



## *The Lighted Way*

Summer Issue, 2017  
West Elkton Friends Meeting  
PO Box 27, West Elkton, Ohio, 45070

Psalm 139 begins with “LORD, you have examined me. You know me. You know when I sit down and when I stand up... You are thoroughly familiar with all my ways.” It ends with “Examine me, God! Look at my heart! Put me to the test! Know my anxious thoughts! Look to see if there is any idolatrous way in me, then lead me on the eternal path!”

What a wonderful poem of introspection and self-examination, of repentance and grace. The Lighted Way is not a path without reflection. As we examine ourselves, our egos, our wants and needs, our plans and God’s plans, and all the intersections of these, we do so knowing God may say “No” or lead in ways that we do not wish to go. We may want more wealth, more time, more excitement, more love from others.

How do we know which way is right? We trust God’s leadership. And when that is not clear, we either do not move or we depend just on values, just on ethics, just on what we know to be true, to be good, to be kind, to be thoughtful. We can make more ethical decisions when we let go of instinct and depend only on listening to God’s voice and God’s ways, and always do what is right, good and ethical, being ready and open for God’s use. The Inner Christ leads us only when we allow it to happen and allow God and our values to steer us through life.

Leigh Tolton

Psalm 139 describes a healthy rhythm of self-knowledge and self-examination that is essential for our lives in leadership. Self-knowledge begins with waking up to the presence of God and the truth that we are forever secure in God’s love. It rests on the foundation of being utterly convinced that there is nothing we can do that can cause us to fall out of that love.

Healthy self-examination includes the ability to receive and celebrate the goodness of who we are as created beings. This includes the ability to celebrate the uniqueness of our bodies, our personalities, the configuration of our soul and its unique way of relating to God and the world, our heritage, our background, and all of the experiences that make us who we are. This kind of acceptance and celebration is not as easy as it sounds and some of us have significant work to do in learning how to celebrate the goodness of our created selves as the Psalmist does here!

*(Parker Palmer Sacred Rhythm in the Life of the Leader, Part Four, excerpt)*



Great men suffer hours of depression through introspection and self-doubt. That is why they are great. That is why you will find modesty and humility the characteristics of such men.

— Bruce Barton —

Thanks to everyone who helped with the Habitat for Humanity Project near Eaton.



Thank you to Katy who showed us how to Etch on glass – Such a Wonderful Gift to the meeting.





---

Father's Day was a Great Success!

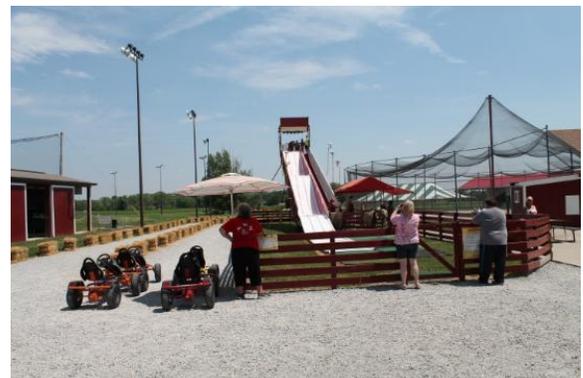
We discussed the aberrant fathers of the Bible

And the need for Grace and Mercy for all Fathers and Father figures.



The Family Outing to Young's Dairy in Yellow Springs, Ohio  
will be July 15, 2017

We will meet at 10:30 to enjoy putt putt golf, slides, the petting zoo  
and other outdoor and indoor parts of the Dairy experience



At 1:00 we will meet at the Restaurant on site



At 2:00, or there about, we will get some fresh Ice Cream.



Please come and Join us!

+++++

July and August are Toilet Paper months

Please bring toilet paper to the meeting house. We will be gathering this for the local food pantries. People who frequent the pantries cannot use SNAP (food stamps) for paper items.

