



The Senior Scene

Love people. Know Jesus. Live Transformed.

Volume 35

April / May 2026

God's Use of Verbs

The Israelites groaned in their slavery. Their cry for help ... went up to God. God listened. God heard their groaning and He remembered His covenant ... God saw their troubles and took notice of the Israelites. He understood and was concerned about them. (Exodus 2:23-25)

Remember when you were in school and learned the parts of speech – nouns, verbs, adjectives, adverbs? (Perhaps we'd rather not remember those lessons!) What did we learn about verbs? They are action words! Verbs tell us what someone is doing... what they are accomplishing.

In the verses above, we see several verbs describing God's actions on behalf of His people. They had been enslaved to the Egyptians for hundreds of years. They were oppressed and mistreated. So, they cried out to God.

And look at the "verbs" God uses in response: He listened, He heard, He remembered, He saw, He took notice, and He was concerned about them.

First, He listened and heard. He listened to their cries and heard their groaning. Even prayers they couldn't express in words reached God's heart of compassion. As do our prayers. If we have ever had unanswered prayers that make us wonder, "does God hear me?"

Throughout Scripture (2 Sam 22:7, Ps 34:15; Is 65:24; Micah 7:7 to list a few) we are assured that God hears each desperate cry and sees each silent tear ... and responds. In the book of Daniel (10:12) we read: *Do not be afraid. Since the first day that you set your mind to gain understanding and to humble yourself before your God, your words were heard.* He says the same to us.

God invites us to cry out to Him, and He never fails to hear His faithful people. He treasures our prayers so much He keeps them before Him in golden bowls, like precious incense (Revelation 5:8). God answers every prayer in His perfect wisdom and timing as He has always done.

Our verse also says, He remembered. Specifically, He remembered His covenant. God had promised their forefathers that they would have a homeland of their own. God never forgets His promises and never fails to fulfill them. For the Israelites at that moment, they were feeling like forgotten people. Where was God? Did He care? A resounding "yes!" They were not forgotten, and neither are we.

We are as much of a mess as Israel was. We too can be wayward and disobedient and land in "slavery"... to sin and guilt. But we also are in covenant with God... and He hasn't forgotten it. We also have been delivered. His hand of mercy has reached us too.

Next in our verse, God saw their troubles. Nothing is hidden from His eyes. He took notice. That Hebrew verb means to pay attention and to respond based on having seen. Things happen when God takes notice of our distress! In Psalm 18 we read of God responding to the cry of His children — *the earth quaked and the mountains shook... and He parted the heavens and came down.* He literally moved heaven and earth to reach out to His children!

He was concerned / He understood the pain of His people in Egypt. And He understands our pain. He understands because He created us and is personally immersed in everything that happens to us. And He understands because He has walked in our shoes. (John 1:14) He sees when we falter, and He understands our deepest fears. He cares, and He takes action.

Then, after all of these actions on behalf of His people, we see five more verbs—He called Moses from the wilderness. He appeared... *and said, I have watched over you and have seen what has been done to you. I have promised to bring you up out of your misery.* And He delivered His people.

He hears ...
He takes
notice... He
delivers. The
grace of God
coming to us in
verbs!





Dandelion Faith

Who loves dandelions? They are the bane of every lawn care expert's existence! No matter how carefully we try to dig them up, we never get the whole thing. The root stays deep in the ground, threatening to grow up again another day.

Dandelions are typically either ignored or attacked; they are never nurtured or cared for, and yet they always bloom profusely. They demand no pampering or special attention to yield their bright blossoms. They pop up in fields, on lawns, and between cracks in the sidewalk. They are found in the best of neighborhoods or the worst of slums. No one ever gets yelled at for picking them in a public park.

Despite their bad reputation as prolific weeds, if you look at them objectively, dandelions are a pretty little flower with their yellow strands all tucked neatly into the center. And truly they are the most beautiful flower there is when presented to us clutched in a child's dirty hand! Who could refuse something so enjoyed by children?

Furthermore, dandelions are versatile, edible plants used in culinary and medicinal applications. Every part is usable: roots for tea or coffee substitutes, leaves as nutrient-dense greens, and flowers for wine, syrup, or jellies. Medicinally, they may support liver and digestive health, act as a diuretic, and aid skin issues.

But would you ever plant them in your garden? They wouldn't stay in your garden. They would soon jump their boundaries, and they would pop their cheerful yellow faces all over your lawn... and the neighbors' lawns! Would they thank you for that? No... no one would plant weeds in their garden.

But one man's weed is another man's flower. A friend of mine once had a visitor from an arid and barren country in Africa where few plants of any kind survive. One of the first things he said upon arriving at the home of his host was, "Look at all the beautiful yellow flowers covering your lawn!" It's all a matter of perspective.

The common dandelion— pervasive, persistent, of practical use, even beautiful, if often misunderstood and cast aside.

We as believers should have faith like dandelions. Popping up in all circumstances and in all places. Not giving ground when all around us is against us. Serving in practical and sometimes behind-the-scenes ways. Showing our sunny faces to an often-gloomy world. And mostly, putting down deep roots that are not easily dug up.

When your yard is overrun by an overabundance of dandelions this spring, remember to appreciate the beauty even in the "weeds."



(From the files of Rev. James Cuffman)

Summer Bible Study

Jesus, Our Savior Who Prays
Thursdays June 4 through July 23 at 10AM
in the Edinburgh Room.

Prayer was of utmost importance to Jesus. We see that clearly in the gospels. In this study, we will consider 13 specific prayers of Jesus that are recorded in the gospels and see how they teach us to pray.



A Piano Story 70+ Years in the Making

Worshippers at Memorial Park Church hear the piano every Sunday but few are aware of its wonderful history.

Our piano is a Steinway concert grand, which at nine feet in length is the longest piano that Steinway produces. A piano of that size has over 12,000 individual parts, most of which are assembled by hand in a process that takes up to a year to complete.

MPC's piano was finished and left the New York City factory in 1953. It was shipped to the Steinway franchise in Pittsburgh, which was held by the Joseph Horne Co. at that time. Horne's would have had several concert grands available for guest artists visiting and playing with the Pittsburgh Symphony Orchestra, which at that time performed at the Syria Mosque. One can only imagine the famous names who played this piano as soloists with the PSO.

After its life with the Symphony, the piano was purchased by the William Penn Hotel to grace their lobby and serenade guests. From 1976 to 1984, Andre Previn was Music Director of the PSO. When in town to conduct, he always stayed at the William Penn and I'm told that he came to the lobby many evenings to play and enjoy the piano. He was a great jazz player as well as a classical pianist.

Former MPC Director of Worship, Clark Bedford also played at the William Penn on a regular basis and when the hotel decided to replace the piano in the early 1980's, he immediately acquired it for MPC.

Since arriving at MPC, it has been played almost every week for worship, has been at the center of many concerts by both guest artists and Memorial Park musicians, and has accompanied joy and grief in our sanctuary. For a piano that is over seventy years old, it is in wonderful condition and it's a joy to play it each week.

--Gail Henry

Coming Soon!



3rd Annual Community BBQ and Fundraiser

April 12 from noon to 2PM at MPC.

Great food / Great music / Great cause

Adult tickets are \$15. If you are unable to attend, perhaps you would consider donating a ticket that will be offered to a family that uses NHCO services. This event sells out quickly, so reserve your ticket soon by logging on to nhco.org or contacting their office at 412-487-6316.



All the time!

Cartoon Characters- The leftover letters reveal this month's Scripture

M	I	W	G	S	P	O	N	G	E	B	O	B	I	L	L	T	S
A	A	B	H	O	O	P	E	H	T	E	I	N	N	I	W	A	S
R	S	S	U	D	O	I	O	N	A	G	O	O	F	E	O	C	K
V	Y	N	E	G	R	F	O	P	Z	U	T	R	E	S	O	E	C
I	Y	T	O	T	S	O	Y	R	E	U	E	T	N	O	D	H	U
N	B	E	G	O	I	B	O	O	L	Y	Y	T	B	N	Y	T	D
T	L	A	K	F	P	M	U	P	G	H	E	Y	U	I	W	X	D
H	N	I	R	C	R	Y	E	N	Y	I	D	O	N	I	O	I	L
E	T	O	N	N	I	E	H	S	N	O	H	E	L	M	O	L	A
M	O	R	S	U	E	M	D	K	O	Y	N	E	I	L	D	E	N
A	N	N	G	T	S	Y	C	F	R	Y	E	I	I	B	P	F	O
R	J	I	N	X	E	U	R	R	L	C	W	V	I	O	E	H	D
T	R	V	L	L	D	J	E	U	O	I	E	S	R	O	C	C	D
I	E	L	I	Y	N	B	E	Y	B	O	N	K	G	B	K	N	U
A	P	A	F	O	E	I	O	G	Y	B	Y	T	F	O	E	I	F
N	S	F	Y	L	N	T	O	L	R	P	L	U	S	O	R	R	R
R	A	L	K	N	E	O	V	E	I	O	F	E	O	T	R	G	E
D	C	C	I	Y	O	U	A	G	R	E	E	M	Y	F	O	O	M
R	U	M	F	O	G	H	O	R	N	L	E	G	H	O	R	N	L
H	T	Y	R	R	E	J	D	N	A	M	O	T	R	E	S	S	E
A	I	N	U	T	E	P	R	E	H	T	N	A	P	K	N	I	P
R	O	A	D	R	U	N	N	E	R	G	A	R	F	I	E	L	D

ALVIN

BARNEY RUBBLE

BOO BOO

BUGS BUNNY

CASPER

DAFFY DUCK

DONALD DUCK

DROOPY

ELMER FUDD

FELIX THE CAT



FOGHORN LEGHORN

FRED FLINTSTONE

GARFIELD

GEORGE JETSON

GOOFY

GRINCH

HUCKLEBERRY HOUND

JINX

LINUS

MARVIN THE MARTIAN



MICKEY

MINNIE

OLIVE OYL

PETUNIA

PINK PANTHER

PLUTO

POPEYE

PORKY PIG

ROAD RUNNER

SCOOBY DOO



SNOOPY

SPONGE BOB

TAZ

TOM AND JERRY

TWEETY

WILE E COYOTE

WINNIE THE POOH

WOODY WOODPECKER

YOGI

YOSEMITE SAM

