

# At the Well

A PUBLICATION OF **LIFESPRIING 55**

JUNE 2021

IN THIS ISSUE

---

02 A CALL TO PRAYER

03 EDITORIAL

05 ASKING THE RIGHT  
QUESTION

06 HYMN FOCUS

08 A TESTIMONY

10 NEWS AND VIEWS

"... but whoever drinks the water I give them will never thirst. Indeed, the water I give them will become in them a spring of water welling up to eternal life."

**VOLUME 1: NUMBER 2**

**JOHN 4:14**

# A Call to Prayer

**SUNDAY, JUNE 27**

Pete Greig in “Dirty Glory” writes that “the hinge of human history is the bended knee”.

During this global pandemic, many of you have been praying and fasting for The Peoples Church family and we thank God for your faithfulness in prayer. All prayer efforts are based on the understanding that our human will works in partnership with God’s will when we intercede.

I would like to invite you to join us on **Sunday, June 27 at 6:30 to 8:30 PM** as we come together online to intercede on behalf of our families, our church, our city, our nation, and our world.

This Congregational Life corporate prayer is rooted in God and His faithfulness. It is a reminder that everything we do must be bathed in prayer and that we can shape the future through our prayers. In 2 Chronicles 7:14, we are reminded that “If God’s people who are called by His name humble themselves and pray and seek His face and turn from their wicked ways, then God will hear from heaven and will forgive their sin and heal their land”.

We are inviting you to join us on Sunday June 27 for an evening of prayer. This prayer meeting will be held virtually via Zoom and we invite you to feel free to join us anytime between 6:30 PM and 8:30 PM.

**To join by phone, you will need to dial: (647) 558-0588**

**Meeting ID: 867 8155 1848**

**Passcode: 262918**

It is our intention to hold these prayer meetings every three months. Please mark your calendar for subsequent meeting times:

- **September 26, 2021 at 6:30 PM**
- **December 26, 2021 at 6:30 PM**
- **March 27, 2022 at 6:30 PM**
- **June 26, 2022 at 6:30 PM**
- **September 25, 2022 at 6:30 PM**
- **December 25, 2022 at 6:30 PM**



**Solange Belluz**

**Congregational Life Pastor**

# Holding on to Hope

## EDITORIAL COMMENT

Perhaps the greatest difficulty we, as God's people, have encountered during the COVID lockdown is the issue of being separated from one another. Human beings are created to socialize—it's the way God has designed us. And further, I firmly believe that the need for togetherness is accentuated among those who belong to Jesus. His love within us cements us together at a deeper dimension. I have spoken to so many of you, our readers, and a common sentiment is that you are aching to be able to meet with one another.

We shouldn't be surprised at this. After all, in the Bible the New Testament church is called the "ecclesia" or "the gathering." Jesus underlined our responsibility to one another by His dramatic actions at the Last Supper, taking the towel and washing the feet of His disciples. As He did, He said to them, "If I then, your Lord and Teacher, have washed your feet, you also ought to wash one another's feet. For I have given you an example, that you should do as I have done to you." (John 13:14, 15) Then, in Paul's epistles there is repeated reference made to the phrase, "one another". Dr. Gene Getz, back in the 1970's and 80's, wrote a whole series of books called the "one another" series. In it he points out that Paul uses the word "soma", which is translated "body" more than thirty times in his letters to the Romans, Corinthians, Ephesians and Colossians, referring to how the church is to function. No wonder we are missing one another!

So, in the midst of this very real separation anxiety that we are all experiencing, let me offer some positive thought by stating the obvious.

Take note of the following points:


- First of all, throughout the pandemic our pastoral and governance leadership have responsibly sought the Lord as to how best keep meaningful ministry in play while observing the restrictions imposed by all levels of government.
- We do have means of keeping in touch through various ways, e.g., online and phone communications affording opportunities to worship and pray together, the At the Well newsletter and other mailings, the Hello Church newsletter which is emailed to us each week, Living Truth television and the church website.
- The vaccination rollout means that restrictions will continue to be lifted as we progress through 2021.
- We have been able to strengthen our individual testimonies as we have seen the Lord undertake for us in a variety of ways amidst this time of unprecedented uncertainty. (Can't wait to hear more of your stories!)
- This time of separation has heightened our appreciation for the Lord's people and for true "koinonia" (fellowship).

As we wait – patiently or impatiently – for the reopening of the doors of The Peoples Church, let's pray for each other and for those whom the Lord will bring into our family as His Spirit continues to draw people to Himself. We can be certain that God is at work through all of this!



**Reg Andrews**  
**Visitation Pastor**





**"O LORD, OUR LORD,  
HOW EXCELLENT IS YOUR NAME  
IN ALL THE EARTH!"**

**PSALM 8:9 (NKJV)**

# Asking the Right Question

Since moving to Kingsville last year the Lord opened up an opportunity to serve as a part time Chaplain in a Long Term care home. I usually go every morning for a few hours and visit with people and hold chapel services.

One particular day I was asked to stop in to see a lady who was experiencing a lot of pain and needed someone to help her understand what was happening to her. I went into her room and noticed her eldest son was also there standing by her bedside holding her hand. I introduced myself as the Chaplain. The lady looked at me and starting shaking her head back and forth saying, "Why? Why?" Her son looked at me and said, "We are all asking that. Why is God allowing mom to go through so much pain? She has a good family and has lived a great life. But, why the pain?"

At that moment it seemed the Lord was giving me the response they needed to hear. I said "Perhaps you are asking the wrong question." She stared at me and said, "What?" I added, "Now this might be a better question to ask - what am I going to do about this pain?" The son immediately entered in with, "Well, that sure is a different way to look at it."

We continued our conversation along those lines and it seemed to make all the difference. We will never have a satisfying answer to our "Why" questions. One day they will ALL be answered and we will have full knowledge. But until that day, we need to ask ourselves, "What can I do about this?" The answer to that question will change from time to time but it really gets us thinking along healthy lines - participating in what God is doing in this world. I am part of the answer to the pain, confusion, and heartache of the world during these days.

So what will you do today? How can you partner with God to be those hands, those words that will lift up and encourage others to see that God is still alive and at work in our day and time?



## **Dr. Warwick Cooper**

Formerly Pastor of Counselling at The Peoples Church, Dr. Warwick Cooper currently serves as Chaplain at St. Clair Village in Windsor Ontario.

# Fanny Crosby

## AN EXTRAORDINARY SERVANT OF GOD

Frances Jane Crosby was born in March 1840, in Southeast, a hamlet in New York state. When she was just six weeks old she was blinded by an eye infection through the ignorance of a quack doctor – he had prescribed a mustard poultice! Fanny’s father died when she was six weeks old and Fanny was raised by her grandmother. Her mother had to work long hours to support the family. She married Alexander Van Alstyne but sad to say it was not a happy marriage. She was always known simply as Fanny Crosby.

Fanny was a pupil and teacher of English grammar at the New York Institution for the Blind and among others collaborated with George Root, her music instructor, and Ira D. Sankey – Dwight Moody’s music leader – in writing many hymns and gospel songs. She wrote scores of secular songs, a complete cantata and over eight thousand hymns! She was also an accomplished pianist and played organ, harp, and guitar! Her most popular hymn, I am told, was “Safe in the Arms of Jesus” – although I would have thought “Blessed Assurance” would have enjoyed that distinction! (But that was in the Billy Graham era.)

Fanny actually thanked God that she was blind. She wrote: If perfect worldly sight were offered to me tomorrow I would not accept it. And from her biographer: If it had not been for her affliction she might not have had such a great influence or so fine a memory.

This self-effacing little girl became one of the most beloved personalities of the nineteenth century. She wrote a eulogy for president W. H. Harrison and her own four- volume autobiography.

When she was just eight years old she wrote this couplet:

**“O what a happy soul I am although I cannot see;  
I am resolved that in this world contented I will be.”**

In this edition of At the Well we are highlighting her wonderful hymn “Redeemed”, as published in The Peoples Hymns.



### **Bernard Pears**

Former Director of our Lifespring Choir, Bernard is a regular attendee of Lifespring 55.



Fanny J. Crosby

William J. Kirkpatrick

1. Re-deemed how I love to pro-claim it! Re-  
 2. Re-deemed and so hap-py in Je-sus, No  
 3. I think of my bless-ed Re-deem-er, I  
 4. I know I shall see in His beau-ty The

deemed by the blood of the Lamb; Re-  
 lan-guage my rap-ture can tell; I  
 think of Him all the day long; I  
 King in whose law I de-light; Who

deemed thru His in-fi-nite mer-cy, His  
 know that the light of His pres-ence With  
 sing, for I can-not be si-lent; His  
 lov-ing-ly guard-eth my foot-steps, And

child, and for-ev-er, I am,  
 me doth con-tin-ual-ly dwell,  
 love is the theme of my song,  
 giv-eth me songs in the night.

"Redeemed" by Fanny J. Crosby



# The Altar:

## A PLACE OF HEALING AND GRACE

As followers of the Lord Jesus, we have all known the importance of the altar in our lives, whether it was the physical one in our local church or the place in our hearts where we retreat to honour Him in a place of praise and worship.

One definition of “altar”, as found in the Merriam Webster dictionary is “a usually raised structure or place on which sacrifices are offered or incense is burned in worship.” At our personal altar we lift up our sacrifice of worship and our prayers, that rise to our Heavenly Father as a ‘sweet-smelling savour to the Lord.’ Psalm 141:2 in the NIRV says, “May my prayer come to You like the sweet smell of incense. When I lift up my hands in prayer, may it be like the evening sacrifice.”

I am thankful that I grew up in a church where it was customary to linger at the altar at the end of each Lord’s Day. Praise and worship music would continue long after the evening service had ended and people would come, some to make a decision to follow Christ, others to recommit their lives to the One Who knew the way when their understanding of life was floundering. Then there were the youth, the hope of every local church, standing at life’s starting gate asking God for direction in vocation, for a life partner, and answers to all the huge questions of life. I stood there at this most crucial season of my life, asking to know Him more, and to be known as one who followed Him with the entirety of heart, mind and soul.

He was faithful and met me there time and time again. I cannot begin to enumerate the blessings of that physical altar in my church, for because of that experience and my desire to give everything over to the Lord Jesus, I began to understand the need for the altar to be built in my heart. It was to be a place of outpouring, first of all, of my praise and worship, concerns, burdens, pain, but secondly and of most importance, a place of His outpouring on me, of His wisdom, His insights, His answers, His love and His direction. To this place I can now retreat any time and know He’s waiting, willing and able to meet me at my place of need.

Healing of body, mind and emotions is a necessity in each individual life. Nobody is unscathed from the rigours of this life! We all have desperate need that can’t always be met by other human beings, however compassionate, kind or capable they may be. We need God, for only He can provide the answers we so desperately crave, and bring the healing that only the omnipotent God, the all-powerful One can bring.

I’m so grateful that He even shows up when we would have to admit we are so short on faith and trust, times when life has ‘kicked us to the curb’ once again, when we’ve waited so long for relief and it, seemingly, is so long in coming.





In my teenage years I began to have bouts of excruciating pain in my lower jaws. The doctors were somewhat mystified and it continued, occasionally, for many years. At first my mother was convinced that it was because I was braving the terrible winter cold, devoid of a hat or scarf. Many heated discussions took place over this very topic. Being headstrong as a teenager I continued to be “cool”, in more ways than one. I have since learned the fallacy of my stubborn ways.

Painkillers would get me through each attack. As a young adult the health care professionals became convinced it was being caused by my teeth and I was sent to a dentist who, subsequently, pulled perfectly good teeth, but the attacks persisted.

Throughout this time I would present my need to the Lord, but still He was silent on this issue. As I came to be a young adult and times of severe pain persisted. I was finally sent to a specialist who had experience with this problem. After numerous tests I was diagnosed with trigeminal neuralgia. I was sent home with quite a dilemma. I had to make a difficult choice. Was I willing to have them cut the nerves to my face which would probably leave me with disfigurement for the rest of my life? Or was I going to resign myself to a life of periodic severe pain that was often immobilizing?

In my arsenal I had a weapon! It was prayer! I remember going to the altar one Sunday evening and laying my options before the Lord. As I lingered and prayed and worshipped I, once again, gave the situation to Him. There was no great emotional outpouring, no great faith healer came to pray over me, but that night was different because I received a divine touch from the Lord. I walked away, healed by the mighty power of God! In the last forty-six years I have not suffered from trigeminal neuralgia for one second. Thank you, Lord!

God meets us at the altar. All our needs can be met there, but greater by far, is the meeting that takes place there! God with us! As you go to the altar, allow His grace, His love, His forgiveness, His healing to flow over you. Maybe you have neglected the altar of your life. Now is the time to repair the altar. The altar is your heart and the sacrifice is you. That's the sacrifice God wants and the one we need!



### **Brenda Andrews**

Brenda is Lifespring 55's worship leader and serves on the Lifespring leadership team.

# News and Views

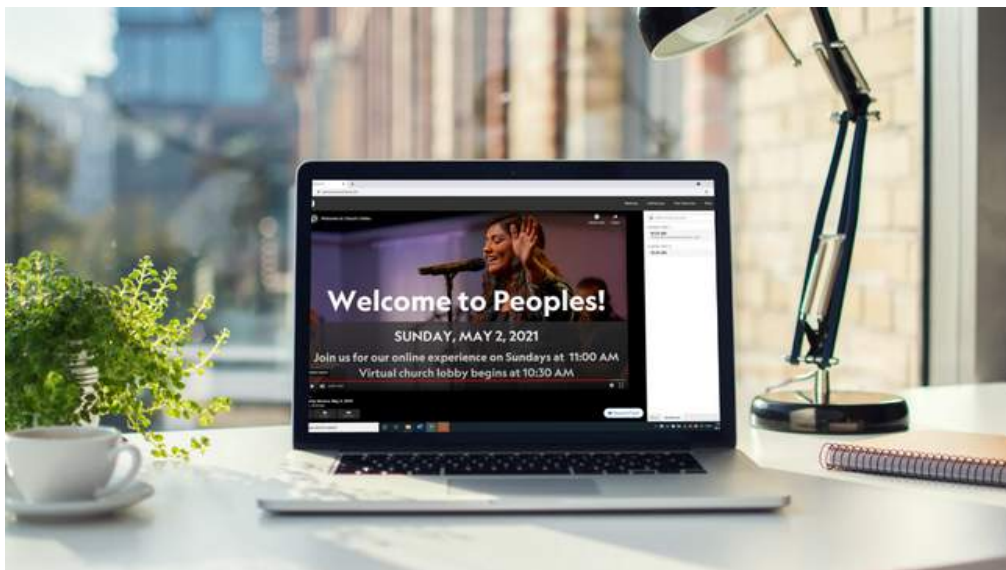
## OUR SUNDAY SERVICES ARE NOW LIVESTREAMED!

On Sunday May 2nd, we began joining together at one service time for a live online Sunday worship experience! No longer pre-recorded, the service comes to you live from The Peoples Church auditorium.

- At 10:30 AM everyone is invited to our virtual lobby where we spend time connecting with one another, and preparing our hearts together for our worship service.
- Our live worship service begins at 11:00 AM - a time of singing, praying, and hearing God's Word together, at one time, with our global church family!
- Following the service, our virtual lobby reopens for another opportunity to connect with each other. Our pastors also are available to pray with you in a private online conversation.

If you are accustomed to participating via computer or device, you can access the new platform by simply clicking on the 'Join Us' button on the church website!

If for some reason you cannot attend the live service, all our services will also be available on-demand on our YouTube channel.





# A MERRY HEART



A Sunday school teacher asked the children just before she dismissed them to go to church, "And why is it necessary to be quiet in church?"

Annie replied, "Because people are sleeping".



The secret of a good sermon is to have a good beginning and a good ending; and to have the two as close together as possible.

- George Burns





## ENJOY THESE BULLETIN BLOOPERS!

“For those of you who have children and don’t know it, we have a nursery downstairs.”

“Applications are now being accepted for 2 year-old nursery workers.”

“The pastor will preach his farewell message, after which the choir will sing, “Break Forth into Joy.”

“Thursday night: Potluck supper – Prayer and medication to follow.”

“The Rev. Merriwether spoke briefly, much to the delight of the audience.”

“On a church bulletin during the minister’s illness: GOD IS GOOD; Pastor Hargreaves is better.”

(Sourced at [christianfunnypictures.com](http://christianfunnypictures.com))

## AND THIS JUST IN!

- I saw an ad for burial plots and thought to myself, “That’s the last thing I need.”
- A courtroom artist was arrested today for an unknown reason, details are sketchy.
- Whatever you do, always give 100% unless you're donating blood.
- People are making ‘end of the world’ jokes like there's no tomorrow.
- What do you call a sleepwalking nun? A Roamin’ Catholic.





## PHYSICAL ACTIVITY: THE BEST MEDICINE

We don't need to be reminded that physical activity is important for everyone, especially for people living with diabetes. Canadian Physical Activity Guidelines recommends the following aerobic and resistance training activities:

### **Aerobic activities:**

walking, bicycling, or jogging to increase heart rate and breathing;

### **Resistance activities:**

weights, weight machines, resistance bands or use of own body weight, like push-ups (2 – 3 times each week).

Careful! Don't overdo it. Start slowly with 5 – 10 minutes of aerobic physical activity per day, building up to a total of 150 minutes per week of moderate-to-vigorous intensity. Check with your doctor if you are just starting an exercise program.

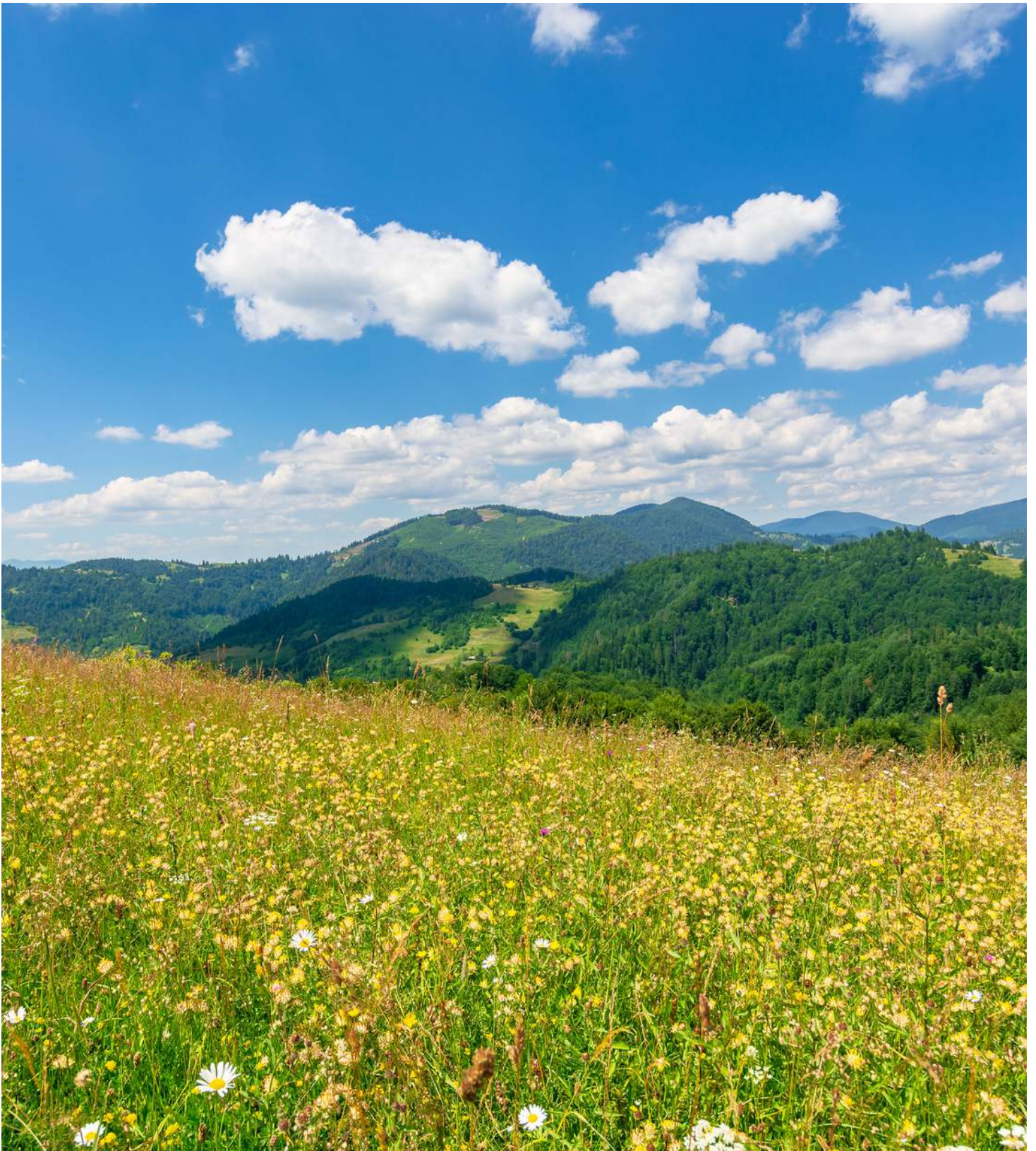
### **The health benefits include:**

- Weight management
- Lower blood sugar
- Control blood pressure
- Improved strength
- Cardiorespiratory fitness
- Improved mental health.



**REDISCOVERING THE JOYS OF HIKING!**





**AND WHATEVER YOU DO, WHETHER IN WORD OR DEED,  
DO IT ALL IN THE NAME OF THE LORD JESUS, GIVING THANKS  
TO GOD THE FATHER THROUGH HIM.**

**COLOSSIANS 3: 17**



# With the Lord

**ESTHER JOST**



After 88 years of grace and love, on June 1, 2021, Esther Jost went home to be with her Saviour, and to reunite with her beloved Don and her son Randy (who died just 4 weeks before on April 26). She is survived by daughters Brenda, Barbara and Beth, Randy's wife, Evelyn, and their families. Don and Esther ministered at The Peoples Church from 1980-1992.

---

**WE ARE CONFIDENT,  
YES, WELL PLEASED RATHER  
TO BE ABSENT FROM THE BODY  
AND TO BE PRESENT WITH THE LORD.**

**2 CORINTHIANS 5:8**



## HIGHLY RECOMMENDED



Now in their 80's with three children and 13 grandchildren, Stuart and Jill Briscoe, authors of *Improving with Age*, are still living for the Lord in their "retirement years." They share the importance of those who are "mature in years" staying active, ministering to those around them, as well as impacting the younger generation and being available for the Lord to use in every circumstance.

Stuart and Jill are well known to The Peoples Church, having spoken here a number of times. We highly recommend that you acquire a copy of *Improving with Age*. If you can, you may also want to check out two videos by Focus on the Family, featuring Stuart and Jill, entitled *Finishing Strong* (Part 1) and *Finishing Strong* (Part 2). You will be immensely blessed.

## LIFSPRING 55 ONLINE SERVICE

Our plans to produce a Lifspring 55 online service have been suspended due to the COVID lockdown. We will revisit this possibility once things have normalized.

Speaking of things being normalized, plans are now underway to re-open in the Fall – likely by mid-September! Watch for further announcements on this.

**AT THE WELL IS A QUARTERLY PUBLICATION OF  
LIFSPRING 55 OF THE PEOPLES CHURCH.**

**EDITOR --- REG ANDREWS (VISITATION PASTOR)  
ASSISTANT EDITOR --- BRENDA ANDREWS**

**COMMENTS AND SUBMISSIONS MAY BE SENT TO**

**REGA@THEPEOPLESCHURCH.CA  
416-222-3341 EXT. 177**

**THEPEOPLESCHURCH.CA**