

The Good News!

open hearts
open minds
open doors



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open minds
open doors



A Publication of
Smithville United Methodist Church
Smithville United Methodist Church is a Stephen Ministry Congregation
November 2020

The people of The United Methodist Church

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THE GOOD NEWS PUBLICATION

Published once a month by:
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MISSION STATEMENT

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

DEADLINE for the
December/January
newsletter is:
November 15, 2020

FROM REV. CAROLYN'S DESK

November is such a great month! The weather is crisp but not frigid yet, there may be some snow but usually not too much and it is the month for Thanksgiving. I do enjoy Thanksgiving. None of the present giving pressure, little decorating pressure, no extra services, practices, etc. Just time to enjoy family and friends. Time to eat too much turkey and all the trimmings, pecan pie for dessert, football games to watch, naps to take, walks to go on, board games to be played.

Except this year. I don't know how Thanksgiving will look in 2020? The CDC warns against large family gatherings and encourages people to get together via Zoom. Zoom is good, but how do you slip the puppy some morsel off your plate via Zoom? How do you argue a ref's call over the phone? How do you sneak a bite of dessert off the plate next to you during a pandemic and social distancing?

I don't know the answers to my own questions. But I do know that even with all that is going on in the world, God is still in charge. God's love does not change or waver. With God's help we are and will get through this pandemic. The day will be here when we will sit next to someone on the couch watching a football game and be able to jump up and give a high five. We will be able to hug and jump up and down when the Buckeyes or the Browns win big, just not this year.

In spite of all the changes that 2020 has brought into our lives, not even this year can cause the Butterball Turkey Hotline to go quiet. This year is one when that hotline will be needed more than ever considering some of the calls they have received in the past. The following are true calls received by the Butterball experts:

1. The turkey is still frozen on Thanksgiving morning and what should they do? Can they put the turkey in the shower and run hot water over it? Can they cover the turkey with an electric blanket on high? Can they put it in the dishwasher?
2. The turkey was left in the car overnight (*the caller was from Miami, FL*). Is it still okay to eat?
3. They left the bird in a snowbank to thaw. It snowed several inches that night and now they can't find it. What should they do?
4. A gentleman called to say he cut his turkey in half with a chainsaw and wanted to know if the oil from the chain would adversely affect the turkey?



Continue on page 4

Worship Schedule

FROM THE DESK OF AIMEE HARE

Sunday Mornings

Sunday, November 1

All Saints' Sunday
Revelation 7:9-17;
Matthew 5:1-12

Sermon: "Blessed Are The Saints"

~ ~ ~

Sunday, November 8

Joshua 24:14-25;
Matthew 25:1-13

Sermon: "Be On Time"

~ ~ ~

Sunday, November 15

Psalms 123; Matthew 25:14-30

Sermon: "What Is A Talent Worth?"

~ ~ ~



~ ~ ~

Thanksgiving

Sunday, November 22

Deuteronomy 8:7-18;
Luke 17:11-19

Sermon: "Give Thanks"

~ ~ ~

First Sunday of Advent

Sunday, November 29

Isaiah 64:1-9; Mark 13:24-37

Sermon: "Waking and Watching"

Have you ever watched a bunch of little kids come out of school for recess? As soon as they know it is safe to leave their line, they BURST onto that playground! They run to their favorite playset or place to play and gather with their friends. They laugh, run, chase, and are totally focused on their play. They aren't thinking about the test they just took or the one coming up. They aren't worried about getting home to let the dog out or if they are going to have to eat lima beans for dinner. They don't wonder what the taxes are going to be when they grow up or what the cost of health care will be. They are fully living in the moment they are in.

I think there are SEVERAL reasons that Jesus tells us to be like little children ... their innocence, trusting natures, their undeniable joy and wonder about the world around them, their ability to ask questions fearlessly and soak in knowledge, as well as their beautiful way of living in the "now." Children are filled with a beautiful lightheartedness. They see a kitten and they are immediately in love with it ... they do not think of changing litter boxes, vet bills, and torn curtains. They see the rain fall and they want to go jump in the puddles without giving wet, dirty laundry or muddy footprints on the clean floor a passing thought. They see a grassy hill and they want to run up it and roll all the way down it ... they do not care about stains on new pants or crushing the manicured lawn. There is wonder and adventure in almost everything for them. When they hear how God shut the mouths of the lions for Daniel their imaginations can probably smell the breath of the lions ... when they learn of Noah and the ark they hear the animals on board and smell the rain ... when they hear how Jesus was raised from the dead, they run as fast as their feet can carry them to tell the disciples before Mary can even get out of the garden. Children give us an amazing glimpse of what the hearts of Jesus followers should be ... full of possibility and believing that God can honestly do anything that He wants to do!

Do you, as a disciple of Jesus, consider yourself to be a person with "childlike" faith? Now before you answer that, I want you to really think about it.

If we were sitting in the sanctuary on a Sunday morning, and Jesus walked through the doors, how would you react? Would we sit there calmly until he came to us and addressed us personally? Would we walk over to him and patiently wait our turn in line to talk to Him? Or would we jump up off the pew and run as fast as we were able to get to him? I watch Grace when her Papaw comes home from work. The second she realizes he is home; she runs across the room and looks out the window to see him. As soon as she sees him come through the back door, she runs back across the room, goes to the gate, and starts yelling for him. And as soon she lays eyes on him coming around the corner into the room, her arms are up and she expects him to pick her up, squeeze her and start their play time. All of her attention belongs to him and she wants to be wherever he is for the rest of the evening. She will not let him out of her sight. Is that how we feel about Jesus? Do we long to be in His presence, to hear His voice, to have him just be near us? Would we forget ourselves and jump up out of our seat to get to Him first if he walked into our church?

When do we lose that childlike faith? When do we decide that we are "too grown" to cling to Jesus like we did when we were little?

When I was about 5, we had a wonderful Pastor. His name was Reverend Wilson and I loved him dearly. Every Sunday I would run up to him after church and he would scoop me up and give me a big hug and then he would let me shake hands with him as people filed by. I felt important and special to him. When Rev. Wilson left, and the new Pastor came, (which no 5 year old understands why their favorite church buddy has to move on) he had no idea how much I loved Rev. Wilson and he did not know our Sunday routine. He was a nice man, would pat my head and then I would shuffle out the door with my grandparents. I felt much less special ... I lost "my place" at the door and I lost a little bit of that joy I had on Sunday mornings. It sounds like a silly little thing, but to my 5-year-old heart, it hurt. And that is what steals our childlike faith and joy ... hurt, pain, sadness, struggle, and strife.

Continue on page 4

RECIPE OF THE MONTH ... by Jane Harrison

Green Bean Banquet

1 (14.5 oz.) can Libby's® Cut Green Beans

1 lb. Kielbasa, sliced

1 1/2 cup Water

3 medium Potatoes, cubed

1/2 c. Chopped Onion

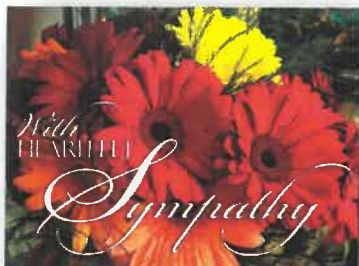
1/2 tsp. Garlic Salt

1/8 tsp. Rosemary

Salt & Pepper to taste



In a sauce pan, brown kielbasa slightly, add water and liquid from green beans. Add potatoes, onion, garlic salt and rosemary and boil until potatoes are almost done. Stir in green beans and cook for an additional 10 minutes. *Makes 6 servings.*



We extend all our love and prayers to the Stacey Miller family in the recent loss of her father, Harold D. Grubb.

We also lift up the Scott & Aimee Hare Family, as well as, Paula Merkle in the loss of Aimee's uncle, Rick Steele.

May our Lord Jesus comfort your families as you journey through this time of grief.

A Virtual Bible Study Opportunity



Online Bible Study

As we all navigate this new "normal," I want to take this chance to invite you to our NEW Virtual Bible Study! If you are interested in being part of this new study opportunity, we will be using BOTH the Zoom Meeting App, as well as Facebook Live. Every-

one is welcome to attend this study, which is scheduled for Thursday evenings at 7:30 p.m. beginning October 30. If you are interested in joining, you can either join us by logging onto the "Smithville UMC Youth Group" Facebook page OR on Zoom. If you choose to Zoom, please make certain to give Aimee Hare your current e-mail address so that she can send you the link and password. Please feel free to invite friends to join this Online Bible study with you! For any questions, please contact Aimee Hare by calling the Church.

Who Needs Christmas

By: Andy Stanley (*no books needed ...*)



Four thousand years ago, God promised he would do something through the bloodline of Abraham. Two thousand years later, Jesus was born. And two thousand years after that, we're still talking about it.

Why?

The story of Jesus' birth was not what anyone expected: a baby . . . born in the armpit of the Mediterranean . . . to save us from sins that no one thought we needed saving from.

This Christmas season, join Andy Stanley as he unpacks why the improbability of the Christmas story is what makes it so believable. No one could have or would have made it up.

- December 2 The Story Behind the Story
- December 9 The Author of Life
- December 16 The Message of Christmas
- December 23 Ready or Not...He Is Coming
- December 30 NO Bible Study

Join Us ...

Wednesdays at 6:30 p.m.

Special dates

- All Saints' Day, November 1, 2020
- Daylight-Saving Time ends, November 1, 2020
- Election Day, November 3, 2020
- Veterans Day, November 11, 2020
- Thanksgiving Day, November 26, 2020
- First Sunday of Advent, November 29, 2020



LETTERS OF THANKS

Dear Church Family,

Thank you so much for all the cards, prayers and words of support on the death of my father. Your kindness helps to ease the pain and loss. I can not say enough how awesome this Church Family is!

Michael, Stacey, Leia & Matthew Miller

A Special Thank You ...

Every kindness has a part

In bringing joy to someone's heart

It's sometimes easy to forget that there are nice people out there doing nice things for others. Thanks for being such a special reminder.

Church Friends,

David was told terminal ... I would like to thank the congregation for their prayers and concerns while my brother went through his treatments. The family received news that David Robinson is in FULL REMISSION. The Doctors were surprised, David's news is wonderful. God hears our prayers of love & concern for ALL.

God Bless,
Sue Jackson

Dear Church Family,

Thank you for your cards and prayers. I am truly blessed to be part of such a caring congregation. Thank you again and God bless you all.

Barbara LaMoreaux

Smithville UMC Church Family,

Thank you so much for the many cards and prayers during my recent surgery, recovery and transition to long-term healing. God has shown me to not take a single day for granted. It has been very challenging to be on this side of healthcare during a pandemic. I am also on the other side of young and look forward to returning to the many things I have taken for granted. Everyday I meet this challenge and continue to heal and grow stronger.

Stay safe and be grateful for God's love,
Debra Lenthe

Continued from page 1

Have a blessed Thanksgiving. Count your blessings. Give thanks for family and friends even if we can only be with them via Zoom. Eat too much turkey and all the trimmings (*if you are having pecan pie, save me a sliver*). Watch some football and give long distance high fives.

Most of all give thanks to God.

Blessings,

Rev. Carolyn M. Berry

Dear Rev. Berry & SUMC Congregation,

Thank you so very much for your donation to our 2020 Faith Build and continued support of our mission. We are so grateful for all the local ministries and their outreach projects!

Many blessings to you and your congregation. We hope to see you at our dedication this year!!

God Bless—

Renee Collins

Beth Weaver

Habitat for Humanity



Thank you so much for all your prayers for my daughter-in-law, Diane Casterline. She was finally diagnosed with a fungus in her eyes which caused extreme pain and no sight. She is finally on the mend and gaining full eye sight again. Many, many thanks for ALL your prayers.

Kay Casterline

Continued from page 2

We get bumps and bruises from life and even after they fade physically, we let them stay in our heart, stealing our desire to live a fearless faith. But we don't have to do that! Jesus does not intend or desire for us to live lives that are bogged down and buried under past hurts. He offers us freedom and forgiveness and hope!

When I was about 21, I ran into Rev. Wilson again. The years had not changed him much and I remember my heart jumping at the sight of him standing in the doorway of a church I was getting ready to sing at. As I walked into that church with my grandparents, I remember him looking me in the eye and saying, "*It's been a long time little one.*" He wrapped me in a big hug, and it was like I was 5 again. I was still special, and he still knew me ... all these years later! It was a beautiful moment I will never forget because it healed something in my heart. I look forward to another hug from Rev. Wilson when I get to Heaven, and I look forward to sharing with him how much he grew the faith of a small girl because he had time for her and loved her like Jesus would love her.

I do not know what it was that hurt you, but we all have things that have broken our hearts and changed us ... hardened us ... stole the childlike wonder God gave to us. I pray that you will find a way back through what the years have piled on your heart and mind to a time when you could easily see and feel the love that God has for you. I pray that you can shed the hurt and burdens you have carried and feel the lightness of the yoke Jesus has for you. I pray your tears will be dried and that when the doors are opened, you will run to Jesus and let Him wrap you up in that hug He has been saving just for you. May you rediscover your childlike faith in our loving, forgiving, joy-giving, hurt healing Savior.

Aimee

Prayer Concerns

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

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

Health Concerns: Coronavirus victims & families, Pat Blackwell, Deb Lenthe, Alyssa Green (Joyce Shull's granddaughter), 4-yr. old Autumn Regula, Bob Krownapple, Jackie Becker, Jenny Wagers, Paul Finley, Kooper Howman and others in our Church Family

Dorothy Hochstetler—Westview Healthy Living, #212, 1715 Mechanicsburg Rd, Wooster

Louise Holt—Wayne County Care Center, #105, 876 S. Geyers Chapel Rd, Wooster, OH

Ellen Keith—Avenue at Wooster, 1700 E. Smithville Western Rd, Wooster, OH

Nancy Mills—Wayne Manor, 3110 E. Smithville Western Rd, Wooster, OH

Kathy Noffsinger—Orrville Pointe, 230 S. Crown Hill Rd, Orrville, OH

Judy Reese -Wayne Manor, 4110 E. Smithville Western Rd. Wooster, OH, #110

"STUFF THE TURKEY" FOOD DRIVE



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

- ~ A Ham or Turkey Vouchers
- ~ Bag of Potatoes or a 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 Yams
- ~ Cranberry Sauce
- ~ Pie Crust Mix
- ~ Fruit Pie Filling

This year because of the Covid19 we will be collecting donations at the Smithville UMC on Sunday, November 8 from 12—5 p.m. and Monday, November 9 from 9-3 p.m. We will be social distancing and wearing masks as well as having outside bins for you to drop off your donations so you can be SAFE. Any questions ... contact Aimee Hare at (330)605-3920.

COMING SOON ...

**Charge Conference ... Sunday, November 1
at 2:00 p.m. at Smithville UMC or
Online ... Join us!**



Prayer Chain Coordinators

Ed & 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.

**Advent Wreath Readers
NEEDED ... call Church Office**



We are looking for couples or families or just a couple of friends to group together and share in the lighting of the 2020 Advent Wreath and Readings. If you're interested in taking a Sunday please contact the Church Office asap. We need people for Sunday mornings at 9:30 a.m. November 29, December 6, 13, 20 along with Christmas Eve for the 7:00 p.m. service.

NOVEMBER Birthdays

- 2 Mary Christopher
- 3 Blaine Davison
Richard Beichler
- 11 LeeAnn Caldwell
- 12 Louise Holt
- 16 Zander Thompson
- 17 Fay Meyer
- 27 Bernie Caldwell
- 29 Drew Thompson

NOVEMBER Anniversaries

- 5 Ed & Gail Bersch
- 18 Jack & Joyce Williams
- 20 Charles & Virginia Thomas

Special Birthday... Louis Holt

11-12







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

Address Service Requested

2020 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 22nd. You may pick up your poinsettia after the Christmas Eve Service on December 24th. Poinsettias that are left after Sunday morning, December 27th 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:

[Our Church's minimum order, this year, is 20 Poinsettias.]