



## Freedom

Every 4<sup>th</sup> of July we celebrate freedom. Our country celebrates the freedom that has been won in 1776 and retained through the years, thanks to so many who have and still do sacrifice to make it a reality. We seem to remember some but not all of these people.

As I sat reflecting on our freedom, I realized that many have been free a lot longer than others in our family lineages. Some of us come from families who have been free since the first Independence Day in 1776. However, some come from families who came to America as slaves and had to live that way until they won their freedom. Still others have come from families who came as immigrants from countries where there never was freedom, and others have come themselves from countries where they didn't have freedom. This is only a part of the various people who live in our country. We all live together, but may not fully understand each other's understandings of freedom, or why.

It is always good to take time to listen to each other, so that we can better understand why some struggle with the meaning of Independence Day. Much of this comes from racial misunderstandings. We also have struggles that are politically based, no matter what side you believe, that need to be settled in order for our country to function properly. The only way to handle these struggles and misunderstandings are by calmly and patiently working together to understand the problems and issues, as well as asking God to help us understand and work together peacefully. We tend to forget to take all things to God first!

As we think about our freedom, let's remember to thank those who have given so much, including some giving their lives to pay the price for this freedom. We have some people we know who have fought in the wars that helped to save our freedom, others who have fought in wars that helped others to have freedom, others who continue to fight for our freedom. There is no way to know how long battles and wars will continue, but we do know who we can trust to keep us all truly free, as long as we resist the bondage of sin in this world. God's Word gives us this truth. Galatians 5:1 tells us, "Christ has set us free for freedom. Therefore, stand firm and don't submit to the bondage of slavery again." This reminds us that we would have no freedom without the sacrifice that Christ made to make the ultimate freedom available to each of us! Thanks be to God!

**Blessings,  
Pastor Ruthie Trigg**

# Welcome to Preschool!

Preschool is over for the summer! We'll be back in September!

Enjoy your summer!



Freedom is not free. It is  
bought at a high price. It  
can be squandered cheaply.

Jerry Pournelle

[www.idlehearts.com](http://www.idlehearts.com)

Let Us Live   
**LOVE** 

1 John 4:7-13 (NIV)

**Annual Conference 2022** went well, and was filled with several Spirit filled worship services over the 3 days at the John S. Knight Center in Akron. It was definitely different from our time at Lakeside, but we had a good week. Larissa Richards, Betty Winchell, and Pastor Ruthie attended the sessions over three days enjoying the services, fellowship, and training that was provided. A summary of the time spent in worship and business sessions was summarized for the church family during the June 19<sup>th</sup> worship service. The recording of this service is available on the Rittman UMC Facebook page, a transcript of the service will be posted on the church website, and transcripts have been sent out to our members who receive mailings. If there are any questions concerning this report, please speak with one of these 3 people for more clarity, or log on to the conference website for reports: <https://www.eocumc.com/eoac22/index.html> . There is a lot of information on this site that you can read about Annual Conference speakers, those being ordained and commissioned, those retiring, church appointment, and many other topics.



## Joys

April Birow's 1<sup>st</sup> birthday! Melissa Hennie's 30<sup>th</sup> birthday!

Matt Richards' 21<sup>st</sup> birthday! Happy Birthday, April, Melissa, & Matt! ☺

Other Birthday, Anniversary, & Graduation celebrations & families together!

Our Annual Conference collected \$1.5 million in 2 years to build a women's dormitory at Africa University. Our church helped with this!

Lee Winchell was able to serve as a marshal at the PGA Championship Tournament.

Pam Hartman walked in the Walk for Wellness

7 of our Trustees, Martha, and Sandy G. came and did outdoor work: mulching the flower beds, trimming trees and bushes, mowing, and edging the sidewalks.

Safe travels! Great visits with family! Answers to prayers!

Enjoying God's beautiful creation!



Congratulations to Anne Salyer on her new great granddaughter, Sadie Paige!

## Concerns

Bonnie Ayers - heart Danny Baker Ana McClain's Grandpa Tim

Eileen Williams and family, as she is in The Avenue Care Center

Texas shooting survivors Those with Covid & other viruses

Marilyn Hofacre's daughter-in-law Christa

Leigh Litman's sister, Loretta - recurrence of cancer

Continued prayer for Dick B. to remain healthy

Nancy (& Butch) McMillan Anita (& Don) Vohar - health Harry & Nancy Britton

Robin Kirkhart & Pat Meglich Pam Hartman - kidney health

Judy King (Becky's mom) Ruthie Schumacher Dick & Dorothy Gillman

Pauline Rastorfer Lovell, Bruce Lindenmuth's sister - cancer

Debbie Baker (& her husband, Rev. David Baker) - stroke recovery & cancer

Pastor Joyce Williams (& Jack) - cancer

Rae Smith Betty Gift Annibale & Mohr families, Mary Lynn

Coshocton Grace UMC - fire destroyed most of their church building (rebuilding)

Margaret Moedt through moving transitions Disaster & Violence victims

Summer Safety for children UMC Camping Ministries Traveling mercies

Ukraine/Russia War Our country & area communities

## Our sympathy to any family & friends who have lost loved ones:

Ethan Liming - son of Rev. Bill Liming

Larry Mohler Steve Ramsier

Jim McIntyre Carl Booth Bill Krader

Texas Shooting Victims

Ukrainian War Our military Others

## ***Fireside Chat***



### Fireside Chat with the Finance Chair

Dear Friends,

I want to let you know that Pastor Ruthie stepped on my toes this last month when she was preaching. Did she step on yours too? She mentioned how well we were doing in keeping up with our giving to the projects of the church when she praised us for keeping up with apportionments and supporting the Africa University dorm project. Our prayer chain is operating, sometimes in over drive, and there have been answers. A group of workers turned up on a Saturday morning, weeded the garden area around the church building, trimmed the bushes, edged the sidewalks and shoveled lots of mulch where it was needed. Yes indeed we are being good stewards of what God has given us. Those of us who are members pledged to uphold the church with our prayers, our presence, our gifts, and our service. You would think that we were living up to these by the reports of activities Pastor Ruthie mentioned. But she then pointed out that Prayer was a two way street. We can ask, beg, cry, scream to the Lord in prayer, but if we do not listen we may not hear what the answer is. Ouch!

Our Finances are a big part of my job as Finance Chair, but I would be remiss not to encourage you in all your life as a good steward. (When I was growing up in the church the finances were handled by the Stewardship Committee.) Yes, money is a big part but not the biggest part. If you check the list of what we pledge, what is first? Prayer! That two way street! Everything else follows. Be sure to listen.

God Bless,

*Martha Baillis*, Finance Chair

## **Trustee's Corner**



Items since last month:

- Tightened leaking valve under parsonage sink.
- Planted milkweed around bell, benefits Monarch butterflies & mowing.
- Sprayed Round-Up on weeds in shrubbery, twice.
- Preschool had their carpets cleaned including Llama room, library and entryway.
- Cut down two shrubs at north end of parsonage, need to bury hardware cloth around chimney to prevent skunks from tunneling next winter.
- Plan to trim bushes at SW entryway and spread mulch this week.

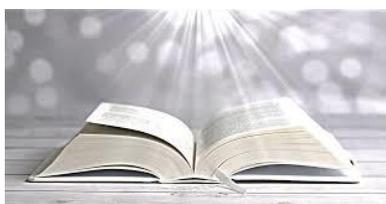


# Food Pantry

We had a great turn out for our June 15<sup>th</sup>, Food Pantry. This month we had 17 Families (New - 1), 60 People, and 26 Sets given out. **NO COMMUNITY DINNER AND REGULAR FOOD PANTRY for the month of July**, because several of our regular helpers will be out of town at that time. We will be handing out Food Pantry items on Tues. July 19<sup>th</sup> - Thurs. July 21<sup>st</sup> from 9:00am - 1:30pm. Our schedule will hopefully return to normal in August.



Thank you to all of our helpers! We couldn't do it without you!



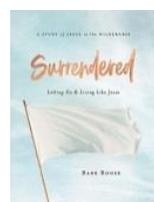
## Bible Studies

A group of women meet on Thursdays at 6:30pm, and are led by Betty Winchell and Sara Ullman. Another group of women meet at 10:00am led by Pastor Ruthie, also on Thursdays.

There is always room for more to attend!

Titles of upcoming studies and tentative dates are as follows:

7/14<sup>th</sup> - 9/1<sup>st</sup> Surrendered: Letting Go and Living Like Jesus



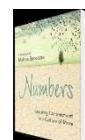
9/8<sup>th</sup> - 10/27<sup>th</sup> The Longing in Me: Studying the Life of David



11/3<sup>rd</sup> - 12/29<sup>th</sup> Jude: Contending for the Faith in Today's Culture



1/12<sup>th</sup> - 2/23<sup>rd</sup> Numbers: Learning Contentment in a Culture



3/9<sup>th</sup> - 4/20<sup>th</sup> What Love Is: Letters of 1, 2, 3 John



Keep checking for any updates.



## July

1<sup>st</sup> - Dale Stahl

8<sup>th</sup> - Nancy Booth

13<sup>th</sup> - Tina Richards

15<sup>th</sup> - Danny Keifer

20<sup>th</sup> - Lisa Hartman

24<sup>th</sup> - Ty Ramsier

2<sup>nd</sup> - Eleanor Yoss

10<sup>th</sup> - Matt Seiler

14<sup>th</sup> - Sandy DiMascio

16<sup>th</sup> - Dana Dysinger

23<sup>rd</sup> - Josh Carey

27<sup>th</sup> - Bob Hartman



## July

1<sup>st</sup> - Joe & Holly Staley

14<sup>th</sup> - Brent & Sarah Edington

11<sup>th</sup> - Mike & Debbie Knapic

29<sup>th</sup> - Butch & Nancy McMillian

### **Guess what is coming up?**

#### **Rittman UMC Rummage Sale**

*Friday, September 30<sup>th</sup>, 2022: 9:00am-2:00pm*

*Saturday, October 1<sup>st</sup>, 2022: 9:00am-1:00pm*

Start gathering things that you want to put in the sale and you can bring them to the church. If you are able please take your things downstairs to the Jr. High room at end of hall. If you are unable to do that, you can put you things on the tables in the social hall. More information will be coming later.



## Safety Village 2022

Safety Village 2022 was very successful with 38 kindergarten students for the fall 2022 – 2023 school year, and 30 volunteer helpers. Some volunteers were high school students and some were adults from the community.

This program is sponsored by our RUMC and the Delta Arts Club. It's a program to teach the kindergarten students safety. Visitors to the Safety Village were the Rittman Fire Department, Police Department, EMS, school bus and driver, (children were given a ride around the school area), and they walked around the school street with the crossing guard, and learned water safety from the Rec. Center life guard.

The church social hall was turned into a village with real mini buildings and streets. The children drove their bicycles on the streets, learning to obey safety signs. Volunteers walked beside the children, teaching them the right way to be safe.

The children made safety signs in craft time and learned their address, the correct way to call 911 for emergency help, the safe way to ride in a car (**back** is where it's at) and using seat belts. The children heard stories about kids doing safe things at home and play.

Volunteers enjoyed breakfast the 2 mornings of Safety Village, prepared and served by *Betty Winchell and Sharon Chipps*. *Chad Gasser* helped with getting the equipment for Safety Village out and back in the storage garage. A big thank you to everyone who helped.





### *Fix Your Eyes On God*

*It is easy to see why Moses became frustrated with the Hebrew people.*

*They were so hard-hearted and weak in their faith that Moses lost his patience and became angry with them. Yet every time Moses shifted his focus away from God, it cost him. When he sought to help his people by taking matters into his own hands, he spent the next forty years herding sheep in the wilderness. This time his impetuous behavior cost him the opportunity to enter the Promised Land.*

*In his frustration at the people's irreverence, Moses committed the very same sin, blatantly disobeying God's instructions. How did this happen? Moses allowed his attention to shift to the behavior of others rather than focusing on the activity of God.*

*This could happen to you as well. God has put people around you who need your ministry to them. You will never be able to properly help them, however, unless your primary focus is on God. If you concentrate on people, their weakness, their disobedience, their lack of faith, and their stubbornness will quickly frustrate you.*

*You may, like Moses, commit the very sins you are condemning. If, however, your eyes are fixed on holy God, you will become more like him - gracious, forgiving, long-suffering, and righteous.*

*When a friend's behavior disappoints you, go immediately to the Lord. Seek to discern what God is wanting to do in your friend's life rather than concentrating on your friend's sin. Then you will have the strength, wisdom and patience you need to help our friend in the way God desires.*