97 degrees in my room without a fan. I was fortunate to be working from home because no one was going to be at the church office that day. So, I was able to find some other things to do while the power and

internet was off. But the interruptions to these things at points when I needed them were distracting, and then the heat of being inside or out was really exhausting and discombobulating to any efforts to muster some solid work on the writing or emails I was supposed to be getting done. Living here, I've been hot and uncomfortable a lot, but this was on a different level! While it's true that most people here don't rely as much on electricity or internet, and they generally feel better in the heat than in the cold, still it is now easier for me to see how organizations can get very little productivity out of their workers for several months in this period.

-- El Padre

Community Involvement

The Deacon's Giving Campaign If you know someone that needs a visit or a meal taken to them, we can help with that, please contact Pastor Laura or Judy Heck. Our job is to serve our congregation and community in helpful ways. The Deacon giving campaign for May is Cleaning Products. You can bring these items to church and place on the table in the Narthex.

Faith In Action We are still here for our seniors for Dr. appts., etc... we are in need of drivers. If you have a few hours a month, please consider driving for this cause. Contact Judy Heck for more information (724) 899-3159.

The West Allegheny Food Pantry is participating in the Pittsburgh Gives Foundation Critical Needs fundraiser - May 1, 2018. The will match each donation dollar for dollar. To contribute, go to their site pittsburghgives.org And look for the West Allegheny Food Pantry. Thank you.



Youth Group Pirates Game Outing and Overnighter

When: Tuesday, June 5,
depart Clinton United
Presbyterian Church at 5:00
p.m.

For: PNC Park to see the
Pirates take on the LA
Dodgers at 7:05 p.m.

*We will then return to the
church for a lock-in. Pick-up
is the following morning,
Wednesday, June 6, at
10:00 a.m.*

The cost of Pirates tickets will be covered by the church. Youth are responsible for the cost of their food at the ballpark.

Please bring a breakfast item to share.



There will be no Youth group meetings in May!



The Youth Group visited Lena Cool at her new home on April 22nd

WORTHY OF RESPECT

On Mother's Day, we celebrate our moms and everything they do for us. How does God tell us to treat our moms?

Directions: Using the key below, fill in the blanks to complete Deuteronomy 5:16, NIV.

A	C	D	M*	N*	O*
E	F	G	P*	R*	S*
H	I	L	T*	U*	Y*

" _____ your _____

and your _____,

the _____ your _____ has

_____ 5:16, NIV

Answer: "Honor your father and your mother, as the LORD your God has commanded you." Deuteronomy 5:16, NIV