

The Power of Forgiveness

Ten years ago, a gunman barricaded himself inside a one-room Amish schoolhouse near Lancaster, Pa. Then he opened fire. Charles "Charlie" Roberts killed five children and injured five others before killing himself.

The Amish community responded in a way that many found surprising: They forgave the shooter. And, in the years since, they have grown close to his family.

That week, the Robertses had a private funeral for their son, but as they went to the gravesite, they saw as many as 40 Amish start coming out from around the side of the graveyard, surrounding them like a crescent.

"Love just emanated from them," Terri Roberts says. "I do recall the fathers saying, 'I believe that I have forgiven,' but there are some days when I question that."

Terri finds it especially hard to accept that forgiveness when she thinks of one of the survivors, Rosanna.

"Rosanna's the most injured of the survivors," she explains. "Her injuries were to her head. She is now 15, still tube-fed and in a wheelchair. And she does have seizures, and when it gets to be this time of year, as we get closer to the anniversary date, she seizes more. And it's certainly not the life that this little girl should have lived."

Terri asked if it would be possible for her to help with Rosanna once a week.

"I read to her, I bathe her, dry her hair," says Terri, who herself is battling cancer.

And, while she can't say it with 100 percent certainty, Terri believes Rosanna knows who she is.

"I just sense that she does know," she says.

"I will never forget the devastation caused by my son," says the 65-year-old Terri. "But one of the fathers the other night, he said, 'None of us would have ever chosen this. But the relationships that we have built through it, you can't put a price on that.' "

"And their choice to allow life to move forward was quite a healing balm for us," she says. "And I think it's a message the world needs."

~StoryCorps~



That meets at 215 South Thomas Ave, Sayre, PA 18840
(570) 886-1838

Arthur Barry, Evangelist- (607) 280-1732

October 2, 2016

WELCOME!

Sunday

Bible Class- 9:30 a.m.

Worship- 10:30 a.m.

Tuesday

Bible Class- 6:30 p.m.

For if you forgive others their trespasses, your heavenly Father will also forgive you, but if you do not forgive others their trespasses, neither will your Father forgive your trespasses.

Matthew 6:14,15

On this day in history (2006) a shooting occurred at the West Nickel Mines School, an Amish one-room schoolhouse in the Old Order Amish community of Nickel Mines, a



Today's Sermon: *God Was Green Long Before It Was Cool*

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

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Scripture: 1 Corinthians 1:1-8

Hymns: TBA

ANNOUNCEMENTS / UPCOMING EVENTS...

- **Next potluck: October 16th.**
- **Ladies Class: 10am, Tuesday, October 4th. We are using Human and Holy by Michelle Goff. We are preparing chapter 4 for Tuesday.**
- **Midweek Bible study @ McElhaney's Thursday nights at 7pm. Coffee and dessert is usually served. All contributions gladly accepted!**



CALLING ALL LADIES!

- **Ladies Class here at the building Tuesday mornings @ 10am. Let someone know if you need a ride.**

- **Be sure to check whether anyone needs a ride to or from worship if you are blessed with a vehicle.**



MAN MAY WHITEWASH HIMSELF, BUT ONLY GOD
CAN WASH HIM WHITE.

Though your sins are like scarlet, they shall be as white as snow; though they are red as crimson, they shall be like wool. Isaiah 1:18b

PRAYERS...

- Ted Chacona has been quite ill with a chest cold all last week.
- Remember to pray for Lori Kashorek, wife of Doug, the preacher at the Massena, NY church who has lung cancer.
- Please pray that Felicity Hicks can find a place to live.
- Pray for Claire Albro, Patty and Ruthie's stepmom who has cancer in several organs and is being treated with chemo. Claire is in a lot of pain and has been given an estimated 6 months to a year to live.
- Remember to pray for Lori Johnson, mother of Veronica who came to VBS. Lori has brain cancer.
- Jerry Lowe is recovering from the infection in his blood that he suffered from during the last few weeks. He is supposed to stay away from crowds while on antibiotics.
- Remember to pray for Matthew Lowe, Rhonda's brother and Jerry's son.
- Remember to pray for Richard Beiber, Darlene's father, of West Palm Springs, FL.
- Keep praying for the Endless Mountains church in Tunkhannock and their search for a preacher. They are very small and need encouragement.

If you have any prayers or news that you would like included in the bulletin, please contact Sandy Barry

barnecat7237@gmail.com or text or call (607) 261-0911.