



Volume 27 // Issue 3 // June 2024

Newsletter

May the Lord bless you and protect you. May the Lord smile on you and be gracious to you.
May the Lord show you his favor and give you his peace. // Numbers 6:24-26

Are We Ready?

“Therefore you must also be ready, for the Son of Man is coming at an hour you do not expect.” Matthew 24:44 ESV

This spring one night, I had a dream that was very real to me, and it seemed almost a warning. In the dream, my daughter, my granddaughter and myself were in the house when all of a sudden we heard a loud, booming-like noise. Then immediately everything got dark so I went over to the window, opened the curtains, but it was dark and hazy and I couldn't really see anything. Yet somehow I immediately knew Jesus was coming back for us. I started singing “My Jesus, I Love Thee” and at the same time I was asking Jesus if this is it, if He's coming back to get His church? I prayed for God to be merciful to me, and tried to think back over my past if there is someone or something I haven't forgiven in my life. At the same time I felt myself being lifted up in the air. I tried to turn around to see if my daughter was experiencing the same thing but I couldn't turn, the only way my eyes could look were up towards the heavens. Everything was happening simultaneously, faster than I can write or even tell the story. I felt excitement, fear, and wonder. Then I awoke. My heart was pounding. I couldn't wait to share the dream with my family. It was a reminder, and a warning that Jesus is coming back, and there will be no time to make things right with our children, spouses, parents, friends, enemies, neighbors, coworkers, so let's not wait! Are we ready for that day?? Am I ready for that day??

When Jesus came to earth in the form of a baby, it was a pretty quiet event. The only witnesses were Mary, Joseph, a few shepherds, some angels and a few animals. Eventually some wise men showed up, but for the most part His birth was an unknown occasion for most people. His return, however, will be a different story! In Matthew 24 we learn that Jesus' return will be undeniably obvious to everyone.

However, scripture tells us no one knows the actual day or hour. Not even the Angels or the Son. Only the Father knows. But one thing is sure... Jesus is returning! Jesus tells us to stay awake. Jesus tells us to be ready. Jesus tells us to be faithful. Are we following and obeying Jesus today or putting off these life-changing and eternal decisions until tomorrow? Are we living out the assignments God has given to us? Are our lifestyles pointing others to Jesus? Are we sharing His words of love and saving grace to those around us? His return will be swift and sudden. It isn't our responsibility to guess the day of His return but instead to remain awake, ready and faithful for when that day finally comes. And the best way to prepare ourselves for the end of the story is to trust Jesus right here in the middle of it.

Matthew 24 isn't exactly light reading, but I found myself studying that chapter after this dream that I had. It is filled with many warnings of things that will happen in the end times, but tucked in between those solemn warnings is a short, but incredibly powerful verse that reads like this: “But the one who endures to the end will be saved.” (Matthew 24:13) That is such a hopeful verse! No matter what we face in our future, Jesus stands ready to save those who trust Him. When life seems uncertain or your days seem dark, will you cling to the hope that Jesus will sustain you?

Preparing for that day!

Mandy Miller





Upcoming Events

BBQ Meal & Auction Fundraiser
June 14, 2024
at Heritage Community Center

Billy Molls Inspiration Dinner
August 22, 2024
at Heritage Community Center

Banquet Celebration
October 22 & 23, 2024
at Heritage Community Center

Marriage Retreat
November 21 -23, 2024
at Comfort Suites in Berlin

To sign up for an event please call the office at 330.893.3857

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If you are in need of lodging for any of the events listed, Comfort Suites in Berlin will give discounted rates when you mention you are coming for a Freedom Hills event. Their phone number is 330.893.7400



We need you

At

Helping Hearts Thrift Store

Serves as an arm of Freedom Hills Ministries
Located at Valley Center Plaza 1120 N Wooster Ave. Strasburg, OH

We are looking for full time & part time volunteers

- Cashiers** - Just you or you and a friend, to engage with customers and ring up merchandise
- Stock Person** - Keep our shelves full of fresh, already priced ready to go items
- Sorters** - At our Winesburg warehouse, *(next to Village Cafe)* singles, couples, groups, days or evenings
- Drivers** - Someone willing to transport volunteers who do not drive
- Paid Positions** - We have a few paid part time positions available - check with us for details by calling Dylan Troyer, Manager 330.878.4093 or Freedom Hills Ministries 330.893.3857

Benefits for volunteering

- Discounts on merchandise!
- Our deep appreciation!
- Low pressure and very flexible hours.
- Interacting with friendly people in a pleasant environment.
- The appreciation of every counselee who does not have funds to pay, to come to Freedom Hills.
- Most of all we pray that God blesses you beyond anything we can give you!!

YOU WILL NEVER BE GOOD ENOUGH FOR EVERYBODY, HOWEVER YOU WILL ALWAYS BE THE BEST FOR SOMEONE WHO REALLY APPRECIATES YOU!

BBQ Meal

Friday June 14, 2024

Heritage Community Center 3558 US 62 Millersburg, OH

Join us

at our 12th Annual

Auction fundraiser!

- Baltic Coffee Gift Baskets
- BM Coffee Table
- Coffee Bar
- Painting by Terry Jones
- Dog House
- Canned Goods
- Eco Bricks
- East Main Gift Cards
- 6 x 12 Enclosed Cargo Trailer
- Specialty Freedom Hills Knives and charcuterie board *with matching sponsors*
- 2 Week Florida Giveaway

Bring your items and we will sell them!!

Monitored entertainment for the kids!



INCLUDES

BUT NOT LIMITED TO

- jump house
- face painting
- raffles
- basket ball

MEAT SPECIALTIES



- Ice chest full of Wagyu
- Whole Beef
- Whole Hog

RAFFLE TICKETS

\$20.00 EACH OR 6 FOR \$100.00

An assortment of 8 guns for the gun raffle!

and

5 items for the ladies raffle:

Jura Coffee Maker, \$1000.00 Cash, Bernina Serger, Samsung Washer & Dryer and Sirena Sweeper

Tickets will be at the auction or you may call the office 330.893.3857. Need not be present to win!



& Auction

Begin serving meal at 4:00 PM

Auction begins at 5:30 PM

BUY A Freedom Hills *COMMEMORATIVE MUG*

and enjoy a

Gourmet Steak Dinner for 2

with the staff,

and a chance to win a

Catered Weekend Stay

at one of the Freedom Hills cabins!



36" BLACKSTONE GRIDDLE



E Dash Bike



Tournament

CORN HOLE & FLAG CROQUET

at Freedom Hills
with a catered meal
by the Auction Board!



Fishing Trip



GRADALL XL 4300 II

1:32 SERIES



2 RARE COLLECTIBLE MODELS!!

12 x 12
Swimming Pool





Summer Garden

What a beautiful time of the year this is! The cold, starkness of winter has been replaced by the warm, budding growth of summer. With this change of season, for many will come the desire to plant gardens. Some will be busy choosing just the right flowers and vegetables to plant, while others will be plotting out the perfect location that will provide the best sunlight or shade for their garden. This, of course, will be followed by the inevitable work of cultivating the soil, planting the seeds and preparing for the upkeep and tender loving care that goes along with a well-tended garden. As the season progresses, there will be effort put in to ensure that the garden receives the right amount of water and nutrients to enhance the growth of the seeds and plants. Before we know it, little sprouts will begin to appear, which inevitably leads to pruning, weeding and watching out for all the unwanted pests that naturally invade a garden, if left unattended.

It is amazing how similar this process is to our growth in the Lord. Our spiritual lives need to be tended just as a garden does. A garden does not simply appear out of nowhere full of lush, delicious vegetables or beautiful, healthy flowers. It is the same with our spiritual lives suddenly we don't just produce the virtues, characteristics and traits that God has called us to develop in our lives. In John 15:1 & 2, Jesus revealed the importance of our spiritual growth, when He told us: *"I am the true vine, and my Father is the gardener. He cuts off every branch in me that bears no fruit, while every branch that does bear fruit He prunes so that it will be even more fruitful."* There are so many wonderful things that can grow in our spiritual lives. For instance, how about the Fruit of the Spirit found in Galatians 5:22 & 23... Love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control? I love the wonderful assortment of Godly virtues and characteristics in Colossians 3:12-15: (NIV) "Therefore, as God's chosen people, holy and dearly loved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience. Bear with each other and forgive one another if any of you has a grievance against someone. Forgive as the Lord forgave you. And over all of these virtues put on love, which binds them all together in perfect unity. Let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, since as members of one body you were called to peace. And be thankful."

What a beautiful garden we can have, when we allow the Lord to plant His seeds and tend them His way. The harvest can be

abundant. It can nourish not only us, but those around us as well.

We must also remember that when a garden is left unattended many things can and will invade it, wreaking havoc with its harvest. There are weeds and bugs like cut worms, aphids, and many other bugs that will stunt the growth of unhealthy plants. They will quickly invade and destroy the plants entirely or at a minimum leave in their wake a path of diseases, munched, and broken remnants of what was to be a rich harvest. We can have the same experience in our spiritual lives if we are not diligent with our care and maintenance. If we're not careful many things will invade and grow up within to strangle and destroy the virtues and characteristics that the Lord wants to grow within us.

The question I have to ask myself is, "what condition is my garden in? Have I been diligently attending to it, or has it become overgrown with weeds of bitterness, resentment, discord, criticism and fault finding? Or has it been invaded by cut worms, aphids, and other bugs like self-pity, gossip, malice, hypocrisy, lust, drunkenness, deceit, disobedience, envy, and slander?" Now is a good time to make an honest evaluation of the condition of our spiritual garden. Colossians 3:5-10 is so convicting to me when I read it. Due to space I am going to let you look it up yourself.

The good news is, just as there are ways to keep our flower and vegetable gardens healthy and free from all that would destroy them, there are also ways for us to keep our spiritual gardens healthy, lush and beautiful. Just as we weed our vegetable gardens, we too can pull the weeds that grow in our spiritual gardens. We can rid them of all the unwanted pests that do so much damage by treating them with the Word of God. We can nourish our gardens by being in fellowship with God, spending time in prayer, and studying His Word. We can fellowship with those who love the Lord and seek to honor Him. My prayer is that we would continually seek to grow closer to our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, and that our spiritual lives would flourish just like our own gardens.

Seeking to grow a deeper and stronger spiritual garden,

Mary Herschberger





5510 Township Road 419
Sugar creek, OH 44681
330.893.3857
Return Service Requested

YOU WILL NEVER LOOK INTO
THE EYES OF SOMEONE GOD
DOESN'T LOVE.

be kind.

EXPERIENCE ALASKA

with Billy Molls

Adventure. Inspiration. Dinner.

AUGUST 22, 2024

HERITAGE COMMUNITY
CENTER // BERLIN, OH

MUSIC BY JOHN SCHMID

DOORS OPEN AT 5:30 PM
DINNER AT 6:30 PM

TICKETS SOLD IN GROUPS
OF 8 FOR \$800.

PROCEEDS WILL SUPPORT
Freedom Hills Ministries



- Sponsor a table and bring 7 of your friends with you, or join 7 of your friends and sponsor a table together. Each sponsor or sponsored table will receive a special gift and automatically be entered into a gun raffle.

- ALL GUESTS ARE ELIGIBLE FOR DOOR PRIZES

JUST LIKE THE
ALASKAN WILDERNESS.
NO ONE LEAVES A BILLY MOLLS PRESENTATION
THE SAME PERSON AS THEY ENTER IT.

CALL 330.893.3857 TO RESERVE YOUR TABLE

