

The past couple of weeks have been rough for me. It would be easy to wallow in my sick bed and fixate on the sickness, the lethargy, the grief, the anxiety. Here's the thing though, God has my back. When He called me to Him, He took up

residence in me. He gave me a Help-meet who happens to have a nurturer's spirit...a care-giving mindset. He guided me to a Church Family who puts hands and feet to His Word. So that I received a text here, a call there, soup was delivered, more texts, more calls, more soup. Then came the prayer chain texts...of others that were sick, grieving, injured, awaiting tests or test results so that my focus was shifted from my own "bad season" to praying for others who are in similar straits. And then, God sent sunshine, a bird calls, and a couple of warm-ish days which of course brought about a further shift from my own circumstances to the hope of good days ahead.

We all have "bad seasons". You cannot live in this fallen world without experiencing sickness, death, trauma, strife. You cannot watch the television without witnessing it in shows, news, movies. It seems we are surrounded on all sides by the dark. The devil loves to take these situations and amplify them, multiply them until all you can see is the suffocating black cloud threatening to bring disruption, division, and death. He will try to convince you that there is no light, that all you can produce is bad seed because of your bad season. But I'm here to remind you—the devil is a liar. He wants your focus to continue on the negative. You, my friend, and I are not of the dark. We have been planted in the Master's vineyard. We are under His care. In Hosea 10 Israel was reaping some pretty harsh judgments because of some bad choices. (I feel kinship with them...time and again they would fall away from God, be brought into bondage, then repent and be saved yet again). However, in the midst of their trials, God told them to "Sow righteousness for yourselves, reap the fruit of unfailing love, and break up your unplowed ground; for it is time to seek the Lord until He comes and showers his righteousness on you" (vs. 12). Even in what seems to be a bad season God is working good for us. He is the Vinedresser—pruning us to make us more productive. Our bad season may cause us to see our shortcomings and bring about repentance which, strengthens our walk and allows us to expand our outreach (who better to witness to others than someone who has been there, done that?). The pruning during this season may cut off unproductive shoots, allowing more nutrients to flow to the fruit producing vines. Sometimes, we as Christians have a bunch of suckers surrounding our base. Suckers of old habits, old beliefs, old intolerances, old prejudices will literally sap all the nutrients from the main vine, diverting them into useless vines that produce nothing. Or, we carry around the weight of dead vines which weakens us. When He calls us, God grabs his shears and goes to work cutting through the unproductive to clear a pathway for the healthy vine to grow and flourish. Without this initial pruning, and a vigilant watch for future growth, we would wither and die. In John 15:2 Jesus says "Every branch in Me that does not bear fruit, He takes away; and every branch that continues to bear fruit, He {repeatedly} prunes, so that it will bear more fruit {even richer and finer fruit}." Friend, don't wallow in your bad season. Trust in God to know how best to care for you and know that it is in these dark times that God can best shine the light of His love and care.

Dorothy Barker Room #312 B Good Shepherd 159 Edgington Lane

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Melissa Carnahan
940 Market Street
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Wheeling, WV 26003





Sunday Services 8:00 & 10:45
Sunday School 9:30
Wednesday Night Bible Study 7:00
Find us on Facebook

## **Answers**

- 1. King Nebuchadnezzar
- 2. Aquila
- 3. mustard seed, yeast, weeds, good seed, treasure, a net,

a pearl

- 4. Uz
- 5. 10
- 6. Psalms



<u>Church Contacts</u>							
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- 4 Dorothy Barker
- 5 Hillary Sayre
- 7 Becky Finsley
- 10 Martie Keller
- 12 Tammy Bonar
- 15 Jen Miller
- 16 Krisit Capp
- 21 Christopher Bonar

- 21 Christopher Bonar
- 22 Hyde Alig
- 23 Lydia Fink
- 24 Jake Ward
- 26 Joe Spangler
- 27 Phyllis Kellam
- 29 Kathy Green
- 31 John Finsley



Becky Padden	den Elaine Emmanuel Krit		Roma Dailey	
Bo McConnaughey	Emmerie Family	Lexie	Rose & Family	
Bob Grimes	Ethel Scherich	Lisa & JD	Russell LeMasters	
Bob W.	Frank Blaskovich Family	Lori Grimes	Spencer & Alex Carnahan	
Brad McMillen	Helen Gross	Mark Griffith	Susie McCardle	
Chip Bond	Jake Ward	Mary Ann Morehead	Travelers	
Colton Bridges	Jeff & Jack Fort	Melissa	Uncle Mike	
Dailey Family	Joe Spangler	Mudge Family	Unsaved	
Dave Keller	Joe Vinka	Olive Turner	Unspoken	
David Morris	Joan Elliot	Pam Reid	US: Country & Government	
Dee Dee Wear	JR Olehasz	Perez Family	Wellsburg Christian Church— Pastor Search	
Dorothy Barker	Justin B.	Phyllis Kellam	Willie Joe Matalewski	
Dorothy Robson	(Aunt) Kathy	Rhonda Hague	WL Town Council	
Dutch Fork— Pastor Search	Keith Vinka	Robinson Family	Xavier Hammond	



- 1. OT What evil king surrounded Jerusalem for 1 1/2 years?
- 2. NT Who was Priscilla's husband?
- 3. Name something Jesus compared the Kingdom of Heaven to.
- 4. What land did Job live in?
- 5. In the parable of the lost coin, how many coins did the woman have?
- 6. What book is a collection of songs and poems designed to praise God?

## Looking for a way to Help?

- Bus Drivers needed—even if only for special events
- Sunday School Teachers—children, youth
- Tech Team
- Church Directory Coordinator
- Service Valets
- Greeters





## 🎽 March 2025 👀 🔓



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		Libe <sub>rty</sub>				Ladies Group 4:00
<b>2</b> Building & Grounds	3	4	5	6	7	Mentoring
12:15	Evangelistic 6:00	Men's Prayer Breakfast 9:00		After-School Program/	•	Seminar 9:00-Noon
Revelation Class 4-7:00	Bible Study 7:00 both at Lantz Home	Choir 6:30	Bible Study 7:00	Teen Group 3:00-6:00		HIZ NI MINI
Spring Forward	10	11	12	13	14	15
3				After-School Program/		
Revelation Class 4-7:00		Choir 6:30	Bible Study 7:00	Teen Group 3:00-6:00		
16 GET YOUR	17	18	19	20	21	22
Elders 12:30		Membership 5:30		After-School		
Revelation Class 4-7:00		Choir 6:30	Bible Study 7:00	Program/ Teen Group 3:00-6:00		
PETERSON MOMENTATION A HIGH DECAM CENTR Worship 3:00	24	25	26	27 After-School	Wind and the second	
Revelation Class 4-7:00		Choir 6:30	Bible Study 7:00	Program/ Teen Group 3:00-6:00		