



During part of my vacation time this summer, I traveled to Lititz, PA with family. In trying to find activities we all could do, mostly keeping the active 5 year old happy, we took a tour of the historic pretzel factory where they teach you how to hand roll a pretzel just right. We toured the factory of Julius Sturgis, who first started off working for a baker making all different kinds of things but especially soft pretzels. Sturgis often had the job to clean out the oven at the end of the day, meaning the pieces of things that got stuck back there and burnt would be collected and thrown out for either the trash or for the animals to eat. One day, Sturgis found himself to be a bit hungry working this job with long hours, little rest and little pay, so he decided to try one of these “burnt” pretzel pieces. At least this is how the legend goes that hard pretzels came about as Sturgis thought they tasted pretty good, tried to get his boss to taste them (who thought he was crazy and refused) and what eventually lead to Sturgis buying his own building and opening his own bakery, specializing in hard pretzels.

On the tour we heard how pretzel twisters would roll out and twist something like 50 pretzels a minute. A job not all of us were quite skilled enough to do. Especially, getting the shape and the twist just right, all which were so important in a small little Pennsylvania Dutch town, a haven for Moravians (Brethren). For the pretzel for centuries had deep religious connotations for the three holes represent the trinity – Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. As for the twist, that represented the hands of the people praying. Essentially, connecting us all together – our prayers twisted into the trinity.

However, our tour guide went on to say how over time they began using machines to twist the pretzels since they could twist out many more per hour. The first machine they used still allowed for the twisting. They had mechanical arms come out and cross over so the Sturgis hard pretzel still had the signature twist. Yet, this machine often got gummed up, over heating from all the extra work the arms were doing. They tried a few ways to remedy it but eventually switched to a machine that no longer allows for a twist. As a result, many of the hard pretzels found in the grocery store no longer have a twist in them.

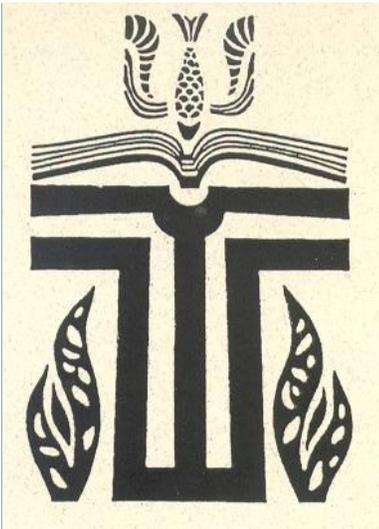
Reflecting on this, I couldn't help but think how this is sort of a metaphor for prayer life throughout our country and world. Back when Sturgis first came out with the hard pretzel, making sure he kept that important twist, just about everyone prayed daily – whether the Moravians, Mennonites, Lutherans, Baptism, Presbyterian, the few Jewish and Catholic within our country. Yet, as time went on, with the marvels of modern technology, through various changes in our country, many began to look elsewhere, rather than to God, for help, strength, improvement, support, etc... And prayer life began to dwindle, just like the twist in the pretzel.

But we are now at a time where we need that twist back, those prayers to be lifted up again and again. Paul tells us we are to pray without ceasing, to pray for each other, persevering in prayer and not lose heart in the sufferings of the world. Jesus teaches the crowds and the disciples to pray for those who persecute you, pray for our enemies. The disciples prayed over the sick and the poor, prayed that many would receive the Holy Spirit. Like that of the twist in the pretzel, we need to be more intimately connected once again to the powers and workings of the trinity through our prayers. Let us remember to pray daily, pray without ceasing, for ourselves, each other, and the world.



Good News Gazette

First
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94-96 Main
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10918



Presbytery Training

Leading Intentional Change for the Flourishing of Community, Oct. 27 at Irvington Presbyterian Church from 8:30am-12:30pm

For Pastors, elders, and congregations seeking to lead intentional change.

More information can be found on the bulletin board.

DEACONS REPORT

The Deacons are back in session after a break in July and August.

Our Deacons are Jean Barrett, Helen Braidotti, Catherine De Angelus, Vanessa Magyar, Jerry Sutherland and Joan Van Der Meulen. This year two of the Deacons have finished a 6 year term of service and are required to step down. This is a good opportunity for all to reflect on becoming a Deacon. Please speak with Pastor Erin or any Deacon for further information.

Fall and College Box time! If you know of a student who would like to receive a care package please speak with a Deacon.

The Food Pantry served 47 families, 100 adults, 61 children, 15 seniors in August. Fifty-eight families are now on the list.

Pantry helpers are always needed. Next distribution is October 25th, 4-7pm.

WOMEN'S COUNCIL REPORT

Sunday, October 28th, Women's Council will share the worship service of World Day of Prayer, "All God's Creation is Very Good!," written by the women of Suriname. The Republic of Suriname lies in the northeastern part of South America. Suriname is part of the Guianas, an ecological region within the Amazon. The population is multiethnic, consisting of indigenous peoples, African descendants, Asian descendants, European descent or "new" immigrants from countries like Lebanon, Guyana, Brazil, and Haiti. Many have emigrated to the Netherlands, Antilles, and to the United States in search of opportunities.

On that Sunday we will also be accepting a second offering for the Blanket Fund of Church World Service, one of the church's important mission concerns. Through the CWS Blankets program, you are helping our neighbors in need recover from disaster, giving them hope and strength to keep on living. Last year, thousands of CWS Blankets were distributed throughout the US. Please share your blessings by providing Blankets at a cost of only \$10 each (checks should be made out to the church and indicate CWS Blankets on the memo line).

"I want to say Thank You to all of the churches that have a Blanket Sunday. I saw how they use them blanket and it's awesome!" - Nora, age 8, Marysville, MI

STEWARDSHIP REFLECTION

G—Get acquainted with the people/needs around you.

I—Incline your ear toward God.

V—Very discreetly give.

E—Expect God's goodness.

INTRODUCING HUDSON RIVER PRESBYTERY'S NEW GP

On September 18, 2018 our presbytery meet and elected Ruling Elder Deborah Lee Milcarek as our new full time General Presbyter. Deb Milcarek comes to us with a cumulative 23 years of experience working in the PC(USA) on a congregational and presbytery level. After 10 years as a Christian Educator in two different congregations, Deb was called to the Presbytery of Baltimore as their Associate for Mission & Justice, later as the Associate for Reconciliation. Helped in part by her combination of a Business degree and an MSW as well as her earlier work in community organizing, Deb thrived in Middle Governing Body work. For more information, see the bulletin board or hudrivpres.org

LOOKING AHEAD

- October 3—Choir Practice 3pm
- October 7 – World Communion Sunday,
Deacons meeting following worship
- October 8 – Bible Study at 19 Main St. 10 am,
Music and Worship meeting 1pm
- October 10—Choir Practice 3pm
- October 14 – Session meeting following worship
- October 15 – Bible Study at 19 Main St. 10 am
- October 16 – Women’s Council meeting 1pm
- October 17—Choir Practice 3pm
- October 22 – Bible Study at 19 Main St. 10 am,
Food Pantry Truck time TBD
- October 25 – Food Pantry Distribution 4-7pm
- October 24—Choir Practice 3pm
- October 28—Women’s Council leading worship—World Day of Prayer
- October 31—Choir Practice 3pm

Pastor Erin will be away on vacation October 19-21 if there is a pastoral emergency please contact a Session member.

If you have an article or announcement you would like to have in the next newsletter, please have it into the church office by October 22nd.

October Second Offering

Our second offering for October will be for the Church World Service Blanket Fund. CWS delivers thousands of blankets around the world each year to families fleeing their homes, recovering from disaster and more. We will collect this offering on October 28th.

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