

CHURCH NEWS

September 2021

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

Dear Friends: By now, most of you have heard Pastor Charlene preach about making lemonade out of lemons. So, you may indeed appreciate the irony that on Wednesday night, after she was diagnosed with COVID that I found myself at Kroger's purchasing fourteen lemons (one for each day of her quarantine) because they were on a list that her doctor had given her of things that she would need while she was at home. And as I handed off that bag to Dominic, I also realized that it wasn't just Pastor Charlene who would be squeezing lemons for the next fourteen days. All of us, collectively, are making a pretty big batch of lemonade.

You have heard and will hear us talk a lot about how we are "Better Together," and we are. And yes, that means that while Pastor Charlene is unable to get out of the house that I can help cover for her and take care of day-to-day operations as those fourteen days go by. However, if you haven't noticed, let me be the first to tell you that I can't do it alone.

First of all, I drive a Honda Civic and not a DeLorean DMC-12 Time Machine, so I can't preach at all five churches on Sunday. So, in order to fill that gap, some very wonderful lay speakers, servants and leaders immediately said "yes" when asked if they could cover the pulpit in a variety of ways. Secondly, the minute the news got out, our emails and phones were filled with messages from church members offering to help in whatever way they could. As of the writing

of this letter, people have helped to make phone calls, dropped off items when needed, helped to gather information, and checked up on each other. Not to mention, people have been gracious when plans have changed and things have needed to be rearranged.

Life is going to hand to us lemons—sometimes really big bags full of them—but with all of us together, one thing is for sure, we are going to be making some very, very sweet lemonade. Because we ARE better together. As 1 Corinthians 12:12 says, "For even as the body is one and yet has many members, and all the members of the body, though they are many, are one body, so also is Christ." And we are better together because we are in this— this business of lemonade-making— together.

~Pastor Amy



Thank you for all of your cards, texts, drop offs and good thoughts while we were quarantined with COVID-19. I know that you were praying for me and for my family, because those prayers were what sustained us.

We are grateful that we had been vaccinated and our bouts with COVID were manageable. Though it did throw our lives into chaos for several weeks, with quarantining restrictions and rescheduling.

We are so grateful for a faith community that is understanding and flexible. Please do all that you can to keep one another safe during this unbelievable time. We love you all.
~Pastor Charlene and Family.

WHAT'S HAPPENING IN WORSHIP IN THE SOUTHERN CIRCUIT

Although things were a bit challenging on the first Sunday of August when we had communion, so far, there has been no foot tapping or tap-dancing while waiting for the pastor to arrive. The hope is that things continue to go smoothly as we continue to adjust to our new time schedule for worship on Sunday. Coming up in September, we will start a new sermon series on God's wisdom as we focus on what it means to use our hearts and minds to think differently than the world thinks.

Also, don't forget to come out to the Wyandot County Fairgrounds on September 12th at 7 pm for the Ministerial Association's Church Service that will be held in the Masters' Building.

“TWO BY TWO” – WHY DO OUR PASTORS SWAP PULPITS?

One of the benefits of having two pastors is that our congregations have the opportunity to hear the gospel presented by two different preachers. As we have both said many times, Pastor Amy and I differ in many ways, including in the way that we preach. We can take the same scripture and present it in two very different ways. God's Spirit moves within each of us in unique ways, guiding us to new ideas as we study the Word.

On a typical Sunday in our cooperative parish, Pastor Amy preaches at Union Salem at 9:00 a.m., at Sycamore UMC at 10:00 a.m. and at Melmore UMC at 11:00 a.m. While I preach at Republic Trinity UMC at 9:00 a.m., at St. Paul's UMC at 10:15 a.m. and again at Republic Trinity at 6:30 p.m. So, a typical Sunday for each of the pastors includes preaching at three services.

On August 15th, we swapped pulpits, meaning I preached in the southern circuit and Pastor Amy preached in the northern circuit. It is important that we swap pulpits on a regular schedule so that each pastor is active within each congregation of the parish.



Worship is vital to our faith community and both pastors value the time they get to spend in worship with all five of our churches.

Pastor Amy and I are gifted in many different ways, as are each of you, and sharing time in worship together is a wonderful time and space to share those gifts to glorify God. Stay tuned to your calendars to see when the pastors will be swapping circuits!

~Pastor Charlene



9/05/21: Enola & Ariana Ramirez
9/12/21: Charlie Garcia & Gavin Bogner
9/19/21: Hezekiah Ramirez & Braden Drosky
9/26/21: Bailey Barnes and Grant Bogne

**If your son or daughter is in Third
Grade or older and would like to
acolyte at St. Paul's, please contact Jill
Lindhorst at 419-443-0273.**

Wyandot County Fair-Ministerial Association Service

Attention all fair enthusiasts! The Wyandot County Fair runs September 13-18th, and as many of you know from their sign at the fairgrounds in Upper Sandusky, it is a fair "worth crowing about." For those of you who don't know, this is the 170th year of the Wyandot County Fair. Although Pastor Amy may or may not be entering some of her photographs in the fair, she definitely will be participating in the Upper Sandusky Area Ministerial Association Church Service at 7 pm that is being held in the Masters' Building (which, you may be interested to know, is air-conditioned). Join us for an evening of worship!

MISSIONS

Greetings from St. Paul's Missions Committee:

August got off to a good start but we are waiting to see what obstacles Covid may create. Our 3rd Sunday Ingathering collected \$80 to be sent to First Call for Help.

The August Lunch Bunch was cancelled because of an increase in concern about COVID.

September is currently scheduled to return to the 4th Tuesday of the month, but please watch for updates. We plan to go to the Madison Street Tavern but the gathering time is moved up to 11:00 AM (usually 12) per the preference of the restaurant. Sue Hepp will be hosting so you can contact her or the church office if you would like to attend. All are welcome. We do need to RSVP by the Sunday before and let the restaurant know how many to expect.

In September our committee will again meet to discuss and vote on the 2nd half of the year disbursement of the Leann Wolff funds. This money was left to the church in the will of one of our past members. She indicated that she wanted these funds to benefit local charities, leaving it to the church to decide which charities these would be. We will also be discussing our plans to have either a FISH or Sharing Kitchen mission in October, the Operation Christmas Child (Shoobox Mission) in November, and the Angel Tree Mission in December. The current plan is to have this meeting in the front of the sanctuary on September 12 immediately after our church service.

The open houses went well. We met a lot of interesting people and a lot of history was shared. The Better Together committee has expanded and when we can get together again we will be brainstorming new projects or expanding old ones. Thank you to everyone who participated. Pictures are included in this newsletter.

Thank you Church for supporting our missions.
~Denise Lawson for the SP Mission Committee



YOUTH MINISTRY RETURNS

KFC/Teen Talk at MUMC ~ KFC and Teen Talk will be making a comeback this fall starting on September 22nd. We will be meeting at our regular time of 5:45 and will serve a light meal followed by our kick-off programming including worship. We have missed everyone and we know that there are new kids in town that we are excited to meet while we share the love of the gospel with them.

Junior Youth at Union-Salem UMC ~ It's almost time for the Wyandot County Fair, so that means that it is time to remind everyone that Junior Youth will be resuming on the second & fourth Tuesdays on September 28th from 5:30-7:00 at Union-Salem UMC. Mark your calendars what is sure to be an amazing and uplifting time!

Youth Fellowship at St. Paul's UMC ~ MYF will restart on Sunday, September 29th. Note that the meeting time has changed! Meetings will be held in the SP Youth Room every other Sunday from 12-2 p.m. Questions? See Tevin Drosky.

Opportunities for Fellowship

Melmore Fellowship Luncheon ~

Melmore UMC has resumed its second Sunday luncheons. These are generally held after church on the second Sunday of the month (around 12:15-to 12:30) at a variety of local restaurants. Please feel free to join them for lunch! There is always plenty of great conversation and fellowship. Next luncheon is at Asian Grill.



St. Paul's Lunch Bunch: All are invited to St. Paul's Lunch Bunch on Tuesday, September 28th. We will be going to Madison Street Tavern. Hostess for this month is Sue Hepp. Please RSVP to Sue so we have a headcount.

Bible Study

The combined Bible Study will re-convene at 10:30 am on Wednesdays at Sycamore UMC. All are invited to attend. We will be looking at the book Three Simple Rules by Reuben Job for the first month while we work together to decide the reading list for the rest of our year. Three Simple Rules is available on Amazon, or if you would like Pastor Amy to get a copy for you, just let her know.

Additionally, Pastor Amy and Pastor Charlene are looking for other times to convene studies that will work for those who work or may be busy during the day. If you would like to be a part of a Bible/book study that meets at a later time or on the weekend, please contact Pastor Amy or Pastor Charlene and let them know about your availability and also about what you might like to study.

Celebrating September Birthdays

- 1 – Terry Luhring-Melmore
- 4 – Ora Preston-Melmore
- 7 – Mark Milroy – Republic
- 8 – Corrinne Weaver-Melmore
- 10 – Makennah Rettig-Melmore
- 10 – Lynda Daughenbaugh - Republic
- 12 – Ruth Friddle-Melmore
- 13 – Chris Kagy-Melmore
- 14 – Dominic Consolo – St. Paul's
- 16 – Wade Burger-Melmore
- 16 -- David Clarke-Melmore
- 17 -- Kara Orians-Union-Salem
- 17 - Pam Roush-Melmore
- 19 -- Brenda Shuff-Sycamore
- 20 -- Alyssa McDannell-Melmore
- 20 -- Tom Roush-Union-Salem
- 20 – Kaitlyn Williams-Melmore
- 21 – Aaron Roush-Melmore
- 21 --Margie Siegle-Melmore
- 23 -- Joyce Murphy-Union-Salem
- 24 – Cathy Riedel-Melmore
- 24 -- Hope Shuff-Sycamore
- 25 – Amanda Luhring-Melmore
- 26 -- Devon Buckley-Melmore
- 26 – Greg Wollet-Melmore
- 27 – Kari Bloom-Melmore
- 27 -- Paislie Shuff-Sycamore
- 29 -- Brodie Atkins-Union-Salem
- 29 – Shane McDannell-Melmore
- 30 -- Larry Mygrant-Sycamore



Celebrating September Anniversaries

- 21 – Michael & Ila Gabel-Melmore
- 24 – Amy & Shane McDannell-Melmore
- 29 – Destry & Molly Weaver-Melmore

If you have a birthday, anniversary or other celebration that you would like included in the five church newsletter, please e-mail Joyce (at St. Paul's). Her e-mail is secretary@tiffinstpauls.org.

DISCOVERY ON ADVENTURE ISLAND VBS AT ST. PAUL'S

Discovery on Adventure Island was a huge success! We are so grateful that we had the opportunity to host VBS at St. Paul's in person once again this year. 36 young people were in attendance at VBS and they learned so much about God as they heard stories from both the Old and New Testaments.

Thank you to Kyle Paxson and Brian Arnold for directing VBS again this year. We could not have done it without you.

Thanks to all of the volunteers who made VBS possible! Now, we are counting down until next year!



Sycamore UMC Ice-cream Social

A huge thank you to all of those who came out and made Sycamore UMC's ice cream social such a big success! There were many people who donated food and time along with many, many people who came out and joined us for a delicious dinner and a good time! The root beer floats were a big hit and we are already looking forward to next year.



Sycamore UMC Gazebo

Sycamore UMC “did a thing” as the young people would say, or maybe, more appropriately, they did a BIG thing and all because one person had a great idea. For those of you who aren’t native to Sycamore, you may not know that they have been trying to resolve the issue of what to do with the village gazebo for quite some time. You may also not know that the village gazebo has been around for at least one hundred and twenty years (give or take a few years).

Originally, the gazebo sat in the middle of town—in the middle of the road and was right smack dab in the middle of everything that was happening. In 1910, it was rumored to have left Sycamore and was then utilized as a storage shed or a chicken coop for nearly eight decades on the Ray Hannum farm near Belle Vernon (a hamlet four miles south of Sycamore on SR 67). In the nineties, it was rescued and renovated by the Sycamore Businessmen’s Association in 1992 for Sycamore’s 150th anniversary. Once it was back in “town,” it was utilized for Christmas in the Village along with other events.

In recent years, it became apparent that a new location would need to be found for the gazebo and as time began to run out to move it and a suitable location became difficult to find, Sycamore United Methodist Church member and President of the Mohawk Historical Society, Kim Mohr, saw a solution in an unusual place.

The current Sycamore UMC, where Kim attends, is the result of a merger between the Methodist Church (which currently sits to the north of the parsonage) and the EUB Church in town (which sat to the south of the parsonage). After the two churches merged, they no longer had a need for the second building which was torn down in the winter of 1978/1979. Some parts of the building were saved, however; many of the stained-glass windows were rescued and utilized when the fellowship hall addition was put on the current church and the bell (also saved) was placed out in front of that addition... the lights?

Once the empty building was torn down, the space was filled in and currently is a large green space that sits south of the parsonage... a space full of possibilities and, as Kim Mohr saw it, a great solution to the issue of where to put the village gazebo since putting it there would keep it close to downtown to allow it to be used for village events AND allow other groups to utilize it for a bandstand with plenty of available space around it for people to sit and enjoy the entertainment. After that, things moved quickly, the church’s resounding approval was obtained, the village council’s blessing was procured along with their agreement to pay its moving expenses, and Danner’s came and moved it down the street all within two weeks.

For now, the gazebo sits on the corner of North Sycamore Avenue and 6th Street. The organizations that are working together to restore it: The Mohawk Historical Society, the Mohawk 60+ Club, the Lions, the Mohawk Community Service Club, the Sycamore Business Association, and the Sycamore United Methodist Church have formed a new organization: the Sycamore Gazebo Preservation Society. They have been meeting regularly to figure out where to pour a permanent concrete pad on the green space, what needs to be done to restore it, and policies for just when and how it will be used.

One thing is certain though, in the near future, there will be a dedication service and some amazing outdoor worship in a space that has waited far too long for folks to come and worship God on it again.

