

The Shepherd's Word
Our Shepherd UCC
920-565-3376

October 2023
Pastor Nathan Athorp
ourshepherducc.com

Send newsletter articles to: OurShepherdNewsletter@gmail.com

Pastor Contact information:

Pastor's Cell: 920-946-3585 Pastor's e-mail: nathorp70@gmail.com



The Shepherd's Word
Our Shepherd UCC
710 Ethan Allen Drive
Howards Grove, WI 53083

Prayer Concerns...

Please keep those who are shut-in or ill in your prayers

- Kathleen Grube -Terrace Estates
1231 Eisner Ave
Sheboygan, WI 53083*
- Cleora Marx - 110 S. Pershing Avenue
Howards Grove, WI 53083*
- Doris Hanke - The Waterford
2586 Valley Rd
Plymouth, WI 53073*
- Jim Milbrath – 421 Jefferson Circle
Howards Grove, WI 53083*
- Alan Harms - Pine Haven, Room #303
540 Mark Avenue
Sheboygan Falls, WI 53085*

Newsletter via E-mail?



An easy way to help save Our Shepherd a little money and reduce some clutter in your house is to have your email address added to our newsletter emailing list. This will save the cost of postage and printing. Simply let Pastor Nathan or Shari know if you would like to receive our newsletter view email instead of having it sent in the mail.

Vanco Automated Giving

In 2022 almost 20% of all financial contributions to Our Shepherd were completed using our Vanco on-line giving program, that is really impressive considering we have not been offering that option for very long! It is also really helpful in that it provides a consistent income stream all year long. When families establish on-line giving, they typically schedule the same amount to be given to Our Shepherd every month, regardless of how often the family is actually worshipping with us in person. Individuals have also shared that they appreciate this method of giving because it takes something off the list of things to remember on Sunday morning. You can schedule the contribution to happen just like paying a bill on-line and then both you and the church knows it will happen in a consistent manner. If you have questions or would like assistance in seeing how Vanco might work for your family, come talk to Pastor Nathan and we will make it happen.

**COFFEE BREAK
OUR SHEPHERD, UCC
710 Ethan Allen Drive
Howards Grove**

**2ND AND 4TH WEDNESDAY OF EACH MONTH
9:00 a.m. - 11:00a.m.**

Our Shepherd, UCC will be hosting a Coffee Break on the 2nd and 4th Wednesday of each month. Join us for a time of open conversation along with a cup of coffee and, perhaps a cookie or two.



We will meet in the church common area. Bring your ideas, bring a friend, bring a neighbor! Those attending do not need to be a member of Our Shepherd , UCC. **ALL ARE WELCOME!!!**

Open and Affirming Activities









Our Open and Affirming Committee hosted a movie night on September 17th. We watched the documentary, 'Here I Am', which featured the stories of multiple individuals who shared their experiences as LGBTQ individuals and families within Christian communities. The movie highlighted some of the challenges the individuals and their families faced as their congregations reacted to their identity. A number of Biblical scholars and mental health professionals were also featured.

Afterwards we participated in a good conversation around the issues presented in the movie, (along with some yummy snacks, it just isn't a church event without food.) The committee would like to thank everyone who participated in this event. If you would like to see the video it can be found at <https://www.abbi.org.au/2018/04/here-i-am-2/>. Stay tuned for details of our next event as we continue to explore the issues around potentially becoming an Open and Affirming congregation. **Next**, we will be inviting Rev. Dr. Karl Kuhn in for a conversation around the intersections of being Open and Affirming and our scriptures.

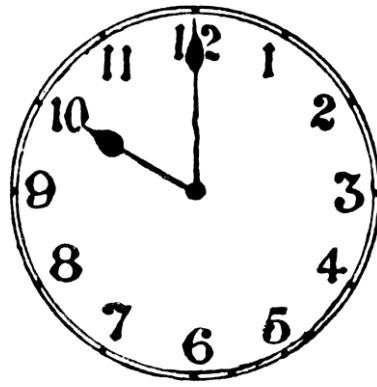
October 2023

Confirmation Classes will be held @ Bethel UCC
on Wednesdays at 5:30 for the month of October

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thur	Fri	Sat
<p>1 8:30 Church School 10:00 a.m. Worship/Sacraments In person and on Facebook</p> <p>Faith In The Fall 10:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m.</p> 	<p>2 11:00 Yoga</p>	<p>3 Meal Prep for Salvation Army @12:30</p>	<p>4 5:30 Confirmation</p>	<p>5</p>	<p>6</p>	<p>7</p>
<p>8 8:30 Church School 8:30 Consistory 10:00 Worship In person and on Facebook 12:00 CROP Walk</p>	<p>9 11:00 Yoga</p>	<p>10 Dartball</p>	<p>11 9:00 Coffee Break  5:30 Confirmation</p>	<p>12 O & A Committee Meeting 4:00</p>	<p>13</p>	<p>14</p>
<p>15 8:30 Church School 10:00 Worship In person and on Facebook Raiseright Orders Due</p>	<p>16 11:00 Yoga</p>	<p>17 Meal Prep for Salvation Army @12:30 Dartball</p>	<p>18 Chili Supper 4:00 – 7:00  5:30 Confirmation</p>	<p>19 6:30 p.m. Scholarship Event St. James</p>	<p>20</p>	<p>21 Brat Fry @ Miesfeld's 9:00 – 3:00</p>
<p>22 8:30 Church School 10:00 Rocke Brothers In person and on Facebook Newsletter Articles Due</p>	<p>23 11:00 Yoga</p>	<p>24 Dartball</p>	<p>25 9:00 Coffee Break  5:30 Confirmation</p>	<p>26</p>	<p>27</p>	<p>28</p>
<p>29 8:30 Church School 10:00 Worship In person and on Facebook 5-7 p.m. Youth at Bethlehem</p>	<p>30 11:00 Yoga</p>	<p>31 Happy Halloween  Dartball</p>	<p>5:30 Confirmation</p>	<p>Food Pantry Items Cereal</p>		

Summer Worship

Our Fall & Winter worship time has moved to 10:00 am. We will continue to worship live on Facebook in addition to our regular Sunday morning services in the building.



September - May

Worship Service will be held at 10:00 a.m.

Consistory

Audrey Aardappel—President
Jaimie Simon
David Mair
Heidi Widder
Roger Sheahan - Secretary

Pastoral Relations

Neal Henschel
Nicole Twohig-Sec
Nancy Henschel
Ann VanWyk

Officers

Mandi Grube-
Treasurer
Carla Hemb-
Church & Financial
Secretary

VBS Food Truck Collection

Offering collected at the VBS Food Truck will help many in the community. \$250 was donated to the Falls Food Bank and \$250 was donated to Immanuel UCC Food Pantry. **Well done, Chefs!!**



The Falls Food Pantry serves the needs of Howards Grove, Kohler, Sheboygan Falls and Waldo. All donations are very much appreciated.

We all are experiencing rising prices in the grocery stores and our food pantries are not immune to this. As you are doing your grocery shopping, if at all possible, consider purchasing just one extra item for our food pantry donation. Imagine what you would want to see if your kitchen pantry was empty. Look for something on sale, look for something nutritious, and remember those who are less fortunate.





The Upper Room



The September/October issue of the daily devotional “The Upper Room” is available in the Literature Rack.



The 11:00 am chair yoga has resumed. The month of October has 5 Mondays, so the cost is \$35. Or there is the \$10 per week drop-in fee available. Please share this information with others that might be interested. (This is open to men and women)

Questions, please contact Renae at

920-565-2785 or rkwunsch711@gmail.com

Church School News

Items for the Food Pantry

The month of **October** donations may be placed in the basket, located in the office area:

Cereal



Change for Change Jar – Money used to purchase items for food pantry

Prayer Shawl/Blankets – For those in our prayers, items can be found in the office area. If you know of someone in need of a shawl/blanket, please select an item to present to them.

Beverage Tabs for the Ronald McDonald House

Birthday Bags – Thank you to those that continue to provide birthday bags. If you would like to donate the items needed for a bag, bring: a box of cake mix, small bottle of oil, can of frosting, candles – the eggs supplied by food pantry. There are bags in the office to place the cake supplies.



Church School News

B: Be with God **L:** Love God & neighbor **U:** Understand yourself as a child of God **E:** Explore the Bible

Church school is offered to children age 3 to confirmation. The program runs from 8:30 to 9:45.



It is great to have all the students joining together in fellowship. Please invite others you may know that would may enjoy our program.

The children have reviewed using the five parts of the Lord’s Prayer to model their own prayer. Take a moment to read the Lord’s Prayer found in Matthew 6:9-13 or Luke 11:2-4. Notice the difference in the two versions.

This month’s Leap of Faith Point is: “I choose to follow the Lord.” Stories related to this theme have been, “Adam and Eve”, and “Daniel Chooses.”

Looking ahead, during the month of November the children will hold their annual food for Thanksgiving drive for the food bank.

God's Blessings on your Birthday – October

2 Lincoln Lightle	3 Daryl Gabsch	3 Alicia Thede
5 Kathleen Grube	7 Taylor Jacobs	14 Isaac Mair
16 Neal Henschel	16 Korynn Wesener	19 Kyle Stowers
20 Phil Walkenhorst	23 Ed Aschenbach	24 Jim Milbrath
24 Anora Barber	27 Mandi Grube	27 Matthew Jacobs
27 Mark Vollbrecht	28 Kay Sheahan	30 Megan Schueler



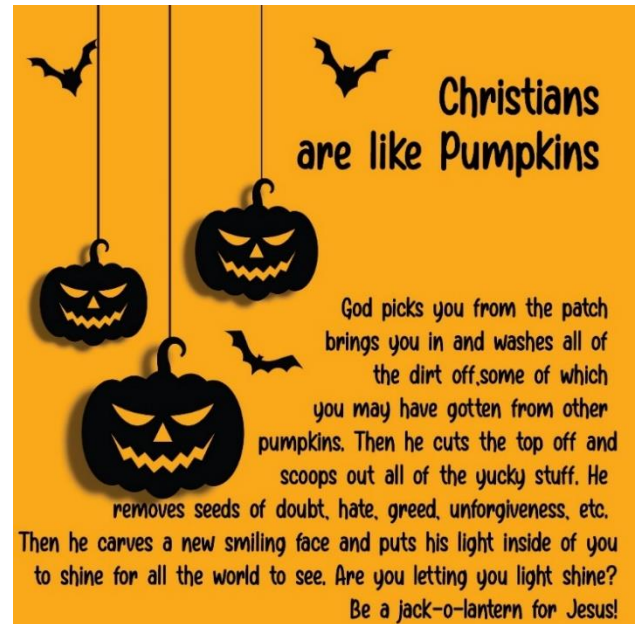
We have Birthday Cards on the rack in church.

Consider giving a monetary donation to the Scholarship Fund in honor of someone's birthday.

Your contribution will be applied to your annual giving.

"This is October for me. Withdrawing into my own world, blocking out everything except the beauty of the season, my reflections, and my relationship with God, I find that this is enough to sustain me through the long cold winter, and beyond..."

— Peggy Toney Horton, *Somewhere in Heaven My Mother Is Smiling*



Church Garden



We are looking for 12 peony plants to beautify our sign bed garden. If anyone has some to split or remove, we would be glad to come and do that for you. Thanks, Jenn Aschenbach 920-565-3359.

Brat Fry

On October 21, 9:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m., Our Shepherd UCC will be hosting a Brat Fry at **Miesfeld's**. Please come and support us. In addition to grilled sandwiches there will be baked goods available.



Meals for Salvation Army

The Women's Fellowship makes meals for Salvation Army twice a month. We are asking for help in providing supplies for these meals either by **donating items that we need or by purchasing a gift card from Piggly Wiggly or Walmart**. Below is a list of items that we will need. We will be serving **40 people**. If you are able to make a dessert for one of the days, we would appreciate that. Thank you.

October 3 - Cowboy Meatloaf Casserole, & Coleslaw



Needed items: 1 quart milk 2 large onions 2 green peppers
1 bag carrots 2 large heads cabbage 2 bag hash browns
1 can French fried onions (1) 8 Cup bag shredded cheese
Dessert – for 40 people, needed

October 17 - Corn Chowder with Corn Bread



Needed Items: 1 stalk celery 3 large onions 5# Potatoes
2 each Red & Green peppers 2 bags corn 4 cans cream style corn
1 gal milk 1 quart whipping cream
Dessert – for 40 people, needed

We can use gift cards from Piggly Wiggly and Wal-Mart. This can save you time from shopping for items needed. Thank you to everyone who has donated supplies or made a dessert or helped make the meal.

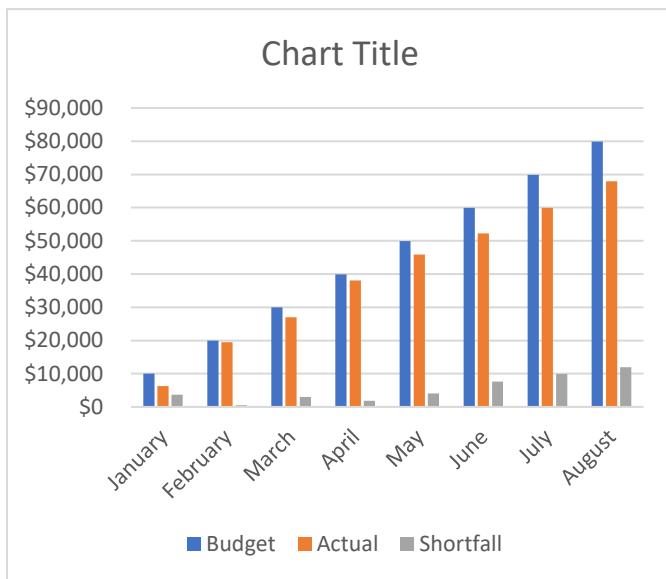
It is greatly appreciated.

The residents that partake in our meals really enjoy the food that we prepare.

Thank you to Our Shepherd UCC for your support.

The Salvation Army Volunteers look forward to our meals. Anyone can also volunteer to make a meal and donate it. Every month they provide a calendar with a list of people or organizations that volunteer food for the homeless. If anyone is interested their website is: <https://centralusa.salvationarmy.org/sheboygan/el-volunteer-calendar> or you can contact CarryeJo Cony at 920-694-1271

Financial Status



To keep everyone better informed, we will be printing a brief financial report each month.

This month's report includes **January - August YTD** information.
\$79,891–2023 Budget YTD **\$67,941– Actual Income**
\$11,950– Shortfall

Raiseright Program

Raiseright is a great way to fundraise for our church by using gift cards instead of credit or cash for your everyday purchases.

Members can order gift cards in church through Shari every 3rd Sunday or order online. E cards are available for some of the cards. They are labeled on the Raiseright Order Form with "E".



To order online, go to <https://www.raiseright.com/enroll>

Set up your account and enter our enrollment code: 92164F3732736
to have your purchases apply to Our Shepherd UCC

Raiseright

Running late and you need to get supper on the table? Let local businesses help you with a fast and delicious meal. Log Cabin (under new management) has reached out to Our Shepherd and would like to continue the Raiseright program.



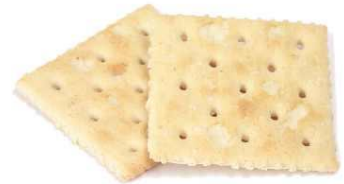
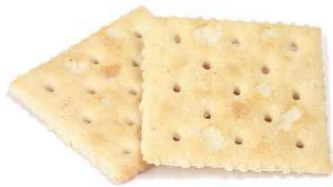
They are offering 5% per dollar. Old cards will be honored until the end of the year, and new cards are now available. Hours have been extended to include the evening meal Monday to Saturday. Menus are available on the table in the entrance. Watch daily on Facebook as they post some old favorites in their daily specials.

Chili Supper

October 18, 2023

4:00 – 7:00 p.m.

At Our Shepherd UCC, 710 Ethan Allen Drive, Howards Grove

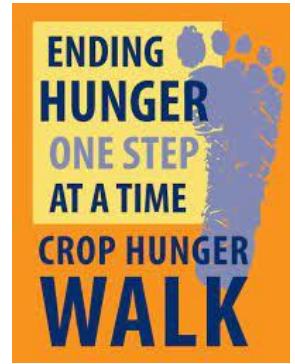


**Chili
Bread
Crackers
Cheese
Torte**



CROP Hunger Walk

Three generations of the Cirdava family live together in the Khobi municipality in Western Georgia, including Marina, who is the grandmother in the family. It's a community where families have to spend up to a third of their income to pay for energy. They have worked with CWS and partner RCDA to install a series of energy techniques which include a fuel-efficient stove, a solar collector for hot water, a solar fruit dryer, a briquette device, and an eco-toilet. They are teaching others to do it too. The projects were done by local craft people using locally sourced materials.



This is just one example of how we are helping by supporting the CROP Hunger Walk each year. Our walk this year will take place on Sunday, October 8th. Registration will be at Our Shepherd U.C.C. starting at 12:00. The walk will start at 12:30 and consist of walking through a trail that has been developed in the woods. We will end up back at church for a Hot dog roast and s-mores. If you are collecting money from people, just put it in the envelope we had in the bulletin. If you need an envelope, we will have some extra on the table on the next few Sundays.

We hope to see some of you walking. Hope for a pleasant day.

Dates to Remember in October

Sunday, October 1	10:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m. Faith in the Fall/Sacraments
Sunday, October 8, 15, 22, 29	8:30 Church School, 10:00 Worship Service
Sunday, October 8	12:00 CROP Walk
Tuesday, October 10, 17, 24, 31	Dartball
Thursday, October 12	4:00 p.m. O & A Committee Meeting
Sunday, October 15	Raiseright orders are due TODAY
Wednesday, October 18	4:00 – 7:00 p.m. Chili Supper
Saturday, October 21	9 - 3 Brat Fry @ Miesfeld's
Sunday, October 22	Newsletter Articles orders are due TODAY
Tuesday, October 3, 17	12:30 Meal prep for Salvation Army
Monday, October 2, 9, 16, 23, 30	11:00 a.m. Yoga
Wednesday, October 11, 25	Coffee Break – 9:00a.m. – 11:00 a.m.
Sunday, October 29	5:00 – 7:00 p.m. Youth @ Bethlehem

Fall is Here and that means Youth Programming!

The first Youth Group event for the season will be hosted by Bethlehem UCC on Sunday, Oct. 29 from 5p.m.-7p.m. There will be a fall theme; perhaps a bonfire, or pumpkin carving, and some games. All youth enrolled in our Confirmation Program or older are invited to attend.

Consistory Meeting

*Sacraments will be on October 1st. (Faith in the Fall Celebration and World-Wide Communion Day)

*The Wisconsin Conference has revamped its clergy compensation guidelines. The Pastoral Relations Committee will take the time to review the new guidelines.

*The lawn mowing issue was discussed. An estimate was given of about \$400 a week if we had someone do it. Mark and Sandy Vollbrecht would like to hand the project off to someone else. We will be discussing it at our annual meeting in January.

*The Wisconsin Conference has revamped its clergy compensation guidelines. The Pastoral Relations Committee will take the time to review the new guidelines.

*St. Peter's in Kiel is organizing a 2024 mission trip as an Appalachia Service Project. The project would be for 9th grade students and above.

*Darlene Meyers has been our unofficial historian the past few years. She would like to hand the project over to someone else.

*Rev. Nathan will be on vacation October 2nd thru the 8th. He will be attending the Convergence Music Festival in Nashville TN from October 17th through the 22nd. On the 22nd we will have the Rocke Brothers musical group from Hortonville lead our worship. Audrey will host that Sunday.

*The painting project has been complete including the lampposts. We are about \$2,000 short for the project.

***Next meeting will be October 15, 2023 at 8:30 a.m.**

Complete meeting minutes are posted on the bulletin board

Save those Plastic Bags



Plastic collection continues. If we can collect 500 lbs. in a 6-month period we are eligible for a bench. Please start actively saving bags and ask family and friends to help. To date we have collected 230 lbs. If anyone is willing to help store a few bags in a shed or garage, please contact Pastor Nathan or Renae.

Scholarship Presentation Event

The Annual United Church Men & Women Scholarship Presentation Event will be hosted by St. James UCC in Spring Valley on October 19 at 6:30 pm. The keynote speaker this year is Lisa Hart, Associate Conference Minister for Faith Formation and Justice Ministries - Wisconsin Conference UCC. Each year this organization awards thousands of dollars to multiple individuals pursuing the vocation of ministry. In this era of clergy shortages, the work of this organization is more vital than ever. A simple way to support these efforts is to attend the event. A wonderful meal is provided and you will probably learn something along the way in addition to sharing fellowship with members of our local churches. Pastor Nathan has tickets available for this event if you are interested.

Save the Date and Please Join Us For.....



THE ROCKE BROTHERS

From Hortonville, WI
Sunday, Oct., 22, 2023
10:00 AM

Our Shepherd UCC

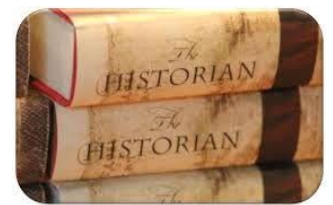
For more information, please go to:

<https://www.rockebrothers.com/>

The Rocke Brothers perform a diverse range of music, primarily acapella and southern gospel. In a world that is so lost and a church that is struggling to be set apart, our mission is to encourage fellow brothers and sisters in Christ and bring comfort in time of need. Every concert features joy, humor, and encouragement. We aspire to challenge the believer through word and song to live and walk in a way that is worthy of the Lord and to bring glory to His name in all they do. Please join us on October 22 for a phenomenal performance by the Rocke Brothers.

Searching for a Historian

One of the images of a healthy congregation that I find to be helpful is of a person standing upright with their feet comfortably spread. This person has one foot standing on the word 'History' and the other foot standing on the word 'Future' and they are straddling the word 'Present'. In other words, a healthy congregation knows their history, is anchored in that history and yet is striving for the future, which will inevitably be different than the past. In order to do this successfully it is helpful to have someone who compiles a history, for a while now Darlene Meyers has been serving as our unofficial historian, taking pictures and trying to keep them organized. Darlene is taking on other responsibilities in her life and would like to hand this responsibility off to someone else. If you would have an interest in this, please come talk to Pastor Nathan. We are also exploring an exciting new way of displaying our history. Stay tuned and keep your eyes open!



The Lord's Prayer

for **CHILDREN!**

PRAYERS/SCRIPTURES

Dear Father God, who is in Heaven,
your name is the most wonderful, special and holy name!
We want you as our king.
We want to do what you want us to,
here where we are, just like it is in heaven.
Please give us all that we need.
We are so sorry for the things we do wrong.
Help us to forgive others when they hurt or upset us.
Don't let us get tricked into doing bad things.
Instead help us to make good choices,
because you are the king of all kings.
The most powerful,
the most amazing, beautiful and awesome God,
always and forever! Amen.



The Lord's Prayer

Our Father who art in Heaven
hallowed be Thy name.
Thy kingdom come,
Thy will be done,
on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread
and forgive us our trespasses,
as we forgive those
who trespass against us.
Lead us not into temptation
but deliver us from evil.
For Thine is the kingdom,
and the power, and the glory,
for ever and ever. Amen.

Faith in the Fall



MUSIC, FELLOWSHIP, FOOD, RAFFLES, CHILDREN'S TENT

Bring Lawn Chairs

Held Rain or Shine

Sunday, October 1, 2023

10:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.

Free Admission

**Bring your family and friends and join us for an entertaining, relaxing
and spirit filled day!**

MUSIC SCHEDULE



10:00	HANNAH ROSE REYES
11:15	PRAISEWORTHY
12:15	MESSENGERS OF THE WAY QUARTET
1:15	STRAIGHT STREET

For more information:

www.ourshepherducc.com

Our Shepherd UCC, Howards Grove

Proceeds from the 50/50 raffle donated the
Sheboygan County Food Bank

From the Pastor...

The Sound of Silence

In 1964 Simon and Garfunkel released a song entitled the 'Sound of Silence'. When it was first released it was a complete flop, it actually caused Simon and Garfunkel to go their separate ways. It was only 2 years later, when the song was remixed, that it took off and



Simon and Garfunkel had to scramble to get back together. Silence is not something a lot of people are comfortable with. I really don't think the song is meant to celebrate silence, I think it is more of a lament on our struggles to communicate and be in community with one another. The lyrics of the song seem to begrudgingly acknowledge the presence of silence and then comment on the ways in which we try to remove the silence. It is pretty common for individuals to be really uncomfortable with silence and this discomfort varies from culture to culture. Studies have been done, (yes, someone out there studies almost everything) in Western Cultures, (the United States) we are generally very uncomfortable with a silence of more than 4 seconds in a conversation. Our typical conversations do not contain a silence of over one-half of a second. In some cultures, they are comfortable with silences of up to 8 seconds. 8 seconds would probably seem like an eternity to most of us and we would be wondering if our conversation partner was still with us.

We live in a world in which there is a lot of commotion and I wonder if at times all of the commotion is messing with our ability to actually process what is occurring. We may indeed be accustomed to all of the noise, the lack of silence, but I am not convinced it is always good for us.

We are all familiar with another song that talks about silence, the 19th century carol, Silent Night. It is in the silence of the night that our Saviour arrives, it is in the silence that those who were present were able to recognize that something special was happening. The next time you find yourself in an involved conversation, pay attention to the silence. Perhaps give it just a little more space, you don't have to exaggerate, but take the time to breathe before responding, allow each other's statements to have a little space. You might be surprised at what is revealed in the silence.

-Peace, *Pastor Nathan*