

NASHVILLE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH OCTOBER – NOVEMBER NEWS 2017



Outreach Fund has only \$3 left in it. Winter is coming and families will need help with heating and electric. We have a few food certificates and gasoline cards, but nothing to help with medicine, electric or heating. Please pray about giving to the Outreach fund.

We also will be collecting and giving out nonperishable food items, paper products, etc. along with a turkey the Sunday before Thanksgiving.

District News

The United Methodist Book of Discipline (§ 401) states, “The purpose of superintending is to equip the Church (*note the upper case “C”*) in its disciple-making ministry.

To be strategic missionally, the District Superintendent needs a team. In the Three Rivers District, we have a District Mission Strategy Team consisting of fifteen persons (four pastors; two deacons, and nine laypersons) representing a cross section of the district. This team is advisory to the DS, helping think about how to realign resources – energy, time, effort, clergy, and buildings – to develop more vital congregations.

The United Methodist churches of the Three Rivers District are mostly small congregations with long histories. Many of these congregations are experiencing declines in attendance and financial giving in an environment where church attenders make up a minority of the population.

The Three Rivers District (like all UM districts) constitutes a large mission field. We cannot be all things to all people and do it well. So we want to focus our energy on how to have greater reach into our identified mission field.

Vision

We envision the Three Rivers District as a place where clergy, congregations, and communities are empowered for action on behalf of the gospel of Jesus.

The missional strategy of the Three Rivers District is:

- to provide direction, support and accountability to churches and clergy of the district in their fulfillment of our shared mission “to make and mature disciples for Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world” in and through the communities served by churches of the Three Rivers District;
- to work with leaders of Three Rivers District (clergy and laity) to identify means by which to make a tangible difference in the real needs of real people in our communities;
- to foster healthy collaboration and partnership among churches within the district to fulfill our shared mission;
- to provide support for equipping and deploying laity and clergy from our local churches through training, resources, and ministry opportunities.

Additionally the Three Rivers District believes that:

- (A) Every church has a unique purpose to discover and live out in ministry and mission;
- (B) Vitality in ministry is found through engagement between the church and the community.

(C) Empowered laity and energized clergy are essential to engaging the world with Christ's love.

(D) There is a power of partnership experienced in the coming together of clergy that is a key strength for United Methodist connectionalism. The Three Rivers District seeks to bring focus to this emphasis through "Connecting Conversations". These semi-annual gatherings will invite open sharing through table conversations around specific topics of ministry.

The Plan

The District Mission Strategy Team is being asked to carry out three areas of service:

1. Understanding current reality– What are the questions we need to ask? What data and information do we need to collect? What are some of the ways our churches are reaching people? What unmet needs do we see in the communities of our district? What trends and challenges are we seeing?
2. Developing strategy and district learning– What is God calling us to do differently? How can we encourage and support our churches to think "outside of the box." Where should we focus district attention and resources? What resources are available from the district or conference? How can we help churches access funding and resources?
3. Developing a base from which to expand missional work in the future– Where can new faith communities be formed or realigned? Where is relocation desirable? Where should closures be explored? Where are vital mergers desirable?

Desired Outcomes

Over the next three years we feel called to work towards these outcomes:

- (1) At least 10 churches per year engaged in intentional, intensive processes of disciple formation and mission re-orientation.
- (2) Increasing the number of small groups engaged in spiritual growth and witness.
- (3) Annually increasing the percentage of active members engaged in hands-on ministry through local missions or district/conference VIM events.
- (4) Aligning district programs and activities so that they are focused on these emphases.

Saturday, October 21, 4:430 pm to 7:00 pm at Nashville Elementary there will be a soup and salad supper to raise funds for Hurricane victims. Flyers are available at the church to post. This is a community wide event. Working together, we can make a difference.



Again this year will participate in Operation Christmas child, by packing and sending shoe boxes with toys and other items for children in faraway countries. Each box has a suggested list of items to be packed. Shari Oswald is chairing this event.

Lunch Bunch Fall Harvest October 25, 2017

Thoughts from Pastor Larry



The summer season is finally beginning to let go and the fall season is creating much cooler temperatures and vivid color changes to all the trees. I had the opportunity to go on a short retreat, last weekend to a Methodist Church Camp near Bellefontaine, Ohio. It was in the West Ohio Conference, and was called Camp Wesley. It was a truly beautiful setting for some time away from ministry, and a time to connect deeper with my loving Father, and hear his voice. It is truly amazing how much God wants to be in conversation with us, if only we take the time to be quiet and listen!!

One of the short workshops that was offered at this retreat was "Photography and Spirituality" (A Contemplative Photo Prayer Pilgrimage). We were asked to take our camera phones out into the camp, and take a long loving look beyond the surface of God's creation. This contemplative gaze, we were told, unstops our hearing so that we can listen with our whole being to notice what God wants to speak to our soul about. That is when a prayer pilgrimage can gain the freedom to look for new and diverse perspectives, notice light and shadows, and focus on what God is speaking to us about.

Now with camera phone in hand, I was sent out to listen to God's call through the beautiful landscape that surrounded the camp. I was drawn to group of trees down the hill from the lodge, near the lake. These trees had a peculiar type of bark on them that caused me to be drawn to them. Their bark appeared to be peeling off of them in multiple layers. Immediately, I began snapping pictures of these trees, from different angles and perspectives.



I began to hear God speaking to my heart as I was deeply and intently focusing on these "Shaggy Bark Hickory Trees." God took me to His word in Hebrews 12:1 that says, "*Therefore, since we are surround by such a great cloud of witnesses, let us throw off everything that hinders and the sin that so easily entangles, and let us run with perseverance the race marked out for us.*" God was illustrating to me, through the peeling bark of these trees that I needed to throw off the things that were weighing me down in life and rendering me ineffective for His purpose in my life. One of those things that I needed to throw off, or peel off like these trees, was my inability to spend quality time in rest with Him!! Somehow I had shifted from resting in Him, to my idea of resting, and more often than not my resting was not involving a deeper connection with my Lord!! As I began to allow this Scripture passage to wash over me, I found myself weeping in sorrow, for what I had allowed myself to become, all while I snapped photo after photo of these trees.

I was convicted so much that I stopped snapping pictures and humbly knelt by one of these trees to lift up to the Lord, a prayer of repentance and forgiveness. When I had finished, I looked up toward the sky and there was a



completely different view of the peeling bark of the hickory tree. I could see the deep shadows that the bark was offering under their peeling. Immediately God spoke to me through another passage of Scripture, Psalm 91:1. *"Whoever dwells in the shelter of the Most High will rest in the shadow of the Almighty."* I needed to get rid of the things that did not help me draw near to Him, before I could really rest in the presences of my Father.

Amazing what you can learn from a shaggy bark hickory tree, and listening for its Creator's voice to speak to you!

in His grip,

Larry



Dear Church Family,
Linda and I want to thank you for your loving acts of kindness toward us, in so many different ways! Each act of kindness is a reflection of your love and grace that you have received ultimately from our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. I pray for each of you to be blessed just as you have blessed Linda and I, and continue to share God's blessing with all that you meet with.

in His grip,
Larry & Linda



How can the Holmes County Community help the victims of

HURRICANE HARVEY & IRMA ?

The Churches in the Nashville community are joining efforts along with the Nashville and Lakeville Fire Dept. to offer a fundraising supper for the hurricane victims at the Nashville Elementary School

Saturday, October 21st, 4-7pm

"SOUP & SALAD SUPPER"

plus Bake Sale (provided by Amish Community)

* There will be five selections of Homemade Soups: Ham & Bean, Chili, Chicken Noodle, Stuffed Green Pepper, and Potato. The meal also includes tossed salad, homemade cornbread, and dessert.

*This will be by donation only, so we may give all that we feel we can to help these people devastated by this disaster.

*100% of these donations will be sent to the organization called;

Samaritans Purse. Please read how they are helping in the midst of these affected areas in the attached newsletter.





Florida Relief

Samaritan's Purse has two teams in Florida to help families in hard-hit Naples and Fort Myers recover from Hurricane Irma. Our volunteers are coming alongside distressed homeowners in the Name of Jesus Christ—chain sawing trees, tarping roofs, and performing mud-outs. “My prayers are with the many that have seen their homes and businesses devastated by Irma’s wind and water. They will now be facing an overwhelming clean-up,” said Samaritan’s Purse President Franklin Graham. “I pray especially for those who have lost loved ones in the storm. I know they would appreciate your prayers as well.” Millions of people in Florida—the country’s third most populous state—remain without power. After Irma ripped through the Caribbean—killing 36 people and obliterating island after island as one of the most powerful Atlantic Ocean storms in recorded history—it smashed into the Florida Keys on Sept. 10 as a Category 4 storm. Losing just a little steam to a Category 3, it made a second landfall that afternoon on Marco Island, near Naples on the Gulf Coast. The storm barreled north, spawning tornadoes. It was wide enough to churn up both coastlines at the same time with rain, wind, and storm surge. Power lines were downed, trees uprooted, and in Miami, streets turned into raging rivers of floodwaters. According to reports, at least 26 people have died in Florida due to Irma, including two police officers. Six million people heeded evacuation orders before Irma struck. In addition to our work in Florida, Samaritan’s Purse is sending relief supplies to hard-hit islands of the Caribbean. Via multiple flights by our DC-8 plane, we have already sent food, blankets, shelter plastic, hygiene kits, and water purification units to St. Martin for thousands of families. We have more than 20 staff members on the ground there. More airlifts are on their way soon as we expand our response to Antigua and Barbuda.

Texas Relief

Hurricanes Irma and Harvey marked the first time in 166 years of weather records that two Category 4 hurricanes made landfall in the U.S. during the same year. They struck just over two weeks apart. In Texas, Samaritan’s Purse remains committed to assisting homeowners swamped by Hurricane Harvey. To date, more than 2,400 families have requested help, and more than 3,200 volunteers have stepped forward to demonstrate the love of God. And they have not been ashamed to share their faith in the Lord Jesus Christ. So far, more than 150 people have prayed to receive Him as Lord and Savior. Also, more than 100 Billy Graham Rapid Response Team chaplains have prayed with more than 5,800 people. “There is no short fix,” said Luther Harrison, vice president of our North American Ministries. “Please pray that God will show us where we need to be and that He will provide the volunteers to minister to the families who will need help.”



TWO DATES - TWO LOCATIONS

Changing the world, one meal at a time.

PROJECT:

OUR GOAL IS TO
PACK A TOTAL OF
50,000 MEALS!

FEED!

SATURDAY, NOV. 11

WEST ELEMENTARY

315 Beaver St., Newcomerstown, OH 43832

SUNDAY, NOV. 12

WADSWORTH MIDDLE SCHOOL

150 Silvercreek Rd., Wadsworth, OH 44281

Doors open both days @1:30 PM

Meal packing for developing nations:

2:00-4:30 PM

COST: \$10

(\$5 with a canned food for local food bank)



STOP HUNGER NOW



DONATION TAKEN
FOR YOUTH
SERVICE FUND

Look for updates at <http://projectfeedevent.org>

META STUDENT MINISTRIES PRESENTS

ENERGIZE

Youth Rally

For Students 6th to 12th grade

ENERGIZING WORSHIP

**EPIC AFTER PARTY:
LASER TAG
VIDEO GAME TRUCK
FRENCH FRY BAR
ICE CREAM FLOAT BAR
AND MORE!**

FREE!!

November 4th 2017 7-10pm

Doors open at 6:30.

Christ UMC 648 Oak Street

Newcomerstown OH

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