

# GRAPEVINE

## "The Pastor's Page"

August 1, 2023

### Mustard Seed Faith

On Sunday (7/30) we read the parable of the mustard seed:



"He put another parable before them, saying, 'The kingdom of heaven is like a grain of mustard seed that a man took and sowed in his field. It is the smallest of all seeds, but when it has grown it is larger than all the garden plants and becomes a tree, so that the birds of the air come and make nests in its branches.'" (Matthew 13:31-32)

The children listened to Nancy Cook's children sermon and got to see some actual mustard seeds, which are incredibly small. Each seed is between 1 - 2 millimeters in diameter (in freedom units, that's 0.039 to 0.079). Yet fully grown, a mustard plant can grow to almost nine feet tall! If we're doing math, that's 2700 times the size of the seed. An incredible example from Christ to us about the effects of our faith.

I believe I have always read this parable with the perspective: "if I had just this *tiny* amount of faith, I would be able to accomplish amazing things." I am confident that I read it that way because I've read the rest of Matthew's gospel! If you continue to read, you will eventually come to Matthew 17:20-21:

"... if you have faith like a grain of mustard seed, you will say to this mountain, 'Move from here to there,' and it will move, and nothing will be impossible for you."

But if we put on our interpretive hats, and focus in on just Matthew 13 and the surrounding verses, I am not so sure that's what Jesus is saying the first time he brings up the mustard seed. That in this example, it is that my small acts of faith have long-lasting effects on the world around me - like ripples in a still pond. And that when we are *all* living our lives this way, our faith accomplishes great things (such as moving a mountain).

I encourage you this week to find your mustard seed faith - because these two passages are not mutually exclusive. God is going to do amazing things through you and God is going to do amazing things through us.

Remember - God loves you. Let your faith be like ripples in the world.

Peace,  
Pastor Caleb

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- Kick Off Sunday



# Happy Birthday to...

## August 1

Marjorie Benson  
Brody Fake

## August 3

Hank Har  
Kevin Hollowell  
Soo Reber  
Rebecca Sayres

## August 4

Ken Ball  
Daniel Farnham

## August 5

Jacob Hiller  
Rebekah Small  
Kyle Smarsh

## August 6

Emily Delacruz  
James Francesconi  
Liam Mosser  
Nicholas Shpak  
Carolyn Warcup

## August 7

Aaron Brownley  
John Kuhn  
Carolyn Westfall

## August 8

Jordan Garrett

## August 9

Cindy Nelson  
Stephanie Rathgeber

## August 11

Emma Bahm

## August 12

Alan Moyer

## August 13

Amelia Flinger

## August 14

Joan Chandon

## August 15

Megan Gochenauer  
Scott Hartwig

## August 16

Rhett Mosser

## August 17

Elyn Cunningham  
Patty Ann Welles

## August 18

Jamie Bowman  
Ron Jones

Lois Kime

## August 19

Gabriel Contreras

## August 21

Beverley Bigham  
Charles Fatzinger

Mark Grim

John Peterson

Yancy Unger

## August 22

Patricia Smith

## August 23

Betsy Illick  
Scott Keller  
Marilyn McQuaide  
Kimberly Umbrell

## August 24

Kathleen Faloon  
Cheryl Wagner

## August 25

Jill Bemis  
Marie Duncan  
Jane Gwyn  
Kieran McKeon

## August 26

Samuel Tomassini

## August 27

Lionel Wells

## August 28

Eliza Dreves

Les Heggan

Evan Snyder

Sean Snyder

Beth Stapleton

Connor Weikert

## August 29

Emma Adams  
Lori Beth Dixon  
Randy Parmentier  
Ken VanHoutte

## August 30

Amy Cunningham  
Deborah Wolf

## August 31

Betty Brownley  
Alisa Carbaugh  
Scott Snyder



Happy 60th Wedding Anniversary

Congratulations to Wayne & Sandra Dixon  
on their 60th wedding anniversary  
on August 3.

For more than a year, because of a heart attack, subsequent aortic valve replacement, and current cardiac rehabilitation, I have been receiving constant prayers and a steady stream of cards from GPC members. This family of friends includes people I have known for many years and those whom I have never met - all have brought encouragement and strength during this time. It is on-going and sincerely appreciated.

My prayers of thanks to each of you.

Barbara Finrock

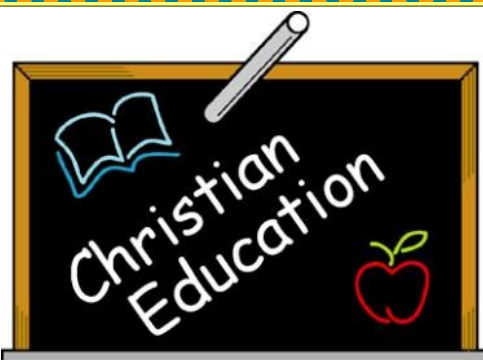
Condolences

Our thoughts and prayers are with:

The family of Mary Lou Seamens on her death.

The family of Jane Neely on her death.

Lucy Breighner on the recent death of her sister-in-law.



## Save the Dates for CE

8/8	Christian Education Meeting
8/20	Blessing of the Backpacks & Teachers
9/3	Sunday School Teacher Meeting after service
9/10	Bible presentation for 3 year olds and 2 <sup>nd</sup> graders Sunday School Resumes



## Great News!

**Our children and youth programs  
are growing!**

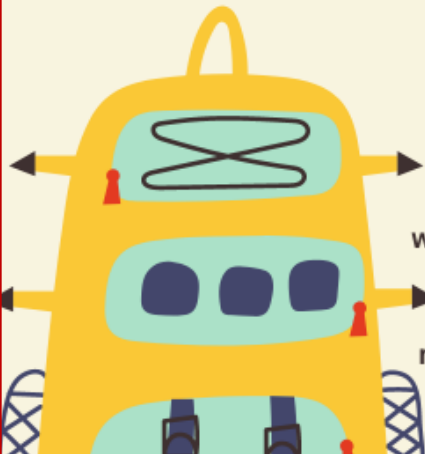
This means we need some help during our Sunday School hour. We are in search of a few volunteers to teach across all our Pre-K to High School classes. Curriculums are fun and easy to use. Kids are engaging and have plenty to say.

For more information, contact  
[kyle@gettysburgpresbyterian.org](mailto:kyle@gettysburgpresbyterian.org)

## SUNDAY AUGUST 20th Outdoor Worship at the Rec Park! 9:30 a.m.

Golf carts will be available to transport folks from the Charlie Sterner parking lot to the amphitheater beginning at 9:00 a.m. and after the conclusion of the service. Remember your lawn chairs! In the case of inclement weather, one combined service will be held in the Sanctuary at 9:30 am and the congregation will be notified of this change via the website, Facebook and email notification.

## *Blessing of the Backpacks*



**Sunday August 20th  
At the Rec Park  
9:30am**

Many of our church family will be headed back to school this week. Please bring your backpack to service so we may pray over the next steps in your journey.



## WHATS GOING ON?

### ... Fellowship Hall Door Update

You may have noticed some changes to the doors. They are completed now and there is a new lock system in place. The new system allows the doors to be automatically locked and unlocked at set times. It is controlled wirelessly and does not require a key. If the doors are locked, keys will no longer unlock them. Individuals with keys will have to register for the new entry system. **THE DOORS WILL REMAIN OPEN ON THEIR CURRENT SCHEDULE** and a special access pass is required, only if they are locked. Please contact Hank Har at email: [hank.paper@comcast.net](mailto:hank.paper@comcast.net) if you have any additional questions.

## GPC Hiking Club

### August 19th

We will be hiking at Caledonia. We are going to leave the church parking lot at 8am. We are going to try to beat the heat. Bring water, sunscreen, bug spray and a snack. We plan on being back by noon. Let us know if you are planning on joining us.

### September 16th

It is our family hike. We are going to hike at the Bear Branch Nature Center near Westminster. There is a nature center, bird sanctuary and hiking trails. We will leave the church parking lot at 10am. Bring water, sunscreen, bug spray and a lunch.

Questions- email [jennifermaueclark@gmail.com](mailto:jennifermaueclark@gmail.com)

Have a blessed day,  
Jen



Confidentially  
Caring for  
Others



## What Is a Stephen Minister?

Stephen Ministers are lay congregation members trained to provide one-to-one care to those experiencing a difficult time in life, such as grief, divorce, job loss, chronic or terminal illness, or relocation.

Stephen Ministers come from all walks of life, but they all share a passion for bringing Christ's love and care to people during a time of need.

Since 1975, more than 600,000 people from more than 13,000 congregations and other organizations have been trained as Stephen Ministers.



## SUNDAY SEPTEMBER 10

### Kick-Off Sunday Group Displays

We will generate excitement for GPC's many groups in two ways:

- Bulletin handout listing our groups.
- Poster Board Wall displays (NO TABLE DISPLAYS) in fellowship hall – these will stay up for the month of September.

If you wish to have a group(s) you are involved with publicized in either/both ways, then return the following information to Rev. McClure – [caleb@gettysburgpresbyterian.org](mailto:caleb@gettysburgpresbyterian.org) or his office mailbox NO LATER THAN September 1, 2023 – 12:00 p.m.

#### **Bulletin Handout**

Name of Group

One (1) Sentence description of group

Name and Contact information of group leader

*Example:*

**High School Fellowship (9<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup> grade youth group)** - Meets Sunday evenings to build Christ-like friendships and seeks to be a place to belong...to question...to grow in faith...add your voice to the unfolding story. Contact: Rev. J. Caleb McClure, 717-334-1235, ext. 3 - [caleb@gettysburgpresbyterian.org](mailto:caleb@gettysburgpresbyterian.org)

#### **Wall Display**

Name of Group

Name & Contact Information if we have questions about the display

Make your posterboard display and hang it on the Fellowship Hall wall – if you choose you can have someone by the wall display to answer any questions – or – simply have a “Please contact me with more information” sign up sheet as part of the display.

*NOTE: We will have Fellowship Hall open & Group Names along the Fellowship Hall walls on Friday, September 8 from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. if you want to affix your poster board wall display before Sunday.*

Let me know if you have questions: [caleb@gettysburgpresbyterian.org](mailto:caleb@gettysburgpresbyterian.org) – 717-334-1235, ext. 3 – 912-7044776 (cell)

Sincerely,  
Caleb



**Fall Worship Schedule!**  
**Starting on**  
**Sunday, September 10, 2023**

we will offer:

8:30 a.m.	Traditional Worship
9:45 a.m.	Sunday School
11:00 a.m.	Contemporary Worship

**Kick-off Sundaes!**



Restart your fall activities and include *GPC* in your schedule!

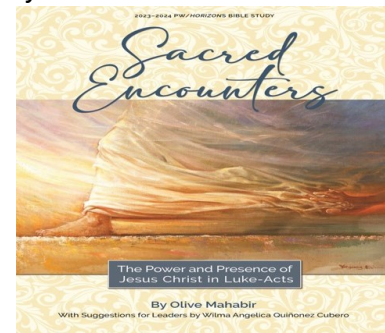
A new year of Sunday school, small groups, events, and fellowship will be kicking off on **Sunday, September 10, 2023** at *GPC*. Visit Fellowship Hall for a carousel of opportunities to become involved, serve, and create friendships.

Enjoy an ice cream sundae on this very special Sunday as well!

Various flavors and toppings will be available to enjoy with family and friends as you reconnect and jumpstart a new year in the life of *GPC*!

PW  
WOMEN'S  
STUDY  
CIRCLES

Beginning in September through May, the 3 Presbyterian Women's Study Circles will meet once a month to study and discuss this year's selection, "Sacred Encounters: The Power and Presence of Jesus Christ in Luke-Acts". The book explores sacred encounters Jesus and his disciples had with women in the Bible and how they were transformed by these interactions – Elizabeth, Mary, the bleeding woman, Mary and Martha, Lydia and others.



**PW Circles meet:  
Mary/Martha Circle**

4:00 p.m. Second Thursday of the month in Eisenhower Lounge

**Esther Circle**

9:30 a.m. Third Thursday of the month in the MacSkill Room.

**Elizabeth Circle**

1:00 p.m. Third Monday of the month at Paideia House

The books are \$10 and will be ordered August 10. Please join us for community, faith and fellowship. If you are new to a group this year, please let me know if you need a book. Email Margo Har at [stepmargo@comcast.net](mailto:stepmargo@comcast.net) or call 978-807-3750 for further information.

## ATTENTION ALL PRESBYTARIAN WOMEN

It's time for a New and Exciting year with PW. Keep watching for new activities and fun things for P.W. We Begin the planning on August 14th at 1:00PM. meeting in the MacSkill room; You are invited to be a part of the excitement. So please plan on participating. We are always looking for new Ideas. Hope you will join [us](#) .

### LADIES: CHECK OUT OUR PW BULLETIN BOARD!

(Kind of hidden in the corner nearest to the coat rack in Fellowship Hall)



PRESBYTERIAN  
WOMEN

ALL PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH WOMEN ARE INVITED TO ATTEND  
THE (CARLISLE PRESBYTERY) **WOMEN SUMMER GATHERING**

on Saturday, August 19<sup>th</sup>, 2023

at Derry Presbyterian Church, 248 E. Derry Road, Hershey, PA 17033.

We will carpool from the GPC parking lot at 8:30 AM; returning about 3 PM. Coffee and baked goods available upon arrival. Light lunch (free will donation) served between the TWO FEATURED PRESENTATIONS "**Sacred Encounters**" introduction to this fall's new Horizon Study led by Emily Sutphin, new Associate Pastor of Mechanicsburg Presbyterian Church. If you have your copy of the study already, you might find it additionally helpful to bring along, though not necessary. Special hints and helps for understanding and leading your circles.

"**Refugee Resettlement**" Representatives from Derry Church will share their insights and experiences helping refugees from Syria settle in their community. Might be of special interest since GPC has also participated in this type of ministry.

This day of fellowship and information will be a great opportunity for all women, regardless of whether you belong to a "circle" or not. For more information or reserve a seat in the carpool, contact Rachel Parmentier: [Rasong@aol.com](mailto:Rasong@aol.com) or cell phone 443-994-0241.

Let's see if we can take at least 2 carloads of women again!



## The GPC Rise Against Hunger Event Is Just Around the Corner!

We will be hosting a Rise Against Hunger meal packing campaign on Sunday, September 17th from 3-6pm in Fellowship Hall. This is RAH's 25th year of operations, so we are targeting 25,000 meals this year, an increase from last year of 7,500! It is going to be an all-out effort that will be a lot of fun for people of all ages and abilities! This is an all-church, community-invited event that depends on YOUR involvement and donations. Each meal costs about 38 cents to pack, so 25,000 meals, means we need \$9,500 to reach our goal! Use the QR code below to go to the donation / volunteer website for our event, or you can type in the following web address:

<https://rah.my.salesforce-sites.com/events/homepage?id=7013Z000002L50K>

Every set of hands matter, and every dollar makes a difference!  
Please join us for this exciting afternoon of service to those who are food insecure around the world!

Direct your questions to Tom Kolmer, 717-634-0258,  
[tomkolmer@gmail.com](mailto:tomkolmer@gmail.com)



### Would you like to help provide fresh produce to people in our county?

SCCAP has a wonderful program for that. It's called the Gleaning Project, where local farmers and orchard people set aside a portion of their harvest for gleaners to come in and pick. (Recall the Bible story of Ruth and Naomi, gleaners in Boaz' fields.) You too can be a gleaner! If you sign up at [thegleaningproject.org](http://thegleaningproject.org) you will be notified when an opportunity comes up, telling you the date, time, and address. You choose only the ones you want to go to. We have a lot of fun, get to be out in the beautiful orchard hills, and often we can take home some peaches, or apples for ourselves too. The rest of the bounty gets trucked to the Gettysburg Food Pantry, where it is available to all, and also to Adams County Senior Centers and other food pantries in the county.

Questions- contact Amy Deitch, elder for local missions, at [ahdeitch@hotmail.com](mailto:ahdeitch@hotmail.com)



The Deacons schedule Ushers, coordinate Transportation for members when special needs arise and coordinate Meals for members during difficult times.



We are asking for additional Volunteers willing to Usher, provide Transportation and/or provide Meals. If you have wondered how you can get involved in GPC and help your fellow members, this is your opportunity.

Please contact Penny in the GPC Office (717-334-1235, [gpcadmin@gettysburgpresbyterian.org](mailto:gpcadmin@gettysburgpresbyterian.org)) with the following information:

I would like to:  Usher  
 Provide Transportation  
 Provide Meals

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Cell: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

### Sunday Fellowship Cookie/Treat Sign-Ups Needed

It may be summertime but that doesn't mean our time of Fellowship takes a break. Cookies and other baked treats are always welcome and enhance our time of Fellowship each Sunday morning before and after our 9:30 service. Please consider signing up to bake or bring some treats to share.



### "Calendar of Giving"

The Calendar of Giving is an opportunity for our congregation to support numerous local organizations. Through this program, we identify local organizations that are in need of smaller donations. Each month, we will be collecting specific items for the identified organization. Please put your donations in the bin by the elevator.

For the month of:

**August**

We will be collecting items for  
**Fruitbelt Farmworkers Ministry**

On behalf of the Fruitbelt Farmworkers Christian Ministry, GPC members offer a friendly welcome to migrant workers in Adams County each year. To make their stay more comfortable, we are giving a "welcome kit" containing the following items:

- 1 adult toothbrush, 2 bars of soap, 2 rolls of toilet paper, 2 disposable razors, 1 medium toothpaste, 1 wash cloth, 1 bath towel, and 1 can of shaving cream.**

You may donate any or all of these items.

### NEED A RIDE?

If you are having trouble attending church services and/or church functions due to not having transportation, let the Deacons help you.

**July 10 - Aug. 13** please contact Ellie Bilz at 201-739-8774.

**Aug. 14 - Sept. 10** Elly Cleaver at: 240-938-4045.





I love summertime. I love the sunny days, blue skies, warm temperatures, and a less hectic schedule. Summer is also known as a growing season. It is a time to enjoy the outdoors by participating in activities. There are many things to choose from: hiking in the mountains, rafting, biking, fishing, canoeing, or digging your feet into the sand and letting the cool water help you escape from daily trials. I recently was given a devotional book *“Devotions from the Beach”* by Thomas Nelson which helps me along life’s journey especially when I can’t get away.

**Below are a few Healthy Summer suggestions:**

- Keep Hydrated:** Choose drinks wisely: Drink water; you can flavor it with fresh fruit; avoid carbonated beverages. I have placed a *“Water App”* on my phone to remind me to drink up!!
- Sleep:** 7-9 hours of restful sleep is the daily recommended amount.
- Exercise:** Move more, sit less. Exercise at least 2.5 hours a week. Exercise will help you sleep better and decreases your anxiety levels.
- Protection:** Wear broad-spectrum sunscreen with at least SPF-15, insect repellent, wide-brimmed hats, clothing that covers.
- Keep cool:** High temperatures can be dangerous for everyone, but it may be especially dangerous for people with chronic medical conditions. Air conditioning, fans, and hydration are the key.
- Eat Healthy:** Fresh vegetables and fruits are bountiful this time of year. Whether they are from your garden or local farmers’ market, enjoy these delicious items. If you have an abundance of goodies from your garden, bring them in to share or donate to the local soup kitchen facilities.

**Enjoy the recipe below: *Grilled Pork Chops with Peach Arugula Salad***

**Ingredients**

- ¼ cup balsamic vinegar
- 1 tablespoon honey
- 1 clove garlic, finely chopped
- 1 ½ teaspoons kosher salt
- 1 teaspoon ground black pepper
- 6 tablespoons olive oil, divided, plus more for grill grates
- 4 ½-in.-thick bone-in pork chops (about 2 lb.)
- 4 cups arugula (about 4 oz.)
- 1 cup loosely packed fresh flat-leaf parsley leaves, torn
- 4 ripe peaches, nectarines, or apricots, pitted and sliced

**Directions**

1. Preheat grill to high (450°F to 500°F) and lightly oil grates. Whisk vinegar, honey, garlic, ½ teaspoon each salt and pepper, and 5 tablespoons oil.
2. Pat pork chops dry and brush with remaining 1 tablespoon oil. Season both sides with the remaining 1 teaspoon salt and teaspoon pepper.
3. Grill, uncovered, flipping once, until a meat thermometer inserted in thickest portion registers 145°F, 3 to 4 minutes per side. Let rest for 10 minutes.

Meanwhile, toss arugula with parsley and peaches. Serve with pork, drizzled with vinaigrette.

Pam Phillips FCN at 410-596-0777 or email [gpcfnc@gettysburgpresbyterian.org](mailto:gpcfnc@gettysburgpresbyterian.org)



[The Prayer Project](mailto:sekolmer@gmail.com)— If you would like to engage more in this new project, please contact Susan Kolmer at [sekolmer@gmail.com](mailto:sekolmer@gmail.com).

## THE PRAYER PROJECT – AUGUST 2023

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		<b>1</b> Giving God, please help each of us to literally bring LAUGHS* to our tables. Bless our efforts to help local farmers and the environment.	<b>2</b> Prince of Peace, we pray today for efforts that help marginalized people everywhere. May solutions continue to be found.	<b>3</b> Holy Spirit, come to us as the cooling breeze in hot summer. Let us pause to hear Your voice, knowing You're all around us and ever with us. Praise to You!	<b>4</b> Seeking God, we thank You for the Coast Guard, especially their work of seeking and saving lost mariners. Please bless this proud force.	<b>5</b> Caring Creator, please nudge all nations not to abuse our magnificent oceans. May we treat them and the life they hold with respect and wise usage.
<b>6</b> Loving Lord, we thank You today for the beautiful work of Jamie Bowman as our organizer. Please bless her and her music ministry to GPC, and as a teacher.	<b>7</b> Guiding God, thank You for the work of lighthouses, and the beacons of safety and hope they've been. We pray today for the safety for all who engage in maritime activities.	<b>8</b> Just Jesus, imbue our society with wisdom over the question of transgender women competing against biological females. Let all athletic endeavors be on a fair and even field.	<b>9</b> Lord of "His-Story", thank You for the gift of books to amuse, inspire and teach us. Help us to be ever selective about with what we choose to fill our minds, keeping it always pleasing to You.	<b>10</b> Omnipotent God, we praise You that never for one second has anything ever been out of Your control. Thus, we pray that You would help each of us to trust You completely.	<b>11</b> Blessed Lord, help each of us to be blessings to migrant workers in our midst. Show us how to reach out to them and be the face of Jesus to each.	<b>12</b> Perfect Parent, we thank You for middle children. May none ever suffer being overlooked, whether by their families nor society. Help us to see and care for all people.
<b>13</b> Joyful Jesus, we praise You today. As You are the vine, help each of us to cultivate Your gift and fruit of joy. May we ever remain in You and bear plenty of fruit for Your Kingdom.	<b>14</b> Jehovah Jireh, even the poorest in the US have so much. Give all of us wisdom in handling our finances, remembering that we need to build our treasures in heaven, not Earth.	<b>15</b> Majestic Mother, we all fail at times, yet help us to learn and grow from each failure. Forgive us when we fail You and help us to grow out of our spiritual shortcomings.	<b>16</b> Good Shepherd, we thank You today for veterinarians and all the important work they do. Please bless each, not only for our pets, but livestock and threatened species.	<b>17</b> Creator God, You originally put everything in its place. But now, invasive species like wild pigs and pythons threaten fragile ecosystems. Help us to restore balance to our world.	<b>18</b> Gentle Jesus, guide us with compassion when we meet someone in need. Lead us in Your will to aid such folks the best that we can. Give us discernment in meeting obvious and hidden needs.	<b>19</b> Rabbi Jesus, You created us in Your image. But we treat one another terribly. Help all humans to treat each other kindly and for all to have Your compassion for all.
<b>20</b> Holy God, we thank You today for those who prepare and clean up GPC's communion each time it is served. Bless the work of each person in this ministry	<b>21</b> God of Israel, please bless Your namesake nation with societal solutions that bring Palestinians and Israelis together in unity. We pray their conflicts would cease.	<b>22</b> Ancient of Days, we thank You for the wisdom and presence of elderly people in our midst. Bless each and let none feel like they have nothing left to contribute.	<b>23</b> Great Physician, bless each woman giving birth. We pray for the health of mother and child during this time.	<b>24</b> Leading Spirit, guide each youth contemplating their life's direction in Your will. Lead many of them into medicine so that there are enough doctors and nurses.	<b>25</b> Awesome Author, we thank You for Your word, which is alive and active, even today. Help each of us to let Your Word impact our lives in every decision we make and action we take.	<b>26</b> Sustaining Lord, give all countries wisdom in land development. Help all to balance human need with the good of the Earth by not destroying rainforests and other important ecosystems.
<b>27</b> Forgiving Father, we pray today for all on death row. May none be there by mistake and may each find You and trust in You before they are executed.	<b>28</b> Abba, we praise You for making no two of us alike. Yet, we're all made in Your image. Help us refrain from asserting our individual rights over the needs of others.	<b>29</b> Redeeming Savior, we pray for those who even today die for their belief in You. May we be as committed to You as they, and may such persecutions cease.	<b>30</b> Comforter, many are those everywhere who grieve. Enable each of us today to reach out to lighten another's overwhelming load of sorrow.	<b>31</b> Caring Jesus, let no more children be harmed by drug-laced candy that they don't know is dangerous. Let marijuana overdoses and other such poisonings cease.	* LAUGHS stands for: Local, Affordable, Uncomplicated, Good, Healthy and Seasonal	

