

Surrender Control to God?

There has been much discussion over the last several weeks, in places where I've been at least, about how we are going to deal with everything happening in this world around us. Many things are happening; country unrest, world unrest, violence, illnesses, poverty, weather, fires, and so many others. Any time we turn on the news, open the internet, or read a newspaper we find negative things happening. It is definitely enough to cause us to feel down about life. So how are you dealing with all of this?

Several of the women of the church are attending a Bible Study together on Thursday evenings. Currently our study is Elijah, Spiritual Stamina in Every Season by Melissa Spoelstra. I've come to find Elijah to be a good example for how to endure the life that God calls us to live, and also how to reach out to others to lead them in God's ways. Elijah used prayer, correct choices, soul care, and surrender to God for his own spiritual stamina. He then used his own experiences to mentor Elisha and to leave a legacy for the generations to come.

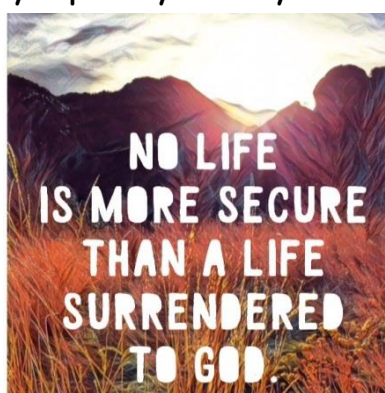
The past months have been enlightening for me as I have been concentrating even more on God's Word and prayer. I've found that I have not been trusting the Lord completely with my life. We all tend to hold on to at least some control over our own lives. I'm working hard at putting my full trust in Him. That full trust includes surrendering everything! This has made a difference in the way that I've prepared and brought messages to you, as well as it making a difference in how I have cared for myself, through a time when life has been changing and at times has been very stressful. When making the choice to surrender my life to God, I have a peace that can't even be fully explained. It has to be experienced! This peace is what is sustaining me through the questions that come about the happenings of this world.

My hope and prayers for each of you is that you make the choices needed to spend quality time with God through prayer and soul care that brings you to a new or renewed experience of surrender to God that brings a peace that is beyond explanation. God needs to be in control of each of us and in control of all things. Have you decided to surrender all control to God?

Blessings,

Pastor Ruthie

Romans 15:13 ESV - May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that by the power of the Holy Spirit you may abound in hope.





Tuesday, September 21st at 6:00pm - SPPRC Consultation with the District Superintendent at our church. We are also hosting Johnson UMC SPPRC at 7:00pm and Wadsworth UMC SPPRC at 8:00pm

Thursday, September 23rd Noon-6:00 - American Red Cross Bloodmobile

If you are healthy and able, please donate. The need is very great currently!

Friday, October 1st & Saturday, October 2nd - Church Rummage Sale - proceeds will benefit the Rittman Community Food Pantry. Please help where you can with donations, setting up items, and helping the days of the sale. All sales by donation

Sunday, October 31st at 2:00pm - Our **Charge Conference** at our church.



September

1 st - Holly Staley	7 th - Lynn Turnbow
8 th - Eileen Williams Lois Clemmer	11 th - Rod Britton
12 th - Niles Blough Bill Ullman Betty Winchell	20 th - Sandy Batson
25 th - Allan Emerson	29 th - Roger Williams



September

7 th - Chris & Sandy DiMascio	10 th - Dick & Dorothy Gillman
13 th - Brad & Tina Richards	14 th - Bob & Irene Hopton
22 nd - Niles & Rita Blough	27 th - Dale & Lydia Stahl
28 th - Jim & Sue Baker	



Joys



Baby Evelyn Rae Melcher

is the new great-granddaughter of Nancy & Harry Britton.

Connie B.'s parents & family are recovering from Covid

Concerns

Afghanistan situation

Storms & Wildfires

Pam H. - surgery Sept. 2nd in prep for dialysis

Irene H. - back surgery/recovery

Chris B. - back pain

Dorothy G. - broken wrist

Robin K. & Mike K. (Robin's brother) - recovery from fall's

Rae S. - health

Annibale & Mohr families - healing for Mary Lynn

Butch & Nancy Mc. - health

Niles & Rita B.

Michelle B. - pneumonia

Harry & Nancy B. - health for both

Pauline R. - health

Ron L., Pat M., & Debbie (Friends of Pam H.) - health issues

Nina (Pam H's sister-in-law Susan's mother) - comfort & peace

Our sympathy to the family & friends of:

Eric Steiner

The young people of our community who have passed away unexpectedly

Mary's Meanderings - September 2021

Well my offering for the newsletter is due tomorrow so let the meandering begin. So much bad is happening now in the world it is a cause of great concern. And yet my 6 year old granddaughter started 1st grade last week and says that "School is awesome. I love it!" So life in the eyes of an innocent child continues to be good.

I am currently dealing with an issue with my skin that is perplexing, frustrating and mostly just itchy. In the scope of all that's happening in the world it is a minor issue but to me it's a continual source of annoyance.

Dr. Jim Denison say in The Daily Article "What are you to do about pandemic threats, relational challenges, rising, violence..., these stories may frustrate you.

This is because, despite what we think, it's not really all about us. Even if you're the President of the United States, there's only so much you can do about the problems we face (and this was written before the latest debacle in Afghanistan). We cannot legislate to produce morality (though we can and must legislate against immorality, of course). But God can do what we cannot. Oswald Chambers observed 'Jesus Christ does not give us rules and regulations; his are truths that can only be interpreted by the disposition he puts in. The great marvel of Jesus Christ's salvation is that he alters heredity. He does not alter human nature; he alters its mainspring.' Chambers notes that the Sermon on the Mount, for example, 'is not a set of rules and regulations: it is a statement of the life we will live when the Holy Spirit is getting his way with us.' This is a massive insight. We can regulate external behavior but only God can change human nature. We can act in godly ways to impress others and seek God's blessing. But measure your heart-do you secretly still want to do what you know you should not do? Our culture teaches us that we can do anything if we just try harder. However, holiness is not trying harder to do better. It is being so 'poor in spirit.' (Matthew 5:3), so humbled and surrendered before God, that he can make us like Jesus (Romans 8:29). Then we can join him in turning the challenges of our day into opportunities for the godliness that glorifies our Lord. The Scottish minister John Baillie prayed: *Teach me, O God, to use all the circumstances of my life today to nurture the fruits of the Spirit rather than the fruits of sin. Let me use disappointment as material for patience; Let me use success as material for thankfulness; Let me use anxiety as material for perseverance; Let me use danger as material for courage; Let me use criticism as material for learning; Let me use praise as material for humility; Let me use pleasures as material for self-control; Let me use pain as material for endurance.'* "

In times such as these it helps to remember that God wins in the end. The victory is the Lord's. As long as we cling to Him He will see us through no matter what and no matter how things look to the rest of the world.



Fireside Chat



Dear Friends,

We have fallen a little behind during vacation time this summer but we have kept expenses down too. We hope as things pick up this fall we will be able to hit our target for monthly income and we won't have to beg for money to pay apportionments or bills. You have been faithful servants with time and money this year despite the hardships of 2021.

Finance Committee will be meeting along with group treasurers to work up our church budget for 2022 in September. The budget will then be gone over by Admin. Bd. and finally voted on at Charge Conference which is early this year. Therefore we are trying to get an early start. If you have any requests or suggestions for us, please contact me or Pastor Ruthie as soon as possible in September.

Wishing you a blessed month to come,
Martha Baillis, Finance Chair.

Trustee's Corner



Items since last month:

Gilmore Security came and did a fire alarm system inspection.
Had to repair the sweets freezer in the food pantry room.
Herb (Dawn & Heather's dad) pulled the weeds along the church entryway and along the social hall.
Betty W. weedeated along the S. edge of the church, sign, and the poles by the street.

Women's Bible Study



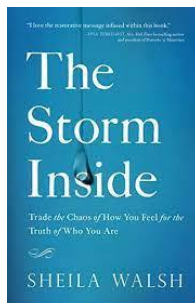
There is always room for more! Join us for a great chance to learn more about God's Word and a wonderful time of fellowship!

**We meet on Thursdays with a choice of:
10:00am in person led by Pastor Ruthie,
or 6:30pm led by Sara Ullman and Betty Winchell.
Contact Pastor Ruthie or Betty, if you need books.**

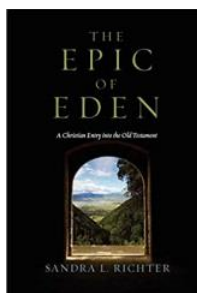
Here are the studies that are happening now and in the future:



**Chasing Vines: Finding Your Way to an Immensely Fruitful Life
by Beth Moore
Sept. 2nd – Oct. 21st (6 sessions)**



**The Storm Inside:
Trade the Chaos of How You Feel for the Truth of Who You Are
By Sheila Walsh
Nov. 3rd – Jan. 20th (8 sessions)**

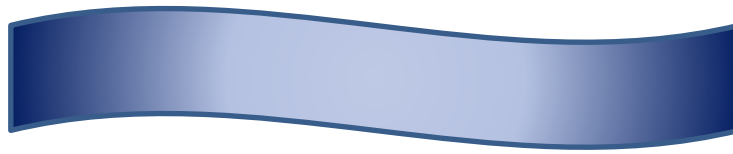


**The Epic of Eden: A Christian Entry into the Old Testament
By Sandra L. Richter
Feb. 3rd – April 21st (12 sessions)**

**Consider joining the Women's Bible Study group.
It is a great opportunity to grow in your spiritual
walk with the Lord, plus the fellowship.**

Would you like to have **FUN?**
Do you like to **LAUGH**
Do you like to **SING?**

Then come and join our choir. Practice starts Wednesday September 8th @ 6:00pm, in the sanctuary. We would like to have you join us.



LABOR DAY

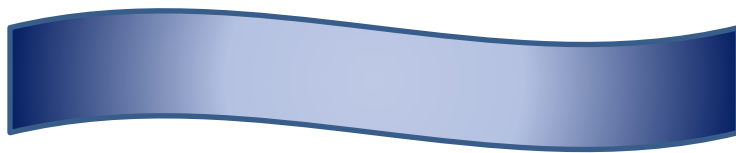
Labor Day is observed throughout the United States in recognition of the dignit of labor, falling on the first Monday in September of each year. Peter J. McGuire, general secretary of the Brotherhood of Carpenters and Joiners, May 18th, 1882, at a central Labor Union meeting in New York City, proposed that “a day be set aside as a festive day, during which parade through the streets of the city would permit public tribute to American Industry.” The motion was adopted and plans for the first Labor Day celebration made.

October 7th, 1884, American Federation of Labor meeting at Chicago, A.C. Cameron, member of the Typographical Union 16 introduced the following resolution: “Resolved, That the first Monday in September each year be set aside as a laborers’ national holiday, and that we recommend its obervance by all wage workers, irrespective of sex, calling or nationality.”





Thank you to everyone who continues to support the funding & volunteering for the food pantry. Our August Food Pantry, we had 13 families (0 new), 40 people and 20 sets of bags given out. If you hear of anyone needing food, please have them call the church office to come pick up a food supply during office hours, or they can contact Pastor Ruthie to set up a different time to pick up. ***Our next Food Pantry will be Wednesday, September 15th, 4 - 5:30pm. We will begin our regular schedule: 3:30pm-worship, 4 - 5:30pm-Community Dinner/Food Pantry.***



My name is Renee Carr, and I am the new Preschool Administrator. I have been in the childcare field for over 25 years. I graduated from Kent State University with a Bachelor's in Family and Consumer Studies. I have experience working with children of all ages, primarily preschool age children. I also have previous administrative experience as an Assistant Director in a full day childcare center.

My husband, Butch, and I will be celebrating our 25th wedding anniversary in October. We have three children, Jenna, Jacob, and Jonah, all of who attended school in Rittman. I am thankful for this opportunity to help get your program re-established. First day of preschool is Wednesday, September 15th.

Our RUMC Preschool is opening this month:

*Sunday, Sept. 12th is our Open House @ **2:00pm.***

Tuesday, Sept. 14th is our Meet & Greet day where Preschoolers & parents/caregivers meet teachers and see rooms.

*Wednesday, Sept. 15th is the 1st full day of school, **9 - 11:30am.***

RUMC Preschool Staff

Administrator – Renee Carr

Teacher – Sarah Tyler

Sub-Teachers – Sheila Stoll & Betty Winchell