



# The Messenger

First United Methodist Church Newsletter  
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Rev. Richard Nichols, Pastor  
Glenn Rodgers, Director of Music  
Kathy Clawges, Director of Youth

Rev. HeyYoung Horton, Associate Pastor  
Karen Murray, Director of Christian Education  
Doug Hamilton, Maintenance Coordinator

Devika Gill, Director of First Light Learning Center

Join us for Worship - Saturday 5:30 pm, Sunday 8:30 am, 9:30 am, 11:00 am  
Visit us on the Web at: [www.meetwithGod.com](http://www.meetwithGod.com) -or- Email us at: [church@meetwithGod.com](mailto:church@meetwithGod.com)

MARCH 2017



## ASH WEDNESDAY Soup Supper & Worship March 1st

Please join us as we begin the Lenten season on Wednesday, March 1st with a special Ash Wednesday soup supper at 6:00 p.m. in Fellowship Hall, followed by a worship service with imposition of ashes, at 7:00 p.m. in the Sanctuary. A Lenten study on The Pursuit of God led by Pastor Richard will be held each Wednesday evening at 7:00 in the Heritage Room beginning March 8th. See pages 2 & 3 for more details about the Lenten small group studies.

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## SPRING WORK DAY March 25th, 8am - 2pm

Your Property Committee will be having a Work Day Saturday, Mar. 25th on the church grounds and at the 2 parsonages. This is an opportunity for families, scouts and youth to come out and help spruce up the church properties. Starting time is 8am (with donuts and coffee). Lunch will be provided. We will be wrapped up by 2pm. Bring wheel barrows, rakes, work gloves and hammers! A great time for fellowship with church attendees. Questions: see Doug Hamilton or John Halligan.

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## RED CROSS BLOOD DRIVE Monday, March 6th



The next Red Cross Blood Drive is scheduled for Monday, March 6 from 1:30 to 6:30 in Fellowship Hall. If you are blessed with good health, please consider sharing that gift with those in need. To make an appointment, visit [redcrossblood.org](http://redcrossblood.org) or contact Jen Dunne at [jendunne1@gmail.com](mailto:jendunne1@gmail.com) or 856-979-6329. Thank you!

## GROUNDS FOR GOOD COFFEEHOUSE Friday, March 3rd



Come celebrate St. Patrick's Day at The First United Methodist Church's Grounds for Good Coffee House on Friday, March 3. The Moorestown Ceilidh Band, made up of members of the church and the community, will entertain the crowd with lively Irish music sure to get your toes tapping and your hands clapping! As always, there will be an art display, free coffee and tea and delicious homemade goodies for sale. Admission is free, but proceeds and donations will benefit Saints Prison Ministry. Doors will open at 7:30, with music kicking off at 8. Slainte!

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## CALENDAR OF EVENTS

- Mar. 1st Ash Wednesday-Soup 6:00, Service 7:00
- Mar. 3rd Grounds for Good - 8:00 - 11:00pm
- Mar. 6th Blood Drive - 1:30 - 6:30pm
- Mar. 6th Chick-fil-A fundraiser - 5:00 - 8:30pm
- Mar. 8th Wed. Dessert & Study begins - 6:45pm
- Mar. 10th My Abba's Hands - 7:00 - 9:00pm
- Mar. 10th My Abba's Hands - 9:00am - 3:00pm
- Mar. 11th Youth spaghetti dinner - 4:00 - 7:30pm
- Mar. 11-12 Laity Weekend - all services
- Mar. 12th **Daylight Saving time begins**
- Mar. 12th Come & See
- Mar. 14th Serving Plate - 5:00pm
- Mar. 14th Church Council - 7:00pm
- Mar. 15th Internat'l Women's Friendship Grp-10am
- Mar. 18th Eyes of Our Hearts breakfast - 7:00am
- Mar. 18th Adult Fellowship - Noon
- Mar. 18th Men's Breakfast - 7:45am
- Mar. 19th Light Harbor - 2:30pm
- Mar. 19th Chelsea Chen Organ Recital - 7:00pm
- Mar. 19th Spring Property Work Day - 8am - 2pm
- Mar. 25th Host IHN
- Mar. 26-Apr2 Crafts for Good - 7:00 - 8:30pm
- Mar. 28th



FROM  
PASTOR RICHARD

The season of Lent reminds us that we are on a spiritual journey. We take the road that leads us with Jesus to the cross. It is a journey that prepares us for Easter. It is a time of spiritual examination and reflection and asks us to take a closer look at the spiritual disciplines of our faith. Lent is a call to remember Jesus' words to take up the cross and follow him.

During the season of Lent our sermon series will focus on the message of the cross. The theme will be on the Wondrous Cross based on the deeply meaningful hymn: "When I Survey the Wondrous Cross". Each week we will look at what it meant for Jesus to go to the cross and consider its significance for the living of our faith.

I along with others will also be leading a Lenten study on The Pursuit of God by A.W. Tozer. This spiritual classic challenges us to go deeper in our walk with God and will be an excellent resource for our spiritual growth in this season. Please check Karen Murray's article for the list of small groups that will be meeting and sign up for a group listed on the bulletin board in the church narthex.

Let this Lenten season be a time for personal reflection and growth. May each of us discover the peace and joy of being drawn nearer to the Christ we follow and serve.

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**DAYLIGHT SAVING TIME  
BEGINS MARCH 12th!**



Don't forget to set your clocks ahead one hour before you go to sleep Saturday, March 11th!

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**ELECTRONIC GIVING OPTION**

If you would like to use your mobile device to make an electronic donation to FUMC Moorestown, just scan this QR code and you'll be connected to our mobile giving page!



**MUSIC NEWS**

**ORGANIST  
CHELSEA CHEN**

**Sunday, March 19th, 7:00 p.m.**



Internationally acclaimed recitalist and Principal Organist at Coral Ridge Presbyterian Church performs in recital. Reception to follow in the Susan D. Rodgers Music Ministry Center.

Organist and composer Chelsea Chen (b. 1983) is internationally renowned for her concerts of "rare musicality" and "lovely lyrical grandeur," and a compositional style that is "charming" and "irresistible" (Los Angeles Times).

Chelsea Chen has electrified audiences throughout the United States, Europe, Australia, and Asia in venues such as Singapore's Esplanade, Hong Kong's Cultural Centre, Kishinev's National Organ Hall, and Philadelphia's Kimmel Center. As a composer she is broadening the classical organ repertoire with her own works based on Asian folksongs.

The recipient of the 2009 Lili Boulanger Memorial Award and winner of the 2005 Augustana/Reuter National Organ Competition, Ms. Chen is a graduate of Juilliard, where she received both her Bachelor's and Master's degrees. She was also a full scholarship recipient at Yale University, where she earned an Artist Diploma. Her major organ teachers included Thomas Murray, John Weaver, Paul Jacobs, Monte Maxwell and Leslie Robb.

In 2014 she became Organist and Artist-in Residence at Coral Ridge Presbyterian Church in Ft. Lauderdale, Florida. She splits her time between Florida and New York, where she is also Artist-in-Residence at Emmanuel Presbyterian Church in Manhattan.



**FROM THE DIRECTOR  
OF CHRISTIAN EDUCATION**

*“If you believe, you will receive whatever you ask for in prayer.” Matthew 21:22*

So much of our faith is grounded in believing. We believe that God is the Father and Creator. We believe that Jesus is God's son and our Savior and we believe that the Holy Spirit was sent to be our guide, our friend and our companion. But do we really believe that what we ask for in prayer will be granted to us?

I recently heard a message by Dr. Charles Stanley on “Believing in God” (YouTube 4/12/2013) where he was answering a question from a 6-year-old boy who wanted to know how he could believe in God and how should he pray. A few highlights from Dr. Stanley's answer were: *“Ask God to help you believe in Him and He will answer that prayer.”* (Be open to God's presence in your life.) *“Read the Bible. It's hard to believe in something if you don't know anything about Him.”* (Be diligent in getting to know God.) *“As you seek God you will begin to feel His presence. When I was 12 I knew something was happening in my heart and I asked Jesus to be my Savior.”* (It is through accepting Jesus as our Savior that we have the a better understanding of how believing in God makes having faith and praying more real.)

I was blessed by how Dr. Stanley answered the question because he pointed out that it is by faith that we come to believing but not just an idle faith but also a faith in action. By believing in God and by putting our faith into action God makes His presence known and therefore helps us to understand that *“whatever you ask for in prayer it will be answered.”*

Just a reminder though that not all prayer gets answered the way we want it answered but all prayer gets answered in a way that glorifies God. Pray without ceasing, live expectantly, and trust that the Lord will walk with you and guide your steps. As Dr. Stanley said, *“Ask God to help you believe in Him and he will answer that prayer.”*

*~Praying,  
Karen Murray, DCE*

**Important Dates:**

- **March 1<sup>st</sup>, 7pm - Ash Wednesday Service (6:00 Soup Dinner)**
- **Lenten Dessert & Study - Wednesdays at 6:45pm in the Heritage Room.**
- The Education Department's **“Winter Mission Adventure”** continues through March. We are collecting “Coins-for-Cancer”. March 5<sup>th</sup> - Nickels, March 12<sup>th</sup> - Dimes, March 19<sup>th</sup> - Quarters & March 26<sup>th</sup> - Dollars!
- Thursday Afternoon **Children's Youth Group** continues to meet at 4:30pm in Fellowship Hall. Children between the ages of 5 & 6<sup>th</sup> grade are welcome. March 2, 9, 16, 23 & 30.
- **Confirmation Class** - March 1<sup>st</sup> (Ash Wednesday Service 7:00), March 6<sup>th</sup> (5:30), March 19<sup>th</sup> (11:00), March 27<sup>th</sup> (5:30)

**LENTEN STUDY**

**“The Pursuit of God”, A.W. Tozer** - If you would like to **HOST** a Lenten Group in your home, or would like to be part of a small group please contact Karen Murray at 856-222-1120. All Hosts will receive the book with a Study Guide included free of charge.

**\*\*If you would like to order a book please contact Karen Murray. The cost of the book is \$8.00.**

LAY LEADER LINES

Laity weekend is going to be March 11<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup>. In addition to listening to some of the young people in our congregation share their message, there will be a time to gather information about the ministries that are active in our church. There is much to offer, in terms of volunteering in a service organization, education, music group, or youth group, either as a student or a leader. Our church is blessed to have so many leaders and team players! There will be tables set up in Fellowship Hall on Sunday morning and church family members to talk with, about opportunities for serving.

It can be challenging, at first, to find the right place to serve. There are many benefits in taking the time to find something that interests each of us. Reading about our spiritual gifts in the New Testament is a good start: I Corinthians 12:4-11; I Corinthians 12:28; and Romans 12:6-8, could be good beginning points. Taking the time to pray, and read, will also be encouraging. There are many books about spiritual gifts. "Discovering Your Spiritual Gifts" by Luci Swindoll (author and speaker in "Women in Faith"), and "What You Do Best in the Body of Christ" by Bruce Bugbee (founding president of Network Ministries International), are just two of the resources that you might find helpful.

According to Pastor Steven J. Cole (Flagstaff Christian Fellowship Church, in Arizona), God will bless us as we serve and learn. Here are a few of his points:

- We get to serve God in an organized setting (leaders, members, resources, and a vision!).
- We serve God and people (love is an action!).
- We gain fellowship with other believers.
- We build on our skill sets (Colossians 3:23a states: "Whatever you do, work heartily, as we are working for God").

Pastor Kurt Skelly, the senior pastor of Harvest Baptist Church in Natrona Heights, Pennsylvania, reminds us that "glorifying God by serving in our local church ministry is the purpose of our salvation" and "we have been uniquely gifted to serve."

This Chinese proverb also is a gentle reminder: "Tell me and I'll forget. Show me and I may remember. Involve me and I'll understand."

As a six-year old told me, "teamwork is less me and more we!" We truly can learn so much from the little ones. They have visions and dreams, and love to be helpers. Their dreams can encourage us to work hard too. As four-year-old Greta said: "I better go to bed now. I have a dream that I need to let out!" What is our dream?

If we listen, pray, and talk, and remember this:

Together  
Everyone  
Achieves  
More

I believe that God is leading us all the way!

God bless you all,  
Kathy Appleton  
Lay Leader

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Baptisms:

Stephanie Doron (adult)  
on January 15, 2017

Tiffany VanHise (adult)  
on February 12, 2017

John Warren VanHise,  
on February 12, 2017; son of  
Wayne & Tiffany VanHise



Deaths:

James Ottignon  
on February 16, 2017



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OUR MISSION STATEMENT

First United Methodist Church is a community of faith committed to sharing the love of Jesus Christ with a hurting world through words and actions.



**FROM THE MISSIONS COMMISSION**

A once-in-a-lifetime opportunity.....How many can think of a moment in your life when the outcome of your decision would affect you for a very long time? It might have been deciding on that right person to marry to spend the rest of your life with or matters related to the heart, such as whether to reconcile a troubled relationship between you and someone else. What about that decision of when to leave your present job for that new and hopefully better one or when to retire? These are just a few of the important decisions most of us will have to make that will impact our life for a very long time. Sometimes we are forced to make these lasting decisions in a relative short amount of time. But it is only through time do we find out with certainty whether the decision we made was the correct one or feel blindsided if it turned out to be the wrong one. Mistakes, whether big or small are inevitable. But we need *not* dwell on them as we ask God to teach us, forgive us and empower us by the Holy Spirit so we can live faithfully in Christ.

Unlike those lasting decisions God also provides us with many daily opportunities we need to decide to act on. Sometimes these opportunities deal with our own personal well-being, but more often they deal with serving our Lord by ministering to others. As our mission statement indicates we are to faithfully share the love of Christ with a hurting world in both words and actions. How we accomplish this is by letting Christ's light shine through us for the world to see. Doing this allows us to not only want to help people and share our love in a Christ like manner, but in the process we become a blessing to other people. Letting our light shine is really synonymous with allowing the Holy Spirit take control of our life. I believe when we allow this to happen, we not only become the person God created us to be, but God gives us this inward joy, peace, love and strength even when we experience tough times in our lives. Imagine, instead of being self-serving to ourselves, God gives us great joy in helping other people while being a personal witness for his son.

One of the many opportunities our church participates in furthering the gospel is through the Camden Ministry. Each month our church (headed by Judi Angelow) participates in making breakfast for people where some are homeless, many are poor and most show the outward appearance of having lived a hard life. I am thankful

that many people from our church donate their time and money in serving this ministry. Clearly without your much appreciated help and God's grace, this would not be possible. I know from first-hand experience that most of our guests greatly appreciate your generosity in supporting their physical needs. But it does not stop there. We also help our guests with their spiritual needs through the power of Christ.

I began "working" the prayer table the first day I became a part of this ministry, over a year ago. Since then my life has been blessed well beyond I could imagine. During this time I have been able to get to know some of the guests on a personal basis while also having the privilege to pray for them. Some of their prayer concerns are a result of their personal decisions they made in the past while others have experienced devastating situations that they had no control over. Some of their prayer concerns consist of an abusive brother and father addicted to drugs, a loving husband in hospice care, a son mourning for his mother, an unemployed man desperately looking for work, a woman who doesn't think God can forgive her because she feels unworthy. These are just some of the people who are suffering, are low in spirit and believe they have little to no hope of improving their outlook. Though every prayer I give is tailored to that individual's concern, my prayer and discussion with them eventually centers on the unconditional grace and love of Christ. You see without Christ our hope is in vain. By sharing the good news we realize again and again how much the Lord really loves us and that He yearns to have a personal relationship with everyone regardless of how we may think of ourselves. In fact it is our relationship with Jesus that allows us to experience such joy, peace and comfort even when we go through great trials and hardships in our own lives. Throughout the month I think of the people I pray for as my friends and continue to keep them in prayer. I am always delighted to see them back again the next month so I can follow up with their spiritual needs and through God's power lift up their spirits. Providing hope in a hurting world through the power in Christ is what our church does. May God continue to provide us with more opportunities to share our love in Christ so we can be a blessing to others.

Allan Estrin  
Missions Commission



**FAITH NOTES**  
**How God Is at Work in Our Lives**

**This month - Denise Krippel**

My name is Denise Krippel and I've been a member of the church my entire life. I was asked to share my faith testimony with the Church. I was so excited to share my story with you, because just recently I've returned to the church and realized how much I've missed not only God and worshipping him, but also the feeling of being connected to such an amazing Church Family. My journey started with being baptized here at FUMC and attending Sunday school and Confirmation Classes. But, perhaps the greatest part of my journey is my memory of attending Youth Group. I didn't realize it then, but the experiences I gained from being involved with the church have molded me into someone I'm really proud to be. After high school I went away to college and attended Towson University where I studied Nursing and graduated with my Bachelor's Degree. I currently work as a Registered Nurse at the Lourdes Emergency Room at Deborah Hospital. I had drifted from the church during my college years, but it was my boyfriend, Danny, who had mentioned he wanted to start going to church. God truly works in mysterious ways, because I had been feeling something missing in my life. Danny and I started to attend Sunday morning services, and soon enough he felt the love and warmth that this Church has to offer. I was nervous coming back because I had not attended for a couple of years and my familiar pastor; Pastor Steve was replaced by Pastor Richard. I was skeptical at first when I listened to Pastor Richard, because how could anyone even come close to Pastor Steve? I wondered if I could possibly regain that sense of connection and comfort that I had when listening to Pastor Steve's sermons. That skepticism was quickly replaced with gratitude, excitement, and purpose. I am so in awe of Pastor Richard's sermons and his ability to connect scripture to real life events. I find myself applying these lectures into my daily living, something I had not done in the past. Recently, I've run into many new members who have asked me if I liked growing up in this church. That answer is yes yes yes! I urge all new members to become involved. Looking back, my greatest memories include my mission trip to Maine, youth group retreats to Mt. Misery camp, Drama club, and participating in different volunteer activities. Going to church on Sunday morning is great! But, the only way to truly feel connected and obtain that feeling

of connectedness is to become involved. I now find myself asking God where I might best fit the needs of the church. As far as my personal journey with God, I don't feel that I have an overly impressive story of how God changed my life or saved me from something tragic. I often feel that maybe I'm missing something. Interestingly enough, through my return to church I've realized that I never had to be saved from great tragedies because I've always had God by my side. Even when I didn't pray as much as I should, even when I strayed from the church, he's always been right beside me. I truly look forward to continuing my journey with each and every one of you.

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**SPRING MUSICAL**  
**FREE SENIOR CITIZEN MATINEE**

The Wednesday, March 8th matinee performance of the annual Moorestown High School spring musical will once again be free of charge to senior citizens and those who accompany them. This year's musical is "Curtains", a murder-mystery comedy set in the 1950's.

**Details:**

- Wednesday March 8th
- 12:00 p.m. - 2:30/3:00
- **Free of charge** for senior citizens and those who accompany them
- Pretzels, candy and water served at intermission by the Moorestown Education Association
- Guests are welcome to bring their own lunches, if needed
- Guests/facilities need to provide their own transportation. Buses can drop off the passengers, those driving will need to park and walk to the entrance
- No specific reservations are needed, but it is helpful if facilities can give an estimate for numbers.

Questions - call Tracey Gural, 609-744-7698.



## MARCH YOUTH NEWS



Hello parents! Happy March!

Jr. & Sr. High meet every Sunday night from 7:00-8:30pm downstairs, below Fellowship Hall, in the youth rooms. All Jr. & Sr. High students are invited to join us.

**Bible Study** every Wednesday night from 6:00pm-8:00pm. This includes dinner (Fellowship Hall) and study (Sr. High room). Food donations and help with food preparation are always appreciated.

March 1st - We will attend Ash Wednesday Service together.

March 8th - We will begin "Live Passion" practice. If you would like to be in the Live Passion, come out to practice. The Passion will come to life on April 12th (Wednesday of Holy Week).

### SPAGHETTI DINNER

March 11, 4pm - 7:30pm

LOCATION: First UMC Fellowship Hall

Let us cook for you! Come on out and enjoy a spaghetti dinner sponsored by the Jr. & Sr. High Youth. Tickets will be sold during coffee hour in Fellowship Hall. You may also ask any Youth you see for tickets. The cost is \$10 for adults / \$8 for children & seniors. All proceeds go to the youth to help pay for their mission trips, etc. Thank you in advance for your support! If you have any questions please contact Kathy Clawges at 856-912-1148 or [kclawges@gmail.com](mailto:kclawges@gmail.com).



### Habitat for Humanity Service Project

March 4, 9am - 1pm

LOCATION: Habitat for Humanity Warehouse

We will be joining the Missions Committee with helping at the Habitat for Humanity warehouse sorting items, etc. We will leave from the church parking lot at 9am and return approximately 1pm. Lunch will be included. Any Youth participating will receive community service hours. Please bring your forms to be signed. If you have any questions, please contact Kathy Clawges at 856-912-1148 or [kclawges@gmail.com](mailto:kclawges@gmail.com).



### Youth Committee w/Parents

March 13, 7pm - 8pm

LOCATION: Sr. High room

Parents, please join us in the Sr. High room for our Youth Committee meeting -- hear what's going in Youth Ministry and how you may be able to help. We will also go over the information compiled from the Youth Surveys that the youth completed. Hope to see you there.



### MuckFest MS 2017

June 3

LOCATION: The grounds of the Glen Mills Schools, 185 Glen Mills Road, Glen Mills, PA 19342

Cost: **\$65 for Registration by March 5<sup>th</sup>**



What is a MuckFest MS?

MuckFest MS is the FUN mud run with the best obstacles. All you need is a sense of humor and a pair of sneakers. No special training required. We run on a well-designed 5K course with 18+ obstacles surrounded by mud from start to finish. This event is built for laughs, but we're also on a serious mission to support people living with multiple sclerosis and to bring us closer to a world free of MS. 100% of fundraising dollars go to the National Multiple Sclerosis Society. *This is a church wide event hosted by the Jr. & Sr. High Youth Groups and organized by our StudentServe Leadership Team.*

If you are interested in participating, please contact Kathy Clawges [kclawges@gmail.com](mailto:kclawges@gmail.com) or Steph Maines [maines1102@gmail.com](mailto:maines1102@gmail.com). For more information go to: [www.MuckFestMS.com](http://www.MuckFestMS.com)

March Youth News, *Continued from pg. 7*

**An Introduction to Generation Z (aka: your teen)**

HomeWord.com

When you think of today's teens you might assume that they all belong to the Millennial generation. But while Millennials will continue to influence culture for decades to come, if you are now raising teens, it's likely that they belong to Generation Z, a new and emerging generation of teenagers.

Even though research into Gen Z is in its infancy, two things are consistently agreed upon by students of culture:

1) Gen Z teens are now on the scene, and 2) they, like all previous generations, will carve out their own unique characteristics and have their own distinctive values, attitudes and behaviors.

Researchers have started turning the lens of examination on Gen Z. One recent study by Northeastern University compiled information obtained from surveys of over 1,000 teens 16-19, and this study may be one of the first to attempt to build our understanding of this new generation.

**Here are some characteristics of today's teens that were obtained through the study:**

- Today's teens are concerned about the costs of going to college and the debt that is often part of the college experience.
- Two in three fear they might not be able to find a job after college.
- Four in ten expect to be self-employed during their adult career.
- More than half believe that anyone should have a right to become a U.S. citizen no matter how they enter the country.
- Half receive their news online. Only two in ten get news from watching television.
- While technology is simply a part of everyday life for teens, two in three (69%) prefer to interact with friends in-person over interacting online, with only 15% preferring online.
- 70% would not use electronic methods (online, phones, texting, etc.) to ask someone out on a date.

**Questions for Parents:**

1. If your teen is planning on attending college, how can you help prepare her/him to deal with the financial aspects?
2. If your teen expresses concern about accumulating significant debt to attend college, how can you help her/him think through alternatives to amassing debt?
3. How does your teen view today's significant social issues like immigration?
4. What points of tension might you experience with your teen based on their views of these social issues?
5. Does your teen prefer to connect with friends online or in-person? Why?
6. How can you encourage your teen toward more in-person interaction with their friends?
7. How can you influence your teen toward better integration between life issues and their faith?