



Woodlawn United Methodist Church July- August Newsletter

Dear Church Family,

Some of you took the challenge to read the Bible through in a year. How is it going? I'll bet there are those who are regimented in reading every day and are keeping up. Then there are those who do not have a regular schedule and are behind. I am one of those who could be described as the score during a basketball game... sometimes I am ahead and sometimes I get behind.

I would like to give you some pointers. You don't have to be legalistic about your reading.

1. If you are using a Bible Reading Plan, check off everything you read. I lead a Bible study on Nehemiah that isn't on the schedule until August and I checked it off even though I had read it this past winter. I'm doing a sermon series in Hebrews. I won't be covering verse by verse but you can read the rest of the book as you try to keep in tune with the preaching schedule.
2. Read some books at one setting. Those short letters of Paul (Galatians, Ephesians, Philippians, etc.) can be read and better retain the meaning if you read them at one in one setting.
3. Try to read Job as quick as you can. The schedule I provided for you takes 2 months to cover.

Who wants to read about all that trouble over a 2 month period? Try reading it in a 2 weeks or less.

4. I will read the Gospel passages concerning the advent of Christ and his passion during those particular times of the year and just check them off.
5. I wouldn't bother reading genealogies unless I was looking for something specific.
6. If you are having a sleepless night, try reading your Bible. It is the best adventure ever.
7. If you feel like it is too much, then read the New Testament; maybe Proverbs and Genesis for starters.

Just keep at and when you have finished, begin again.

Just Serving Jesus,

Pastor Tom



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Preaching Schedule

July 3, "Pastor On Vacation" (Scripture Forth Coming)
July 10, "Finding Rest In Christ" Hebrews 4:1-7
July 17, "The Praying High Priest" Hebrews 5:7-10
July 24, "Growing Beyond the Basics" Hebrews 5:11- 6:3
July 31, "Eternal Priesthood" Hebrews 7
August 7, "Once and Done" Hebrews 10:8-14
August 14, "Looking for a Better Place" 11:8-10
August 21, "Basics of Biblical Finance" Hebrews 12:11
August 28, "Kingdom Kids" Luke 9:46-48

Plans for a future Mission Trip with Samaritan's Purse

I made an application to Samaritan's Purse for a possible mission work camp later this fall to Andrews, S.C. Samaritan's Purse schedules about 3 months in advance. I gave them 3 possible dates. One was in September and the other 2 dates are in mid to late October. We are hoping for 6 people to be able to go.

Put it on your prayer list and ask those who went to Arkansas about their experience (Phyllis Crall, Don and Linda Heinlen, Maggie Ohler, Sandy Young and Pastor Tom.

I will let you know when I get more information. Let me know if you have an interest:
ptgruver@gmail.com or 440-710-4521.

Pastor Tom

All God's Children

What a great time we had as we ministered and fed around 75 persons at All God's Children. Persons that attended were Phyllis Crall, Margaret Ohler, Barb Spaid, Nancy Stover, Marlene Malone, Don & Linda Heinlen. It's really great as we ran out of food, and that makes clean-up a lot easier. We thank you for your donations of money, plastic bags, cookies, and love. November 1st we have signed up again. Mark your calendar, and plan to join us.

Mission Offerings: Reffey Family and BORN



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Pastor Tom and Gale would like to treat any widowed or alone lady to a birthday lunch. If we have missed your birthday, please let us make it up to you by calling us and letting us know. If your birthday hasn't happened yet, make sure we know about it by calling (419) 617-1241

Men's Ministry

Men's Breakfast 2nd Wednesday of the month, 7 AM at the Bucyrus Hospital Cafeteria.

July 13, Coach Stan Jefferson and August 10, Don Crockcoft

Hospitality

The Hospitality Committee has set the following activities. Everyone is invited to bring their friends, family or neighbors to watch fireworks from the front yard with popcorn and drinks provided on July 3rd at 8 p.m.

July 31st there will be a potluck after church with drinks provided.

September 25th is the church picnic following church in the shelter house with drinks provided.

UMW

July 20, we will celebrate Christmas in July by visiting our shut-ins. After we finish our visits, we will meet at a restaurant to discuss our visits. Anyone is welcome to go visiting or meet us to eat. Restaurant will be announced later. If you know of someone we should visit, please let me know. August is our Day Away. Arrangements are not complete at this time. The Extra Mile items have been revised. We will take medicine bottles. They must be clean no labels or medicine residue. These are sent to "Matthew 25" in Cincinnati and are sent all over the world. We also take Campbell Soup UPC codes. They are sent to Redbird Mission. We also take pop tabs to be sent to the Ronald MacDonald house. We no longer take postage stamps or greeting cards. Items may be placed in the box in the narthex. If you have any questions, call me. Hope you are enjoying your summer.

Joan Dilley

BBQ Benefit and Concert on the Green

The 2016 BBQ on June 4 was successful in spite of the rain showers...the tent was put to a good test. There were 325 people served and we raised \$6732.25 that will be presented to Margie Maddox and Alpha 12 Step Recovery and Jericho House during the 10:30 service on June 26. Judge Sean and Judge Shane Leuthold graciously served as emcees for the event and the concert was provided by Jim Greer and the Mac-O-Chee Valley Folks. The "Chinese Auction" also proved to be lots of fun as well as netting an additional tidy sum. Again thanks to all who supported us through donations, time, and your prayers. It was truly a time of community coming together in mission.

Phyllis Crall and the BBQ Committee



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Music

Chuck Crain from the Presley Theater in Branson, MO, will be back in our area again. He will be at 1st United Methodist Church in Shelby, OH, on August 28th, 2016 at 2:00 PM 18 S. Gamble St. for any info call Dorothy Haas at 419-569-1132 or at her home phone 419-562-1123

Annual Conference

Thank you for allowing me to attend annual conference this year. It was enlightening and informative. The theme was “Jesus is calling us out.” It was a week of great worship and celebration. The sermons by Bishops Hopkins, Weaver, and Palmer, were outstanding. They led me to want to remember my baptism, and go out to spread the word – to make disciples. The music provided by the conference choir, the youth choir, and organist, retired Reverend Gary Streff, was amazing. Monday’s session was a service of affirmation of faith, Commemoration and Holy Communion. A service of remembering those who had passed away was held with 20 pastors, 20 spouses, 7 lay leaders, and one young person being remembered. Monday evening was a celebration for Bishop Hopkins and wife Claire, who will be leaving the conference in August. Gifts were presented, including a new guitar that was handmade and was \$60,000. It was made by Molly McNamara and Logan Martens to fight against malaria in Africa. They raised \$20,103 at the conference, and hope to raise another \$19,897 over the next two years. Tuesday night there was a celebration for the 31 retirees, including Reverend James Macdonald. A service of commissioning for ministry and ordination of Elders was held on Wednesday night with 3 Deacons and 7 Elders. Those newly appointed in the Mid-Ohio District were Brad Smith to Mt. Zion and Lemert. Karen and Donald Upson to Liberia, and Kyle Gould to Cardington. Churches closed were Delphic Mingo First, Oehlhoff, Harmony in March 2016 and Oceola in May 2016.

Gary George was endorsed as a candidate for bishop for the East Ohio Conference. Two resolutions were noted on 2016-01 preparing clergy to address Domestic Violence and 2016-02 promoting appointment and salary equity for clergywomen and clergymen. Both were accepted. A 5k run and one mile walk was held on Wednesday morning, raising \$3,000 for the Mid-West missions. There were also 3,315 health kits, 46 layette kits buckets, and donations of \$8,500.

Beginning the week of June 20, all services and business sessions will be uploaded to the East Ohio YouTube page at www.youtube.com/user/eastohioumc There are also articles, photos, and live streaming that can be found on their Twitter. I enjoyed the fellowship and would encourage anyone to attend as a delegate or a visitor. See the bulletin board for information on All God’s Children.

Marlene Malone



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Financial News As of June 24, 2016

Financially Woodlawn Church continues to be blessed because of the Grace of God, your support and the continued efforts of many people who are wisely using Woodlawn Church's resources.

- All bills are paid and current, including all apportionments, health and medical insurance expenses.
- Our current true (unencumbered) Operating Balance (in checking account) is \$27,490 this is the best it has been for quite some time.
- Total receipts as of the end of 25h Week of 2016 were down slightly compared to 2015...\$112,000 vs. \$117,170 this time last year. The most significant items of note from this time last year were: Regular Offerings of \$83,180 were almost the same as 2015 of \$83,659; Loan Reduction Offerings of \$5,080 were also almost the same as 2015 of \$5,191; Mission Offerings of \$4,643 were up \$1,985 which was primarily due to the mission trip offering support; Memorials of \$6,280 were up \$1,155 over 2015; and BBQ Fund Raiser gross income was down \$6,491.
- We are continuing to make payments on our \$27,100.77 Renovation Loan from our Memorial & Savings Account assuming the same interest (payable to our memorial funds) that we were paying to First Federal (5.25%). As of our last payment on May 31, 2016 the amount that we owe to ourselves (Memorial & Savings Account) is down to \$17,564.58. We have saved \$914.81 in interest payments had we continued our bank loan. Depending on how fast we are able to repay this loan from our Memorial Funds, we will save \$1,200-1,300 in bank interest payments in 2016.
- With the "loan to ourselves", repayments for parsonage improvements in 2015 plus recent memorial deposits for 2016 year to date, our Memorial & Savings Funds have recovered to \$45,537.14 vs. a balance of \$51,579 prior to "borrowing from ourselves".
- For the first 25 weeks of 2016 compared to 2015 our average attendance is down slightly from 87 to 79 for both services combined. Average weekly Sunday School attendance is up from 15 to 21.
- We successfully paid for a few significant maintenance issues from our normal operating funds which included: repair of the three (3) laminated columns in the carport that had deteriorated at their base because of moisture issues; the needed replacement of the steel exit door and metal frame in the kitchen; and correction of some safety hazards in our playground area including replacement of swing chains, fence repairs, removal of a couple of defective "play things" in addition to heavily re-mulching the play area with the help of many members on a trustee directed work day and lastly the replacement of the basketball board and hoop.
- To deal with some continuing water drainage issues the trustees are looking at some extensive repairs &/or replacement of sections of our Church's gutters and down spouts that are in need of attention now that most of these items are over 50 years of age. We are also hoping to pay for these repairs/improvements out of normal operations.
- Longer term we are planning for the resealing and stripping of our parking lot & drive ways, making our restrooms fully handicapped accessible and eventual replacement of light columns at the end of the driveway.
- A comprehensive audit of Woodlawn's financial records was completed. This audit indicated that "Excellent work was done once again in accounting for the Church's financial resources." One recommendation was made with regard to better detailing individual designations made within the Savings/Memorial Funds. A proposed spreadsheet was offered and has been adopted. Thank you Tom Kalb for your audit and valuable suggestions for improvement!

I am encouraged that our members have continued to be very supportive financially and am positive about our future. On behalf of our Treasurer, Carla Gerhart and Finance Committee, I Thank You for your past faithfulness and ask that you continue to prayerfully look at your support level of our Church (including your time and talents other than money).

Tom Holtshouse, Finance Chairperson



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July Birthdays

3 – Warren Bussard
6 – Josh Laferty (Dad)
8 – Nancy Johnson
8 – Claire Esterline
17 – Josh Laferty (Son)
24 – Phyllis Spengler
26 – Jim Gillenwater
28 – Jocelyn Esterline

August Birthdays

3 – Lauren Esterline
7 – Ernestine Hart
12 – Ted Heinlen
17 – Jerry Efaw
18 – Larry Young
18 – Daniel Kurek
27 – Deb Teets
28 – Herb Kleine
29 – Karissa Kurek
30 – Thomas Kurek

July Anniversaries

6 – Roger & Kay Weisenauer
17 – Tom & Connie Kalb
18 – Ray & Barb Heinlen
20 – Phil & Janie Richardson
25 – Josh & Colleen Laferty

August Anniversaries

7 – Don & Linda Heinlen
21 – Larry & Sandy Young
23 – Don & Dixie Striker

July Schedule

3 – Fireworks on the front lawn 8 p.m.
10 – United in Harmony performs during service
13 – Men's Prayer Breakfast 7 a.m.
16 – Recycling 9 a.m. to 12 p.m.
19 – King's Daughters 12:45 p.m.
20 – Christmas in July 2 p.m. Eat out at 5:30 p.m.
26 – Finance 6 p.m. & Ad Board 7 p.m.
31 – Potluck after Worship Service

August Schedule

2 – Worship Committee 2 p.m.
7 – Holy Communion
16 – King's Daughters 12:45 p.m.
10 – Men's Prayer Breakfast 7 a.m.
20 – Recycling 9 a.m. to 12 p.m.



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