

The Good News!

open hearts
open minds
open doors



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A Publication of
Smithville United Methodist Church
Smithville United Methodist Church is a Stephen Ministry Congregation
April 2022

The people of The United Methodist Church

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THE GOOD NEWS PUBLICATION

Published once a month online by:
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MISSION STATEMENT

*"To Love Christ,
To Serve Christ,
To Share Christ,
No Matter What It Takes"*

DEADLINE for the
May newsletter is:
April 15, 2022

FROM PASTOR JAMES LANCE'S DESK

This month we celebrate Easter, the death and resurrection of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. Lent is the season that leads up to Easter and calls us to a time of reflection. On Palm Sunday we celebrate Christ the King. On Maundy Thursday we celebrate and renew our covenant with the Lord through the Sacrament of Communion. Good Friday is when we remember the sacrifice Christ made for us and how Jesus was willing to pay it all, to give up his very life, for us. Easter Vigil is on Saturday and is a time when we are called to reflect on the unknown and how we deal with anxiety, questioning, and how we react to life's tragedies. All of which leads to the celebration of Christ's resurrection on Easter Sunday. April will be a busy month.

Just like Christmas time, we can lose track of the spiritual heart of the season. During this month, we also have several lessons that we can learn from Holy Week. I would like to invite each and everyone of you to choose one theme you feel called to. Focus, reflect, and pray on that theme this month. Please know that you are invited to every service we have: Palm Sunday, Maundy Thursday, Good Friday, and Easter. I know that in the whirlwind that is Holy Week we sometimes get caught up in life's busyness. Sometimes we try to treat each lesson as equally important, and we end up barely touching the surface of each without being able to truly dive into any. Sometimes we find ourselves just worn out. Whatever normally happens around this season, and whatever happens this year, I want to invite each of us to focus on one theme that we can dive deeply into.

We can look at Palm Sunday; how Jesus shows us that true leadership is not wearing a crown or giving orders, but in serving the people you lead. Perhaps we look at Maundy Thursday and the Last Supper; how it is in a meal, the act of breaking bread, and the act of fellowship, that we renew our covenant with God. We can reflect on Good Friday: that Christ sacrificed his life for us and calls us to sacrifice for God and others. We can focus on the waiting and anxiety of Easter Vigil: what does it mean to not know what comes next? How do

we react to disaster? Of course, we can sing with Easter: expressing the joy the Lord has given us. Where do we experience resurrection in our lives? Let us choose one lesson from scripture that we not only study, but make a part of us, so that we can live out that lesson God has given us.



Pastor James

Worship Schedule

Sunday, April 3

Luke 18:9-14; Luke 19:1-9

Sermon: "Why Do We Give?"

NNN

Palm Sunday, April 10

1 Kings 1:32-37; Luke 19:28-40

Sermon: "A King's Entry"

NNN

Maundy Thursday, April 14

Holy Communion

NNN

Good Friday, April 15

Sermon: "A Covenant with God"

NNN



NNN

Easter Sunday, April 17

Luke 11:33-36; Luke 24:1-12

Sermon: "The Stone Rolled Away"

NNN

Holy Humor Sunday, April 24Romans 9:9-21;
Proverbs 17:17-22Sermon: "Laughter is the Best
Medicine"

NNN

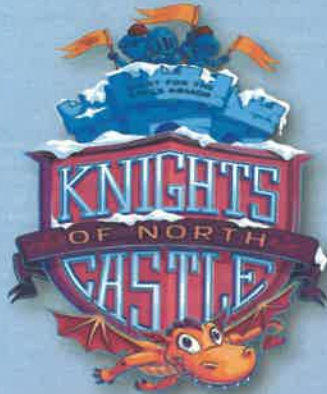
FROM THE DESK OF AIMEE HARE



The other day, I got on Amazon (*I REALLY like shopping on Amazon ... my husband says that I am on a first name basis with the delivery guy*) to order an external CD/DVD player because my computer did not come with one. Since I am "old school," most of my music still is on CDs and I miss listening to them. So, when I opened the box for the CD player, a little card was placed on top saying that if the product came damaged or if you had a problem to please let them know. OK ... that's good. It is what the card said next that caught my attention. It read, *"My team and I are small, but the dream is big, so my team and I are persistent and hard-working in every step."* I don't know why that line seems so powerful to me. It seems to proclaim that being small doesn't limit their potential ... that they have a purpose and a plan ... that they are willing to put in the sweat equity to get things accomplished!

*"My team and I are small, but the dream is big" ... I think that this sounds like what Jesus and his followers would have printed up on business cards to hand out to the crowds. This one Rabbi and his twelve followers had the calling to make "disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit" (Matthew 28:19). I would definitely call that a small team having a big dream! Imagine it! Thirteen people who together had the purpose and drive and determination to share the love of God and His kingdom! They were a small group that wanted to follow God wherever He would lead and do whatever He might ask (*albeit sometimes kicking and screaming*). They were willing to listen, learn, grow, follow in obedience, be challenged, be changed, be servants and ultimately lose their lives for their Savior. These incredibly ordinary people became extraordinary witnesses for the Gospel because they were willing to GO ALL IN for what they believed in ... for WHO they believed in. These disciples, after the resurrection of Jesus and following the coming of the Holy Spirit at Pentecost, were a group that set the world on fire. Their purpose to share Christ was their passion and they let nothing stop them ... not threats, beatings, jail time, hardships, terrible suffering ... not even the threat of death! They shared the truth because they had seen, heard, and loved the truth ... they had been with Jesus who is the way, the TRUTH, and the life!! They set out to make disciples of all the nations ... and because of their big dream and their willingness to carry out the great commission, you and I live a life knowing that we are loved and saved by Jesus Christ. The salvation of our souls and the discipleship of our lives was on the hearts of that small group two thousand years ago!*

Coming Soon ...
Watch for more information to come ...
The Adventure Continues ...



June 25 & 26 2022
3 – 6 pm

Join us at Smithville UMC for more exciting adventures as a Knight of North Castle!

Wayne County Fair presents:

Christian Artist: **Zach Williams**



Monday, September 12, 2022 at 8 pm

Pre-Sale Tickets: Purchase Tickets by Sunday, May 1, 2022

- Grandstand—\$30
- Chairs on Patio in front of Grandstand—\$35
- Standing ONLY on Track—\$40

Choose your seat/s & make check out to Smithville UMC
 [This price does not include admission to Fairgrounds.]
 Call the Church Office for questions or to purchase Tickets.

A Love-filled Victory

It's tough to read about Jesus' agony on the cross, where he felt "forsaken" by God (see Matthew 27:46). But as Philip Yancey explains in *Where Is God When It Hurts?* the Father didn't desert Jesus — and doesn't desert us:

"God was not 'up there' watching the tragic events conspire 'down here.' God was *in Christ*, reconciling the world to himself," he writes. "If Jesus was a mere man, his death would prove God's cruelty; the fact that he was God's Son proves instead that God fully identifies with suffering humanity. On the cross, God himself absorbed the awful pain of this world.

"To some, the image of a pale body glimmering on a dark night whispers of defeat," Yancey continues. "But another sound can be heard: the shout of a God crying out to human beings, 'I LOVE YOU.' Love was compressed for all history in that lonely figure on the cross, who said that he could call down angels at any moment on a rescue mission, but chose not to — because of us."

He concludes: "Any discussion of how pain and suffering fit into God's scheme ultimately leads back to the cross."

OVERFLOWING
With
 GRATITUDE

Gratitude, All Year Long

It's not Thanksgiving time. But what if we made a point to practice gratitude all year long?

In her book *Grateful*, theologian Diana Bulter Bass writes: "As human beings, we possess an intuitive awareness that we depend on others to survive. We are safer and happier when we care for each other in community, when we do things for each other. ...How we live together in and with gratitude makes all the difference in the world. Indeed living gratefully makes the world different."

Holy Humor Sunday

On Sunday after Easter, some churches incorporate joy into Worship through "holy humor". We will be observing Holy Humor Sunday on April 24, 2022. Mark your calendar and plan to join us for this unique Sunday of Worship.

Join us ...

youth group

SCHEDULE

Wednesday, April 6 —2:30 -5:00 p.m.
 Wednesday, April 20—2:30—5:00 p.m.—Movie & Pizza
 Thursday, April 28—6:00 p.m.—Zoom



Young at Heart Group

On **Thursdays** at **12 noon** our Young at Heart

Group meets in the **Church Parlor** to enjoy a sack lunch together followed by an afternoon of fellowship and various games. This is a group comprised of couples and singles. If you would like to join them just show up with your sack lunch ... they would love to have you join them for an afternoon of FUN! If you have any questions just talk with Kay Casterline.

Continued from page 2

So, who is on your heart today? What big dream do you have for the kingdom of God? What are you doing to show the love of Christ and whose life are you pouring into to share the hope of the Gospel? One of the many beautiful things about the Gospel of Jesus Christ is that it is not a spectator sport. Each and everyone of us is given the gift to become a part of the telling of the Good News and making disciples just as the first followers did. We are their living legacy, and their faith stories continue to encourage, inspire, challenge and change us. I pray that one day others will look back on us and see how our lives of faith strengthened them. May we always be ready and willing to Love Christ, Serve Christ, and Share Christ ... No Matter What it Takes! *Amee*

RECIPE OF THE MONTH ... the kitchen of Sarah Phillips, East Lansing, MI

Chicken & Cheddar Biscuit Casserole

- 1/3 c. butter, cubed
- 1 large onion, chopped
- 2 celery ribs, chopped
- 2 medium carrots, chopped
- 2 garlic cloves, minced
- 1/2 cup all-purpose flour
- 1 teaspoon salt
- 1/2 teaspoon pepper
- 4 cups chicken broth or stock
- 5 cups cubed cooked chicken
- 3 cups biscuit/baking mix
- 3/4 cup 2% milk
- 1 cup shredded cheddar cheese
- 1 cup roasted sweet red peppers, drained & chopped

Total Time:

Prep: 40 minutes
Bake: 35 minutes
Yield: 12 Servings



Directions:

1. Preheat oven to 425°. In a 6 qt. stockpot, heat butter over medium-high heat. Add onion, celery and carrots; cook and stir 3-5 minutes or until tender. Add garlic; cook and stir 1 minute longer. Stir in flour, salt and pepper until blended; gradually whisk in broth. Bring to a boil, stirring constantly; cook and stir over medium heat 4-6 minutes or until thickened. Add chicken.
2. Transfer to a greased 13x9-in. baking dish. Bake, uncovered, 20 minutes. Meanwhile, in a large bowl, combine biscuit mix and milk just until moistened. Turn onto a lightly floured surface; knead gently 8-10 times. Roll dough into a 12x8-in. rectangle. Sprinkle with cheese and peppers. Roll up jelly-roll style, starting with a long side; pinch seam to seal. Cut crosswise into 1-in.-thick slices. Place slices on top of hot chicken mixture. Bake, uncovered, 15-20 minutes or until biscuits are golden brown.

Prayer Concerns

**Unspoken requests, Friends, Relatives, Associates,
Neighbors, Our Youth, Our Church**

**Liberty Prep, Smithville Schools & Career Center Students,
Teachers & Administration**

Health Concerns: Ukrainians, The Richard "Dick" Beaver Family (3-3), The Marguerite Miller Family (3-8), Tom & Cathy Rolf & Family (the passing of her mother in February), Debra Lenthe, Jim Thompson, Paula Merckle, Autumn Regula (6 yr. old), Jackie Becker, Jenny Wagers, Paul Finley & others in our Church Family

- Nina Benek**—Danbury Senior Living, 939 Portage Rd. Wooster, #123
- Jane Harrison**—Brookdale, 1615 Cleveland Rd. Wooster, Apt. 10
- Dorothy Hochstetler**—Westview Manor, 1715 Mechanicsburg Rd. Wooster, #28
- Louise Holt**—Wayne County Care Center, 876 S. Gevers Chapel Rd. Wooster, #105
- Elda Imhoff**—Home, 1819 Saddlebrook Circle, Wooster 44691
- Ross Leach**—Home, 6848 Back Orrville Rd. Wooster 44691
- Nancy Mills**—Wayne Manor, 4110 E. Smithville Western Rd. Wooster
- Judy Reese**—Wayne Manor, 4110 E. Smithville Western Rd, Wooster, #110
- Joyce Shull**—Home, 1825 Saddlebrook Circle, Wooster, 44691
- Jim Thompson**—Westview Manor, 1715 Mechanicsburg Rd. Wooster, #606

Why Christ Calls Us to Worship

Easter services are usually well attended, but what about other weeks? What draws you to worship on an "average" Sunday, and what might Jesus have in store for people in the pews?

Consider this from Pastor Charles Aaron: *"Did we come to church this morning thinking it was a safe thing to do? Did we come with some expectation of receiving a blessing, a bit of comfort, but no real challenge? Did we think about the possibility that encountering Jesus would rearrange our lives, explode our priorities, cause us to give more than we ever expected? Did we think we could get a little something from Jesus, a dose of grace to help us through the week? Did we come for the fellowship, the music, the spiritual boost? No one can argue with those reasons."*

He continues: *"The risen Christ, however, may have had other plans for this worship service. Christ may want to come under our skins and transform us. Christ may see through us so that something we have well hidden comes to the surface. Christ may kick out from under us the things we use to prop ourselves up but that we don't really need. Are we ready for that? Did we bargain on that when we walked through the door today?"*
—from *The Wired Word*

APRIL Birthdays

- 6 Cynthia Shull
- 10 Andrea Gerber
- 14 Barbara LaMoreaux
- 20 James Hohenshil
Stephanie Wright
- 21 Joyce Surrell
Ralph Gill
- 22 Michael Foy
Leia Miller

APRIL Anniversaries

- 2 Steven & Kathryn Buchwalter
- 11 Timothy & Jacklyn Becker
- 12 Kyle & Tami Krownapple
- 14 Ronald & Deborah Leach
- 16 Mike & Mary Ann Ickes
- 17 Brian & Amber Sayre



Prayer Chain Coordinator

Gail Bersch is the Prayer Chain Coordinator. Call her at (330)347-4699 with your prayer requests. If you are interested in joining this important ministry, please give her a call.



My Dearest Church Family,

Thank you to all of the women at the Church who gave me cookies, cards and a flower. I received so many Christmas, Get-Well and Birthday cards, they were all so beautiful and I greatly appreciated all of them.

A special thank you to Pastor James for all his many visits. I look forward to every visit and really appreciate them all.

I miss seeing everyone at Church and I would love to come even if for just one Sunday to worship again with my Church Family.

God bless each one of you,

Nina Benek

"I alone cannot change the world, but I can cast a stone across the waters to create many ripples."
—Mother Teresa

SUMC Parking Lot Spaces available during Smithville Rummage Sale ...

Do you live outside of the Smithville City Limits? Have you ever wished that you could have a spot in town during the Smithville Rummage Sale to sell your treasures? Then join us this year Saturday, April 30 ... SUMC Trustees are offering outside spots (10x10 or larger), for anyone to use, on our Church Property. The designated area will be marked off and numbered for identification purposes. So don't delay. The Trustees are requesting a donation and they will be collecting that sometime Saturday morning. Contact the Church Office at (330)669-2371 if interested.

You're invited to join us in person or
on Facebook Live ...

Smithville Umc!

Easter Service Schedule

~ Palm Sunday Celebration (April 10)

Worship @ 9:30 a.m.

~ Holy Thursday (April 14)

@ 7:00 p.m.

~ Good Friday Service (April 15)

@ 7:00 p.m.

~ Easter Sunday Celebration (April 17)

9:30 a.m.

Join us ...

SMITHVILLE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
243 N. Milton, P. O. Box 375
Smithville OH 44677

Address Service Requested

Next Dog Obedience Classes

Thursdays, May 5, 12 & 19

from 6:30 –8:30 p.m.

If interested ...

call the Church Office.



Smithville Rummage Sale ...



It's that time again ... time to bring in any items you wish to donate to the Annual Rummage Sale at Smithville United Methodist Church.

Smithville UMC will be having another Rummage Sale coordinating with the Annual Smithville Rummage Sale and this year it will be on Saturday, April 30th from 8:00 a.m.—3:00 p.m. in the Family Life Center.

Be the first to find your TREASURES! ALL money raised from this will **go to MISSIONS.**

The **Boy Scouts** from Troop 73 will be **servicing breakfast from 7 – 11 a.m.** again, so plan to make a day of it or at least breakfast or lunch plans!

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