



John Stewart UMC
130 W Johnson Street
Upper Sandusky OH 43351
P 419-294-2867

Forest UMC
111 E Dixon St
Forest OH 45843
p 419-273-3148

Wharton UMC
208 E Sandusky St
Wharton OH 43359

Looking ahead

As we look ahead to the future, I see many exciting things happening for our churches. The season of Lent is upon us and we begin the countdown towards the holy week. We will begin the Lenten season with services at both Forest UMC and John Stewart UMC. Both services will be community services with various pastors from our local churches combining their talents together to provide a great worship and disbursement of the ashes. Pastor Ken Gray and Pastor Randy Patton along with Pastor Doug and I will lead the service at Forest. While Pastor Brian and Jim Stauffer from Trinity will lead those at John Stewart. During this Lenten season, I hope you will take the opportunity to be in attendance and be part of a small group study series, "The Five Marks of a Methodist." like our last small group series we will introduce each chapter each week with a sermon to be followed with a small group study and discussion during the week. Please don't miss this opportunity to learn more about following God and growing as a Christian and also using this opportunity to get to know your brothers and sisters in Christ, just a little bit better.

Our hope is that those forty days of Lent will pass by and as we approach holy week we

will be blessed by birds of spring and warmer weather. Such is not the case this week. I look out my office window at home and see a blanket of snow! Brrrr! But be certain with spring comes an awakening of the earth from being dormant these last few months and life will continue for our plants and vegetation. What a great reminder of what Jesus did for us by dying on the cross and going to the grave for a short dormant span of 3 days and rising again from the earth. Just like a seed rising up out of the ground to live!

Yes, spring is on the way folks and so is the resurrection season, you won't want to miss any of the planned services coming up at the various churches as we partner up for community celebrations and worship. ~ *Pastor Bob*

Ash Wednesday, March 1st 7:00 p.m.

Forest UMC & John Stewart

Maundy Thursday, April 13th @ 7:00 p.m.

Patterson UMC & Trinity Evangelical UMC

Good Friday services, April 14th @ 7:00 p.m.

Wharton UMC & John Stewart

Easter SonRise services, April 16th

Heritage Christian Union- 7:00 a.m.

& The Wyandot Mission Church-8:00 am

Women's Lenten Luncheons

Lenten luncheons for Wyandot County women will be held at St. Paul Lutheran Church (318 W. Wyandot Ave), Upper Sandusky, from noon until 1:00 p.m. A \$4.00 donation is suggested. A nursery will be provided. Mothers are asked to feed their children before they come.

PLEASE NOTE: IF NO SCHOOL – NO LENTEN LUNCHEON

March 1 "Ash Wednesday"

Hostess – St Paul Lutheran
Menu – Macaroni 3 cheese Casserole
Speaker – Pastor Joe Trester

March 8

Hostess – Trinity UCC/Emanuel UCC
Menu – Hammy Joe Sandwich
Speaker – Pastor Becky King

March 15

Hostess – Trinity Evangelical
Menu – Baked Potato Soup
Speaker – Becky Ehrman

March 22

Hostess – Transfiguration of the Lord
Menu – Baked Spaghetti
Speaker – Sister Jeanette

March 29

Hostess – John Stewart UMC
Menu – Chicken Sandwich
Speaker – Rev Catherine Hiner

April 5

Hostess – First Presbyterian
Menu – Egg Salad Croissant
Speaker – Rev Stanley Walters

Men's Lenten Luncheons

First Lutheran will once again be hosting the Men's Lenten Luncheons this year. We invite all men to gather in the basement for a hot meal and fellowship on Wednesdays during the Lenten season.

March 1 "Ash Wednesday"

Speaker – Cathy Browne, Hospice Director

March 8

Speaker – Bill Clinger, Wyandot County Commissioner

March 15

Speaker – Steve Sturgeon, Trinity Evang. UMC

March 22

Speaker – Tom Martin, First Lutheran Church

March 29

Speaker – Rev Elaine Sturtz

April 5

Speaker – Scott Gier, Pharmacist – Wyandot Mem.

The Meal will be served promptly at 12 noon and will be dismissed by 1 p.m. starting on Ash Wednesday. There will be no meal during Holy Week. If the Upper Sandusky schools are closed due to weather, the meal will be cancelled as well. The north parking lot is handicapped accessible.

This series is non-denominational and all are welcome.

Forest United Methodist Church

Leadership Team Meeting

January 9, 2017

6:30 p.m.

Fellowship Hall

Attendance: Clergy: Brian Arnold; Bob Greene; Staff: Brenda Derringer; Laity Members: Elois Cramer; Martha Cramer; Alice Fay; Joe Hochstettler; Kathy Kin; Bryan Morrison; Shirley Musgrave; Stanley Seabert; Other attendees: Peggy Hafer

Chairman Joe Hochstettler opened the meeting with prayer.

Minutes of the October 18, 2016, and November 11, 2016, meetings were approved as read.

There was a lengthy discussion about apportionments and the budget. It was noted that Head Start might possibly be in arrears.

MOTION: Shirley Musgrave moved the purchase of the software for Quick-books for Non-Profit Organizations. Peggy Hafer seconded. Motion carried.

There was discussion about the fire alarm system.

MOTION: Kathy Kin moved that the quote from Stump's Fire Protection for replacement of the system be accepted. Peggy Hafer seconded. Motion carried.

The group was informed that the Woman at Sea window would be removed and repaired.

Amanda Kotterman has replaced Stacy Beltz as treasurer.

It was announced that Carolyn Hueston was planning to retire as organist at the end of January after 21 ½ years. There was discussion

about how to honor her. Elois Cramer volunteered to plan the affair.

Kathy Kin closed the meeting with prayer at 8:30.

Martha Cramer
Secretary

Forest United Methodist Church

Leadership Team Meeting

January 15, 2017

11:35 a.m.

Sanctuary

Attendance

Clergy: Doug Pummell; Bob Greene; Laity Members: Elois Cramer; Martha Cramer; Alice Fay; Joe Hochstettler; Kathy Kin; Shirley Musgrave; Stanley Seabert

Joe Hochstettler called the meeting to order.

Elois Cramer told about the children's lunch program planned in conjunction with the library's Summer Reading Program which needs a non-profit organization to sponsor it.

MOTION: Stanley Seabert moved the church sponsor the program. Kathy Kin seconded. Motion carried.

The group was also informed that the organist may not be resigning, so the planned event will now be called an organist recognition event.

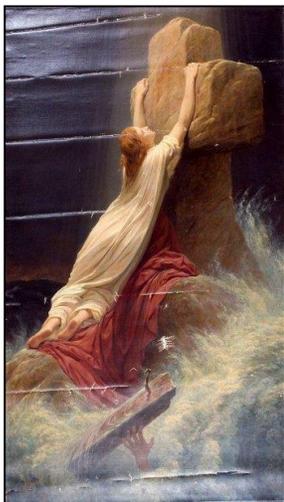
The meeting adjourned at 11:45.

Martha Cramer
Secretary

Forest United Methodist Church

Hardin-Wyandot Charge

Rock of Ages or Woman at Sea



Nostalgia is often referred to when talking about preserving what has gone on before, especially in one's life experiences. But, nostalgia is actually more like a disease and can be equated with melancholy, homesickness, or longing for what has been. History is not nostalgia. History is not looking back and wishing things could be like they were before. History is looking back and learning what has gone on before so that it can be applied to the present and used to prepare for the future. History is looking back and gaining an appreciation for what was done so that we might have a better life today and a brighter future for tomorrow. This

Rock of Ages



applies to individuals, to families, to communities, to

Woman at Sea

Governments, and to churches. The actions of the past give credence to what is happening today and what can or will or should or may happen tomorrow.

A case in point is the restoration of the stained glass windows at Forest UMC. The first window to be plucked from its frame and transported to Bigelow Glass in Findlay for a thorough cleaning, repair, and remounting is what we call "Woman at Sea". This image is based on a painting by Johannes Oertel entitled "Rock of Ages". It is widely agreed that Johannes Oertel was the first to paint such a representation. I wonder whether he was inspired by Augustus Toplady's hymn of the same name.

At the age of 25 Oetel immigrated to Newark, New Jersey in 1843 from Bavaria. He had studied engraving in Munich and came to America to make his fortune. Although his trade earned him a living as an engraver of bank notes in New York City, his career led him to painting. In 1857 he was invited to work on decorations for the House Chamber at the Capitol by Captain Montgomery C. Meigs. Meigs later became the Quartermaster General the forerunner to the Army Corps of Engineers. This connection to Meigs led Oetel to his serving briefly with the Army of the Potomac during the Civil War in 1862. He painted his Rock of Ages in 1867. The painting inspired others to replicate this compelling image and still others to use it as a basis for making stained glass windows of the same image.

The rock of ages is most commonly depicted as a woman clinging to a stone cross jutting out of an angry sea. Sometimes the wreckage of a boat is seen in the back ground. The ravenous sea represents sin and its' potential to drown and kill us. The stone cross represents Christ as the "rock", it being the only thing to stand firm in this world when everything else falls away.

Many have been inspired by the "Woman at Sea" when attending services or just being in the sanctuary admiring this depiction of salvation in the midst of the threat of drowning. Personally, I can relate figuratively and literally having been involved in sea rescue while serving in the US Navy.

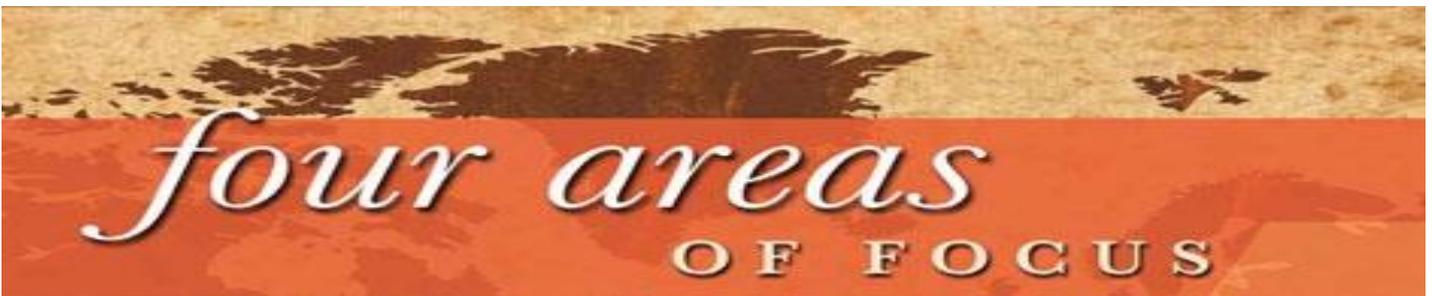
Some say they can see other images within the scene depicted. The face of Jesus say some. In any case, the "Woman at Sea" has been an inspiration to many through the history of our church and will continue to do so in the future.

Joe Hochstettler



Appreciation Day for **Carolyn Huston** was held Sunday, January 22, at the Forest UMC.

Congregation accolades were given for her twenty one and a half years as organist. Carolyn also plays for the Patterson UMC and has for 21 years.



Quadrennial 4 focus areas of UMC



4 Focus Areas are meant to sharpen the mission of the church:

Developing Christian Leaders
Congregational Development
Ministry with the Poor
Improving Health Globally

UPCOMING EVENTS



ONU Health Wise

Ohio Northern University's *Mobile Clinic* will be at the Forest UMC, March 9 and March 23, 9-11am for free health screenings. This will take place in the Fellowship Hall. All are welcome.

The Five Marks of a Methodist

The new Bible Study will be at FUMC on Sunday morning at 9:15 am, Tuesday morning at 10 am, and Tuesday evening at 7 pm and also on Thursday evening at 7 pm, starting March 5, until Easter. John Stewart will be on Sunday morning at 9 am, Monday evening at 7 pm and Wednesday at 7 pm. Wharton UMC– to be determined.



Forest-Wharton Food Pantry Dates



USDA delivery for Food Pantry will be March 22 and April 19 at 10:30 am
The Forest-Wharton Food Pantry: organization will be March 27 and April 24 at 9 am; servicing will be from 1-3 pm on the same days.

Forest Christian Preschool *ButterBraid* Frozen Food Fundraiser



The Preschool will start selling on **March 6th through March 17th**
Your frozen food products can be picked up on **Friday, April 7, 2017**
in the **Fellowship Hall at 11:30 am or at 12:30 pm.** *ButterBraid*
flyers will be available outside the Preschool door. Slide completed
orders/forms under the Preschool classroom door. Thank you for your
support of the Forest Christian Preschool.

Forest Christian Preschool Open Enrollment

Saturday, March 11, 2017

8 am – noon

Forest United Methodist Church
In the Fellowship Hall

Tuesday & Thursday classes

9:00-11:30 am

Child must be 3 as of August 1 and potty trained.



Monday, Wednesday & Friday classes

9-11:30am and 12:30-3:30 pm

Child must be 4 as of August 1 and potty trained.

Call Preschool for details, 419-273-3777



2017 Community Lenten and Easter Services

Ash Wednesday Service

March 1, at Forest UMC & JS UMC 7 pm

Maundy Thursday Service

April 13, at Patterson United Methodist Church & Trinity Evangelical UMC, 7 pm

Good Friday Service

April 14, at Wharton United Methodist Church & JSUMC, 7 pm

Easter Sunrise Service and Breakfast

April 16, at Heritage Christian Union Church, 7 am
& The Mission Church, 8 a.m.



Regular Easter Sunday worship, 9 a.m. at Wharton UMC, and
10:10 a.m. at JSUMC, 10:30 am at Forest UMC



March 16th @ JSUMC

In the Family Life Center

8:30 a.m. – 5:30 p.m.

Call to register @ 1-888-653-6450

Thank you for helping us!!!

Here's what's to come:

March 12th

Soup and Sandwich meal after 10:10 service for donation

April 9th

Hard boiled eggs & baked goods for a donation.

Baked Potato bar following 10:10 service for a donation.

April 16th

Sonrise Breakfast for a free will offering in the Family Life Center of John Stewart United Methodist Church. More to come on this as it gets closer.

March 25th

Fish Fry 4:30 – 6:30 p.m. \$7 per ticket pre-sale. Eat in or carry out! Fish Fry, cole slaw, baked potato, cookie

May 6th, 13th and 20th.

Will be work days for the youth. This will be where you make a donation for the youth to come to your house for them to help with spring cleaning or other odd jobs.

2016 Senior High Team



2016 Junior Team



New Destination TBA for Youth Mission

Good news comes in strange ways, sometimes. The need has diminished for home repairs from the devastation by Hurricane Sandy in 2012. As a result of substantial efforts of rebuilding and repair work, the co-sponsor TeamEffort has decided not to host a work camp at its New Jersey location this coming summer. JSUM students have had to reconsider where they will be working in July. Watch for the mission destination “to be announced” in the next newsletter so that you can pray for the youth mission team and the homes waiting for repairs.

In the meantime, the students continue to raise funds for the mission work. Each student is asked to raise \$450. Already, there are about 10 or more students and at least 6 chaperones planning to give themselves to a week of mission work. But students are still being recruited. It's not too late to join the group. Since August, students have raised just over \$4,100. Each student is asked to commit at least \$100 from their family as a deposit. Funds raised cover the cost of repair supplies, food, fuel, lodging, and ice-cream treats at the end of every working day.

Wednesday Night Community Dinners

@ 5:30 p.m. All are welcome for food and fellowship! Menu is subject to change.

March:

1st – Grilled Cheese, tomato soup, fruit

8th – Spaghetti, salad, French bread

15th – Veggie Soup & Chicken sandwich, dessert

22nd – Beef-n-Noodles, mashed potatoes, corn

29th – Turkey Pot Pie, salad, fruit

April:

5th – Sausage-n-Gravy over Biscuit, green beans and dessert



Ash Wednesday Services

Ash Wednesday is a day of fasting and the first day of Lent. It occurs 46 days (40 fasting days, if the six Sundays, which are not days of fast, are excluded) before Easter and can fall as early as February 4 or as late as March 10. Ash Wednesday is observed by many Western Christians, including Anglicans, Lutherans, Methodists, Presbyterians, and Roman Catholics.

According to the gospels of Matthew, Mark and Luke, Jesus Christ spent 40 days fasting in the desert, where he endured temptation by Satan. Lent originated as a mirroring of Jesus' experience as Christians observed their own 40 days of fasting as preparation for Easter. Every Sunday was seen as a commemoration of Christ's resurrection and so fasting was seen as inappropriate. Accordingly, Christians fasted from Monday to Saturday (six days) during six weeks and from Wednesday to Saturday (four days) in the preceding week, thus making up the number of 40 days.

This year, Ash Wednesday services will be held at John Stewart UM and Forest UM, each at 7:00 p.m. Participants from Trinity Evangelical and Harpster UM will join at John Stewart Church while participants from area congregations from Forest and Wharton will combine leadership for the service at Forest Church.~ Pastor Brian~



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TIME SENSITIVE MATERIAL



March 12, 2017 Daylight Saving Time Begins