

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
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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
articles: **October 15, 2021**

FROM PASTOR JAMES LANCE'S DESK

Bearing Fruit ... at What Cost?



As we enter the fall, I am looking forward to apple picking. I haven't gone in years but with Bauman Orchards so nearby, it seems like a great year to start again. This has me reflecting on the lifespan of an apple tree. Did you know that it takes anywhere from 6-10 years for an apple tree to start bearing fruit? That is 6-10 years of toiling, watering, caring, and pruning where you may get nothing back.

And yet, as we can see at the orchard, when it does start to bear fruit an apple tree can bear apples for the next 40 years. Furthermore, while the apple tree still takes some care and attention, compared to its younger years, it is self-sufficient. As we look at being the church and serving God, what does an apple tree teach us?

In scripture we see Jesus use fig trees as part of his parables. Jesus used fig trees because they were a tree people were familiar with and could connect with. Today, in Ohio, we may understand the parables better when understood with an apple tree in place of a fig tree. One parable from Luke 13:6-9 looks at the idea of giving the tree one more year to bear fruit. Both fig trees and apple trees take multiple years of love and care before they bear fruit. I wonder how often we as a church get tired and put off with a mission, an outreach program, an event because it doesn't work the way we want to the first time? How often do we consider giving up on something because it didn't give us the results, we wanted the first year? How often do we do that as a church? As individuals? I wonder, as we enter fall and enjoy the apples around us, what it means to reflect on the 6-10 years of work it took, with no return, before those trees bore apples. I wonder what are we willing to put years of work into, that may have little results, to see decades of abundant fruit returned?



Just wondering,

Pastor James

Worship Schedule

FROM THE DESK OF AIMEE HARE

Sunday Mornings in October

Sunday, October 3
Communion

Matthew 28:16-20;
1 Corinthians 1:10-17

Sermon: "Purpose of a Mission Statement"

~ ~ ~

Sunday, October 10

Mark 10:17-27;
1 Corinthians 3:5-15

Sermon: "To Love Christ"



Sunday, October 17

Matthew 4:18-22;
1 Corinthians 7:17-24

Sermon: "To Serve Christ"

~ ~ ~

Sunday, October 24

Luke 8:16-18;
1 Corinthians 12:1-11

Message: "To Share Christ"

~ ~ ~

Sunday, October 31

Matthew 26:35-45;
1 Corinthians 9:14-23
Message: "No Matter What"

Be Still ...

I am always in awe of those of you who are "morning" people. I am NOT a morning person. I often find myself thinking cranky thoughts as my alarm clock tells me it is time to wake up and if it were not for the smell of coffee brewing, I probably would give up and go back to bed most mornings. This struggle, for me, is real! One morning last week (*only the 2nd week of the new school year*) was already one of "those" mornings when I would have been SO HAPPY for a snow day ... BUT since snow days are fairly, rare in Ohio in August, I made my way to the coffee pot and started the day. By the time Aidan and I pulled into the school driveway at 7:15 a.m., I was awake enough to offer him a smile, and an "I love you and have a good day" and then off he went. I was also awake enough to feel curious and a tad irritated when the line of cars in front of me seemed frozen for no reason. So as I sat in traffic wondering what the delay was all about, I happened to glance up and across the field was a beautiful section of a rainbow. If the traffic had been flowing smoothly, I would have totally missed it. The unexpected "pause" in my normal morning routine led me to an unanticipated blessing. So I pulled out my phone and took a picture of the rainbow and immediately Psalm 46:10 flashed across my mind. "Be still and know that I am God." **Be still.**



Ever feel like God was trying to get your attention? I certainly did that morning. He gave me no choice. I either stopped or I ended up in the backseat of the minivan in front of me ... not at all where I wanted to be. So as "my schedule" was getting delayed, God showed up. I was not looking for him in the school drop off line, but there he was, whispering His peace into my sleepy heart and reminding me to take the time to remember who was in charge of all my moments ... my "sleepy, not enough minutes in the day, cranky because I am stopped in traffic, have better things to do than just sit here" moments ... "Be Still and know that I am God." As I drove from the school driveway to the church parking lot and parked my car, the rainbow was a little brighter and a little bigger ... and as I walked into my office there it was ... filling up my office window ... God's promise, His reminder, His beautiful presence was there resetting the tough morning I had led myself into. God got my attention. I am so glad he stopped me that morning; He stopped me from looking at the traffic and redirected my focus from inconveniences, sleepiness and my own rotten morning mood to beauty and brightness and the promise of His love and goodness and the reminder to just be "Be Still" in Him.

If you are anything like me, there are plenty of times I need those reminders. Times when the weight of the world, the responsibilities, the endless to-do-lists, that I could some days drowned in, are all I see ... those moments when I am so focused on all the things that need done and I think to myself, "I can't do all this." You may know the feeling ... thoughts like, "I don't know how I will survive this heartache ... or I don't know how to do this on my own ... or I just can't go through this again ... I am scared ... I am lonely ... or I am overwhelmed." It is in those moments full of the "I just can't ..." that God steps in. He busts through the clouds, the hurt, and the frustration and reminds me to "Be still ...". He doesn't tell us to try harder to figure things out on our own. He doesn't wag his finger at us and scold us.

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RECIPE OF THE MONTH ... Kay Casterline

Stuffed Summer Squash

- 1 large Yellow Summer Squash (about 8 oz.)
- 1 large Zucchini (about 8 oz.)
- 3 tablespoons Olive Oil
- 1 Onion (chopped)
- 1/2 lb. Lean Ground Turkey
- 1/2 lb. Sausage
- 1 cup Chopped Fresh or Canned Tomatoes
- 1/2 cup canned low-sodium Chicken Broth
- 2 teaspoons Chopped Fresh Thyme
- Salt & Pepper to taste
- 1/3 cup Dry Italian-style Bread Crumbs
- 2 tablespoons Grated Parmesan



Directions:

Step 1—Fill a bowl with ice water. Bring a pot of salted water to a boil. Cut squash & zucchini in half lengthwise; place in boiling water. Bring back to a boil; cook until slightly softened, 5 minutes. Transfer squash to ice water. Cool for 2 minutes. Remove; pat dry.

Step 2—Scrape out seeds & stringy pulp from each squash half, leaving a large cavity for stuffing. Arrange snugly in a large, lightly oiled oven proof baking dish.

Step 3—Warm 1 Tbsp. oil in a large skillet over medium-high heat. Add onions and cook, stirring often, until softened, about 3 minutes. Add turkey and cook, stirring often, until turkey is thoroughly cooked and some of liquid has evaporated, 5–7 minutes. Season with salt & pepper.

Step 4—Preheat oven to 425°F. Place equal amounts of filling in each squash half, piling it high in center. Mix bread crumbs with Parmesan, then sprinkle mixture over squash & drizzle with 2 Tbsp. olive oil. Bake until golden brown on top, about 20 minutes.

Continued from page 2



What He does instead ... reminds us that *(Be still and know)* HE IS GOD. He reminds us that He is the one who creates, holds up and juggles all of creation ... every atom, every cell, every second, every day, of all time ... there is NOTHING that is out of His ability to control. His words and promises are forever, and they are for us. The same God that brought Noah's ark to rest on dry ground is the same God that can provide your peace, in your storm. The same God

that reached down to pull Peter up from under the water, is the same God that can save you from drowning in your hopelessness. The same God that used fishermen, tax collectors, and demon-possessed women to share his love with a hurting world, can give you the courage and words to do the same! So, when you are at the end of your rope *(or the bottom of your empty coffee mug)*, don't give up. Just **Be Still**. The God of all things has not forgotten you ... you are in the palm of His hand, and He will not fail you. **Be Still and know that HE IS GOD!**

Aimee

"If you want the peace that passes understanding, you're going to have to give up your right to understanding. It's called trust."

—Bill Johnson

The RAINBOW —

The Rainbow represents God's pardon and his promises. It also symbolizes his reconciliation to faithful Christians. After the Flood, God placed a rainbow in the sky as a symbol of his promise to never destroy the earth that way again (Genesis 9:12-16). A rainbow can also represent the throne of Christ, as well as his glory and final judgment.



Mission Statement Bible Study

Just join us ... Pastor James will have everything you need for this study. It begins Tuesday, September 21 at 10 a.m. in the Church Parlor.

They're Here ...

Get your copy of *"Making Room: Recovering Hospitality as a Christian Tradition"* by Christine D. Pohl. This is Pastor James' NEW Wednesday night Bible Study book, they are \$18. It begins September 22 at 6 p.m.

Join us!

Thank You ...

To My Church Family,

Thank you so much for all your prayers and cards. My back is doing find. I'm having trouble with my legs ... can't walk. We are working with them every day. Hope I'll be walking soon. Thank you all.

God Bless,
Nina Benek

Dear Smithville UMC,

I wanted to thank you for the Educational Grant Scholarship. I greatly appreciate your generosity and the support. This Scholarship will go a long way to helping with the expenses of my education. I look forward to being able to give back to the community once I begin my career. Thank you for your confidence and willingness to help me achieve my goals!

Sincerely,
Carissa Thompson
University of Akron
Class of 2023

Dear United Methodist Church Body,

I am ecstatic that you gifted me the college award this year. The extra boost will help in paying off tuition and affording any books I may need for the year. All the support given has and will continue to be a greatly impactful part of helping to focus on my studies.

Starting this fall will be a thrilling experience; pursuing the Associate in Applied Science in Cybersecurity and Computer Forensics at Stark State College. The program is a 2-year program giving access to a number of Careers right after graduation. While this may be available, I hope to pursue a 4-year Bachelors in Science in Information Technology and Cybersecurity.

Thank You,
Alexander Thompson

All-Church 2022 Planning Meeting

ALL chairpersons please bring all your 2022 meetings and ministry dates to this **IMPORTANT MEETING** on Saturday, October 16 at 9:00 a.m. in the Fellowship Hall. If you are unable to attend please send a representative from your committee with those dates.



NO CONTACT Drop-Off

Rain or Shine



"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, The Ed Bersch Family (8-31-2021), Jennifer Sayre, Sue Sayre, Marguerite Miller, Nina Benek, 6 yr. old Autumn Regula, Dawn (Sayre) Ross, 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.**
- Dorothy Hochstetler—Westview Manor, #212, 1715 Mechanicsburg Rd.**
- Louise Holt—Wayne County Care Center, #105, 876 S. Geyers Chapel Rd.**
- Ellen Keith—The Avenue at Wooster, #122, 1700 E. Smithville Western 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 are the Prayer Chain Coordinators. Call them at (330)347-4699 with your prayer requests. If you are interested in joining this important ministry, please give them a call.

SAVE the DATE ...

Charge Conference

Sunday, October 31 at 2:00 p.m.

OCTOBER Birthdays

- 8 Tom Rolf
- 11 Howard Streets
- 16 Scott Hare
- 17 Michael Miller
- 18 Clara Grimes
Paula Merckle
Matt M^cElroy
- 22 Melinda Gingery
Garland Jackson
- 23 Tami Buchwalter
Jay Vincent

Answers

Answers to prayers come in various ways, sometimes in minutes, sometimes in days. And some take years to fully unfold the harvest of love and blessings they hold.

Answers to prayers come in various forms, sometimes in sunlight, sometimes through storms. Some blossom early, and some blossom late, but each one will flower — have faith and wait!

—Helen Inwood, *His Mysterious Ways*

OCTOBER Anniversaries

- 17 Richard & Pamela Beichler
- 21 Joshua & Katie Nickles

Sunday, November 7, 2021



Daylight Savings Time begins on All Saints Day

Hands on Missions ... Odd Jobs around the Home ...

The Missions Committee invites you ...

Saturday, October 9 from 9:00—2:00 p.m. the Missions' Committee will be organizing a couple projects to be completed within our Church Family. **Do you have a project at your home that you can't do yourself?** If so contact the Church Office or sign-up on the Missions sign-up sheet at the back of the Sanctuary. We realize that we may not be able to complete all the projects on the list because of our expertise and time limitations. Also **if you would like to be apart of this work team please sign-up on that same sheet as a Volunteer.**





Aspire

Aspire Tickets ...
Ladies, if you haven't purchased your **Aspire tickets**, for **Friday, October 1** at Grace Baptist's concert in Brunswick, see Pastor James or call the Church Office asap to get your ticket. **Tickets are \$20** and we still have 6 left. The concert begins at **7:00 p.m.** and doors open at 6:30 p.m.

Join Us!

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SMITHVILLE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
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[Address Service Requested]



TRUNK OR TREAT



JOIN US at SMITHVILLE UMC
on October 31 at 3:30 p.m. - 5:30 p.m.

If you would like to decorate a trunk ... just call the Church Office ASAP!

- Experience Smithville UMC's ... walk through the themed decorated trunks
- ... FREE Candy, Pumpkin Painting, Hayride, Games & FUN Activities.
- Please wear costumes appropriate for kids under age 12.

**RAIN or SHINE ...
A SAFE & FUN-FILLED,
One stop alternative to
Trick or Treating!**