



MESSAGE FROM THE PASTOR



As the summer continues to transition into fall, leaves will turn from green into bright hues of orange, red, and yellow; and thus offer a final warning that winter is on the way. Unfortunately, for many living in Central Ohio, this collage of Mother Nature's festive pallet has become so commonplace, that some years pass without its beauty being noticed. Yet, it does not have to be this way. In reality, the mindset of the individual is what determines her or his ability to appreciate and enjoy what beauty, energy, and life found surrounding her or him. Possibly of even more importance, there are too many, who merely think that they are taking in their surroundings but miss the very unique and creative essence of them, because they are unable to focus, thanks to over-stimulation, over-commitment, and allowing themselves to become over-worked. Also, it should go without saying, that the manner through which society has become unable to appreciate the wonderful, and creative power of God in nature, is directly related to the inability of individuals to realize the presence of God in other areas of their lives. Specifically, it is in the areas of FAITH and BELIEF, where this becomes manifest the strongest.

When examining the Bible for a concise and clear understanding of faith, a wonderful definition is found in Hebrews 11:1, where it states: *"Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen."* Granted, this verse seems to make a very compelling argument for what faith is, but words on a page are very different from facts and observations found in real life. However, even most novice of Christians is able to appreciate the simplicity found in these words. This verse can be paraphrased, or otherwise broken down, into the most basic of concepts, and instead be stated in this way: *"Faith is having hope that something will happen, without any reason to do so."* This sounds on the surface like something that should be elementary for Christians, yet one of the greatest blights upon humanity, is the desire to have tangible evidence, or proof, prior to stating belief in anything. Unfortunately, of the few who are willing to confess having faith in something, many lack the commitment to that belief, which is necessary to put it into action, which begs the question of whether they have faith to begin with, or not.

Belief is the other area in question. It differs from faith, in that belief is related directly to being able to trust something that has been taught, told, or predicted. Specifically, having faith in Christ as Lord and Savior is wonderful, but unless there is a strong belief (or trust) to accompany it, this faith will remain internal, and be devoid of any actions to make it come to life, or be shared. Without belief, or a trusting conviction, that the object of faith is more than a concept, it will remain internal (for a time), until ultimately diminishing in importance, and losing any value it once had. When this happens, any unique, creative, or inspiring aspects become lost.

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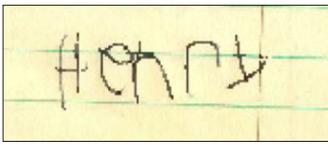
(Pastor's message continued from page 1)

Returning to the Mid-Western visual extravaganza, which is experienced through leaves changing color, upon the backdrop of a Fall sky, these concepts of faith and belief become so much more than just words, but rather are a manifestation of God's continual, abiding presence within the world today. Though it is highly improbable that someone will finish reading this article, look up, and see the real presence of God before them, this hope still exists in some form or another. However, in this month of October, if one simply slows down long enough to see the bright orange, red, and yellow leaves upon the horizon, it then becomes possible to better understand that this occurrence is much more than a strange part of nature, but instead an example of God's creative power, made manifest, so that we might find joy in the midst of the brokenness of human life. Then, as appreciation for this seasonal event increases, it becomes easier to find comfort in the presence of God being part of daily life. In turn, this allows for individual faith to grow stronger, as it helps to satisfy the perceived need for a no longer elusive, but now tangible evidence, which in turn helps strengthen the sense of hope, that is the root of having faith. As this faith increases, it also becomes easier to express, through action, a belief in its reality. When observing the changing leaves, it acts as "real-life" support, for what had existed previously as only a concept. This belief then becomes the basis, or foundation, upon which the aforementioned faith will likewise grow.

The question for many then revolves around determining why, if the changing colors of leaves represent, or otherwise remind humanity about God, do they only last a literal season of the year. Within this is found a distinct quality of God; specifically, that God has always been here, is here now, and will continue to be here indefinitely. Further, as God's nature is to be with and among God's creation, it then becomes evident that humanity should be able to find this presence in the totality of life itself. Changing leaves are not the only method to see this involvement in creation, but rather exist as a simple but helpful reminder. When this beautiful seasonal transition takes place, if appreciated, it results in providing support and strength to the ability to have belief, or otherwise believe in the affirming nature of God's everlasting prerogative to inject beauty into the created order. The appropriate response to this, is to be inspired to seek God in all things, not only the physical environment at a particular time of year. If anything, the limited window of opportunity for seasonal change should inspire all people to have belief that God is actually found everywhere that people look. If the leaves this time of year were to last perpetually, then some people might come to believe that they are the only manifestation of God in this world, instead of realizing God's all-encompassing reality.

This may sound trivial, or for some even confusing, but as a Christian it is incumbent to seek God everywhere, and at every opportunity possible. So, enjoy the leaves, the colors, the season, but do not become so enamored that their source and cause is lost. Instead, let them be enjoyed, and allow their beauty to cultivate joy within the heart. Doing this will lead to a deepening faith, founded in the hope of a future where the real presence of God is enjoyed, and upon that is built the strongest conviction of belief.

Meet



Henry William Topalov recently started kindergarten but he had to do it with a broken arm. While at home, he climbed a fence and while trying to get down, he caught his shirt and tumbled down headfirst hitting his head, tearing his shirt, and breaking his arm. That did not bother him too much as the first day of school, he jumped out of his dad's car and ran into the school ready to go.

Henry is excited about the activity at school and like most children, loves the playground as most six year old boys do. He has big, brown eyes, wears glasses, and has a nice, friendly smile. He has learned how to whistle and enjoys displaying that ability! Starting the reading process by recognizing the letters along with learning the sound that each makes is an exciting activity. Already he has made friends with some classmates.

Henry loves the trampoline which is in his backyard and he can be seen jumping vigorously on it. He likes soccer and it is obvious that he is developing athletic ability. As for toys, he likes wooden ones. He also likes to play games in the house. His favorite color has always been orange. Henry's favorite food is shrimp pasta. He has not decided on a Halloween costume yet. He has a younger brother, Declan. Both boys can be seen in church with their father, Martin.



UNITED METHODIST WOMEN UPDATE

by Sue Overholt

Pecans will be sold again this year. More information to come. We will meet on October 12th at 9:00 a.m. to clean the kitchen with the regular UMW meeting to follow.



Annual Ladies' Luncheon

Please join us on Monday, October 16, 2023 at 11:00 a.m.
in the Fellowship Hall.

A light lunch will be served.

Join us for Christian fellowship and conversation.

(If you have a group coming, please RSVP to the church office at 740-967-6691)

TRUSTEES AT WORK

The trustees need help. It is difficult to find people with certain skills and equipment to work on things that need repaired or added to on the properties. At the present time, for safety reasons, someone is needed to work on the porch and steps at the parsonage. If you know someone who can do various jobs, the trustees would like to know. So, call Doug Shull at 614-496-0048 or you can call the church office and the secretary will contact Doug.

The steps on Oregon Street are done. It took quite a while to find someone with portable equipment and the skill to do this job.

The west church wall needs mortar between two rows of bricks. That will soon be done.

The food box is being rebuilt. It has been hard to find an individual to do the project as it has to be secure.

October

Be present.

Let the day flow with grace.

Expect nothing. Give thanks.

Surrender. Be open.

Speak only kindness.

Impart only love.

Never forget you're not alone.

Give so you may receive.

See goodness in others.



Please call the office at 740-967-6691 by Thursday of each week to share names for those in need of prayer.

Trick or Treat Outreach



Tuesday, October 31 • 6-7:30pm

Please sign up on the clipboard outside the office to either help that evening or to donate items!

Items needed are: *Individually wrapped cookies or snack cakes (i.e. Little Debbie)*



Saturday, October 21, 2023

9am-1pm in the Fellowship Hall

Coats and Jackets of all sizes for Men, Women and Children!!

[Please drop off clean, gently used coats to the office, Tuesdays, Wednesdays, or Thursdays, 8am to Noon.]

Birthdays

10/01 Cheryl Brooks
10/04 Michael Miles
10/09 Daniel Alexander
10/09 Sophie Peloquin
10/10 Deborah Anctil
10/10 Connie Ryan
10/12 Mary Thomas
10/13 Charlotte Bemiller
10/15 Hannah Doyle
10/15 Michael Russell
10/15 Samuel Van Winkle
10/16 Brian Bemiller
10/20 Marcella Riggs

10/21 Sharon Johnson
10/21 Penny Smith
10/24 Logan Fleshman
10/27 Tracy Van Winkle
10/30 Andrew Engelbert
10/30 Vickie Zigan
10/31 Morgan Reeves

Anniversaries

10/08 Steve & Ann Montgomery
10/26 Rodney & Charlotte Bemiller
10/27 Johnnie & Sharon Johnson
10/27 Richard & Colleen Vicroy
10/29 Chad & Sarah Lattimer

by Carol Butt, Coordinator



The Caring Ministry Chair, Carol Butt, works with all of the committees listed below. If you are interested in serving on any of these committees please contact Carol at 740-967-9681.

THE BEREAVEMENT MINISTRY

The Bereavement Committee was not called upon in September.

GREETING CARD MINISTRY

There was one card sent out last month. If you know of anyone in our church family in need of a Thinking of You, Get Well or a Sympathy Card please contact Carol Butt.

MEAL MINISTRY

The Meal Ministry was not called upon in September. You may work in teams or individually when serving on this committee. This service is offered following a hospital surgery or illness. Anyone wishing to serve on this committee, please contact Carol.

PRAYER CHAIN MINISTRY

There were 2 requests for the Prayer Chain Ministry last month. Please contact Carol if anyone in our church family is in need of prayers. The volunteers on our committee are always ready when they are called upon to pray for others.

SHUT-IN MINISTRY

The Volunteers for this committee may be one person or teams of two. The members of this committee are asked to visit a shut-in once a quarter. More than one shut-in may be visited during a quarter. If you are interested in this ministry, contact Carol or Pastor Stacy. Because the shut-ins are a distance out of town, cards are being sent periodically to let them know they are being thought of.

**A big THANK YOU
to all who helped make "Undies" Sunday
such a huge success again this year!**



LYDIA CIRCLE UPDATE

by Carol Butt

The Ladies of Lydia held their first meeting of the Fall on Wednesday, September 20th in the home of Carol Butt at 10am. Seven ladies were in attendance. A reading from Max Lucado's book "Grace For The Moment" opened the meeting. Diane Bob gave the Opening Prayer.

The Roll Call question for September was "What Is Your Favorite Fall Activity?"

Joyce Priest, the Secretary Treasurer, read the minutes of the May meeting. Cathy Smith gave the Floral Report. She also reported the total number of items given this past year, thru September, to the Johnstown Community Food Pantry. The total count from Circle was 169 items.

New business discussed was the Cleaning of the Church Kitchen. Members of The Women of Faith are asked to arrive at 9am on Thursday, October 12th, prior to the 10:30am meeting to help. Note: the UMW's new name is "Women of Faith".

The Bible Study for the October meeting will be "Sarah and Hagar" the Matriarchs of Two Great Faiths. The Ladies of Lydia decided they wish to continue their Bible Study from the book "Women of the Bible".

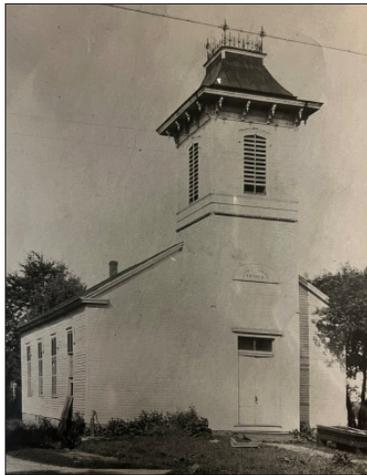
The next scheduled meeting will be on **October 18th at 10am in the home of Sue Overholt**. The Ladies of Lydia are reminded to bring their items for the Shoebox ministry. Hygiene items such as deodorant, shampoo, Kleenex, toothpaste; anything which may be used for personal care.

THE HISTORY OF METHODISTS IN JOHNSTOWN

by Terry Priest

As a lifelong member of the Johnstown United Methodist Church, I am always willing to share a brief history of Methodists in Johnstown. The first pioneer settlers arrived here in 1806 and settled near what is now Green-Hill Cemetery. In 1807 George and Diadema Green were parents of Mahala, the first white child born in this area. Russell Bigelow, in charge of the Columbus Circuit, held his first meetings in the log-built Stevens Hotel on the east side of Bigelow (Main) Street. Rignal, George, and Hezekiah Green were his first converts. Diadema was a 60-year member of the Johnstown Methodist Episcopal Church and her funeral service in 1881 was held at the 1842 building on the northwest corner of Main and College. The first church built in 1825 stood on the northeast corner on the same intersection. The current church built in 1903 occupies the southwest quadrant.

The idea for a new church building blossomed at this time. H. B. Rusler, who manufactured Carey's patent rubber bucket pumps, Royal Kasson, hotel keeper and merchandising, and J. Milton Wright, a farmer, offered the trustees \$2000 each and requested the other members match the funds. The three men were considered the building committee. They hired Frank Packard of Columbus, one of Ohio's best architects of public buildings, to assist with the design. The main room was to be octagonal in shape with fifty feet each way with a seating capacity of 350 people with entrances from three sides and finished in oak. A breath-taking art glass dome with "Look Up Lift Up" in the center was provided by the Epworth League at a cost of \$300. Leading from the main room was to be a Sunday School auditorium which could be closed off by a large lifting door of oak, connecting with six classrooms finished in pine and having carpeting and frescoed walls.



Three art glass windows in overall gothic-shaped frame with scriptural design, each with three panels, were designed by Bryant Brothers of Columbus at a cost of \$80 per panel. In 1903 the price for all three windows was \$720. The replacement cost today justifies the outside protection each has.

The window showing Jesus at center with angels kneeling on clouds might be entitled "The Ascension of Jesus" referencing Luke 24:50-53. The "Ascension" window has three memorials at the bottom. The first is a valentine "farewell" to "In Loving Remembrance of Ernest D. Rusler", the only child of the H. B. Ruslers, dying at the age of seven. "In Memory of John Rusler and Elizabeth K. Rusler", comes from the parents of H. B. and John Dillon Rusler. "In Memory of Oliver Willison and Roanna Willison" comes from their children Addis, W. Benjamin, Jeard and M. Doug Willison, Orlenia Shafer, Sallie Swallen, and Jennie B. Ashbrook.



(continued on next page)

(The History of Methodists in Johnstown continued from page 7)

“Resurrection” showing Mary Magdalene, Jesus, and an angel interprets John 20: 17. Note that the left hand of the Lord is posed as a caution not to touch him as his right hand suggests He has not yet ascended to the Father. This window has three memorials at the base. “In Memory of James N. Wright and Effie W. Wright” comes from Mrs. Wright. “In Memory of George Green Presented by his daughters and grandchildren.” comes from his daughters Olive Allen and Amy Ball. “In Memory of E. G. Rice and Martha M. Rice” was from sons Joseph and Lee Rice.

“The Walk to Emmaus”, interpreting Luke 24:13-34, is nearest to the altar. A wall crank no longer used for an outside shade is noticeable at the side. This window yet catches the morning sun. The three window memorials honor parents. “In Memory of Wait A. Wright and Mary G. Wright” from sons J. Milton and William H. Wright. “Royal Kasson and Charlotte Kasson” given by them; their granddaughters were Joy Benedict and Rhea Bell Cornell. “In Memory of Thornton A. Wells and Eliza B. Wells” from their children A. N. Wells, H.J. Wells, Mrs. Carrie M. Lewis, Mrs. David N. Conard

The History Room has on display many photos, certificates and a congregation’s autograph-stitched antique quilt along with “The Last Supper” drape. Down the hall to your right opposite the ramp entrance is a small walnut table made by William Duke. A trustee of the church, he carved his name underneath. He was married to Hannah Bigelow, Oliver’s widow.

The dedication for this church was held on July 5, 1903 and every year we are most thankful for all those who over the years have maintained the spirit of those who came before us and of those yet to come and worship with us.

Dedicated on July 5, 1903, this building is the third Methodist church at the corner of South Main and College. Previous buildings from 1825 and 1842 preceded the current one. Russell Bigelow organized the first Methodist group in 1820. This current edifice cost \$17,000. Architect Frank Packard [1866-1923] designed an octagonal sanctuary with sloped floor, excellent acoustics, and an interior glass dome. Three large stained-glass windows and organ welcome worshippers.

REMEMBER OUR SHUT-INS

Nancy Banyay

Brookwood Retirement
Communitiy #220
12100 Reed Hartman Hwy.
Cincinnati, OH 45241

Carolyn Loggins

New Albany Rehab Center
5055 Thompson Rd., #412
Columbus, OH 43230



Johnstown/Northridge Food Pantry

NEEDS FOR THE HOLIDAYS!

Green Beans, Stuffing Mix, Cream Soup, Corn, Gravy, Jiffy Muffin Mix, Sweet Potatoes, Cake Mix, Cranberry Sauce, Pumpkin Pie Filling, Icing

Items listed are needed by November 9!

Please DO NOT drop off expired food!!

Thank you for your continued support!

SECOND MILE GIVING CAPITAL CAMPAIGN

This is a convenient way to help year-round.

Get started today by going to www.johnstownumc.com

Click "**DONATE**"! It's that easy!

OCTOBER, 2023

“Autumn whispered to the wind, I fall; but always rise again.”

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 Euch. Serv. 9 am Sun. School 9:30 am Worship 10:45 am	2 CCL 6:30 pm Trustees 7:30 pm	3 Bible Study 10:30 am AA Meeting 8 pm	4 Worship 10:30 am Choir 7:30 pm	5	6 AA Meeting 8 pm	7
8 Euch. Serv. 9 am Sun. School 9:30 am Worship 10:45 am	9	10 Bible Study 10:30 am AA Meeting 8 pm	11 Worship 10:30 am Choir 7:30 pm	12 UMW 9 am	13 AA Meeting 8 pm	14
15 Euch. Serv. 9 am Sun. School 9:30 am Worship 10:45 am	16	17 Bible Study 10:30 am AA Meeting 8 pm	18 Worship 10:30 am Choir 7:30 pm	19	20 AA Meeting 8 pm	21  Fellowship Hall 9am-1pm
22 Euch. Serv. 9 am Sun. School 9:30 am Worship 10:45 am	23 	24 Bible Study 10:30 am AA Meeting 8 pm	25 Worship 10:30 am Choir 7:30 pm	26	27 AA Meeting 8 pm	28
29 Euch. Serv. 9 am Sun. School 9:30 am Worship 10:45 am	30	31 Bible Study 10:30 am Trick or Treat 5:30 pm AA Meeting 8 pm				

MEDICAL LOAN CLOSET

We, along with others in our community, have joined the Church of the Ascension, in assisting with the Medical Loan Closet of Johnstown. The purpose of the Medical Loan Closet is to loan out medical equipment to those in need such as wheelchairs, walkers, canes, crutches, hospital beds, toilet risers, and even breast pumps for new moms. The Closet is located at

151 Woodgate Drive, in the rear basement of the doctor's office which is located behind the BP/Dutchess Station. **The Closet is open each Wednesday from 4-6 p.m.** We also accept donations. You will find us on Facebook as *"Medical Loan Closet of Johnstown, Ohio"*. If you have any questions, please contact **Sara Poulson at 740-817-3517.**





Postage

*Gracious and Holy Creator: Unlock our hearts,
Break down our barriers, Break through and inspire us. Amen.*

THE
CONNECTION
NEWSLETTER

**The Johnstown United
Methodist Church**

159 S. Main Street
Johnstown, OH 43031

October, 2023



Wednesday Eucharist Service • 10:30 a.m.

Sunday Eucharist Service • 9:00 a.m.

Sunday Worship • 10:45 a.m.

Email: jumcoffice159@gmail.com

Website: www.johnstownumc.com

Phone: 740-967-6691

Office Hours: Tues.-Thu., 8:15 a.m. - Noon

“TOGETHER, LET US MAKE DISCIPLES OF JESUS CHRIST FOR THE TRANSFORMATION OF THE WORLD!”