

How is your Spiritual Appetite?

Arthur Barry

Our tendency to eat too much natural food is not usually matched by our spiritual appetite. Having a good spiritual appetite means that we desire to do God's will; and when we do God's will we are nourished by God Himself. Eve, for example, saw that the fruit of the tree of knowledge of good and evil was "good for food" in Genesis 3:6. That fruit did not harm her physically, but she disobeyed God, which meant that she was spiritually malnourished. She actually curbed, or spoiled, her appetite for God's will and excited her appetite for her own will. Another example of this principle is seen when we consider the concept of the Promised Land as a "land flowing with milk and honey". In Exodus 3:8 God promises Moses that He will lead the Israelites into a land flowing with milk and honey. That is a very positive image of sustenance. But listen how, not long after the Exodus, the people felt about Moses' involvement in their lives.

Isn't it enough that you have brought us up out of a land flowing with milk and honey to kill us in the desert? And now you also want to lord it over us?
Numbers 16:13

The Israelites looked at Egypt flowing with milk and honey and they wanted to go back. In their minds Egypt had taken better care of them than God. Like Adam and Eve, they would not trust God and do His will. To do His will is to live in a land flowing with milk and honey. Just ask Jesus.
"My food," said Jesus, "is to do the will of him who sent me and to finish his work."
John 4:34.

So any time we do God's will we are being fed from Heaven (Heaven's Kitchen), and every time we deny Him we are being fed from Hell (Hell's Kitchen). We must stimulate each other to do God's will. We must excite the appetite for the things of God's Kingdom and not for the things of this world. Jesus recognized that many have spoiled their appetite for God's Will. He told the Jews who were ready to kill Him that they had "no room for his Word" (John 8:37).

As a child I was constantly being warned that I would "spoil my appetite" by eating things that I enjoyed but that were not good for me. Very often when my mother had spent a lot of time preparing a hearty, healthy meal for me I would arrive home after stopping at the candy store and I would not have room for the good stuff. Adam and Eve spoiled their appetite, the Israelites spoiled their appetites and Satan would love for us to spoil our appetite for God's will by filling ourselves up on our own will. There was one who never spoiled His appetite, and His name is Jesus Christ.



That meets at 701 South Wilbur, Sayre, PA 18840
(570) 886-1838

Arthur Barry, Evangelist- (607) 280-1732

Paul Cowles, Evangelist- (607) 592-8091

January 23, 2022

WELCOME!

Sunday

Bible Class- 9:30 a.m.

Worship- 10:30 a.m.

Wednesday

Bible Study-6:30 p.m.

All the churches of Christ greet you.

Romans 16:16

Today's Sermon: **Get A Life**

Arthur is preaching today.

Scripture Reading: **Deuteronomy 30:11-20**

Sermons are recorded and are available for listening on the church website.

Bulletins are archived on the website.

valleycitieschurchofchrist.org

Find us on Facebook:

www.facebook.com/valleycitiescoc

Headphones are available for the hearing impaired.

ANNOUNCEMENTS / UPCOMING EVENTS...

- ❖ **Sunday Morning Bible Class:** Paul will be continuing his lessons on the Psalms and stopping to sing a song from our songbook when appropriate.
- ❖ **Wednesday Evening Bible Class:** January 26th, on Zoom, 6:30pm- Arthur will be completing his lessons on the book of Matthew, chapter 28.
- ❖ **Next Potluck and Bring-a-Friend Sunday (3rd Sunday):** February 20th.
- ❖ **Ladies' Class on Tuesday, January 25th, on Zoom.** We will meet at 10am. We will study the words of the Apostle Peter, using the study book Living Stones by Casandra Martin. Lesson 5, Day 4.
- ❖ **5th Sunday Singing- January 30th (next week!) at 4pm at Ithaca.**



- We held our Annual Business Meeting here last Sunday to elect trustees and amend our bylaws, as well as making some budget decisions. Minutes of the meeting are available today.

Our officers are now: President- Arthur Barry, Secretary- Sandy Barry, and Treasurer- Paul Cowles.
Trustees are Ted Chacona (3-year), Steve Connors (2-year), and Tim Bump (1-year).

PRAYERS

- Pray that **our congregation can step up to supply some of the support** we have recently lost from the Antioch Initiative, which was responsible for starting this work in Sayre 7 years ago. **We are thankful for the help** we have been promised for this coming year.
- Pray for our **Annual Meeting** this morning, that we can comply with State requirements and still glorify God in the process.
- **Arthur** has an appointment on January 26th to have a CT scan before he can be cleared for surgery.
- **Patty Albro** has been diagnosed with cancer and will need surgery. Her surgery has been scheduled for February 14th at Crouse Irving Hospital in Syracuse.
- **Dan Myers** has developed a spot on his lungs. He will be having a scan in early March to determine what it is.
- **Sue Machuga, Arthur and Sandy's niece in TN,** is suffering from a chronic back condition which is causing her considerable pain.
- **Emily Barry** has Covid.
- **Judy Brotzman's** sister's husband and son are both very ill with Covid, and in ICU.
- Pray for:
 - **Linnett Short** (lung cancer)
 - **Zachary Cowles** (deployment with the Army)
 - **Steve Noble** (needs lung transplant)
 - **Arthur's brother Chris** (Alzheimer's)
 - **Pat Gutherie** (lung cancer)
 - **Darlene's friend Connie** (stage 4 lung cancer)
 - Dawn's niece Bobbie's husband, **Arthur** (waiting for a room in rehab to recover from Covid).
 - **Jeff Arditti** (in Chicago recovering from Guillian-Barre)

If you have any PRAYERS or NEWS that you would like included in the bulletin, please contact Sandy at barncat7237@gmail.com or text or call (607) 261-0911.