



St. Mark's United Methodist Church

1110 N. Metcalf Street

VOLUME 2 ISSUE 3

APRIL 2019

Dear friends,

Throughout our 100 year history this church has been blessed with 23 senior and associate pastors and I have chosen to honor their wonderful contribution to our mission by periodically including in our Newsletter an article that they wrote to their members and attendees during their time of service at St. Mark's.

This month we hear from Reverend Howard (Bud) Allison who served St. Mark's from 1987-2011. This article was published in the April 1992 edition of the St. Mark's United Methodist Church newsletter **MESSENGER**.

Blessings,

Pastor Ted



A Word from the PASTOR

Greetings to you as we prepare for the blessed event of the Resurrection. I'm wondering what needs to die in you and me this morning so that we can fully live. What needs to be crucified so we can be resurrected? What pain will we have to endure in order to be free of pain? Some of us need to say good-bye to someone we loved dearly. Some of us are clinging to a dream for our lives that isn't coming true and is making us treat ourselves and others as if this life were a bad dream. For others of us, there are old, destructive patterns that die hard. We all have something to let go and grieve.

It's important to realize that the faith that comes from the Resurrection is not one that makes everything turn out perfectly rosy, but one that transforms the lost things of our lives. Resurrection faith empowers us to rise from the ashes of defeat, older and wiser, to reclaim our lives. It finds us in the pit of despair and shines a ray of hope. Sometimes that hope is just a faint glimmer in the distance until we climb toward it and discover that it grows brighter and warmer. Resurrection faith claims the promise of

God to be near us and help us heal. Mary was willing to go to the garden tomb at the break of dawn to say good-bye. There are “tombs” that many of us need to visit so we can pay our last respects to what we’ve lost and go on with the rest of our lives.

I saw a quotation the other day. It said, “It’s never too late to become what you might have been.” Did you hear? “It’s never too late to become what you might have been.” I believe that. That’s what Mary learned from Jesus. That’s what the whole cowering bunch of disciples discovered on Easter morning.

The joy they felt has echoed down to us through the ages Easter morning after Easter morning. My prayer for you today is that you, too, will pass through the night of weeping and shout for joy in the morning, even this morning.

Your Pastor,
Howard M. Allison

I WANT TO BECOME A CHURCH MEMBER

A new member class will be getting organized soon for anyone interested in joining St. Mark’s. Please contact Pastor Ted for more information.

Bishop Announces Conference-Wide Bible Study

Bishop Palmer has invited us to come together as The West Ohio Conference in the study of *Galatians: Gospel of Grace* over the weeks of the Easter season. While we are not united in our thinking on all matters, we can all be united in our commitment to turn to the scripture for guidance. As we read, study, and discuss scripture together, we trust the Holy Spirit to move in our midst and to speak to us through the living word of God. We hope you will join churches across the annual conference in a conference-wide all-church series on Galatians. Small group discussion guides, worship resources, social media options, and communication templates will be available to you for this series by early April. As you make plans to participate, you are encouraged to read Galatians and begin preparing around these weekly themes:

- April 22nd-28th: Grace that Transforms - Chapter 1 with key verse Galatians 1:23
- April 29th-May 5th: Grace that Embraces - Chapter 2 with key verses Galatians 2:9-10
- May 6th-May 12th: Grace that Clothes Us - Chapter 3 with key verses Galatians 3:26-28
- May 13th-May 19th: Grace that Forms - Chapter 4 with key verse Galatians 4:19
- May 20th-26th: Grace that Bears Fruit - Chapter 5 with key verse Galatians 5:22
- May 27th-June 2nd: Grace that Sustains - Chapter 6 with key verse Galatians 6:9

Holy Week Service Opportunities:

- Palm Sunday Worship: 10:15 a.m. Celebration of Baptism
- Maundy Thursday: Dinner at 5:45 p.m. followed by service at 7:00 p.m.
- Good Friday: 7:00 p.m.
- Sunday breakfast: 9:00 a.m.
- Easter Sunday Worship: 10:15 a.m.

On Palm Sunday, April 14th we will be offering baptism to anyone who is interested. Please contact Pastor Ted for more information.



WInGS

Learn More About Dementia and Alzheimer's Disease
Wednesday, April 10th at 3pm in the Lounge.

Guest Speaker is Linda Pollitz the Program Manager with the Northwest Ohio Chapter of the Alzheimer's Association. She will have a presentation and will be able to answer any questions you might have about the disease and services they offer. Everyone is welcome!



Emmaus/Chrysalis

Gathering

The next monthly Emmaus Gathering
will be Tuesday, April 16th
from 6:30 – 8:30 pm
St. Mark's UMC in Findlay
800 S. Main St.



If you would like to receive an email regarding prayer concerns please notify the church office.

From: www.ThomRainer.com March 18, 2019

In a culture that minimizes commitment and maximizes self-indulgence, I have learned the precious gift of church attendance or, more specifically, the church gathered. I do not see church attendance as a burden or legalistic commitment. I view it as joy—a place where I can give and serve, a place where I can focus more on others rather than myself.

I could name many, but here are ten reasons I attend church.

- I attend church to serve others.** There is so much greater joy in serving than seeking to be served. I have many opportunities to serve when the church is gathered. Those opportunities are my gifts from God.
- I attend church to encourage others.** We live in a world of incredible digital communication. But there is still something irreplaceable about gathering together. When I encounter someone in person at church, I have an opportunity to encourage him or her in person as well.
- I attend church to encourage my pastor.** I doubt many of us know how much our pastors serve us and love us seven days a week. The least I can do for my pastor is to be there in person when we gather as a church. I know it encourages my pastor, and I want our pastors to have that gift of encouragement every week.
- I attend church to state my priorities.** If I am able to go to work, to go to school, to go on vacation, or to watch or be involved in a sport, I can attend church. I desire to have a “no excuse” clause in my life for attending church.
- I attend church to participate in worship.** There is something special and Spirit-filled about worshipping together with other Christians. It is both an opportunity and gift I do not take lightly.
- I attend church even if it doesn't meet all my needs.** If I say, “I am not getting fed spiritually,” it likely means I am not hungry spiritually. If my church does some things a bit differently than my preferences, I realize I am there, not as a consumer, but as a giver and one who has been called to put others' needs before my own. No church is perfect. No worship style is perfect. No pastor is perfect. And neither am I.
- I attend church with frequency, not on occasion.** It is my prayer to be in my church every Sunday. When I am out of town, I can find another church to attend. I pray I will never say, “I need a break from church.” I certainly don't want God to take a break from me.
- I attend church to set an example for my family.** Couples have healthier marriages when they attend church. Children grow up with countless benefits because their parents took them to church. I need to show the importance and priority of church attendance to those I love.
- I attend church because the Bible tells me to do so.** Two-thirds of the New Testament is about churches, specifically gathered churches. The words of the writer of Hebrews in 10:24-25 are powerful: “And let us watch out for one another to provoke love and good works, *not neglecting to gather together as some are in the habit of doing*, but encouraging each other, and more as you see the day approaching.”
- I attend church because I love my church.** I love my church. I love my pastor. I love the members of my church. I love the community my church serves. If I love someone, I will be there for them. I truly love my church.

It is becoming increasingly common to see church attendance as just another activity, an option among many, a place to get consumer preferences met, or an occasional gathering to hide in anonymity.

It has become increasingly popular for some to argue that church attendance is not a high priority because the building is not a church, the people are. But those people are supposed to gather. Indeed, they are commanded to gather.

I love to attend church. I attend church for these reasons and many more.

I thank God for my church.



Pop cans for Resource Center



Eye glasses for the Lion's Club

Chief receipts for Resource Center



Reminder... Please let the church know should you be admitted to the hospital or are having surgery. The hospitals no longer call without you saying you want the church or pastor called.



- Birthday's
- 3 -Donette Roosenberg
- 6 -Lisa Hittle
- 17 -Sam Taylor
- 20 -Linda Morrow
- 21 -Joe Glick
- 23 -Mildred Kanawl
- 24 -Walter Martin



Anniversaries

- April
- 4 - Ed & Karen Trevino
- 7 - Gregory & Beverly Holobaugh
- 17 - Diane & Jeff Bailey
- 21 - Jim & Nancy Berney

Sunday School—

The Praisers Class is studying The Miracles of Jesus Leading to Easter Sunday (the resurrection)

Jubilee Class started “Fundamentals of the Faith: Part 2”
It will end April 14th.

Ignite Sunday School Class is studying Adam Hamilton’s “Half Truths: God Helps Those Who Help Themselves and Other Things the Bible Doesn’t Say”. They are simple phrases. Everything happens for a reason. God won’t give you more than you can handle. Love the sinner, hate the sin. They sound Christian—like something you might find in the Bible. We’ve all heard these words. Maybe we’ve said them. They capture some element of truth, yet they miss the point in important ways. Discover the whole truth!

Amity Class “Living Like You Belong to God”

No Sunday School on Easter Sunday



Easter Lilies

If you want to order Easter Lilies for help in decorating the church at Easter, the form is available in your bulletins March 31st and April 7th. You may also call the office at 419-222-3601. Please order by April 8th.

Cost remains the same as last year, \$8.25.

For 100 Years We have Been Making
Disciples of Jesus Christ for the
Transformation of the World

1919-2019



St. Mark's
United Methodist
Church

We need your help!! This is the year of St. Mark's 100th anniversary. If you know of photos or stories that could be used during this year long celebration, please send them to the office. We will scan them and return to you. Each month we will focus on one item of St. Mark's history. Such as sports, music, Easter, youth, Sunday School, VBS, Women's groups, Fall activities, and Christmas. If you have photos from other holidays we could use them also.

If you could write a small article regarding ...I Remember When.... We will use in the newsletter during the year and maybe during Sunday services.

Resource Center News

Resource Center

The item of the month is soup. Our stats from February are 834 families and 2383 individuals. Jessie will be taking shirt orders for the orange St. Mark's shirts if anyone needs one for the parade coming up.

Produce Day Partnership

The Thursday morning Produce Day Distribution at St. Mark's has outgrown its space. The number of individuals who have been coming on Thursday's over the past few months has grown putting a strain on our parking, volunteers and our building. So, beginning June 13th we will be partnering with Forest Park UMC (315 S. Collins Ave.) and utilizing their Family Life Center for Produce Distribution. This facility will be used year round and will provide our clients with abundant parking, no steps, air conditioning, space for weekly devotions, more seating, restroom accessibility, and space for us to provide additional services in the future. We will not be discontinuing any existing services only changing the location where produce is being distributed and adding additional volunteers from Forest Park.

Habitat for Humanity - Lima Area - News and Needs

Our mission states: "Seeking to put God's love into action: Habitat for Humanity brings people together to build homes, communities and hope." So, how can you help? Here are three ways:

1) Provide a noon meal for 30 volunteers on the last Friday of a month (May-August). 2) Donate funds for the Elida Build (starting this spring) - every \$62 buys a square foot of the house. 3) Volunteer at the Habitat ReStore (550 W. Elm Street, Lima).

Contact information: (phone) 419-222-4937,

(website) www.habitatlima.org,

(email) habitatlima@habitatlima.org

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