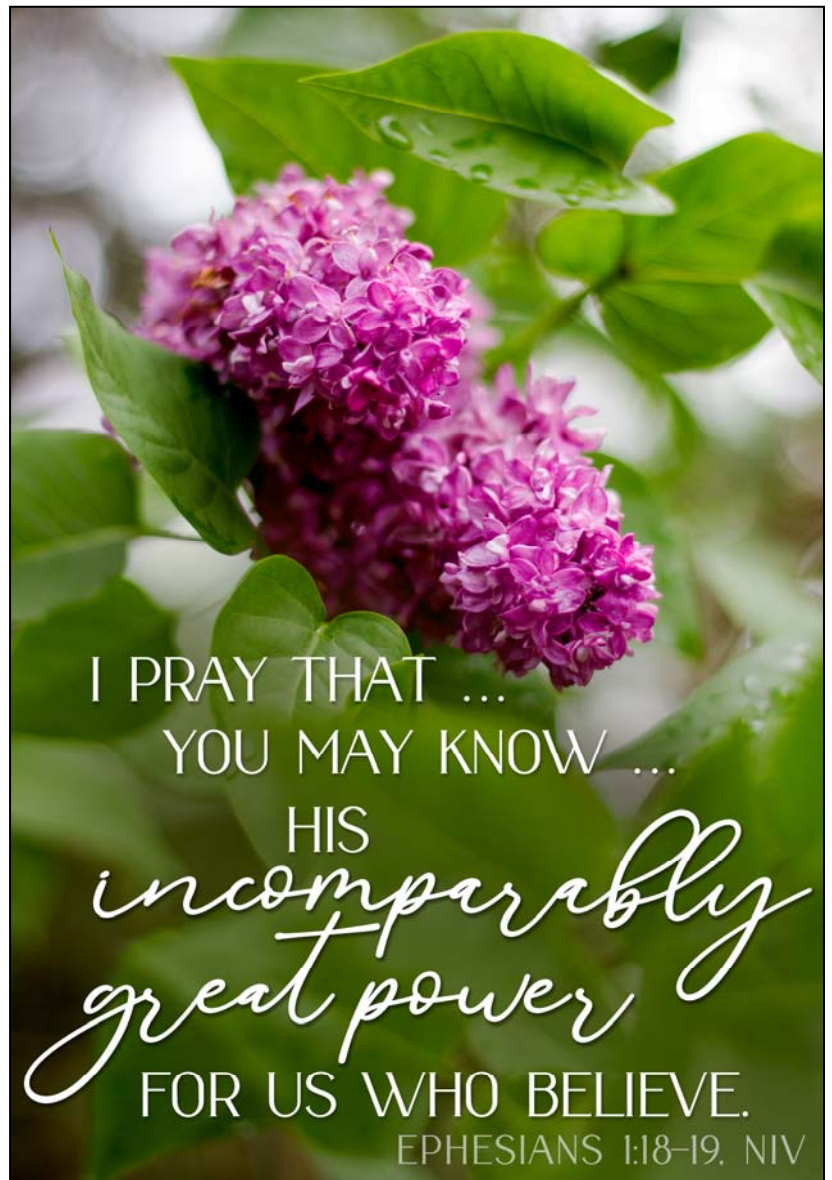




FIRST CHURCH WINDOWS



HAPPY
Mother's Day



I PRAY THAT ...
YOU MAY KNOW ...

HIS
*incomparably
great power*
FOR US WHO BELIEVE.

EPHESIANS 1:18-19. NIV



***To see all people **WORSHIP** God,
CONNECT with His people,
and join His **MISSION** in this world.***

Worship the Lord with Us!

Sunday Worship

Traditional Worship Service: 8:30 am

Sunday School for all ages: 9:40 am

Contemporary Worship Service: 10:45 am

Due to the COVID-19 outbreak, all in-person worship activities are cancelled until further notice.

Please visit www.fumccollingswood.org for our online worship experience.

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The First United Methodist Church

201 Dayton Avenue, Collingswood, NJ 08108

Phone: (856)858-1186 Fax: (856)858-1775

E-mail: info@fumccollingswood.org

Church Staff

Pastor Sam Mountain, Senior Pastor

(pastorsam@fumccollingswood.org)

Shawn Zook, Pastoral Assistant for Outreach and Youth

(shawn@fumccollingswood.org)

Maria Gianfrancesco, Administrative Assistant

(maria@fumccollingswood.org)

Will Walker, Organist

(will@fumccollingswood.org)

Pat Gunning, Children's Program Director

(pat@fumccollingswood.org)

Matt Peace, Connections Pastor

(pastormatt@fumccollingswood.org)



Tuesday - Thursday: 9:00 am - 5:00 pm
(Closed for lunch 12:30 pm - 1:30 pm)

FIRST CHURCH WINDOWS

is online at

www.fumccollingswood.org

and is available via e-mail.

Send an e-mail to

ewindows@fumccollingswood.org
to subscribe.

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The submission deadline for the *June* issue of Windows is May 22nd.

***THANK YOU FOR
SUPPORTING WINDOWS!***



This month's Windows is only available online due to the COVID-19 outbreak. This edition of Windows is in color to brighten your day.



From The Pastor's Heart

PRESENCE MATTERS



Spring is now finally here. The daylight is longer, the air is warmer, the grass is growing, and flowers are blooming. All in all, the promise of spring and summer is here! I thought this was a great place to put our thoughts because we have a sovereign God whose presence makes all the difference. He loves us more than we can understand. This morning Lisa and I even received a plate of homemade cookies from someone in our church family. Life is Good!

The difficulties and challenges that many of us are facing bring us to a deeper pause. If we choose, that pause can draw us closer to God and one another in the midst of the current pandemic and coronavirus.

There is nothing quite like being in the presence of something truly special. Last Sunday my heart was stirred by God's presence listening to Gerry Baus' story of how the power of God, through prayer, and the greater community, and medical teams, brought Gerry through many challenges. He gave an amazing account of how God touched his life and his family. How moving it was for our church family to hear some significant answers to prayer in our midst as many have been praying for Gerry and family for weeks! We thank the Lord for this answer to prayer.

On May 30th, we will be celebrating "Pentecost," the birthday of the church. We'll also be remembering when some 2000 years ago 120 people were waiting on the Holy Spirit of God. The impact was life changing! As Luke records in Acts 1:8: "But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth." It was something truly amazing when the presence of the Holy Spirit infused the early disciples and followers. Their lives and journey took on a whole new adventure because the presence of God was now in them and in their midst.

The power of God's presence and our presence has been on my mind a lot lately. I shared an article by David Graves some time ago that also shared these sentiments and they still mean so much to me.



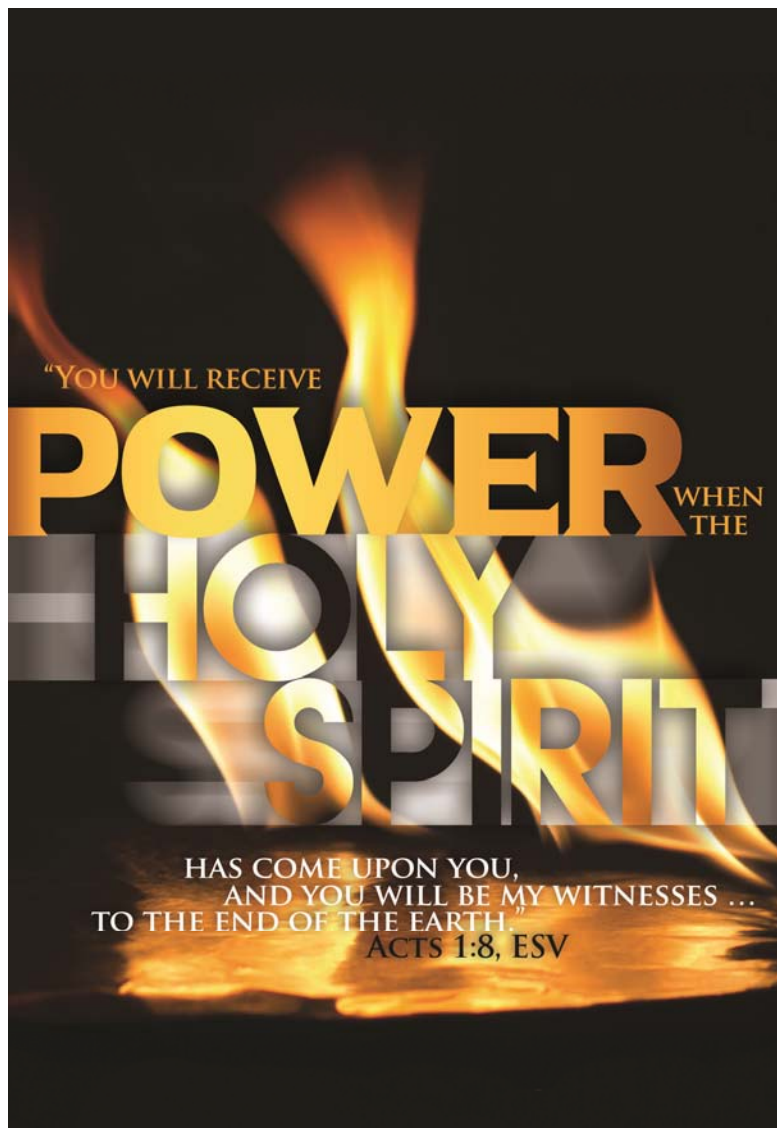
I was once again reminded of the power of presence. Presence is a noun, not a verb; it is a state of being, not doing. The state of being is not highly valued in a culture that places high priority on doing. Yet, true presence or "being with" another person carries with it a silent power—power to bear witness to a passage, to help carry an emotional burden, or to begin a healing process. In it, there is an intimate connection with another person that is perhaps felt too seldom in a society that strives for ever-faster and -broader "connectivity."

As a pastor, I learned that just "being there," being present, can mean the world to people, especially in their times of need. The power of one's presence, not one's words or wisdom, is what people will remember. The impact of being present with people not only

conveys God's love for them, but it is also a blessing to the one who is simply being present. The power of presence is not a one-way street, not just something we give to others. It always changes us, and for the better. It can positively affect our everyday living that spills out into our prayer life, our compassion for others, and our connection with people. This power of presence is not only for the people of our congregations; it is also for our families and our neighbors and those we around us. Intentionally setting aside time to be with one's wife, children, and grandchildren to read a book, play a game, and listen to their stories communicates love. In those moments, the importance is not necessarily what we say or do, but that we are really there. We all know there are moments of action and trailblazing and preparedness that children desperately need from their father or mother. However, I believe there are just as many moments when they long for a power from us that comes primarily from our presence, humbling ourselves, like Christ, our example, and entering their worlds.

In our culture today, many of us can get so busy “doing” that we miss the power of “being present.” Especially in this time of social distancing, we can find ways to be present with many that are in our lives. As we allow the Spirit of God to be present in our lives, it is surprising how that very same presence can lead us into making an eternal difference in others’ lives too! Let’s go make a difference!

In His Love and Grace,
Pastor Sam





Opportunity to Serve Our Community

Collingswood



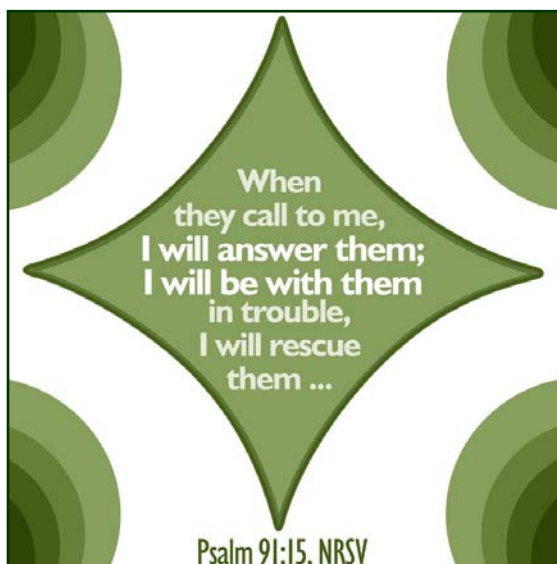
In light of the things that so many people are facing these days we have a special opportunity to bring Christ's love. Our community has a new website online for volunteers to help with community needs right here in Collingswood during this "stay at home" time. It is run by the Borough of Collingswood and is called "Collingswood Cares." Here is the link: <http://www.collscares.org>.

They are looking for volunteers to help SAFELY pick up grocery or pharmacy items for people in our Collingswood community who cannot get out for these items. The volunteers will purchase these items using funds and gift-cards from the town or our church, using all the usual safety protocols we are already using when we do our own shopping. The items will then be dropped off by the front door, rather than handing it directly to person in need. That way everyone remains safe.

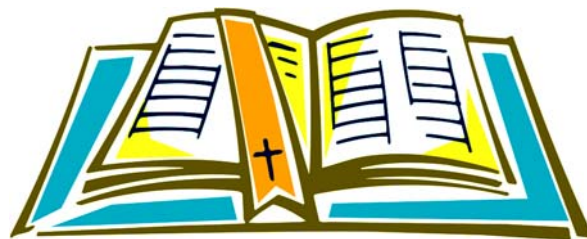
If you're looking for a way to serve, simply go to the "Collingswood Cares" site and click on the button to put in your volunteer information. Our church is helping to coordinate needs and volunteers along with other chaplains and pastors in our town. Please join us in prayer and action as we care for others around us.

Let's continue to pray and find one person to call today. We give the Lord praise for your continual generosity and faithfulness in sending your envelopes to the church and online giving at fumccollingswood.org. Your prayers and support are so vital as we work together in these days and in the future in sharing Christ's love and hope. Please feel free to email or call us with updates so we may pray and respond as a church family and staff during these challenging days. If you have a need please let us know so that we may journey with you at this time. Above all, know you are loved today!

In His Love and Grace,
Pastor Sam and Staff



UPCOMING SERMONS AND SCRIPTURES



Fix Your Eyes on Jesus Series (On the Way to the Cross)

On the way to the cross Jesus had a purpose to touch and change lives. Jesus' purpose was not deterred by the many distractions that came His way. He kept focused, with his disciples, and transformed the people, places and spaces He entered. They were not the same after He passed through. May we, also, not be the same as we fix our eyes on Jesus. Let's allow Him to enter the spaces and places of our lives as He did 2000 years ago.

May 3	Communion <i>Can You Believe it?</i>	John 20:19-31
May 10	Mother's Day	
May 17	<i>It's the Lord!</i>	John 21:1-14
May 24	<i>Something Special</i>	Acts 1:1-11
May 31	Pentecost Sunday	Acts 2



Due to the coronavirus our Baby Bottle Boomerang will not have baby bottles. Instead, we invite you to contribute to Options for Women directly. Their address is:



Options for Women
1500 Kings Highway North, Suite 110
Cherry Hill, NJ 08034

You can also go online to <https://optionsnj.org> and click on the DONATE button to give with a credit/debit card or checking account. If you have any questions contact Chuck Swanson at 856-795-0166. Thank you so much. Our contributions will help pregnant women make the correct choices during their pregnancy.

MISSIONARY MESSAGES



Tim and Jackie Falkner, Italy

As of several minutes ago, Jacki and I know what we will be doing in our next chapter of ministry. While the COVID-19 virus created a situation so dire that we would have to cancel one of our two yearly International Baptist Convention family meetings, we were still able to hold an online meeting where the pastors and leaders of the International Baptist Convention voted to confirm me as the next General Secretary. “General Secretary” is the European equivalent of an Executive Director. We are very excited about this opportunity and wanted you to be the first to know!

Some of you have accompanied us since before we left for Italy 22 years ago. We are extremely grateful and covet your continued partnership and prayers as we transition. We will remain with WorldVenture until at least the end of September and plan to move to Frankfurt, Germany at the end of 2020.

Please celebrate with us this wonderful opportunity that God has given us to leverage our passion and experiences in a new context for disciple making multiplication! The mission of the International Baptist Convention is to mobilize and multiply disciple making churches.

We are extremely grateful that you have walked with us in our journey of service to Christ through church planting and leadership development!

Saints Prison Ministry, NJ

God's Got This!

As the impact of the novel coronavirus Covid-19 continues to unfold before our eyes, I keep hearing the same voice in the back of my head. A former teammate of mine and a friend to many in the Saints family offers the same deeply held belief every time the ministry (or he personally) must face a difficult situation... *“God's got this!”*

As a child of the King, that is our reality; and those words bring comfort and peace in a plethora of situations. Yes, this virus is nasty. Yes, we must exercise caution and be part of the solution, not the problem. Yes, the situation is unprecedented for most of us. But none of this changes the fact that *“God's got this.”*

Recently, the prisons have begun closing their doors to visitors and volunteers. As news came out that state after state was taking this necessary step, our staff took the initiative to contact the prisons where we had softball games already scheduled. As a result of taking this action, we were able to shift the opening of our softball season back from April 25th to June 4th. Will the doors be open by June 4th? I have no idea. But clearly the Spirit was leading this decision, as evidenced by this email received from a Recreation Supervisor in IL:

“Thank you for reaching out to us to reschedule. You are the only one that has so far, and I think most are just waiting to see what happens. Look forward to seeing you guys again sometime this summer.”

Given the uncertainty of the next few weeks and months, it is important that you know we continue to serve those behind bars as much as we are able. The other aspects of our ministry (birthday cards, follow up discipleship, fall scheduling, etc.) go on as always.

Please include the inmates we serve in your prayers. In grim times we all suffer from tunnel vision a

little bit, so I'm going to suggest a way to be intentional about this. Think back over the stories you've heard or articles you've read and come up with one item: a crusade, a prison name, a missionary athlete's name, a program like Birthday Cards or the Glove Exchange, maybe even an inmate's name. Make that single item the focus of your prayers for the ministry over the next few weeks. Thank God for His providence and pray for His direction.

"God's got this" – and He has all along. It is the greatest comfort I can offer you and at the same time the only comfort any of us should need.

Lowell and Claudia Wertz, Tanzania

In three months, Claudia and I plan to return to Africa. What has Africa shown and taught me this past forty years? The list is too long and the memories are too many. But let me share a few.

Africa is a continent of great beauty. God shows Himself in His mighty creations in Africa. I remember a drive across Africa and taking time at dawn to park my vehicle on a cliffs edge to watch elephants grazing in the misty plain below. I remember flying over the snow-covered Mt. Kilimanjaro — Africa's highest point — where an eternal flame of freedom burns to remind all Tanzanians they are a free people. I have stood on the edge of the world's largest waterfall, the roaring Victoria Falls, twice the size of Niagara Falls. From my home I watch God paint the sky with million color sunsets over Lake Tanganyika.

My heart goes out to the people of Africa. Most live with hardships and shortened lives. Most Africans are suffering physically, physiologically, and circumstantially. They struggle for even the most basic things. In their poverty and need, their glorious human spirits rise to cope and even overcome their troubles. They are a people quick to smile with a hysterical sense of humor. Life is precious in Africa — not cheap. They mourn the death of loved ones deeply. Hardships have been addressed by hearts of love. They have a richness of character I admire.

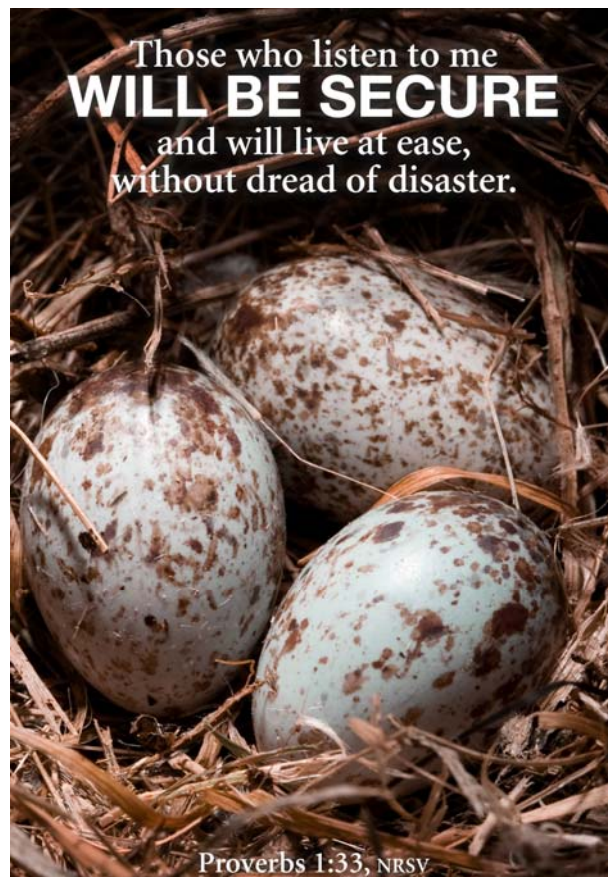
Africa is also a troubled place. It is a playground for villainous souls. Wars kill millions. Corruption and selfishness cause endless starvation and suffering. You don't have to look far to find inhumanity. This can be frightening and chilling.

African Christians are rich in faith. They worship with song and dance. They know their Savior well. They need Him every day. And He is theirs every day.

Would I exchange my forty years in God's service in Africa for anything else? NO! God's plan for me has been spectacular. God has given me the richest life imaginable. My heart is full of gratitude and thanksgiving.

Prayer Requests

- Great numbers of missionaries in Tanzania, including many lifelong missionaries, are being denied renewal of their resident visas.
- If (when?) the coronavirus arrives in Tanzania, I think the effect could be devastating. Thousands of Chinese workers are now in Tanzania working on roads and other projects.
- Due to visa problems, an American family in Dar es Salaam (our capital), who were going to work for Radio JOY, have resigned. They were going to try to secure large advertising accounts. This is a setback for Radio JOY.





May 3	Zachary Jungclaus	May 15	Ruth A. Covintree
May 4	RuthAnne Detwiler	May 18	Mark Hamilton
May 6	Phil Boswell	May 20	Tina Hemphill Rosalie MacGlaughlin
May 9	Jason Knudson	May 21	Marjie Hammond Dana Schoch
May 10	William J. Alexander Joan Stecher	May 22	Megan DeFoney
May 11	Ken Underwood	May 24	Kathy Boswell Connie Cline
May 12	Ken Steward Ethan Zook		
May 14	Nathan Schwehm Eric Wertz		

If you have not already done so, please give your dates (birth dates and anniversary dates) to the church office in writing or by e-mail: maria@fumccollingswood.org.




May 7	Jim and Jane Doyle
May 8	Harold and Marion Shallcross
May 15	Dave and Marjie Hammond
May 20	James and Donna Jungclaus Angel and Brooke DeRue
May 29	Shawn and Nicole Zook

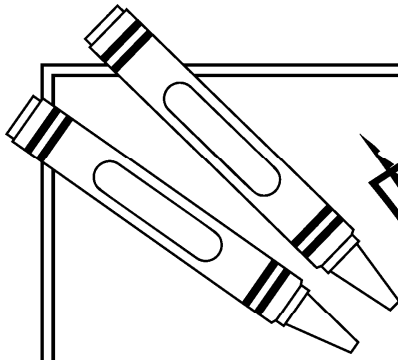
?? ? **Bible Quiz** ? ??

While 70 Israelite men were commissioned as prophets at the tent of meeting, two others, Eldad and Medad, were reported to have prophesied in the camp — not following “proper” protocols. Who defended them?

- A. Moses
- B. Joshua
- C. Jethro
- D. The Lord



Answer: A (See Numbers 11:24-29.)



PUZZLE

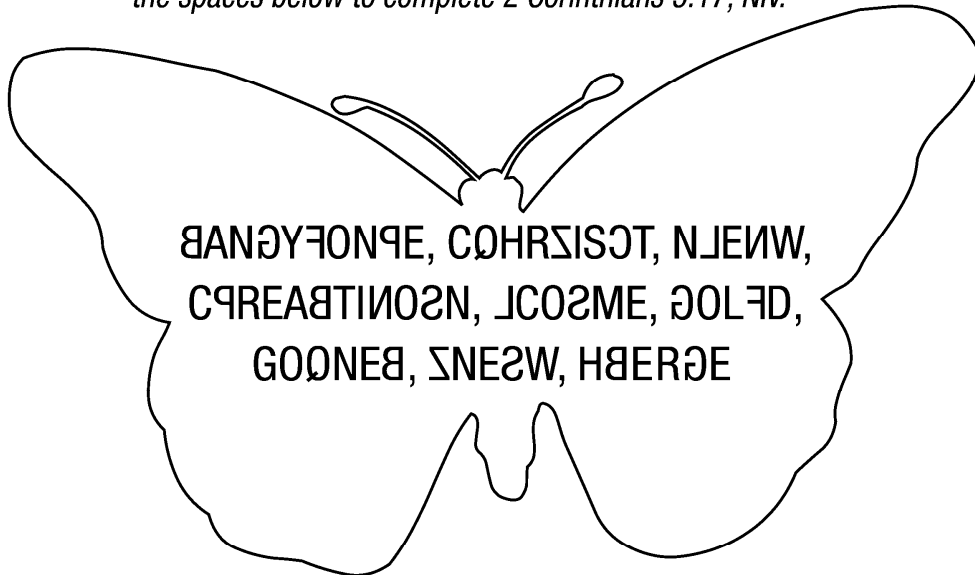
Transformation **POWER**



Just as the caterpillar becomes a butterfly,
God transforms us from old to new.



Directions: Cross out the backward letters. Write the remaining letters in order in the spaces below to complete 2 Corinthians 5:17, NIV.



Therefore, if _____ is in _____,
the _____ has _____:

The _____ has _____,
the _____ is _____!

2 C O R I N T H I A N S 5 : 1 7 , N I V

Answer: anyone, Christ, new, creation, come, old, gone, new, here

COLORING PAGE



FED BY THE FATHER

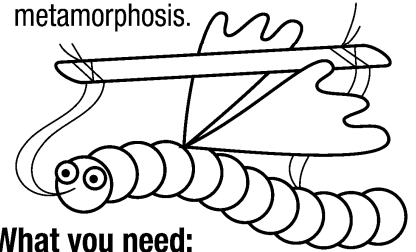
God loves his little birds; for all his tender care he shows;
a single sparrow cannot fall but its Creator knows.

God loves each little bird; but still more tender is his care
for children who obey his will, than for the fowls of air.

—Anonymous

CHANGED!

Make this cute puppet to show and tell the amazing story of metamorphosis.

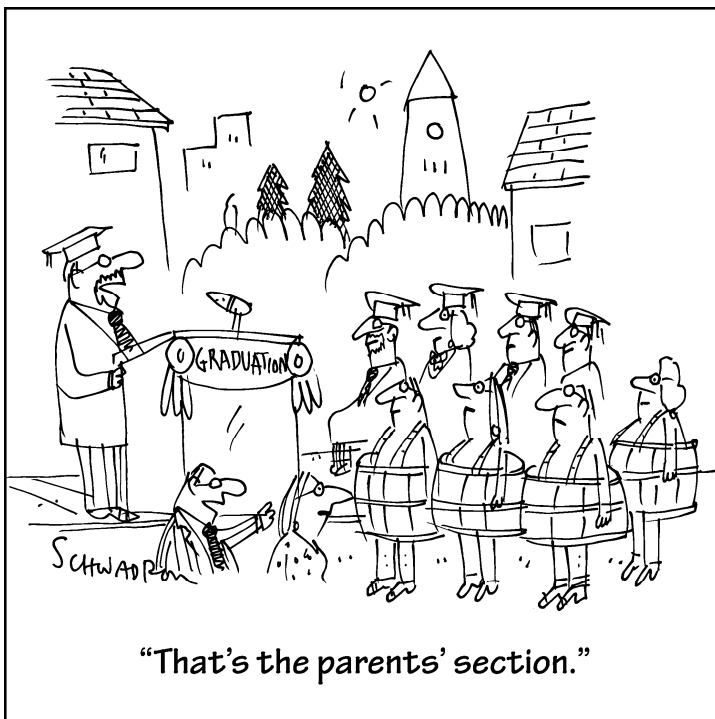


What you need:

- Needle and string
- 12 small pom-poms
- Wooden craft stick
- Scissors
- Googly eyes
- Glue
- Coffee filter
- Markers

What you do:

1. Sew pom-poms together to make a caterpillar body. Tie off that string.
2. Thread another string up through the first pom-pom, leaving 12 inches to dangle. Repeat with the ninth pom-pom, leaving two dangling strings.
3. Wrap those strings around opposite ends of the stick, adjusting their length to about 6 inches. Tie in place.
4. Glue on eyes.
5. Flatten the coffee filter and draw a symmetrical design on it. Pleat in the center to create wings.
6. Move the caterpillar puppet by holding the stick. Glue on the wings as you describe the transformation into a butterfly.



A PRAYER FOR MEMORIAL DAY

We remember, O Lord, all those people throughout the years who have made the supreme sacrifice for our country, for liberty, for us. Whenever we breathe the air of freedom or claim the right to justice or enjoy the privilege of worship, fill us with gratitude for those who selflessly gave the last full measure of devotion — their very lives — for our benefit.

May these brave men and women now know the joy of eternity and your presence. And may the families of the fallen receive comfort and peace amid their grief. Help us as we minister to their needs. Through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.



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