

The Good News!

open hearts
open minds
open doors



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open doors



A Publication of
Smithville United Methodist Church
Smithville United Methodist Church is a Stephen Ministry Congregation
November 2021

The people of The United Methodist Church

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THE GOOD NEWS PUBLICATION

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MISSION STATEMENT

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

**DEADLINE for next month's,
December/January articles:
November 15, 2021**

FROM PASTOR JAMES LANCE'S DESK

As we enter November, the Holidays are approaching. We are celebrating All Saints' Sunday, November 7. We have Thanksgiving on November 25 and we are preparing for Christmas. As we reflect on these holidays, I am reminded just how many we have lost this year. As we celebrate All Saints' Sunday, we will honor all those that have helped shape us and are no longer with us. All those who loved us, reached out to us, taught us about Christ, and continue to look over us. We rejoice at their life and how each of those Saints blessed us.

We take time to mourn our loss. We rejoice at how they blessed us and how they have made the final journey to God, but we do miss them. We mourn that they are no longer with us, and we weep to think of the coming holidays without them. As I reflect on this loss, I am reminded that the United States has its number one sales of alcohol on Wednesday before Thanksgiving. The holidays can be exceptionally hard for those who have lost someone. Even when we do not revert to drinking, we still struggle, at times, to get through the holidays when we grieve.

As we enter the holidays, there will be times when we grieve. When the holidays don't feel "right" because of who we are missing. There will be times we struggle to celebrate. Times we wonder if Thanksgiving and Christmas will ever have joy again. There will be times when we feel alone and wonder what to do next.

I want to remind everyone that we are the Body of Christ together. This grants us two points of hope for the Holidays. The first one being: you are never alone. The Lord is always with you, in your times of sorrow and despair. The second: you have a community, people who love you, here at Smithville UMC. Do not be surprised when people call to ask how you are doing. Do not hesitate to call when you need someone. Do not hesitate to ask for help. If you ever feel alone, struck with grief and sorrow during the week, please feel free to join our Grief Share Group. The Lord is with you and so are we. You are not alone. Amen.

Pastor James

Worship Schedule

FROM THE DESK OF AIMEE HARE

Sunday Mornings in November

Sunday, November 7

All Saints' Sunday; Communion
Psalm 23; Psalm 22
 Sermon: "It's Ok to Still Be Grieving"

~ ~ ~

Sunday, November 14

Veterans' Sunday
Mark 10:32-53;
 Sermon: "Vision"

Guest Speaker:
 Rev. Dr. Bradford Price

~ ~ ~



November Messages

~ ~ ~

Sunday, November 21

Psalm 65; Luke 7:36-50

Aimee Hare's Sermon:
 "The Depth of our Thankfulness"

~ ~ ~

Sunday, November 28

1st Week of Advent

Advent Wreath:
 The Krownapple Family

Luke 3:23,31,38, 4:1-2a;
Jeremiah 33:14-26

Message: "The People Waited and The Lord Delivered"

An Idea for this Thanksgiving Season...



There are years that we reflect upon that are full of blessings and goodness. Then ... there are those years that it is hard to remember what the blessings looked like because our eyes are so full of tears. I don't know which kind of year it has been for you. I do not know if you have laughed more than you have cried, or if you have had more rainy days than sunny ones.

What I do know, is that we serve a God who never changes ... He is the same yesterday, today, and forever. His faithfulness is never ending, His love is without bounds, His provision is limitless, and the comfort He provides sustains us even when we feel like we cannot go on. Nothing can separate us from Him, and no powers can keep Him from us ... we are safe in His arms despite all the trials of life that threaten to undo us. It is much too easy to forget that, however, when we feel under pressure or scared or overwhelmed or alone or heartbroken. We are human, and as such, we can be distracted from God's goodness and then focus on the pain around and within us.

So here is my Thanksgiving challenge to you. I believe it will be a practical way to remember your blessings and see how God is working in your life and all around you ... so here is your challenge!

On Thanksgiving Day, this year, take a jar and on a slip of paper write something you are thankful for/or a way that you saw God move in your day that day ... maybe a prayer He answered, or a smile you noticed, or a smell that reminded you of something you love, or the moment of peace you got in the middle of a hectic day ... anything. Then take that jar and set it by your bed and every night before you go to sleep, do it again. Every night find at least one thing (*or a dozen things if you like*) and put it in your jar. Then on Thanksgiving morning next year, sit on your bed and pour them out and read them. You will see how God was with you every single day. You can get a jar for everyone in your house and then share them together if you like ... the idea is to watch everyday (*ESPECIALLY on the hard days*) for how God is close to you ... all around and within you!

Happy Thanksgiving my dear church. I am thankful for each and every one of you!

Love you!

Aimee

RECIPE OF THE MONTH ... Dorothy Beichler**Three Bean Salad**

- 1 can Cut Green Beans (*drained*)
- 1 can Cut Wax Beans (*drained*)
- 1 can Red Kidney Beans (*rinsed & drained*)
- 1/2 cup Celery (*finely chopped*)
- 1 small Onion (*finely chopped*)
- 2/3 cup Vinegar
- 3/4 cup Sugar
- 1/3 cup Salad Oil
- 1 t. Salt
- 1 t. Pepper

Combine Beans, Salt & Pepper, Celery, and Onion. Combine remaining ingredients and stir until sugar is completely dissolved and pour over bean mixture. Refrigerate several hours.

**4 Gospels Advent Bible Study**

This study will be exploring the opening of the four Gospels, how they set up the rest of the Gospel, and how that calls us today. We will be exploring the first couple of chapters of each Gospel: Mark, John, Matthew, and Luke (*in that order*). Special attention will be given to how each beginning of the Gospel prepares the reader for each Gospel and how that can help us understand Advent and Christmas.

The first week of this study we will meet on **Monday, November 22 from 6—7:30 p.m.** The following weeks we will meet on **Wednesdays (12/1, 12/8, 12/15) from 6—7:30 p.m.** All are invited to join us.



Smithville UMC's Grief Group

Sundays ... November 23 - January 2 from 2-3 p.m. in the Church Parlor



Wondering how you will survive the weeks surrounding Thanksgiving and Christmas? Are you dreading these holidays knowing that everything has changed and that happy memories from the past years can't be recreated? Our Grief Group is especially for people like you who are grieving a loved one's death.

Join us ...



Thank YOU ...

Dear Church Family,

Our family would like to thank you all for the prayers and kind words of comfort. They are so very appreciated.

In Christ's Name,
The Bersch Family

Dear Church Family,

I am humbled by your kindness! I just wanted to say how much I appreciate your kindness, support and friendship since I have come home to my former Church as a teenager. It warms my heart. My mother, Betty McCleary would be in an assisted living if I were not here. I am glad to be able to help her. At the same time ... I have been welcomed into your church family and Praise God I am here.

Thank you,
Barbara McCleary, Tennent

To my Special Friends at Youth,

You all mean the world to me! You all are appreciated. Thank you so much for the basket of goodies! Heaven, Josh & I will enjoy doing things together!

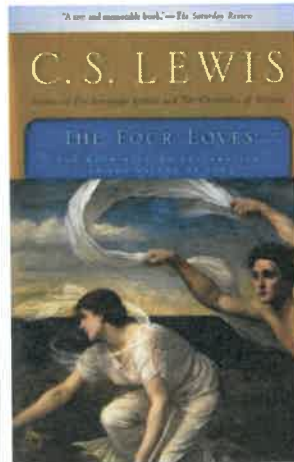
Love you all,
Gail, Josh & Heaven

Sunday, November 7

Remember...



Advent Bible Study on the Four Loves



This study will explore the four Greek loves (Storge, Eros, Philia, Agape) and how C.S. Lewis wrote about them in his book *The Four Loves*. We will spend a week looking at each love, how it applies to our lives, and how it applies to the Advent and Christmas season. We will explore where they occur or don't occur in scripture, what C.S. Lewis wrote about them, and how our understanding of them can help us live out our call to love the Lord our God and love our neighbor as ourselves.

This study will begin on **Tuesday, November 23** and meet on following **Tuesdays (11/30, 12/7, 12/14)** from **10 – 11 a.m.** in the Parlor. All are invited and welcome.

NO CONTACT Drop-OFF



**"Stuff the Turkey"
Food Drive**

**Thursday, Nov. 11 9-3 p.m. &
Sunday, Nov. 14 12-3 p.m.**

Smithville UMC
243 N. Milton St. Smithville, OH

Smithville UMC Youth Group wants to help local needy families have a nice Thanksgiving Meal. Your support is needed and will help them as they need to collect as many as possible of the following items:

- ~ **A Turkey or Ham Voucher**
- ~ **Bag of Potatoes or Box of Instant Potatoes**
- ~ **Boxed Stuffing Mix**
- ~ **Jars of Turkey Gravy or Dried Gravy Mix Packets**
- ~ **Canned Veggies:**
(Corn, Peas or Carrots)
- ~ **Items to make Green Bean Casserole:**
(Green Beans, Cream of Mushroom Soup, French Fried Onions)
- ~ **Canned Pie Filling**
- ~ **Pie Crust**

**Place them in Outside
Delivery Bins ... Thank you!**

Prayer Concerns

**Unspoken requests, Our Friends, Our Relatives,
Our Associates, Our Neighbors, Our Youth & Our Church
Pray for Liberty Prep, Smithville Schools & the Career
Center Students, Teachers & Administration**

Please pray for ... [health concerns]

Coronavirus victims & families, Kayli Falter (one of our youth, Sophomore @ Smithville), **Charlee & Jenna** (Marguerite Miller's premature great-granddaughters), **The Naomi Mathew Family** (9-26-2021), **The Ellen Keith Family** (9-23-2021), **The Jennifer Sayre Family** (9-14-2021), **The Ed Bersch Family** (8-31-2021), **Sue Sayre, Marguerite Miller, Nina Benek, 6 yr. old Autumn Regula, Jackie Becker, Jenny Wagers, Paul Finley** and others in our Church Family

Please pray for our Shut-ins ... if unmarked ... Wooster Addresses

Nina Benek—The Avenue at Wooster, #122, 1700 E. Smithville Western Rd.
Jane Harrison—Brookdale Senior Living, Apt. 10, 1615 Cleveland Rd.
Dorothy Hochstetler—Westview Manor, #212, 1715 Mechanicsburg Rd.
Louise Holt—Wayne County Care Center, #105, 876 S. Geyers Chapel Rd.
Ross Leach—Home, 6848 Back Orrville Road
Marguerite Miller—Westview Manor, #515, 1715 Mechanicsburg Rd.
Nancy Mills—Wayne Manor, 3110 E. Smithville Western Rd.
Judy Reese—Wayne Manor, #110, 4110 E. Smithville Western Rd.



Prayer Chain Coordinators

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



We are looking for couples or families or just a couple of friends to group together and share in the lighting of

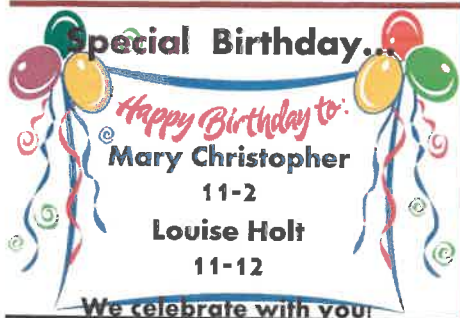
the 2021 Advent Wreath and Readings. If you're interested in taking a Sunday please contact the Church Office asap. We still need a few people for Sunday mornings at 9:30 a.m. on December 12 and December 19.



- 2 Mary Christopher
- 3 Richard Beichler
- 7 Pastor James Lance
- 11 LeeAnn Caldwell
- 12 Louise Holt
- 16 Zander Thompson
- 17 Donna Holderman
- 27 Bernie Caldwell
- 29 Drew Thompson



- 18 Jack & Joyce Williams
- 20 Charles & Virginia Thomas



Men's Group Bible Study

6-week Study starting: Sunday, October 17, 2021 from 8 – 9 a.m.



If someone asked you to explain the gospel, what would you say? What is the good news of the Christian faith? Writing to the Galatians, Paul made it clear how easily we can be tempted to turn toward fraudulent gospels, especially those that teach we can earn God's love through our works. Though they may have the appearance of truth, they are lifeless and leave us empty in the end.

In this *Book of the Bible* series, Kyle Idleman dives into the book of Galatians, one that contains some of the clearest explanations of the gospel in the New Testament. Through biblical study and engaging lessons, Kyle shows that true freedom is found in surrender, not self-dependence. Because our gospel is not one based on our works, but faith in the finished work of Jesus Christ.

For more information contact: Allan Bauman 330-464-5683 or email ABauman76@aol.com We still have room for you. Join us!

Christmas Cookie Decorating Party

The Missions' Committee will be hosting a Christmas Cookie Decorating Party on **Saturday, December 4 from 9 a.m.—noon**, in the Fellowship Hall. We are in need of two things:

- ~ 20 dozen "undecorated" sugar cut-out cookies
- ~ LOTS of people to decorate these cookies

We will be giving these cookies to our shut-ins and service people in our community to share a little JOY during this Advent Season! If you can help in anyway call the church or see the sign-up sheet.



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

[Address Service Requested]

ALL SAINTS' DAY

We will have a special service on Sunday, November 7, 2021 at 9:30 a.m. to remember those in our congregation who we have lost this past year.



Special Celebrations in November

- ~ All Saints' Day, November 1, 2021
- ~ Daylight-Saving Time ends, November 7, 2021
- ~ Veterans Day, November 11, 2021
- ~ Thanksgiving Day, November 25, 2021
- ~ First Sunday of Advent, November 28, 2021



NOVEMBER 2021

2021 Poinsettias

We will be decorating the Sanctuary with a variety of colored poinsettias this Christmas. If you would like to purchase a poinsettia, choose and mark what color you prefer.



The cost is \$11.00 each. Your money, accompanied by the order form may be placed in the offering plate or sent to the Church Office by Sunday, November 21st. You may pick up your poinsettia after the Christmas Eve Service on December 24th. Poinsettias that are left after Sunday morning, December 26th will be taken to our shut-ins if not taken within the week. Thank you for helping us beautify our Church this holiday.

_____ Poinsettias @ \$11.00 each = _____
____ Red Poinsettia _____ White Poinsettia _____ Jingle Bells Poinsettia (red w/white)

To the glory of our Lord:

In memory of:

In honor of:

Given by: _____

[A minimum order of 20 Poinsettias is necessary this year.]