



“Take delight in the Lord, and he will give you the desires of your heart.” -

Psalms 37:4

## Worship Times

Sunday School  
9:00 AM

Worship Service  
10:10 AM  
10:10 AM



## WAGE THE GOOD WAR

***“Onward, Christian soldiers, marching as to war,  
With the cross of Jesus going on before;  
Christ, the royal Master, leads against the foe;  
Forward into battle, see His banner go.”***

I remember singing this song as a child. Many of you probably did as well—perhaps you even taught it to others in Bible schools or Sunday school over the years. The song’s military imagery speaks to a battle being fought and a Commander leading His army. It implies that we, as followers of Jesus, are soldiers under the command of King Jesus, engaged in a war. “What war?” you might ask—and I’m glad you did.

I’m reminded of a compelling statement Paul writes in his letter to his spiritual son and protégé, Timothy. Paul makes the comment so matter-of-factly that you could easily gloss over it without realizing its weight. He assumes that Timothy knows exactly what he means—but it strikes me every time I read it.

In 1 Timothy 1:18–19, Paul writes: *“This charge I entrust to you, Timothy, my child, in accordance with the prophecies previously made about you, that by them you may wage the good warfare, holding faith and a good conscience. By rejecting this, some have made shipwreck of their faith.”*

“Wage the good warfare?” What is Paul commanding here? He’s not writing to a young man headed into physical battle against the Romans with shield and spear. He’s commissioning Timothy for ministry. It’s fascinating to think of ministry—of the Christian life—as a war to be waged. But Paul’s words are deliberate. He wouldn’t waste precious and rare parchment unless he meant what he wrote. So when he says, *“wage the good warfare,”* he means it.

To follow Paul’s charge to Timothy, we too must be ready to engage in this warfare. And if any war is to be fought well, we must first realize we are in one. The war we are called to fight is spiritual—though it often shows up not just in supernatural ways, but in our physical and daily realities as well.

For many of us, it’s easier to see the battle between the Church and the world—the tension between secular culture and Christian principles. This external battle often takes center stage in church life. We spend hours discussing the problems with school boards allowing pornographic content in libraries or permitting students to identify as animals. Yes, you read that right. In one nearby school, a student believes she’s a wolf. When her mother picks her up, she howls, and the daughter howls back before running to the car. As strange as it sounds, it’s real.

Or consider the ongoing LGBTQ debates in churches around the world. The theological and practical implications are vast, and the damage caused is often devastating. It’s not hard to feel like we’re in a war. But sometimes, the battle isn’t external. Sometimes, it’s more personal—and more subtle.

The diagnosis of cancer can shake the foundations of our faith. In those moments, the enemy sows seeds of doubt. He whispers lies: “A good God wouldn’t let your mom die,” or “You got this disease because you’re sinful.” Or, “If God is real and you’re a good person, why is He punishing you?” Other times, the war wages within. Perhaps it’s a long-standing struggle with a sinful behavior or addiction. You fight and make progress, only

to be knocked back down. And the enemy whispers again: “God forgave you the first hundred times, but not the hundred and first.” “You’re worthless.” “God is done with you.”

And then, sometimes, we don’t even notice the drift.

Take the story of a young man named Jacob. He came to faith in college—passionate and eager, he jumped into ministry, leading Bible studies and prayer meetings. But things changed. A prestigious internship opened at a firm known for its cutthroat environment. Jacob prayed about it and convinced himself it would be a great place to be a witness.

A year later, a friend caught up with him. Jacob was still working long hours—but his Bible was collecting dust. His ministry had stopped. Church had become optional. Slowly, subtly, the internship had taken the center of his life. When confronted, Jacob said, “I didn’t even notice it happening. I told myself I was doing it for the right reasons, but somewhere along the way, I stopped asking what God wanted and started chasing what I wanted.”

That story reminds us how easy it is to drift. The war we’re in isn’t always loud or obvious. Sometimes it’s quiet. Sometimes it looks like compromise disguised as opportunity. That’s exactly why Paul’s words to Timothy are so urgent. We’re not just battling the darkness in the world—we’re fighting the daily battle to keep Christ at the center, to flee what is false, and to cling to what is eternal.

Let me leave you with Paul’s final charge to Timothy from 1 Timothy 6:3-14:

“If anyone teaches a different doctrine and does not agree with the sound words of our Lord Jesus Christ and the teaching that accords with godliness, he is puffed up with conceit and understands nothing... But godliness with contentment is great gain... But as for you, O man of God, flee these things. Pursue righteousness, godliness, faith, love, steadfastness, gentleness. Fight the good fight of the faith. Take hold of the eternal life to which you were called... Keep the commandment unstained and free from reproach until the appearing of our Lord Jesus Christ.”

So what does it look like to “wage the good warfare”? First and foremost, remember your confession of faith in Christ at your baptism: *“Take hold of the eternal life to which you were called and about which you made the good confession in the presence of many witnesses.”* That confession matters. It grounds us. It reminds us of who we are and who we belong to.

Because of that confession—because you’ve been forgiven and brought into right relationship with God—you no longer need to doubt your salvation. It has been secured. And that truth allows you to face the spiritual battle each day knowing you’ve already won. Christ reigns victorious.

That’s the strength that lets us run with endurance, as Paul also tells Timothy. To make it to the end of this battle, we must endure. And only those who are in Christ will endure to the end. But as we wage war we must recognize and flee that which can sink us. Keep from the snares Paul speaks of in vs 3-10 and instead latch to what is good. Pursue righteousness and godliness, which is to say, emulate Christ Jesus. Grow and nurture your faith and hold to it, make love your main character trait. Be gentle in your approach to all so that you may not injure their souls and in all of this be consistent, steadfast.

Wage the good warfare, In Christ Jesus, Amen. Pastor Cody



## **CHURCH HISTORY**

### **50 years ago:**

1. The Mohler Congregation met in their regular council meeting on Tuesday, July 29<sup>th</sup>, 1975 at 7:30 pm. with Moderator Walter Hackman, Sr. presiding. Brother Adam Noll led congregational singing. Devotional period of scripture and prayer led by Brother Howard Kreider.
2. The congregation voted to paint and place the shutters back on the building.
3. tellers were Luke Heffley, Jacob Keller and Donald Rathman. The following were elected: Music and Worship Commission – Janice Martin and Darlene Troyer, Stewardship and Finance Commission – Irvin Graybill and Mark Hackman, Trustee Commission – Donald Rathman and Walter Hackman, Jr., Church Cleaning Committee – Mark and Verna Martzall, Christian Education Commission – Delores Long, Mission and Services Commission – Verna Martzall, Auditor – Tom Noll, District Conference Delegates – Milton Shaub and Marvin Messick, Annual Conference Delegates – Walter Hackman, Sr, and Galen Hackman
4. The congregation voted to continue the two-day Love Feast. The decision can be reviewed in 3 years.
5. the congregation voted that the Mission and Services Commission should study the feasibility of supporting and housing a Vietnamese family for a period of at least six months.
6. The Music and Worship Commission, Christian Education Commission and Church Historian will jointly work on preparing services for 1976, commemorating the 200<sup>th</sup> anniversary of our country.
7. A trip planned to Church World Service at New Windsor to sort clothing on Saturday, October 18<sup>th</sup>. Bus transportation will be provided. It is hoped that 30 people will plan to go. Give your name to Walter Hackman, Sr.

### **100 Years ago:**

1. Springville Congregation met for council in the Denver House this 3<sup>rd</sup> day of August, 1925 at 7:00 pm with Elder I.W. Taylor presiding, who opened the meeting in regular order.
2. First in order was a report from the committee appointed to investigate the cost of building a church house in Lincoln. The report was nothing more done.
3. The church decided that the committee be continued and empowered to buy the Buch lot, size 150 feet front, 200 feet deep and approximately 200 feet wide at the rear end at a price of \$1,800.00.
4. The church decided that the upper shed at the Mohler House be removed and the lower shed be repaired. (The upper shed would have been in the direction of the playground and the lower shed in the direction of the youth center).
5. A request by the Mohler clan to use the basement of the Mohler House to hold their family reunion some time in 1926. Answer: The church granted their request.
6. A request to get 100 new hymnals for the Mohler House was granted.
7. The church decided to hold singing practice in the Mohler House about every 3<sup>rd</sup> Saturday evening. The date of this meeting to be announced later.
8. Brother William Keller acknowledged that he had been circulating reports that were not becoming and asked the church to pray for him that he may be able to overcome.

### 125 years ago:

1. Springfield Council opened August 4<sup>th</sup> at 1:00pm. at the Mohler Meeting House with Elder Israel Wenger presiding.
2. The following members were received by letter: Emma Zell, Leah Zell, Alvin Kackle and Emma Mull.
3. The account of Brother Aaron Gibbel, as treasurer of Love Feast funds, was read and showed a balance of \$18.30 which was paid into the church treasury.
4. It was unanimously decided by vote to change from the double mode to single mode of feet washing. (With the "Double Mode" one person would wash the feet of several persons and another would follow after and wipe them. It does not involve each person participating in both washing and drying. With the "Single Mode" which we practice today, each communicant washes and wipes the feet of another and involves each person individually.)
5. Brother Daniel Frantz was asked to pay half (\$2.50) of the claim of Sister Catherine Weidman for the rent of house which shall settle the matter and to make confession for the language used to her which was agreed to by both.
6. Sister Lydia Hertzog appeared before the council and denied the reports about her. As there was no proof here, the matter was left between her and God and the church agreed to still hold her as a sister.
7. An opportunity was given to give to the India Sufferers which resulted in \$31.93.
8. Series of meetings appointed for Mohlers and Blainsport.
9. Amount raised for Mechanic Grove Meeting House was \$7.97.



**S** - sunny, sunglasses, sunburn, sundae, sand castle

**U** - umbrella, underwater, UV rays

**M** - melons, mud, mango, melt

**M** - mosquito, memories

**E** - energetic, explore, evening breeze, early sunrise, enjoyment

**R** - relax, rain, road trip, recreation

Fill in your favorite "summer" word to match the letters!



**On a bright, sunny Saturday morning in early May, a large group of Mohler folks gathered to mulch the playground and flower beds. The mulch had been ordered and was delivered earlier in the week. Walt Hackman and Dan Wenger brought their tractors and multiple people brought wheelbarrows and shovels. With all the help it did not take long to finish all areas. A **great big thanks to everyone** who assisted and especially to the Stewards who planned the date and ordered the mulch.**





The VBS theme this year was **Rocky Railway** and the lessons were designed to teach the kids to trust Jesus. The evenings included songs with motions, a Bible story, a video session, recreation, craft, and snack. We had 16-17 children each evening. This year we collected items to donate to Ephrata Area Social Services. The boys collected the most at 209 while the girls collected 111 items. The boys also won the offering contest at \$37.25. The girls had \$35.20. The offering money will go to EASS. **Thanks to everyone who**

