



# Blackberry Beacon

*"Let your light shine before others,  
so that they may see your good works  
and give glory to your Father in heaven."*

*Matthew 5:16*

*August 2025*

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## **The Minor Prophets: Habakkuk**

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

During 2025, we will be journeying together through the minor prophets. This month I invite you to read the book of Habakkuk.

Habakkuk lived during a time of great injustice and idolatry. He saw the rising empire of Babylon and hints of the coming exile of God's people under that empire.

Habakkuk offers us his personal struggle of believing that God is good when there is so much evil in the world. He offers these struggles to God through laments, similar to the lament Psalms. His questions are important questions: Does God see the injustices of the world? Does God care?

The invitation of the book of Habakkuk is that in times of great suffering, in times of great injustice, we live by faith in what God has done, is doing, and promises to do.

Trusting in the Faithfulness of Jesus,

+ Pastor Matt

P.S. You can watch more about Habakkuk here  
<https://bibleproject.com/videos/habakkuk/>

# Stewardship Reflections

## Small things Matter

*“Those who despise a time of little things will rejoice when they see the plumb line in Zerubbabel’s hand”.*

*Zechariah 4:10 (CEB)*

My brother Tommy was intellectually disabled and lived in a group home. Because I lived in another country, I did not visit him in person. One day I decided to start sending him postcards so he would remember that he had a sister who loved him. I wrote to him regularly. I would choose a nice picture, write out my greeting, and send it across the sea.

Tommy passed away some time ago. After his death, the personnel at his group home gave the postcards to my mother. Tommy had saved them. The staff told my mother that Tommy had slept with the postcards under his pillow every night and that he wouldn’t let anyone else touch them because they were so precious to him. It moved my heart deeply to know that an action of mine that was small had meant so much to my brother.

Our lives are full of things that seem inconsequential. While a kind gesture or an encouraging word may not seem noteworthy, they can mean much. God’s word encourages us to love, even in little ways. In doing so, we spread the joy of God’s kingdom, and lives can be changed.

**Prayer:** Dear Lord, thank you for opportunities to care for others. Help us to share your love today, even in little ways. **Amen.**

## Opportunities to love God are right in front of me.

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**Have you noticed the Weekly Outreach Opportunity** in your bulletin? These are just gentle suggestions of ways YOU can shine your light in the world. We welcome any suggestions you may have or ways to be like Jesus in our daily lives.



## **Worship Assistants**

Thanks to all who have been signing up for worship assistants. One position that is usually open is Usher. This is an easy position...pass out bulletins, count and record attendance, help those who may need assistance, and let Pastor know if anyone needs Communion brought to the pew. Please continue to sign up as this helps our Worship Service run smoothly.

## **Phillip the Blue Barrel**

August – Peanut butter and jelly/jam for St. Paul's Episcopal Food Pantry.

## **Instant Church Directory**

We are in the beginning stages of starting an **"Instant Church Directory"** for our congregations. Jean Witt is spearheading this effort. The initial start-up will take some time gathering information, organizing, taking pictures, and just learning how to use the system. Once in place, however, it will be a living document that can be updated any time. We are excited to see how this all plays out. It will help everyone put names and faces together.

## **2025 Picture Board**

Please print and share your pictures you may have of church events so we can get the **2025 Picture Board** going.

## **Mark Your Calendar**

We will be holding our last seminar September 21<sup>st</sup> at 11:45 am, "Estate Planning Essentials." Jennifer Ramon is the founder and attorney at Ramon Law, where she focuses on estate planning, probate and trust administration, Medicaid planning, business transactions, succession planning, real estate transactions, and special needs trusts. She is committed to helping individuals, families, and business owners protect their assets and plan for the future with personalized legal solutions. A meal will be provided and she welcomes your questions. Feel free to bring a friend or neighbor. Sign-up sheets will be out at the end of August. This is a FREE event.

## **Aluminum Can Collection Dates**

Just a reminder that aluminum cans can be brought to church the 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of each month. The remaining dates for 2025 are: August 10, September 14, October 12, November 9, and December 14.



- |                       |                    |                      |
|-----------------------|--------------------|----------------------|
| 1 - Lane Kapp         | 14 - Carolyn Sleek | 22 - Rachel Lohner   |
| 3 - Autumn Kalbfliesh | 15 - Brenda Fisher | 23 - Easy Haas       |
| 4 - Joshua Meinke     | Matt Musteric      | 25 - Bob Amonette    |
| 8 - Erik Reif         | Linda Sigurdson    | Becky Cuthbertson    |
| 10 - Zachary Bolen    | 19 - Cindy Bench   | Elizabeth Kalbfliesh |
| Kelli Lacer           | Mary Foss          | 31 - Robert Foss     |
| 12 - Kelsey Lacer     | 21 - Lisa McQueary | Brooklynn Starkey    |



- |                            |                            |
|----------------------------|----------------------------|
| 4 - Zach & Erica Wolff     | 18 - Joe & Jody Kapp       |
| 8 - Jeff & Lisa Diekman    | 19 - Ron & Pam King        |
| 10 - Mike & Katie Larson   | Levi & Jenna Peeler        |
| 11 - John & Maria Beamer   | 21 - Josh & Jaime Overmyer |
| 15 - Arik & Beth Bench     | 26 - Glen & Jane Tank      |
| 16 - Tom & Linda Sigurdson |                            |



*Abigail Circle*  
*No Meetings until October*

*Hannah Circle*

Wednesday, August 6  
12:00 PM @ Leanne Jaeger's  
LeAnne is providing sandwiches,  
Please bring Salad –last name A-L,  
Dessert – last name M-Z

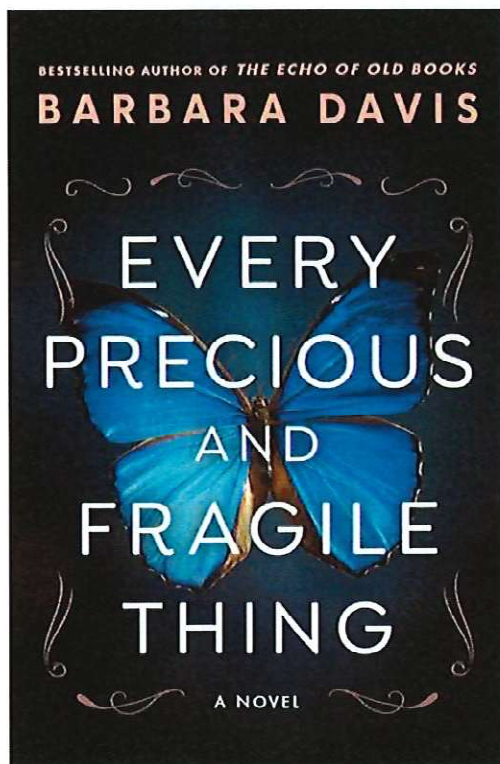
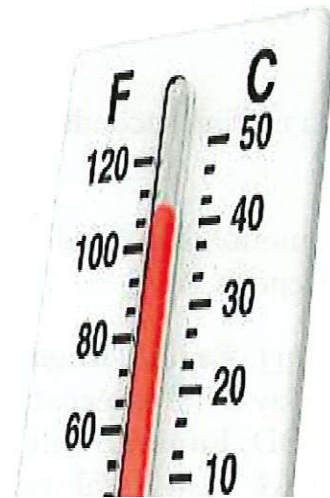
*Sew Group*

Every Tuesday  
9:00 AM @ the church



PLEASE help conserve the cost of cooling during this extreme heat wave by keeping the Fellowship doors & curtains, Library door and the Nave doors CLOSED when not in use.

Thank you for all your help.



BOOK CLUB  
AUGUST 13  
10:00 A.M. at St. Peter

*"Every Precious and Fragile Thing"*  
By  
*Barbara Davis*

For social worker Mallory Ward, working with at-risk youth is a calling. But when one of her clients is tragically killed, she finds herself at a crossroads. Despite long-held resentments toward her distant mother, Mallory retreats to her childhood home on the Rhode Island coast to contemplate her future. Instead, she's confronted by her past, not only in the renewed tensions with her mother but in the unexpected appearance of a familiar face—and the wrenching losses that drove her away a decade ago. Helen Ward's home is filled with precious keepsakes from her patients, a testament to decades spent caring for the terminally ill. Her work has always come first, though, leaving little time to connect with her daughter. Over the years, the rift between them has become a chasm, so when Mallory appears unannounced, Helen sees it as an opportunity to repair their broken relationship.

## NO MAY CHURCH COUNCIL MEETING

### ST. PETER LUTHERAN COUNCIL MEETING

Monday, June 9, 2025 at Church

Attendance: Cindy Bench, Gary Diefenthaler, Judy Gahler, Wes Gahler, Jon Overmyer, Pastor Matt Musteric.

The meeting opened with devotion on the Third Article of the Apostle's Creed & Prayer by Pastor Matt.

Cindy made a motion seconded by Jon to approve the minutes from the April 14, 2025 council meeting. MC

Gary made a motion seconded by Cindy to continue the review of the April and May 2025 Treasurer's Reports. MC.

**Pastor's Report:** **Easter: Rogation Days:** May 27-28; **Ascension Day** (worship at Solomon Woodville): May 29; **Pentecost:** June 8. **Joint Service at St. Luke's:** June 22; **Joint Service at St. Peter's:** TBD; **Funeral:** Bill Tarr; **Confirmation:** Lane Kapp and Lucas Madson. **April Pastoral Care & Visits** total was 11; **May Pastoral Care & Visits** total was 17. Wrote worship texts for Sundays and Seasons for Fall 2025, the Easter Season 2026 and Christmas 2027. New office administrator training is going well. The collection for the Kisereny kindergarten in Tanzania went well; \$8,988.98 as of June 7, 2025. Healthy Congregations Leadership Series May 19. **Upcoming Vacations:** July 6-12, Pastor Greg Olsen will be guest minister on July 6. July 27-Aug 2 (Sunday afternoon through Saturday. **Sabbatical:** grant application decision will be announced by August 31, 2025.

**President Report:** With the resignation of Karen Schanke, we are in need of a Council Secretary. We all need to support Gail Overmyer as she continues to learn the aspects of the office administrator position.

**Vice-President Report:** Continues to work with Croghan Colonial in getting proper authorizations and direct deposits updated. Reaching out to our insurance carrier for familiarization of our policy.

**Executive Committee:** no report

**Congregational Life:** Candy bars will be given to fathers on Father's Day, it is still hard to find volunteers for fellowship, BBQ will be Aug. 10 (racks cannot handle chicken, looking at pork chops or other chicken options), donated \$400 to Kisereny kindergarten, trying to find a date to attend a Toledo Mud Hens game.

**Education:** Sunday School teacher recognition was May 18, will update Sunday School roster, will send out call letters to Sunday School teachers, discussing a Rally Day program, Graduate recognition was June 1, Cake Walk will be held in June, Would like to have "Blessing of the



Backpacks" this year (August 17 or 24), discussed Vacation Bible School with St. Luke's (to be held at St. Luke's).

**Finance: Possible Memorial projects:** Lounge Renovations, Sanctuary Exit lights, Office computer; Ameriprise update as of April 13 ... Endowment \$92,939.99, Dividend \$7,460.66, Investment \$160,405.67 for a total of \$260,806.32. In need of a Finance chairperson.

**Property:** Sump pump breaker tripped and discovered all sump pumps and battery backup were on the same circuit. We will have electrician install a new circuit and a new sump pump was installed. Mower had electrical issues, repairs were made. Will have a plumber check toilet issue in Women's restroom. Refrigerator plug does not work, will have electrician look at that issue. Still need to file insurance claim for A/C condenser.

**Outreach:** **June Blue Barrel** item will be canned fruit for Elliston Food Pantry, Caring Shepherds (Pam Frayer will lead) trying to add more members and shut-ins, Estate Planning Essential seminar; September 21 11:45am; Pack lunches for Vistula neighborhood (in conjunction with Recruitment Committee); June 28 10:00am; **Instant Church Directory:** Jean Witt making good progress, will distribute mock-up copies June 22; April 27 church picnic was well attended, Kisereny collection at \$8,988.99, **Movie night:** June 13 at 7:30pm at St. Luke's, **Ice Cream Social:** July 13 from 1-3:00pm, **God's Work Our Hands:** September 7 looking for project suggestions.

**Worship:** sold geraniums for Pentecost, Lord's Prayer to be sung by congregation quarterly, looking at Joint Service attendance and offering, comments have been positive about the contemporary music, discussed not printing the readings in the bulletin, Children Bells will resume on September, Pastor Greg Olsen will preach on July 6.

**Women of the Church:** no report..

**Old Business:** none .

**New Business:** Judy made a motion seconded by Jon to hold July Council meeting on July 7 at 7:30pm. MC

Jon made a motion seconded by Judy to adjourn. The meeting was closed with the Lord's Prayer.

**NEXT MEETING:** July 7, 2025 at 7:30 p.m.

Gary Diefenthaler

## Grace Alone Furniture

As of mid-July we have served 60 people with furniture, beds and much needed kitchen items, and small appliances. Also supplying bedding and blankets.

We have applied for and received an action grant from Thrivent to replenish the bedding and mattress pads that we have used over the summer. We are asking for donations of new and gently used bedding and mattress pads for twin, full, and queen size mattresses. The ministry would appreciate any help we can get from the congregation during the month of August.

Thank you, Jim Vermilyea



### Helen Amonette Obituary

June 11, 1919 – July 3, 2025

Helen L. Amonette, 96, of Curtice, OH, passed away peacefully at her home on Thursday, July 3, 2025, following complications from dementia. She was born in Toledo, OH, to Alfred and Mabel Hook and was their only child.

Helen spent her early childhood in Chicago, IL, from the age of 4 until she was 14, before returning to Toledo, where she later attended Whitney High School. She married Rupert Amonette at a young age, and together they had five children.

A talented seamstress, Helen made custom draperies through an interior designer and later continued working from home following her divorce. She also had a long and dedicated career at Kaiser Aluminum, where she worked for 25 years.

Helen is survived by her children, William (Carol), Susan (Loren), Robert (Marcia), and Daniel, six grandchildren; and many great-grandchildren and great-great-grandchildren. She was preceded in death by her parents and her son, John.

A funeral service for Helen will be held at 11:00 a.m. on Wednesday, July 9, 2025, at the Robinson-Walker Funeral Home & Crematory, 165 E. Water St., Oak Harbor. Visitation will take place prior to the service from 9:00 to 11:00 a.m. Interment will follow at Toledo Memorial Park.

In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be made to the Toledo Humane society in Helen's memory. Online condolences may be shared with the family at [www.walkerfuneralhomes.com](http://www.walkerfuneralhomes.com),