

“What clever birds. They are carrying a turtle on a stick!” exclaimed one man. Everyone was excited to see such an amazing sight.

“It was my idea. I am the clever one. I need to let them know,” thought the turtle. He opened his mouth to explain, but before the foolish turtle could say anything, he fell with a thud and died. The swans looked down at their dead friend and shook their heads bitterly at his foolishness. “If he had kept his mouth shut, he would be alive and happy with us,” said one swan to the other as they landed at the big lake which would be their home from then on.

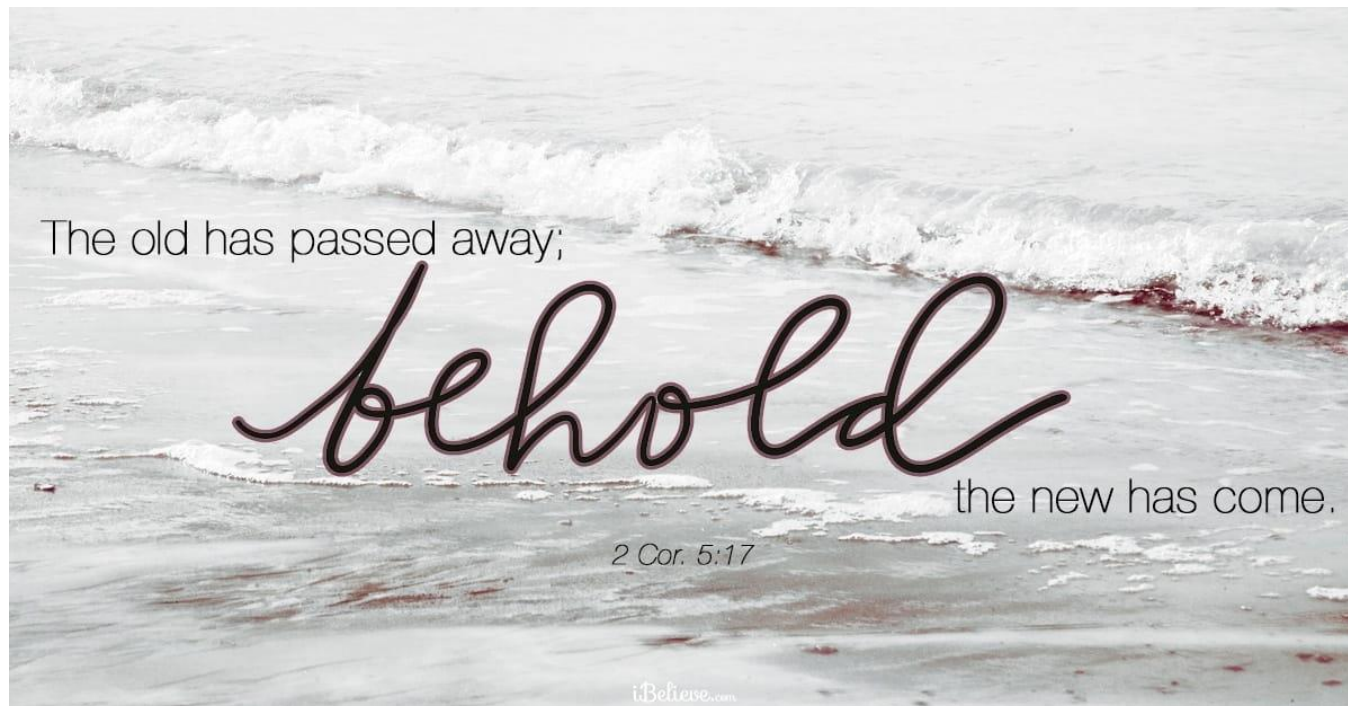
Publius, the Greek sage, put his finger on another technique we tend to forget when he admitted: I have often regretted my speech, never my silence.

In the New Year let’s think about all that God gives us including choice of how we glorify Him and live our lives with the gift of listening.

King David put it bluntly in Psalm 39: I will guard my ways that I may not sin with my tongue; I will guard my mouth as with a muzzle (v.1).

Or with a stick between two Swans...

Blessings for the New Year,
Rev. Coy



Joyful Noiz

January 13- February 17, 2023 Newsletter



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No matter who you are or where you are on life's journey, you are welcome here.

WHAT'S GOING ON AT ZION?

www.zionuccsteubenville.com



IN OUR CIRCLE OF PRAYER

Bill Bertram, Dakota Miller, Marlene Rhueff, Elaine Panyi, Tim Maloney, Steve Panyi

➤If you would like to be remembered in prayer or know of someone who would appreciate being included in this list, please contact the church office.



January 25

Happy Birthday!

Kathy Maguschak

January 28

Happy Anniversary!

David & Renea Hunt



PASTOR COY

If you would like to meet with Pastor Coy, please make an appointment with the church office at **740-282-1793**. If you would like to get a hold of Pastor Coy directly, his cell number is **330-301-0551**.

BUDGET COMMITTEE MEETING

We will be having a Budget Committee meeting **January 29, after worship**.

CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

We will be having our annual Congregational Meeting **February 5, after worship**.

CANCELLATIONS

Starting in this year, we will be announcing service cancellations on our website; www.zionuccsteubenville.com and Facebook; [@ZionUCCSteubenvilleOH](https://www.facebook.com/ZionUCCSteubenvilleOH).

CAMERA UPDATE

Hello to everyone. Rev. Coy and I just wanted to give you an update on our camera equipment. We are so excited and hope you are also. The equipment is all ordered and most of it has been delivered. When it is all delivered our video consultant will come and install it. Thank you again for the contributions and the positive feedback. We are so excited to put our whole service online so that everyone can experience our wonderful service from beginning to end. Just a reminder that Rev. Coy's sermons are on the church's website and the church's Facebook. Check them out! Thank you all again and we will keep you informed when it is ready and working... Rev. Coy and Joyce

Pastor's Pen

A Journey for the New Year

This New Years Joyce and I did something that we haven't done in many years. We actually saw the clock turn from 2022 to 2023! Normally we are fast asleep when the years change. But with some of the activity that goes on in the world we may have the safer way of celebrating. Sleeping!! People start out the New Year doing things that they shouldn't do, making promises that they don't keep, and wonder why their life never changes year after year. What are your goals for the New Year? Are you looking to change your life or just change what is acceptable in your life? The bright sun, the warm days of summer are gone, for now. Winter is an ideal time to slow down. To invest a few extra hours in quiet reverence. To remind ourselves that our God is in the heavens; He does whatever He pleases (Psalm 115:3). Take time to listen in this winter season of your life.

God is speaking to all of us but sometimes we don't listen. We are too busy wanting from Him that we don't listen to what He is saying to us. For our lives to prosper it is best to let God tell us how to live and not tell Him how we are going to live. We need to Listen.....

As usual if you know me this reminds me of a story... There was a lake at the outskirts of a small village. Two swans and a turtle who were good friends lived in the lake. They would play with each other and pass time telling stories. One year, there were no rains and the lake started drying up. "The lake is almost dry. We have to find some other place to live," said the turtle to the swans. "We will fly around and look for a suitable place," said the swans. Both the swans flew in different directions in search of a better place to live. A little distance away, one of the swans spotted a large lake. It had plenty of water and there were many fishes in it. He flew back to tell the others.

"There was only one problem," replied one swan. "The two of us can fly there in no time. But you crawl very slowly. And it is some distance away. You will never reach there." The turtle thought for some time. Suddenly His face lit up. "I have an idea he said." You bring me a stick. I will hold the center of the stick in my mouth. Both of you can hold the stick on either side. That way you can fly me with you to our new home. "It is a very good idea, but you have to make sure you do not open your mouth for any reason. If you do you, you will fall to your death," warned one of the swans. The turtle agreed. "Remember what we told you," reminded the swans as they got ready to fly. Soon they were flying high in the sky. They had to fly over the village to get to the lake. As they flew over the village, people ran out into the street to look at this amazing sight.