

Have You Been Leavened?

- Arthur Barry

When they went across the lake, the disciples forgot to take bread. "Be careful," Jesus said to them. "Be on your guard against the yeast of the Pharisees and Sadducees." They discussed this among themselves and said, "It is because we didn't bring any bread." Matthew 16:5-7

There are some scary things in this world and one of them is yeast (leaven). According to the scriptures yeast is not something to be taken lightly. It looks ordinary enough, but yeast is associated with an invisible force that causes spontaneous growth. Mix some yeast into bread dough and give it some time and a little warmth and you will see the visible effect of this invisible power; the dough actually increases in size.

The Israelites were forbidden to use leaven in their bread the night of their Exodus from Egypt as God did not want them to have to wait for the dough to rise. When Jesus warned about the yeast of the Pharisees the disciples took him to be talking about bread and were remorseful about forgetting to bring bread with them. Perhaps they expected to have to rely on bread supplied by the Pharisees and Sadducees as a result of their negligence.

Jesus corrected their thinking by explaining that He was talking about the teaching of the Pharisees and the Sadducees.
"How is it you don't understand that I was not talking to you about bread? But be on your guard against the yeast of the Pharisees and Sadducees."

Matthew 16:11

Teaching is a very powerful agent of transformation in this world and the Bible often uses the yeast metaphor to teach this concept (1 Corinthians 5:6). When the disciples heard the words of Jesus as he spoke of the yeast of the Pharisees and Sadducees they were actually being "leavened". That is, of course, if they understood and accepted the teaching of Jesus. Sometimes the process of leavening, like the process of planting seed, fails because conditions are not favorable. In this case, however, we read...

Then they understood that he was not telling them to guard against the yeast used in bread, but against the teaching of the Pharisees and Sadducees.

Matthew 16:12

The disciples were being transformed by the teaching of the Lord. Jesus was preparing them to bring the yeast of the kingdom into the world (Matthew 13:33). It is important to understand the teaching about leavening. There is natural leavening and there is spiritual leavening. Spiritual leavening can be either through truth or through false teaching.



That meets at 701 South Wilbur, Sayre, PA 18840
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February 12, 2023

All the Churches of Christ greet you.

Romans 16:16

WELCOME!

Sunday

Bible Class- 9:30 a.m.

Worship- 10:30 a.m.

Wednesday

Bible Study-6:30 p.m.

Today's Sermon: One Another – Pt2

Arthur will be preaching today.

Scripture Reading: 1 Thessalonians 5:12-22

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

Bulletins are archived on the website.

Notes for Sunday morning and Wednesday evening classes are available on the website.

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Headphones are available for the hearing impaired.

ANNOUNCEMENTS / UPCOMING EVENTS...

- ❖ **Sunday Morning Bible Class:** Arthur is teaching from Romans.
- ❖ **Wednesday Evening Bible Class:** 6:30pm February 15, on Zoom, Arthur is teaching from 2 Peter.
- ❖ **Next Potluck and Bring-a-Friend Sunday** - February 19.
- ❖ **Ladies' Class –Tuesday, February 14. Women of the Genesis, Chapter 7, Rebekah.**
- ❖ **Next 5th Sunday Singing – April 30 at Ithaca.**
- ❖ **Ladies' Prayer Brunch and Devotional- God's Peace and Hope- March 25th** from 10:30-1 here at Valley Cities.



Our Valley Cities ladies will be hosting a **Ladies' Prayer Brunch and Devotional on Saturday, March 25th** here at the building from 10:30am – 1pm. The theme will be **God's Peace and Hope**. Please join us in helping to prepare for this outreach activity and encouragement to ladies of neighboring congregations. See flier posted in foyer.



MAGI boxes –

Think about toys...we would like to put a light-up bouncing ball in each of the 80 boxes, plus a jump rope in each girl's box and a yo-yo for each boy.

Darlene's friend Connie, the former secretary at the Epiphany School, died from lung cancer on Wednesday morning. Her husband Max said she smiled at him just before that.

Ladies, we plan on working on crafts for our Brunch next week after the potluck dinner. Join us if you are able.

PRAYERS

- **Please pray for peace and comfort for Connie's husband Max and her family following her death on Wednesday.**
- **Arthur** is seeing a specialist soon to determine whether a pacemaker is what he needs. Pray that his heart failure will improve, because it hasn't so far.
- **Prayers of praise for the successful surgery for Sue Barry** and prayers for her continued recovery and strength.
- **Pray that Ruthie can get a new furnace soon.**
- **Bonnie Davis' brother-in-law Tom** has been being treated for a cerebral hemorrhage that he suffered last week. Pray for his complete recovery.

Pray for these people:

- **Pat Gutherie**, lung cancer, chemo
- **Jerry Lowe**, knee surgery, church connection
- **Mike Walls**, pray that he will be cured of dementia. Pray for strength for Carrie.
- **Jim Sexton**, esophageal cancer
- **Tresa Shirrell's mom, April**, terminal cancer, salvation
- **Ladies' Prayer Brunch**, local outreach, regional encouragement
- **Pray for the people of Ukraine.**
- **Pray for the families of the victims of the earthquake in Turkey and Syria.**

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.