

# *Church News ~ November 2021*

**St. Paul's UMC ~ Republic Trinity ~ Melmore UMC ~ Sycamore UMC ~ Union Salem UMC**

## **"Who Do You Think You Are?"**

Have you seen the television show "Who Do You Think You Are?" It is a series that takes celebrities on a journey to find out who they are by exploring their history and family genealogy. Often, the celebrity is surprised by something they learn about their family history. Sometimes we all think we know who we are, but there are things that get "forgotten" throughout time. I recently took a Wesleyan History course as part of my course of study classes. There were things that I learned about our Methodist history that were surprising to me. It was like a special Methodist episode of "Who Do You Think You Are".

When we trace our roots back to the very beginning, it gives us a more well-rounded idea of who we are. Our roots can be traced back to John and Charles Wesley and their band of friends who sought reform from within the church. They blazed a trail for all of us. They sought religious freedom, seeking to separate the church from the power of the monarchy. Because of their bravery, Methodism began as a movement that would catch fire and spread across the ocean into the newly settled colony of America.

What began as a band of like-minded individuals has evolved into the global denomination that we are today. United Methodists count for more than 12 million people all around the world. We don't all speak the same language or practice the same cultural traditions, but we are connected by a common mission and history.

Our five-church cooperative parish is living out the connection in a way that very much mimics our history. Historically, parishes across a region would share a Methodist circuit rider (an ordained individual who could perform the sacraments for a local congregation). These local congregations

would serve in ministry in their region, led by strong lay persons who cared for others, prayed for each other, and continued the ministry of Jesus Christ. The traveling elder would share their time between these congregations, traveling between them on horseback.

One of the strengths of the United Methodist church is our connection to others. Because of this connection, we can participate in ministries across the globe. We continue to live out our history and the mission that John and Charles Wesley dreamed for Methodists when we recognize that we are part of something much bigger than our individual churches and ourselves. We are partners with millions of others in mission fields across the world. Praise to the God who continues to meet us in the mission field and who directs our work!

***Blessings ~ Pastor Charlene***



## ***Thanksgiving Eve Service***

Come join Pastors Amy and Charlene for worship at Melmore UMC on Wednesday, November 24th at 7:00 pm for our Thanksgiving Eve Service. All are welcome as we take a breath and pause in gratitude to remember our blessings as we prepare our hearts and minds for Thanksgiving Day.

## Pastor's Letter-What's in a Name?

The Bible tells us that God calls us by name (Isaiah 43:1) and that "A Good name is more desirable than great riches" (Proverbs 22:1a). Names are important. Even Juliet realized the importance of names as she questioned "What's in a name?"

Names identify us and describe us. We call ourselves Christians to demonstrate to others that we are a people who follow Christ—a people who love.

In the Bible, God often renamed people after significant events in their faith journey Abraham became Abraham after God made his covenant with him and Jacob became Israel after wrestling with God in the darkness.

After four months in connection with each other, we find ourselves in search of a name—or at least a better name than the Seneca-Wyandot Cooperative Parish. A name that identifies us and describes us as a group of Christians and as a body of churches in ministry together—a name that will clearly show other people who we are on this faith journey that we are taking together.

That is where you come in—we need you to send us your name suggestions, along with an explanation of your choice so that we can offer everyone an opportunity to decide on a name. For example, the six-church cooperative in the Upper Sandusky area calls themselves Upper River Ministries.

Please email or call Pastor Amy or Charlene with your idea and we will compile them before the next newsletter so that everyone can help decide on a new name for us to start the new year.

~ *Pastor Amy Vittorio*

## WHAT'S HAPPENING IN WORSHIP IN THE NORTHERN CIRCUIT

The Flame Worship service (Sunday evenings at 6:30 pm at Republic Trinity UMC) will be returning on a limited schedule for the winter. The Flame worship service will be offered on the first Sunday evening of each month for November through March. Please come and join us as we worship God through fellowship, song, and study.

In the Northern circuit, we will continue our "Enough" Worship series, learning how to live a simple, yet generous life. We will celebrate Advent by reading and preaching about the book "The Heart that Grew Three Sizes", learning lessons about Christmas through the Grinch's story. We are looking forward to this series very much!

## WHAT'S HAPPENING IN WORSHIP IN THE SOUTHERN CIRCUIT

This month we will be appropriately counting our blessings and spending time focusing on gratitude during the month of November. We will start with a special service for All Saint's Day and then on November 14<sup>th</sup> Pastor Charlene will be coming to share a message with us. The 21<sup>st</sup> is Christ the King Sunday and believe it or not, Advent starts on the 28<sup>th</sup> of November this year—Christmas is coming! What a wonderful way to end our month of gratitude in preparing for God with Us to arrive.

## Bible Study

The combined Bible Study will be studying Adam Hamilton's book *Enough* during the month of November and then tackling *The Heart that Grew Three Sizes* in December. All are welcome to join us at 10:30 am on Wednesday mornings at Sycamore UMC or 6:30 pm on Tuesday evenings at St. Paul's UMC.

## Laity Sunday

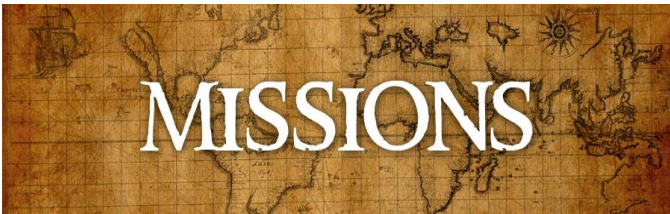
Thank you to all the Laity who participated in laity Sunday and especially to our willing speakers: Loren Atkins (Union-Salem and St. Paul's), Dave Myers (Sycamore), Bev Gabel (Melmore), and Roxanne Roush (Republic Trinity). Laity are the backbone of the spiritual strength in our churches, and we appreciate all of you and the work you do in your Father's Kingdom for His church.

# YOUTH FELLOWSHIP

The St. Paul's youth fellowship went to a corn maze at Little Darby Farm. Had a blast. Here are some pictures from the trip. We have some big things happening for the upcoming holidays.

~ *Tevin Drosky*





Greetings from St. Paul's Missions Committee:

The Sharing Kitchen mission is still going on and from the look of the table in the sanctuary, appears to be doing well. We have been notified that the DeMolay which is a youth group associated with the Masonic Lodge has collected money which they would like to donate to this mission. Carter Lindhorst is the leader of the Chapter, and this is their current community service project. We would like to thank them for assisting us in this project and know the Sharing Kitchen will put their efforts to good use. We are still collecting nonperishable food items to be distributed to their clients and items for

their Christmas party. Lists of recommended items can be obtained from the church office.

Operation Christmas Child was initiated October 17. The Shoeboxes can be picked up on the landing in front of the sanctuary and a few are at the back of the sanctuary. Directions are contained in a pamphlet inside the box. \$9 in postage is required to process and mail each box. This fee includes a New Testament which will be included with each box in the language of the recipient. 9.1 million shoeboxes were distributed in 2020. There is a template for a letter which can be included in the shoebox laid out with the display on the landing table. This letter or a simple note can be included in the box. The boxes can be brought back to church services or dropped off at the church office. I will be taking them to the local collection center November 15-21.

The Third Sunday Ingathering offering was \$80 and will be sent to First Call for Help in Tiffin. They provide a variety of services and with the season changing this will soon include assistance with heating.

The Lunch Bunch went to Fort Ball Pizza on October 28th. Carol Graham was the host. Everyone is welcome. This group meets on the last Tuesday of the month, usually at noon and visits local restaurants. A reservation with the church office or the host is requested so that the restaurant can better prepare for us.

Our final mission for the year will be the Angel Tree which will be going up in November. We will be asking for clothing items for children and teens up to 3x. The clothing can be placed in a regular bag, it should not be wrapped. The limit per item is \$20. This mission is done in collaboration with the Salvation Army. Please have them turned in by December 13<sup>th</sup>.

As always, thank you Church for your support of our missions.

*~ Denise Lawson for the Missions Committee*

### **Ham Loaf & Sauerkraut Ball Time is Here** **Melmore UMC**

It is time, once again, or for the first time, to get in your orders for ham loaves and sauerkraut balls at Melmore UMC. Ham loaves are \$20 for a tray of six and sauerkraut balls are \$10 for a package of ten. Pre-orders will be taken until November 10th. Please contact Pastor Amy at 419-443-5763 or at [pastoryamyv@gmail.com](mailto:pastoryamyv@gmail.com) to place an order.



### ***St. Paul's Annual Thanksgiving Dinner Sunday, November 21<sup>st</sup> 12:00 noon***

Provided: Turkey, dressing, mashed potatoes and gravy, steamed corn, pumpkin pie, bread, and tables service.

**RESERVATIONS:** Can be made on Sunday November 7 and 14 or by calling the church office at 447-1743.

A freewill offering will be taken to cover expenses. We hope you will join us this year after a year off. We encourage you to wear masks. We have eliminated people bringing a side dish to lessen the possibilities of passing the virus. We want to keep people safe.

Join us for this annual event. ~ *Shirley Smith*



**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.**

**November 7<sup>th</sup>: Braden Drosky & Courtney McGinnis**

**November 14<sup>th</sup>: Elijah & Hezekiah Ramirez**

**November 21<sup>st</sup>: Braden Drosky & A.J. Lindhorst**

**November 28<sup>th</sup>: Enola & Ariana Ramirez**



### ***St. Paul's Children's Christmas Program Sunday, December 19<sup>th</sup> during Worship service***

If your child wishes to participate in the Christmas program, they need to attend every practice. First practice will be held on Wednesday, December 8<sup>th</sup> with dinner and practice at 6:00 p.m. Second practice will be held on Sunday, December 12<sup>th</sup> after church service. And the program will be Sunday, December 19<sup>th</sup> during the Worship service. Please contact Molly Lofton or Pastor Charlene with any questions.

### **Friday Fun Day update picture:**

Our second Friday Fun Day was held on October 15<sup>th</sup> at 10:00 am-featuring local resident and author, Jill Gosche. Jill talked about her book, *If the Beam Could Talk* which she wrote about the impact of the events of 9-11-2001 on our community.



# *November Celebrations*

## *Birthdays*

1 – Craig Watson-Melmore  
2 – Donna Burger-Melmore  
3 – Anna Maybee-Melmore  
7 – Jenny Gill-Melmore  
7 -- Kay Weisenauer-Melmore  
12 – Nashton Gabel-Melmore  
13 – Mia Serotko-Melmore  
14 – Greg Distel-Melmore  
15 – Kaylynn Maybee-Melmore  
16 – Bill Hoffert, Jr.- Melmore  
16 -- George Tuttle-Union-Salem  
17 – Merle Kagy-Melmore  
18 -- Russell Edgington-Union-Salem  
18 – James Hoffert-Melmore  
19 -- Jim Gilliland-Union-Salem  
20 – Jon Benfer-Melmore  
20 -- Devin Weaver-Melmore  
20 -- Roger Weisenauer-Melmore  
21 – Christine McCue-Melmore  
21 -- Laila Shuff-Sycamore  
23 – Adam Distel-Melmore  
24 -- Nancy Balliet-Union-Salem  
24 – Cynthia Goetz-Melmore  
25 – Tim Carn-Melmore  
25 -- Noah McDaniel-Union-Salem  
25 --Jean Pasko-Melmore  
25 -- Tim Roush-Melmore  
27 – Carol Taylor-Melmore

## *Anniversaries*

10 – Micah & Kristy Rettig-Melmore  
10 – Dennis & Sharon Weaver-Melmore  
20 -- Linda & Larry Mygrant-(99)- Sycamore

