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## FRIDAY CHURCH NEWS NOTES

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### CATHOLIC BISHOP CHOSEN AS THE COMMENCEMENT SPEAKER AT HILLSDALE COLLEGE



*Catholic bishop Robert Barron*

Catholic bishop Robert Barron was the commencement speaker at Hillsdale College in southern Michigan for the 2023 graduating class in May. Barron, bishop of the Diocese of Winona-Rochester, is an effectual ecumenical facilitator. His YouTube videos have been viewed 116 million times and he has more than 3 million followers on Facebook. He has appeared on Fox News and CNN and spoken at the headquarters of Amazon, Facebook, and Google. His Word of Fire evangelistic ministry promotes the sacramental Catholic gospel and prayers to Mary. He is the first Catholic prelate since Fulton Sheen to have a national program on a commercial television network (WGN America). Hillsdale's choice of commencement speaker reminds us of the spiritual blindness of

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### PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH HOSTS “DRAG QUEEN BIBLE STORY HOUR”

The following is excerpted from “Historic Presbyterian Church,” *The Christian Post*, June 20, 2023: “For the first time in nearly 200 years, a Presbyterian church in San Francisco held Sunday services featuring drag performers speaking to audiences that included young children. Calvary Presbyterian Church in San Francisco hosted a ‘Drag Queen Bible Story Hour’ event Sunday with LGBT advocate Rev. Jane Spahr and performers ‘Joann Fabrixxx’ and ‘Flamy Grant’ ... A Facebook post from June 18 read in part: ‘We thank God for the great diversity present in this world and hold to the truth that each and every one of us is created in God’s image and loved by God. For the gift of Drag Queens, O God, we give you thanks!’ ... In 2015, Presbyterian Church USA (PCUSA) voted to approve an amendment to its constitution to officially change their definition of marriage to



*Joann Fabrixxx entertains children at the San Francisco church. Image: Facebook*

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American political conservatism. Hillsdale, a “classical liberal arts college” that wisely takes no money from the government, has excellent material on American history, government, the judicial system, economics, climate change, abortion, and many other subjects. But Hillsdale is not a spiritual friend of born again Bible believing churches. God’s people need to do what God has called them to do, which is preach the only true gospel, defend the faith once delivered to the saints, and build sound Christian homes and churches, and let political conservatism do what it can do. Christ gave the

redeemed their marching orders 2,000 years ago, and promised to be with those who obey His command “until the end of the world,” which has not yet come, but is imminent. “And Jesus came and spake unto them, saying, All power is given unto me in heaven and in earth. Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost: Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you: and, lo, I am with you always, *even* unto the end of the world. Amen” (Matthew 28:18-20).

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include same-sex couples. Calvary Presbyterian was founded as a congregation in July 1854. ... The church has advocated for using third-person pronouns for God and even has a banner hanging above the church entryway which reads, ‘GOD: the original they/them.’” [CONCLUSION: “But there were false prophets also among the people, even as there shall be false teachers among you, who privily shall bring in damnable heresies, even denying the Lord that bought them, and bring upon themselves swift destruction. And many shall follow their pernicious ways; by reason of whom the way of truth shall be evil spoken of. ... For if God spared not the angels that sinned, but cast *them* down to hell, and delivered *them* into chains of darkness, to be reserved unto judgment ... And turning the cities of Sodom and Gomorrha into ashes condemned *them*

with an overthrow, making *them* an ensample unto those that after should live ungodly ... Presumptuous *are they*, selfwilled, they are not afraid to speak evil of dignities. ... Having eyes full of adultery, and that cannot cease from sin; beguiling unstable souls: an heart they have exercised with covetous practices; cursed children ... These are wells without water, clouds that are carried with a tempest; to whom the mist of darkness is reserved for ever. For when they speak great swelling *words* of vanity, they allure through the lusts of the flesh, *through much* wantonness, those that were clean escaped from them who live in error. While they promise them liberty, they themselves are the servants of corruption: for of whom a man is overcome, of the same is he brought in bondage” (2 Peter 2:1, 2, 4, 6, 9, 10, 14, 17-19).

## **BIDEN ADMINISTRATION LOSES COURT BATTLE TO FORCE CHRISTIAN DOCTORS TO PERFORM TRANS SURGERIES**

The following is excerpted from “Biden Admin,” *Christian Headlines*, June 22, 2023: “Faith-based hospitals and doctors won a major legal victory Tuesday when the Biden administration gave up in its attempt to force medical professionals to perform procedures, including gender transition surgeries, that violate their conscience. At issue was a December ruling by the Eighth Circuit Court of Appeals that favored a coalition of Catholic doctors and hospitals in blocking a Biden administration rule. That rule, handed down by the Department of Health and Human Services, interpreted the 2010 Affordable Care Act (Obamacare) as prohibiting ‘discrimination on the basis of gender identity’ and

therefore requiring doctors to perform ‘gender-affirming care.’ On Tuesday, the Biden administration said it would not appeal the Eighth Circuit decision. The Becket Fund for Religious Liberty, a legal group, represented the faith-based coalition in court. ‘After multiple defeats in court, the federal government has thrown in the towel on its controversial, medically unsupported transgender mandate,’ said Luke Goodrich, vice president and senior counsel at Becket. ‘Doctors take a solemn oath to *do no harm*,’ and they can’t keep that oath if the federal government is forcing them to perform harmful, irreversible procedures against their conscience and medical expertise.”

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## **JUDGE RULES IN FAVOR OF CHRISTIAN COUPLE IMPRISONED IN IRAN**

The following is excerpted from “Unusual Ruling Frees Christian Couple,” *Morning Star News*, May 17, 2023: “Iranian authorities released two Christian leaders from prison last week after a judge broke with common judicial practice in the country and ruled that home church participation was not illegal, sources said. Throwing out a 2020 conviction, a judge in Branch 34 of the Appeals Court in Tehran on May 9 found there was no evidence the couple had violated Iran’s national security laws by participating in a home meeting, according to advocacy group Article 18. Homayoun Zhavah, 64, and wife Sara Ahmadi, 45, both converts from Islam, were released later that day. In his ruling, the judge found that belonging to or participating in a ‘home-group’ with people of

the same faith was not illegal but ‘natural.’ The acquittal struck down a November 2020 conviction in which Ahmadi, accused of being a house church leader, was sentenced to a total of 11 years in prison for ‘founding or leading an organization that aims to disrupt national security’ and ‘membership in organizations that aim to disrupt national security.’ ... Iran ranked eighth on Christian support organization Open Doors’ 2023 World Watch List (WWL) of the 50 countries where it is most difficult to be a Christian. During the past few years, the government of Iran has severely cracked down on house churches, but the WWL report states, ‘despite great oppression, the Islamic Republic of Iran has seen phenomenal growth in its underground church movement.’”

## THE ALL-PURPOSE FOOT

The following is from CreationMoments.com, June 15, 2023: "Nothing is more frustrating than glue that refuses to stick. And nothing is harder on an adhesive's ability to stick than water. Water can prevent adhesives from solidly touching the surfaces that are to adhere. Freezing and thawing temperatures can force glued surfaces apart. Yet biological adhesives constantly work without fail in continual contact with water. The mussel is the champion in the creation and use of biological adhesives. When a mussel finds a suitable spot, it extends its all-purpose foot. The foot, which is like a rubber plunger, searches the surface until it finds the exact spot that will make the best bond. The foot then cleans the glue point. Next, the foot presses to the surface and as the plunger-shaped foot flattens, water is pumped out. The mussel then lifts the center of its 'plunger' and creates a small vacuum. Now the ingredients for its adhesive are pumped down through the foot and into the vacuum. This material creates a foamy foundation for the individual glue threads. The glue itself is made of several proteins. They are mixed in various ratios to provide just the right amount of strength, flexibility and resistance to compression needed for each unique anchoring spot. Some of these proteins are very unusual in structure. Scientists suspect that they change their properties in response to changing conditions--what scientists call a 'smart' material. The mussel is not only a wonder of design, but a sophisticated chemist as well. Modern science is still trying to learn what the Creator has taught the mussel about glue. REF: Amato, Ivan, 'Stuck on mussels,' *Science News*, v. 139, Jan. 5, 1991, p. 8."

## NEARLY 6,000 CONGREGATIONS DEPART FROM THE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH OVER THE HOMOSEXUAL ISSUE

The following is excerpted from "Nearly 300 churches," *Christian Post*, June 15: "Almost 300 congregations in Pennsylvania have left the United Methodist Church due to its internal debate over homosexuality, joining thousands of others across the United States. The UMC Western Pennsylvania Conference voted to ratify the disaffiliation votes of 298 congregations at a special session held in Erie on Wednesday. ... Earlier this week at a gathering held at Ball State University, the UMC Indiana Conference overwhelmingly approved a motion to accept the disaffiliation votes of 174 congregations. ... Over the past several years, the UMC has experienced divisive debate over whether it should change its official stance barring the ordination of non-celibate homosexuals and the blessing of same-sex romantic relationships. Many churches, frustrated by the constant debate and the refusal of many UMC leaders to enforce the rules, have decided to leave the mainline Protestant denomination. According to *UM News*, as of Thursday morning, around 5,800 congregations have left the UMC over the debate, with around 3,800 of that number having disaffiliated thus far this year."

### INFORMATION

The Friday Church News Notes is designed for use in churches and is published by Way of Life Literature's Fundamental Baptist Information Service. Unless otherwise stated, the Notes are written by David Cloud. Of necessity we quote from a wide variety of sources, but this obviously does not imply an endorsement. We trust that our readers will not be discouraged. It is God's will that we know the times (1 Ch. 12:32; Mat. 16:3) and that we be as wise as serpents and harmless as doves. The News Notes remind us that the hour is very late, and we need to be ready for the Lord's coming. Are you sure that you are born again? Are you living for Christ? "And that, knowing the time, that now it is high time to awake out of sleep: for now is our salvation nearer than when we believed. The night is far spent, the day is at hand: let us therefore cast off the works of darkness, and let us put on the armour of light. Let us walk honestly, as in the day; not in rioting and drunkenness, not in chambering and wantonness, not in strife and envying. But put ye on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make not provision for the flesh, to fulfil the lusts thereof" (Rom. 13:11-14). This material is sent only to those who personally subscribe to the Fundamental Baptist Information Service mailing list. To SUBSCRIBE, go to <http://www.wayoflife.org/wayoflife/subscribe.html>. TO UNSUBSCRIBE OR CHANGE ADDRESSES, go to the very bottom of any email received from us and click "Manage My Subscription." Way of Life Literature, P.O. Box 610368, Port Huron, MI 48061, 866-295-4143, [fbns@wayoflife.org](mailto:fbns@wayoflife.org).