



## The Power of Water

“For just as the days of Noah were, so will be the coming of the Son of Man. For in those days before the flood, they were eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage, until the day Noah entered the ark. And they did not understand until the flood came and swept them all away.” Matthew 24:37-40

"As long as the earth remains, seedtime and harvest, cold and heat, summer and winter, day and night, shall not cease." Genesis 8:22

Last summer, a rain storm hit northern Pennsylvania, hitting hardest in the towns near my family's cabin in Galeton Potter County. The storm, though it did not last any longer than your average storm, dumped several inches of rain in that short period of time. I recall how, after the storm, the creeks around did not seem to elevate in their levels. They seemed to be at normal depths for this time of year. But something amazing and terrifying eventually ensued.

Like a flash the creeks were upwards of 10' higher than normal. Bridges were wiped out, homes and cabins lifted off their foundations, and washed out. Whole trees and boulders the size of SUVs were picked up by force and moved miles downstream with no effort. I watched from the road as a rescue team with rafts, ropes and life jackets abounding worked to save a woman on her front porch as the water rushed around all sides of her home. The power of water is a terrifying, magnificent, and awesome thing to see. As is always the case, the waters receded and the destruction left behind showed its ferocity.

### Worship Times

Sunday School  
9:00 AM

Worship Service  
10:10 AM

The power of water and its ability to wipe out is incredible. What is interesting to note is that there is in that fierce power the ability to make things new. This brings us to the passage in Matthew chapter 24 when Jesus speaks of the work he will do as the son of man. Christ has come to make all things new.

As this relates to the account of last year's flood, I ask you to draw your minds to the picture of the stream I now see nearly a year after it was wrecked by flooding. Should you go to these creeks as I have you, will find something interesting, and I think beautiful. Returning to a particular part of the west branch to Pine Creek for a few hours of fishing, I noticed a few things. First the forest around the creek had been changed. What was once overgrown with invasive plants and thick with shrub brush so much so that you could not see far in the woods. Now having been removed by the water I found the forest opened up, allowing me to see a new beauty.



Because the ground has been cleaned up the forest now appears groomed. You can see further allowing you to see the mix of hemlocks, maples, oaks, ash and cherry trees in new light. You can see the deer once hidden now browsing off to the side waiting to see where you're going to walk next. The birds once guarded by the camouflage of brush are now seen dancing around the trees. What is more, the ground as been cleaned and made possible for the growth of new trees that were snuffed out by all the other vegetation.

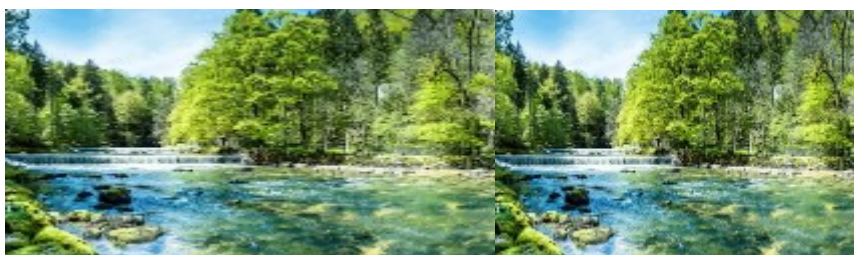
Lastly, the creeks were naturally by way of the flood improved. The spring before the flood came through last year found the west branch to be shallow with very little if any deep pools to hold trout and other life. Because of the shallow water, very little aquatic plant life was able to grow and as a result left little ecosystem in the creek for all the other critters that need to be in a creek to make it healthy. Additionally, the vegetation in the water adds oxygen to the water promoting healthy fish and bio life. Being absent from the water means that before the flood came through, we saw an unhealthy creek.

It's all a bit nerdy I know, but the point is that the flood changed the creek for the better. Today you will find a stream with long stretches of deep pools because the flood moved rock and stones around in such a way that now vegetation and other life can better exist.

This environmental phenomenon is simply known as Natural Regeneration. I like this simple but important word, regeneration. Is this not what Christ was coming to do on the cross and through his resurrection? Isn't this what Christ plans on finishing upon his return? You see when Jesus says "behold, I make all things new" he is speaking to a regeneration of sorts. You and I understand that when we through faith accept the grace of God, repent and are then baptized, we are entering into Christ regenerative work being done to you. Christ blood washing over you is like the flood of Noah's day as is the flood that washed through the creeks and forest in upstate Pennsylvania.

The imagery of the flood of Noah and the power of water to regenerate and cleanse a forest and creek is a lesson to us. In many instances of our life, both spiritually and through life's circumstances, sometime, only get better through a "violent" reworking of life as we know it. For instance, in order for our sin tainted image to be restored back to Christ, the cross in its horrific manor of death became the tool Christ used to cleanse. Perhaps too, there is something that happened in your life or may yet happen in your life where an upset of circumstance violently shakes you. Is it possible that like a flood cleansing a forest, might you find God working something new in you? Regeneration of our souls and of life rarely comes through soft and gentle pushes of change. Rather it nearly always comes with fierce velocity.

Fascination it is what a little fishing expedition can teach in the power of water. - Pastor Cody



## CHURCH HISTORY

### Certificates Received:

May 5, 2025 Ruth Johns Hummer

Norman Ritter and wife Susan

Wife Martin Weidman

Florence Weidman

April 2, 1950 Ruth (Wenger) Kreider by certificate

May 31, 1950 Roy Mull received by baptism

## SUMMER SUNDAY SCHOOL

During June, July and August we will be studying two different video series during the Sunday School hour. The first half of the summer we will continue with “The Gospel of John - Finding Identity and Purpose” by Matt Williams and taught by six different Bible professors. Each lesson studies the historical background of a text and then applies it to our lives in practical ways. We did the first half of this study during the summer of 2023 and will finish the study this year. The second half of the summer we will be doing “relat(able)” by Louie Giglio. He shows us how God can change our perspective on relationships and make them work, bring us peace in the midst of conflict and restore broken relationships. The Education Team is planning to hold these studies in the fellowship hall following coffee connection so we can have more intimate atmosphere. **Please join us for these enriching studies.**

# HAPPY MOTHERS DAY

## "Mother's Day" by Carol Matthews

*A Mother loves right from the start.  
She holds her baby close to her heart.*



*The bond that grows will never falter.  
Her love is so strong it will never alter.  
Mother gives never ending Love.  
She never feels that she has given enough.  
For you she will always do her best.  
Constantly working, there's no time to rest.  
Mother is there when things go wrong.  
hug and a kiss to help us along.  
Always there when we need her near.  
Gently wipes our eyes when we shed a tear.  
So on this day shower your Mother with Love.  
Gifts and presents are nice but that is not enough.  
Give your Mother a day to have some peace of mind.  
Be gentle, be good, be helpful, be kind.  
Happy Mothers Day.*



*A Father is*

NEITHER AN

**Anchor**

TO HOLD US BACK

NOR A SAIL



TO TAKE US THERE

BUT A GUIDING LIGHT

*Whose love*

SHOWS US THE WAY

# VBS

# June 22-24

This summer we are planning for three days of VBS. It will begin at 6:30 each evening and end at 8:30. Our theme is "Rocky Railway: Jesus' Power Pulls Us Through." The lessons will focus on life's ups and downs, with an emphasis on the power of Jesus to help us through situations. Each evening will include music, a Bible story, a craft, a recreation time, and a snack. We will be collecting canned food items to give to a food bank. And of course, there will be the usual contest between boys and girls to see who collects the most offering money! Children, ages K through grade 5, are encouraged to attend. Mark your calendars now! We will need your help.

