

# St. Paul's News July 2020

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ:

Happy July! It is difficult to believe that we are mid-way through the summer. 2020 has been a wild ride so far! When I challenged the church to pray for radical change, who knew how radically our worlds would change. We were reminded through our "When Life Gives You Lemons" worship series that God is capable and busy making lemonade from our life's lemons.

Recently, while sharing words of hope at a funeral, I was reminded of the scripture from Ecclesiastes 3.

## *A Time for Everything*

*3 There is a time for everything, and a season for every activity under the heavens:*

*<sup>2</sup> a time to be born and a time to die,  
a time to plant and a time to uproot,*

*<sup>3</sup> a time to kill and a time to heal,  
a time to tear down and a time to build,*

*<sup>4</sup> a time to weep and a time to laugh,  
a time to mourn and a time to dance,*

*<sup>5</sup> a time to scatter stones and a time to gather them,  
a time to embrace and a time to refrain from embracing,*

*<sup>6</sup> a time to search and a time to give up,  
a time to keep and a time to throw away,*

*<sup>7</sup> a time to tear and a time to mend,  
a time to be silent and a time to speak,*

*<sup>8</sup> a time to love and a time to hate,  
a time for war and a time for peace.*

*<sup>9</sup> What do workers gain from their toil? <sup>10</sup> I have seen the burden God has laid on the human race.*

*<sup>11</sup> He has made everything beautiful in its time.*

When we are in difficult seasons, there are often times that we feel as if this season will last for all eternity. However, when we read these words of scripture, we are reminded that none of these seasons will last for all time (whether good or bad). It is important to remember that our world is an ever-changing place, but our God is an ever-present

force in our lives. For each season that we weep, we are promised a season of laughter; for each season of mourning, there will be a time of great dancing.

No matter what season we find ourselves in at this moment, know that it will not last forever. If you find yourselves in a difficult season, don't make any permanent decisions based on a temporary time. Know that the difficult days are numbered and will come to an end. If you are in a season of great joy, slow down and relish each and every moment, because inevitably times will change. Make sure that you store up as much joy as you can during your joy-filled days!

I thought Ecclesiastes 3 could also speak to us with a bit of humor during this time of social distancing...according to verse 5, God knew that we would have a time that we would need to refrain from embracing! (That made me giggle.)

Blessings,

Pastor Charlene



## **RETURNING TO IN-PERSON WORSHIP**

I wanted to give everyone an update on in-person worship. We began the month of June worshipping outdoors. The third Sunday of June, the weather prevented us from worshipping outdoors. After discussion with the Seneca County Health District, our District Superintendent and after having received input from our worship committee and trustees committee, we made the decision to move indoors for worship. This decision was based on the fact that cases within our county are very limited and also because we have adequate space within our sanctuary for social distancing.

We have asked all who attend in-person worship to follow the guidelines below. I am happy to report that the vast majority of people attending worship have complied with these guidelines. The times that I have noticed someone not complying with the guidelines, I believe, it was due to habit. I am confident that we can continue to safely worship indoors as long as everyone complies with the following.

- Please avoid attending worship if you are feeling ill or have a fever.
- Entry doors will remain propped open for touchless entry.
- Elevator button panel will be wiped down by user with sanitizer wipes between uses.
- Hand sanitizer will be available at all entrances.
- Collection plates will not be passed; they will be placed on the tables at the back of the sanctuary.
- Social distancing will be required; family groups will sit together (pews will be marked off, with every other pew being available for seating.)
- Air conditioning will be utilized to draw outside air into the sanctuary.
- Masks will be worn while moving throughout the building; masks can be removed only when seated in the pews; congregants can elect to leave masks on for the duration of service if they wish.
- There will be no congregational singing; solos and special musicians will be included in the worship service (with appropriate social distancing).
- Sanitizers will be available in available restrooms so that surfaces can be wiped down after use (including toilet handle, door handles and faucet handles).
- Fellowship coffee hour is suspended until further notice.
- Attendance will be taken to ensure the ability to perform contact tracing should there be a need. The Seneca County Health Department will be notified if there is a congregant who tests positive for COVID-19.
- Alternative (online) methods for worship will continue to be available for those who are at-risk, homebound or unable to attend in-person worship.

I know that seems like a lot of things we CAN'T do. Please continue reading for more information on what we CAN do!

## **UPDATE ON OFFICE HOURS:**

The SPRC has been in ongoing communication with Joyce and with Pastor Charlene regarding office hours.

As of June 22, 2020, Joyce has returned to the church office for her normal working hours (Mon, Tue, Thurs, Fri from 8:30-12:00).

Due to the demands and structure of ministry during the pandemic, Pastor Charlene continues to work remotely for the most part. The home office in the parsonage is better equipped for her frequent online meetings, online classes and worship preparation. Additionally, Pastor Charlene has a recording space set up in the parsonage (for pre-recording worship services). She continues to stop by the church frequently throughout the week to gather mail and to check in.

Pastor Charlene has been and continues to be available by telephone, text, or appointment any time during the typical workday. She has met with people in their homes if they need to meet with her or she can meet them at the church (social distance guidelines have and will be followed).

## RETURNING TO IN-PERSON WORSHIP CONT.

The Key to our Contentment lies in our hearts and minds! Rather than think of the guidelines in a negative way, please try to reframe it to think of them as acts of love for each other (similar to when you ask before touching a newborn baby and sanitize your hands before holding the baby). I understand and honor that we all have differing feelings surrounding these acts of loving kindness. However, I ask that you recognize that someone else in our congregation (someone that you love) may have the opposite feelings and you want to honor their feelings, just as you want to be respected and honored yourself.

Things we CAN do in worship:

- Bring a positive attitude to church each week. This is especially important for the young people in our congregation. They will be watching to see how we handle adversity in the church. Let our actions be worthy of their attention.
- As you sit with your family unit, be sure to smile and wave and greet each other safely from a distance. We have all missed each other so much and it will be wonderful to be in the same space.
- Bring your creativity: We have the opportunity to return to worship in new and creative ways! We can't sing together, but we could raise homemade signs that say AMEN or RAISE A HALLELUJAH. Our worship experience is only limited by our own imaginations!
- Please text me your prayer concerns (567-207-0553) so that they can be shared during prayer time. (You even have permission to text during church if you forget prior to service). We can't share a microphone, but we can still share our joys and concerns!
- We are permitted to share time together in small groups. This might be the time for you to host a small group in your home (or your yard). Let Pastor Charlene know that you would like to host a small group and we can make a plan!
- Participate fully in worship! Do you have a special talent? Play a musical instrument or sing? You are invited to be a part of the worship service and highlight those talents that God gave you.
- We can keep the MAIN thing as the MAIN thing: We often forget that worship is not about us at all. Worship is about honoring God and praising God. If we enter into worship with that attitude, it keeps us focused on praising and honoring God with our worship.

### VBS UPDATE:

#### *Mystery Island – Tracking Down the One True God*

Kyle Paxson and Brian Arnold have been meeting to make decisions surrounding vacation bible school for this year. We are happy to report that it has not been cancelled.

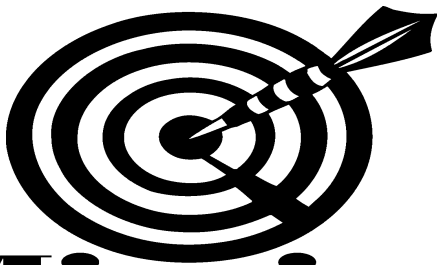
Kyle and Brian have done a great job of thinking “outside the box” and putting together a hybrid VBS plan for our kids. VBS has been rescheduled until August 9-13 and will be structured differently so that everyone can be safe. Parents will be required to stay with their kiddos. They will come in and sit together in family groups and we will present the bible story, video and music and show them their craft for the day. Then, families will go home with a take-home kit so that they can continue the fun at home.

**Thanks to Kyle and Brian for their hard work in making VBS happen for our kids. We appreciate you!**





**If your son or daughter is in Third Grade or older and would like to serve as Acolyte, please contact Jill Lindhorst at (419) 443-0273. Please consider helping us!!**



# Mission Report

*(Please consider the following article)*

## FCFH First Call For Help

“In the past First Call For Help has raised supplies and funds to help make sure that every child was fully prepared for the academic year ahead of them. We asked for monetary donations, held a school supply drive and distributed supplies to the children through a makeshift “store” where the kids had more control over what they received. With current social distancing restrictions, it has become apparent that how the program has been conducted in the past will not be feasible this year. Whether they are attending class, or doing assignments at home, it is our plan to continue to providing school supply assistance to children from low income families in grades K-12 who attend any

Tiffin or rural Seneca County School (Fostoria excluded). Any family that falls at or below 200% the Federal Poverty Level or could prove a significant financial hardship is eligible for assistance.

Last year we provided supplies and more for 342 children during distribution. Though the need and method of delivery may be different, we hope to help even more students. To realize this goal, we are reaching out for support from like-minded individuals who believe as we do, that all children should begin the new school year with the tools and materials they need to succeed.

Contributions may be made by cash, check or credit card to First Call For Help, 201 South Washington St., P.O. Box 368, Tiffin, OH 44883. Please note “School Supplies Program” in the memo section of your check or call us at 419-448-0355. Your donation is tax deductible and will make a difference for Seneca County youth.”

***Jason D. Pollick, Program Director  
First Call For Help***

# let's do lunch

**Please join us for lunch  
Tuesday, July 28<sup>th</sup> 12:00 noon  
at the home of Jack and Vicki Noller  
982 E. Twp. Rd. 201, Tiffin  
(across for Sentinel Career Center)  
If you plan to attend, please RSVP  
Jack and Vicki at (419) 447-1891  
For starters Pulled Pork will be the main dish  
along with Smoked Mac and Cheese  
.....YUMMM !!!**





## *July birthday celebrations*

**Janet Dutt: 7-5**

**Pat Curran: 7-18**

If you are over 80 years old and would like your birthday listed so we can celebrate you, please let the church secretary know. Thank you!

### Important 2020 Dates in the United Methodist Church (East Ohio, Jurisdiction & General Conference)

- Quadrennial General Conference --- **Rescheduled for August 29 – September 7, 2021**
- East Ohio Annual Conference – Lakeside --- **Rescheduled for September 25-27, 2020**
- July 15-18: North Central Jurisdictional Conference - Fort Wayne --- **STILL SCHEDULED**







## YOUTH FELLOWSHIP HAPPENINGS.....

The youth gathered on Sunday, June 28<sup>th</sup> for a time of fellowship and fun! The youth painted some rocks that they will be hiding throughout Tiffin, they had some pizza, reviewed their lesson: sink or swim, and played a game outside.

The next happenings taking place will be

**Sunday, July 12 @ 5:00 pm**  
**"No Bummer Summer" week 1**

**Sunday, July 26 @ 5:00 pm**  
**"No Bummer Summer" week 2**

If your youth is interested in attending, please see Tevin and Matt Drosky

# JULY 2020

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
28	29	30	1	2 Sharing Kitchen	3	4 <i>Independence Day</i>
5	6	7	8	9 Sharing Kitchen	10	11
12 Bev Mestrey unlocking & locking church Youth Fellowship @ 5:00	13 Sharing Kitchen	14	15 Trustees mtg 7:00	16 Sharing Kitchen	17	18
19 Third Sunday offering	20 Sharing Kitchen	21	22	23 Sharing Kitchen Ad Council 7:00	24	25 Sharing Kitchen
26 Youth Fellowship @ 5:00	27 Sharing Kitchen	28 Lunch Bunch 12:00 @ Jack & Vicki Noller home	29	30 Sharing Kitchen	31	1