
John Stewart United Methodist Church
Family Newsletter

OCTOBER 2010

PASTOR'S LETTER

Dear Friends,

Seventy years after the destruction of the Temple, the Jewish people ask Zechariah if they should still mourn in the fifth month, the month in which the Temple was destroyed. Zechariah cuts to the chase by asking them a question: "Why are you fasting? Are you fasting for yourself, or are you honoring God?" (Zechariah 7:1-7).

What if Zechariah were to ask a similar question of us: Why do you go to worship? Do you go to worship for yourself or out of habit? Or do you go to honor God?

Zechariah points out that people sometimes do the right things for the wrong reasons. He challenged the people of his day to be intentional in their fasting. He challenges us to be intentional in our worship. We should recognize that the purpose of worship is to honor God.

Worship extends beyond Sunday morning services. In our work, home life, and prayer life, we can worship God by honoring Him with our actions and devotion. Sunday morning worship is meant to be an expression of our everyday faith, not just an attempt to look good before God once a week.

In "Babette's Feast" by Isak Dinesen, Babette is described as a woman who is now turning a dinner ... into a kind of love affair... in which one no longer distinguishes between bodily and spiritual appetite!" We, too, are called to turn our lives into love affairs. Our lives should be love affairs for God in which we attempt to honor God in all settings, the altar table and the dinner table. We cannot invite God into our lives in church and then refuse to take God home with us. In everything we do, we must seek to honor God.

See you in church,

Wayne

Rev. Wayne

WHO DO YOU APPRECIATE?

October is staff and pastor appreciation month. This is a good time to tell people how much you appreciate what they do for the church. Whether they have a paid position or are a volunteer, send them a card or a note of thanks or tell them in person your words of appreciation. Drop off your cards at the church office and the secretary will see that they are delivered. Thank you for being a faithful person of God at John Stewart.

Sheila Roszman, Worship Chairman

FALL FLING

AT GREG AND DEB BOWEN'S
9876 COUNTY HWY 58
OCTOBER 31ST
FROM 3:00 – 7:00 P.M.
BRING FOOD TO SHARE, LAWN CHAIRS AND A FRIEND

FANTASY OF LIGHTS

Our Fantasy of Lights display needs to be replaced. We have been pleaded with to design a new display. Ideas are needed and help to construct the display will be welcome. Please let the pastor or the office know if you have an idea or can help when needed.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

Due to budget cuts the church is looking for volunteers to direct several different choirs in the church. There is a need for a Cherub Choir Director, Junior Choir Director or Chimes Choir Director. To volunteer your time to lead our young people contact Rev. Geissinger.

SENIOR HIGH PRAYER BREAKFAST

Rev. Geissinger and Sara Lou (Brown) Binau will meet with any Senior high youth at McDonalds every Wednesday at 7:00 a.m. There will be a time of sharing and of prayer. They will dismiss in time to make it to school on time.

SHINY OBJECTS FROM THE KITCHEN

OK Everyone! - - It is time to gear up for the Community Wednesday Dinners. This is a ministry to our church families and the families of the community. It would be nice if each organization or committee took one Wednesday night. (ie any Sunday School Class, any choir, any committee, any group) Sign up in the foyer. Scott Goodman will be available to answer your questions.

scottgoodman76@yahoo.com

The Prayers and Squares and Myrta Moody Circle and Sisters In Faith have each signed up for a Wednesday – how about your group??

And we want to extend a very gracious THANK YOU to Bill and Kate Aubry for the donation of a whole hog to the church. They had it all processed into bulk sausage, so let the meal plans begin. Lets see who can come up with the most fun sausage dish. If you see the Aubry's out in the community, please thank them for what they have done

LAY SUNDAY

LAY SUNDAY is October 17. You have an opportunity to give a “Balloon Accolade” to or for someone. Share how someone made a difference . . . in their life . . . for you or in your life . . . or for the community . . . or somewhere in the world. Share the Christian outcome of the way that person has made a change or done a deed that has helped or made a difference. Your presentation does not need to be lengthy. It can be praising someone in the congregation or in the community or just a story you want to share. Names can be used or it can be an anonymous tribute. Your Lay Leader, Sara Lou (Brown) Binau, coordinates the service for Lay Sunday. If you will participate, or have questions, please contact her at 419-294-8401 after October 1st (she will be out of town through the 30th). She will work with you on how you want to make your presentation. Thanks for your consideration of participation.

FOOD PANTRY

The Susannah’s Hope Circle of the United Methodist Women urges everyone to bring items for the **Local Christian Food Pantry** the first Sunday of every month and place them in the grey tub in the east vestibule. You may bring your items in during the week or on Sunday. **Needed right now are sugar, vegetables, tooth paste, dish soap, shampoo, toilet paper, deodorant.** Last month they helped 21 families which was 60 people.

CHURCH CALENDAR

Click on the calendar tab so see the church calendar.

A SENIOR'S MOMENT

There is a story of a rather rough, uncultured man who fell in love with a beautiful vase in a shop window. He bought the vase and put it on a shelf in his room. But it became a kind of judgment on its surroundings. He had to make certain changes in the room to make it worthy of the vase. The curtains looked dingy beside it so they were replaced. The old chair with the stuffing coming out of the seat would not do, so it had to go. The wallpaper and the paint needed renewing. Gradually, the whole room was replaced. Even he, himself, began to spruce up and take better care of himself.

It is just in this way that Christ works in the hearts and lives of an individual. We begin with Christ and, as we keep our eyes on him, we realize how shabby we appear in contrast. Our old, careless habits seem out of place: coarse language, degrading amusements, selfishness, and thoughtlessness, all must be replaced by those things that conform to the likeness of the Son of God. So we set about to set our spiritual house in order. One of the brightest rays of hope for the human family is that goodness is just as contagious as evil.

What a change there would be in our world if we would keep our eyes fixed on Christ and strive to be like Him! "In all your ways, acknowledge Him, and He shall direct your paths:.. (Prov. 3:6)

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JUST FOR FUN

A truck driver was sitting at a truck stop counter quietly eating his breakfast when three rough-looking motorcyclists came in. They were bearded, dirty, wearing leather jackets and helmets with weird decals on them. The truck driver looked at them for a moment, and then continued eating his breakfast. The bikers apparently took offense at the way he looked at them.

They sauntered over to the trucker. One knocked over his coffee, another poured syrup on his eggs. The third one dumped salt and pepper on his head. The trucker took his abuse without saying a word, left a tip, and went over to the cashier, paid his bill and walked out the door to the parking lot.

"He sure wasn't much of a man", one of the bikers said to the waitress as they seated themselves in the window booth. "He didn't even put up a fight".

"He's not much of a driver, either," said the waitress as she looked out the window. "He just backed his truck over three motorcycles."

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MUSICAL FILL-IN

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2) G _ I _ A _

3) _ R U _ P _ T

4) V _ O _ I _

5) H _ R _

6) D _ U _ S

7) T _ B _

8) _ A _ J O

9) C _ L _ O

10) P _ A _ O

11) T _ O _ B _ N _

12) _ I D _ L _

DIETING: MIND OVER FATTER

OCTOBER PRAYER CALENDAR

I have a calendar that has cute sayings and Bible verses on it, one for each day of the year. As I tear off a page each day, I realize that day is over, and if I have messed up, God has given me another fresh day to do His will. What an awesome God we have, the God of second chances...and third or fourth or...! Judy Mumma, Prayer Advocate

Give thanks to the Lord, for His loving kindness is everlasting. (2 Chronicles 20:21 NASB)

Friday, October 1 – Thank God for your friends.

Saturday, October 2 - Pray for a shut in; better yet, go visit one.

Sunday, October 3 – Ask God to show you where you can serve Him in our church.

Monday, October 4 – Pray for transplant recipients.

Tuesday, October 5 – Ask God to help the unemployed find jobs.

Wednesday, October 6 – Thank God for your sisters and/or brothers.

Thursday, October 7 - Ask God how He wants you to serve Him at John Stewart UM church.

Friday, October 8 –Could God be calling you to direct one of our children’s choirs at church?

Saturday, October 9 – Pray for those who have lost their homes because of job loss or flooding.

Sunday, October 10 – Give caregivers strength and patience to care for their loved one.

Monday, October 11 – Ask for guidance as we study the political candidates.

Tuesday, October 12 – Praise God in all circumstance. He is in control!

Wednesday, October 13 – Thank God for your husband/wife.

Thursday, October 14 - God is good all the time. Thank him.

Friday, October 15 – Pray for God to guide you in your decision making.

Saturday, October 16 – Ask God to bless Dean & Stephanie on their wedding day today.

Sunday, October 17 – Be with our Lay Speakers today as they share a part of their lives with us.

Monday, October 18 – Praise God for the beauty of the fall season.

Tuesday, October 19 – Pray for those healing from surgery.

Wednesday, October 20 – Thank God for your children.

Thursday, October 21 – Ask God’s forgiveness for something you did that was unkind.

Friday, October 22 – Thank God for loving you just as you are!

Saturday, October 23 – All you have comes from God. Give a portion back to Him each week.

Sunday, October 24 – Thank God for your doctor.

Monday, October 25 – Ask God to help you break a bad habit.

Tuesday, October 26 – Pray for the youth of our church.

Wednesday, October 27 - Thank God for Pastor Wayne and the Sunday messages he bring to us.

Thursday, October 28 - Thank God for your good health.

Friday, October 29 – Keep our children safe as they “Trick or Treat”.

Saturday, October 30 – Ask for safety for our military.

Sunday, October 31 – Be with those who are grieving the loss of a loved one.

LETTER FROM THE BISHOP ABOUT SOUTH EAST OHIO TORNADO RELIEF

Dear Friends in Christ:

On September 16, 2010, devastating tornados and gale-force winds ripped through Southeast Ohio along a path from Nelsonville through Athens and nearly reaching the Ohio River Valley. Many people in our communities and churches have experienced damage or destruction of private property. Many more have experienced the fear and anxiety of having their lives and livelihoods literally uprooted.

I am grateful to report that the United Methodist Church is and will continue to respond to the needs of affected communities and families. One of the greatest gifts of the United Methodist Church is our connectional identity. We don't have to do things on our own. While local congregations (The Plains UMC is particularly noteworthy) are providing care to those affected by the tornados, the Foothills District Superintendent, Rev. Dennis Mohler, has formed a response team to support the work of the local communities and congregations. The response team is composed of Roger Thatcher, District Response Team Coordinator, Rev. Joel Harbarger, pastor of The Plains UMC, Rev. Bob Davis, Director of Jackson Area Ministries, Rev. Brent Watson, Assistant to the District Superintendent, and Rev. Dennis Mohler. This district team is working closely with the West Ohio Conference Disaster Response Team, chaired by Jim Rodgers and staffed by Rev. Dee Stickley-Miner. Together, plans are being made to guide our long term response to include not only restoration of buildings, but emotional and spiritual care to the communities and congregations. West Ohio has already received an emergency grant of \$10,000 from UMCOR to assist in our response. UMCOR consultants are also working with us to strengthen our capacity to respond to the needs of our neighbors.

Many individuals and congregations have inquired about how they can best assist in the relief and recovery work in the Foothills District. I invite the members and congregations of West Ohio to support the efforts already underway to be the presence of Christ's healing love in Athens, Meigs and Perry counties. I encourage you to pray for the individuals and communities affected, those providing leadership to our response and those providing ongoing care. I also urge you to give financially. Those who are uninsured or underinsured desperately need our assistance. Athens and Meigs counties are the two most impoverished counties in Ohio with nearly 30% of the families living below the poverty line. Sixty percent (60%) of the homes destroyed or damaged on September 16 were uninsured.

Please send your donations to the Council on Development. 100% of the money donated for this relief will go to relief efforts. Checks may be designated as "SE Ohio Tornado Response." All checks should be mailed to:

Council on Development
West Ohio Conference
32 Wesley Boulevard
Worthington, Ohio 43085

I continue to be grateful for the leadership provided by Rev. Dennis Mohler and the District and Conference Disaster Response Teams.

Thank you for your extravagant gifts of prayer, compassion and treasure.
In Christ, the model of extravagant and sacrificial love,

Bruce R. Ough