



GRACE

HAPPENINGS

A WORD FROM PASTOR STEVE:

I love America, and make no apology for doing so. I enjoy her freedoms, especially in being free to worship the true and living God. I still believe the United States is the greatest country on the face of the earth in terms of God's blessing upon it. But I reserve the right to change my mind about the matter, just as our God does. I love America, but I don't have to like the direction she is heading. Might our country actually be facing God's judgment for its offenses against Him? If so, who is at fault?

I believe terrorism is a great threat to the USA, but it is not our greatest threat. I know we have powerful enemies around the world, but the most powerful are much closer by. Yes, evil exists and is growing rampantly, but it may not be concentrated in the part of the world we think it is. America's greatest threat is not from without but from within. We are our enemy and I am convinced that God is generally displeased with us as a nation. He is assigning blame for sin and we must answer.

In Micah 3, the prophet is concerned about something. He wants his nation to know that the God they serve is not only a God of love, mercy, and grace, but also a God of judgment...and though God would rather bless and demonstrate love, and continue to extend His grace and mercy, that there does indeed come a time when, because of sin and rebellion, God's patience is exhausted.

Eventually God will give a nation [or an individual] what they are demanding. It happened in the pre-diluvium world of Noah's time, and again at Sodom and Gomorrah. It even happened to God's people, Israel. Will He make an exception for the United States of America?

Micah speaks by the Spirit of God and points a bony finger at three distinct groups of people and says, "It's Your Fault!"

Micah desperately wants the people to understand that the God who loves sinners still hates sin. And sin must always be

judged. His holiness demands that. Praise God that if you're saved you will never be judged for your sin; they were judged 2,000 years ago on Calvary's cross! But that does not mean we can live a careless, haphazard Christian life. The same Bible which teaches that we will not be judged for our sins also tells us that we will indeed be judged for how faithful we have been. All individuals will one day be judged, and there is such a thing as the judgment of a nation.

No nation was as pure in its inception as the nation Israel—by God Himself in Genesis 12. And yet even Israel went corrupt, and the vast majority of the people were ignorant or indifferent concerning that corruption. For this reason the prophets of judgment came along, like Micah, calling the people to repentance, and making the people aware that the God who would rather bless will judge if His hand is forced.

I'm optimistic about our nation's possibilities for the future, but I think we should be realistic. And part of loving America is wanting to save it from a corruption that most people are seemingly ignorant of...or at least indifferent to.

- Corrupt Politicians

NBC's Tom Brokaw used to do a weekly segment called "The Fleecing of America." It highlighted the price Americans pay at the hands of leadership gone awry.

Here are six requirements God recommends for government leaders:

1. Righteousness

"When the righteous increase, the people rejoice, but when a wicked man rules, people groan." (Proverbs 29:2)

"It is an abomination for kings to commit wickedness, for a throne is established on righteousness." (Proverbs 16:12)

Why is it that today we just look for skills and credentials, and not look to morality?

2. Wisdom

"I, wisdom, dwell with prudence, and I find knowledge and discretion. The fear of the Lord is to hate evil; pride and

Worship

MAY 2018

John 4:23 - "But an hour is coming, and now is, when the true worshipers shall worship the Father in spirit and truth; for such people the Father seeks to be His worshipers."

arrogance and the evil way, and the perverted mouth, I hate. Counsel is mine and sound wisdom; I am understanding, power is mine. By me kings reign, and rulers decree justice. By me princes rule, and nobles, all who judge rightly.” (Proverbs 8:12-16)

3. Absolute Honesty

“Excellent speech is not fitting for a fool: much less are lying lips to a prince.” (Proverbs 17:7)
Leaders and liars are not the same thing!

4. Separation from bad influences

“Take away the dross from the silver, and there comes out a vessel for the smith; Take away the wicked from before the king, and his throne will be established in righteousness.” (Proverbs 25:4-5)
A leader must focus on what is right, not just public opinion or lobbying pressures.

5. Personal Purity

“Do not give your strength to women, or your ways to that which destroys kings.” (Proverbs 31:3)
If a man will not honor his marriage vows, what’s he going to do with those “little vows” of public trust?

6. Protection of the weak and the defenseless

“Open your mouth for the dumb, for the rights of all the unfortunate. Open your mouth, judge righteously, and defend the rights of the afflicted and needy.” (Proverbs 31:8-9)

A leader is to speak for those who cannot speak for themselves, and defend those who cannot defend themselves.

A Biblical leader should stand tall on behalf of the unborn. Some would say, “Abortion is legal. And a leader is supposed to uphold the law!” Being legally right doesn’t make something morally right.

“Can a throne of destruction be allied with Thee, one which devises mischief by decree?” (Psalm 94:20)
And I should add those who stand for the unborn, but turn a blind eye to the poor, offend God as well.

When Micah warns the people that God is about to judge, he points first at the corrupt politicians, and says, "It's your fault." And until we own our faults there is no hope for a change.

- Compromising Preachers

Should they be preaching peace when judgment is coming?
Should they preach, altering their message so as not to offend?
And do we today really need to drag Jesus down to a lower level in an attempt to make Him more palatable? Did not Jesus Himself say, "Come unto Me"? When a preacher (or anyone for the matter) invites someone to Jesus, he must present Jesus and all He is without compromise.

We must preach the truth at all times and no matter the cost. And it is vital that we practice what we preach. As people of God, we must, at times, look inside ourselves with humility.

Concerning pastors (and again, everyone for the matter), the Lord is not as concerned about where we are as where we are headed. Which way are we facing? Are we going forward for Him or regressing? In short, our present is more pertinent than our past. This principle applies not only to those of us in

the ministry, but all of God’s family as well. It applies even further to our nation. But, in keeping with our point, what does this mean for me?

When Micah warns the people that God is about to judge, he points at not only the corrupt politicians, but also the compromising preachers and says, "It's your fault." And we must own our faults before God.

- Complacent People

The people of Israel said, "We know the politicians are corrupt, we know the preachers are compromisers, but it will be ok, because we're ok. The economy is strong, we're happy, and it's alright. Is not the Lord among us? No evil can touch us." And many ignorant Americans make a similar claim: "Our nation has a Christian heritage. We have Godly roots." So did Israel! And so did many other nations which God has judged, or wiped out completely. We must pursue hard after God or destruction will certainly overtake us as well.

Where do we go from here?

We should do our part to elect leaders that seek to fulfill God’s righteous requirements. And what do we do if and when corrupt politicians come to power? We may not be able to absolutely control such a situation, but we certainly can focus on ourselves and make sure we aren’t compromising preachers, and we can do our job in proclaiming the truth to complacent people in our pews, remembering the promise of 2 Chronicles 7:14: “if My people who are called by My name humble themselves and pray, and seek My face, and turn from their wicked ways; then I will hear from heaven, will forgive their sin, and will heal their land.”

It is true. Our nation is in trouble. But I also know that Jesus Christ is the hope of our nation and the world. He stands as a light for us to follow. His arms of mercy are open to those who will turn from selfishness and evil to Him. Certainly He extends His own righteousness to us as a free gift. But our acceptance of that righteousness will certainly be evidenced by a life marked by that righteousness. My prayer is that my preaching—and yours—be marked by the righteousness, justice, and mercy embodied by Christ himself.

Ultimately, the hope of America is not found in the White House or the State House, or in the Courthouse. The hope of America is found in God’s House!

REMEMBER OUR SHUT-INS

Pray for our shut-ins, send a card, make a phone call, pay a visit (call first), pick up groceries / medicines. Addresses and phone numbers are in the church directory

Wilma Davidson
Julie Lindsey
Gerry Gladfelter
Rita Brewer

Carol Sarver
Russ Hearton
Wanda Buttrey

National Day of Prayer Thursday, May 3

Prayer brings people together. Prayer builds bridges between opposing persons and even political parties. Prayer reminds us that we are created in God's image and He desires for us to represent Him everywhere we go. Prayer brings UNITY. In 2018, the theme is **Pray for America - UNITY**, based upon Ephesians 4:3 which challenges us to mobilize unified public prayer for America, "*Making every effort to keep the unity of the Spirit through the bond of peace.*"

A Prayer event at Human Life Services will be held at 11:00 a.m.—742 South George St., York.

From 6:00 till 8:00 p.m., join a Celebration of Prayer and Worship at Lititz Springs Park—18 North Broad Street, Lititz. Featuring prayer leader Beau Eckert of Calvary Church, worship with local leaders, One A-Chord, a 130-voice choir and keynote prayer speaker and Walk in the Word Host James MacDonald. An offering will be received.

Single's Dinner and Fellowship

Saturday, May 5, at 5:00 p.m.

All singles from high school graduates to 100 to include those never married/widowed/divorced are invited. There is no cost for this extraordinary evening, but you must sign up by May 2 on sheets at church entrances. All singles attending will receive a door prize/gift in the form of a gift card.

If you would like to contribute a gift card for this event, please purchase a restaurant gift card, a store gift card, etc. in the amount of \$10-\$25 and place it in Pastor Steve's mailbox. Our "*Special Singles*" thank you!

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Sunday: 8:15 Contemporary Worship
9:30 Sunday School
10:45 Traditional Worship
6:30 Against the Flow Youth
6:30 Evening Worship Service
Wednesday: 7:00 Bible Study & Prayer for Adults /
Pioneer Clubs / Against the Flow Youth

Rev. Steve Warner
Senior Pastor

Rev. Jon Barrett
Assistant Pastor

Danny & The Shacks

Presented by GBC's Grace Notes Children's Choir
Under the Direction of Jayne Warner
Sunday, May 6, at 6:30 p.m.

The powerful truth of God's Word and the importance of being obedient and faithful to His teaching comes through loud and clear in a storyline so fantastic and faith-affirming, it could only come from the Word of God.

LAST SANDWICH SALE TILL FALL

Enjoy a Sub or Pretzel Sandwich for only \$4.50 (a variety of meats and cheeses available) to support future mission trips/projects



Orders Due: Sunday, May 6
Pick Up: Wednesday, May 16
Order forms are in your Mailbox

Extra Forms available at Downstairs Usher Stand and Upstairs Table in back of Sanctuary

Child Evangelism Fellowship Annual Banquet

Friday, May 11, at 6:00 p.m.
Wyndham Garden – 2000 Loucks Road, York
See Paul Buser or Stan Stull for your free tickets
Sterling Walsh, Speaker
Pam Gay, Special Music
Free-Will Offering will be Taken

CEF ministries include:

- **Teacher Training Classes** - During the Good News Club season classes are held monthly. All classes are free to any person interested in teaching children.
- **5-Day Clubs** - A one week club similar to the Good News Club, but held in the summer, Monday through Friday, for one hour each day.
- **Good News Clubs** - These home Bible classes meet weekly, October through April, for one hour. A Bible lesson, Bible verse, prayer, songs, missions emphasis and missionary story are all part of the Good News Club hour. After school, in-school Good News Clubs are also held.
- **Day Camp** - A one week camp held in the summer, Monday through Friday from 9:30 a.m.-3:00 p.m. Every day includes Bible time, missions time, crafts and recreation. Camps are for ages 6-12 years old. Two day camps are held each summer. **Day Camp will be held at GBC July 30 through August 3.**
- **Seasonal Clubs** - a one-time class held around the holiday season, usually Thanksgiving, Christmas and Easter.
- **York Fair Ministry** - A 10 day ministry held at the York Fairgrounds. Children who enter the CEF tent

will have their faces painted for free and hear the Wordless book shared. They also will receive a packet with a little gift, tracts, a Tel-Me -A-Story card and a lollipop. CEF will train volunteers on how to share the Wordless book.

- Correspondence Courses - Children study the Bible by mail for the cost of the postage stamp per lesson. Several courses are available based on age.
- Visual Aids - CEF Press produces some of the best visuals for teaching children. Many of these items are available at the office.

To volunteer your time assisting in one or more of the above ministries, contact CEF - 58 Mt. Zion Rd, York, PA 17402; Phone: 717-757-3212.



Mother's Day

Sunday, May 13
No Evening Service/Activities

Rebecca Barrett says she loves her mom "because she protects me and she is very nice to everyone."



Jack Moore shares "Hey mom, I love you very much and I love that you try to keep us healthy and hope you have a wonderful Mother's day."

Emma Landis is "thankful that my mom loves and cares for me. She will do anything for me. She is very helpful and is fair. I'm also thankful for her teaching me right from wrong. I'm so glad to have her! I love you mom! Happy Mother's Day!"



MOTHERS
by Audrey Noll



There are so very many things,
About you that I love.
You have so many amazing qualities
Sent from God above.

You've supported me from the beginning,
When you first laid eyes on me.
Always telling me to try my best
Because God will always see.

You taught me to be a warrior
To stand up for what's right.
To help the helpless and the weak
When others aren't willing to fight.

You showed me loving kindness
In so many different ways.
To love those who need to be loved
And treat them fair always.

God gave you to me to show me love
And teach me to be strong.
If I ever mess up and ruin things
You'll pray for me all night long.
HAPPY MOTHER'S DAY!!!

COMMUNION AND BAPTISM

Sunday, May 20, at 6:30 p.m.
Contact Pastor Steve to be Baptized



MEMORIAL DAY WEEKEND
No Evening Service/Activities – Sunday, May 27



American
Red Cross

COMMUNITY BLOOD DRIVE

Tuesday, May 29
2:00 – 7:30 p.m.

We can always do more to help others. More kind words and simple gestures can go a long way to show someone else you care. [Scheduling a blood donation appointment today](#) is a life-changing act of kindness.

To schedule contact Valerie Kneisley at 717-779-3776 or online at www.redcrossblood.org/account-login and enter: Grace Baptist Church York. Walk-ins also welcome. Gifts for all. Every first-time donor will be invited to a free pizza party at a later date.

SUPPORT GBC'S SOFTBALL TEAM

GBC has had a softball team in the Dallastown Area Church Softball League since the early 90s. Ray Rhone and John Shaeffer were instrumental in getting the team started and John served as manager for a number of years. Later on, and up to the present time, the team has been managed by either Gary Auker or Roger Apple. In earlier years, the league had 15 teams with 3 divisions. In recent years, there has been six teams and one division. Currently, the teams include Calvary Bible, Grace Bible, Bridgeway, Codorus Church of the Brethren, Bethlehem United Methodist and Grace Baptist.

Current members/attendees at GBC playing on the team include Gary Auker, Carlos Alvelo, Roger Apple, Rick Brenner, Travis Gaidos, Nathan Hunt, Josh Lindsey, Jeff Miller, Curt Rumsey, Daryl Snyder and Hank Wagaman. Other current GBC members/attendees that played previously include Pastor Steve, Ryan Auker, Paul Bankowski, Brad Emig, Tim Etner, Jeff Gay, Chip Isiminger, Steve Kimball, Mitch Loucks, Ken Nissley, David Poff, Tyler Gilmore, Doug Rhone, John Shaeffer, Jonathan Stayer and Bill Thoman. Missionaries Tim Kmett and Tim Kornbau have also played with the team previously.

The team has played on many different ball fields over the years, but at the present time, all games are played at either the Bridgeway Community Church or the Codorus Church of the Brethren. Games are scheduled as double-headers for 15 nights beginning at 6:00 p.m. on either Monday, Tuesday or Thursday. There are also double elimination playoffs held at the conclusion of the regular season.

Although some years have been better than others, the GBC team has experienced considerable success on the ball field. Last year, the GBC team was the play-off champions and the team came in second the previous year. The team has also received many trophies in prior years for placing either 1st or 2nd during the regular season or playoffs. Two years ago, Rick Brenner was awarded with a plaque for being named the league's Christian Athlete of the Year.

The GBC rosters, along with the other teams, include several players from other churches in order to have a sufficient number of players. The team is always looking for additional individuals who enjoy some fun competition playing softball. For those who are not interested in playing but would like to support the team, please check the church bulletin for game nights to come and cheer for the GBC team. The schedule is also on the library bulletin board.

~Submitted by Roger Apple



June 18-22

6:00 – 8:30 p.m.

Age 3 to Grade 8

Online Registration Coming Soon

Or complete a Registration Sheet when placed in your church mailbox

Discover Jesus from eternity past to eternity future—a man who was not just a man, but also God. One who turned the world upside-down. One who existed outside of time.

We'll do just that as we embark on *Time Lab*. We'll learn that Jesus, our forever faithful, loving, caring, promise-keeping Lord, has been with us always!

Volunteer Registration Forms Due Sunday, April 29

Check the wall in front of the sound booth for **Craft Items needed for VBS**

Keep watching the sound booth wall for **snack items needed**

Ladies and Men are invited to attend the **PREPPING CRAFTS FOR VBS PARTIES**. Join the crowd Thursday mornings in May in the Choir Room at 10:00 a.m. Lunch will be provided.

