



Five Points Cooperative Parish

Five Unique Churches Sharing One Common Mission

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



Pastor's Letter

Let It Shine, Let It Shine, Let It Shine!

The New Year offers us many opportunities to look back, take stock, and otherwise reflect on the year gone by. And I sit here typing, it seems hard to believe that it has already been six months since we started this new cooperative parish connection. Yet, on the other hand, it also strangely feels like it has been longer. It truly didn't take long before new schedules, routines and programs felt familiar.

So, this January, as we enter the second half of our first year together, we are hoping that our new name for our cooperative parish will become just as familiar. It is safe to say that no one was particularly thrilled with the previous name: the Seneca-Wyandot Cooperative Parish, but we wanted to take the time to find a name that truly "fit" our connection.

After all, changing a name should be no simple affair. Changing a name should mean something. In the Bible, changing one's name was a reflection of a change in status or direction. When God changed Abram to Abraham and Jacob to Israel, it was not merely a change in letters, it signaled a transformation of character. Similarly, when Saul was struck down, his name change to Paul afterwards reflected a serious change of heart.

Our new name, **Five Points Parish**, reveals not just the number of churches in our connection, but the light that is reflected between our churches. It demonstrates to others the relationship that holds us all together. As we continue to lift each other in prayer, to roll up our sleeves and do ministry together, to contribute funds in mission together, and to raise our voices in worship together; it is our hope that our new name will better illuminate just who we are to ourselves and to the communities

that surround our churches.

As we move into this new year with a new name, let us be mindful of the mission of all of our churches to make disciples for Jesus Christ. Together, we can shine the light of Christ into the dark places in our communities. In the words of Matthew 5:16, "In the same way, let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father in heaven."

Blessings,
~ *Pastor Amy*

Two by Two

Dear Friends:

When we were first approached by DS Doug Lewis and told that we would be joining together in a new ministry opportunity, we were understandably nervous. Now, we are six months in, and we are feeling much more secure in our new cooperative parish. I think we are all beginning to understand how we can operate within this parish. We see evidence that folks are understanding the concept more fully, realizing that we are five unique churches and that will not change; however, we are realizing that there are some ministry opportunities where we can be better together, sharing ideas, resources, staff and volunteers.

We have heard your feedback and we appreciated your thoughts about our new cooperative parish. One of the things that bothered some of our members was the name that was used for the parish (Seneca-Wyandot Cooperative Parish). This name was utilized only because the

district needed a name to organize our paperwork. It was never intended to be a permanent name.

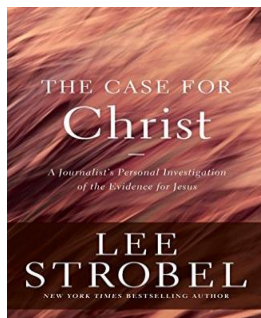
We offered congregation members the opportunity to have input on our new name. Multiple people submitted names and artwork based on the Five Points in our cooperative parish. Folks wanted our name to reflect the fact that we are five unique churches who share a common mission. We felt the Holy Spirit moving in these people, moving them to all submit similar thoughts and artwork.

We are pleased to announce our new name and our new logo.



Bible Study

Have you been wondering what the Bible study is going to be up to in the next coming months? This month, we will be reading *The Case for Christ*, a powerful and thought-provoking true story of a journalist looking for evidence that Christ really was the son of God by Lee Strobel. Once we finish the book, we will be getting together to watch the movie version (more details to come later). And in February, we will be reading *Revival* by Adam Hamilton, a book that explores the life of John Wesley and what it truly means to be a Wesleyan Christian. If you would like to join us for any of these books, contact Pastor Charlene for the Tuesday night St. Paul's study at 6:30 pm or Pastor Amy for the Wednesday morning Sycamore study at 10:30 am.



The Northern Points

St. Paul's UMC ~ Republic Trinity

Worship in the Northern Points

According to UMCdiscipleship.com, Wesley expected Methodists to pray this prayer at the beginning of each new year as a way of remembering and renewing their baptismal covenant. The prayer describes the life of a participant with Christ in His mission. It is a practical description of what Jesus was talking about when He said, "If any want to become my followers, let them deny themselves and take up their cross daily and follow me" (Luke 9:23).

The Covenant prayer helps us remember that we are disciples of Jesus Christ, and it reminds us of what this Jesus-way of life looks like and what loving God with our heart, soul, and mind and loving our neighbor as ourselves requires of us. We choose to trust in God and live into this covenantal promise no matter the circumstance we find ourselves in. In January, we will remember this foundational prayer in our worship.

Wesleyan Covenant Prayer

*I am no longer my own, but yours.
Put me to what you will, place me with whom you will.
Put me to doing, put me to suffering.
Let me be put to work for you or set aside for you,
Praised for you or criticized for you.
Let me be full, let me be empty.
Let me have all things, let me have nothing.
I freely and fully surrender all things to your glory and service.
And now, O wonderful and holy God,
Creator, Redeemer, and Sustainer,
you are mine, and I am yours.
So be it.
And the covenant which I have made on earth,
Let it also be made in heaven. Amen.*

Missions Committee

Greetings from the St. Paul's Mission Committee:

We have completed our Angel Tree Mission. Sandy Arnold delivered approximately 68 items to the Salvation Army for their Christmas party. Everything from socks, gloves, coats, shirts, sweaters, leggings, and more were included. Sandy reports that they brought out a shopping cart and mounded it full of clothes. There were several items for teens which they were very grateful to receive. We hope they enjoy the outfits as much as we enjoyed picking them out. Thank you, Sandy, for making this project a success.

The special giving envelope at Thanksgiving collected \$20 for FACT.

In November we collected \$47 in the yellow buckets, in December we collected \$115. This money goes to First Call for Help. This organization is a safety net for community members facing some type of crisis. They help prevent the crisis and help them plan to put their lives back together. This could include a single person or a family. The special giving envelope at Christmas collected \$240 which will also be sent to First Call for Help and is to be placed in their heating fund.

In January there will be a collection for UMCOR that is designated for Human Relations Day. Please use the pew envelopes and print on the envelope for "Human Relations Day". This money benefits neighborhood ministries through volunteers in community advocacy and work with at-risk teens through such things as the Youth Offender Rehabilitation Programs. In November we collected \$155 to be sent to UMCOR for Student Day. This provides scholarships for students pursuing ministerial studies.

January will be the beginning of a new Missions project. A need has been identified for the Budding Geniuses/Noble After School program. Some of you will better recognize this as "Molly's kids". There are 60-65 kids, many from economically challenged homes, in the program who are in the 4th and 5th grade who need additional help in reading and/or math. These kids meet after school for 2 ½ hours every school day to get this additional help. The program is federally funded but none of these funds can be spent for food items. The school system has limited supplies to help them. The program sounds awesome and if you get a chance, ask Molly about it. We will be collecting snack items for the kids; the Sharing Kitchen thinks they can also help us accomplish this. A sealable tote for

collecting donated items will be placed in the Fellowship Hall each Sunday and then transferred to the church office for you to drop off items during normal office hours throughout the week. A list of suggested items will be taped to the tote and included in the weekly bulletin. The snacks need to be individually wrapped or dispensed type items. If the tote gets too full, and that would be a blessing, we will send the items on and continue collecting for the month.

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

~ *Denise Lawson for the Mission's Committee*

Budding Geniuses/Noble After School Program

Snack suggestions: (must be individually wrapped)

Granola bars	Bags of popcorn
Goldfish crackers	Bags of pretzels
Teddy Grahams	Fruit snacks
Animal crackers	Rice Krispy Treats
Ritz Bits cheese crackers	Cheese crackers

Peanut Butter crackers

Fruit: mandarin oranges, apples, bananas

If you are donating fruit, arraignments need to be made with Molly so that fruit can be distributed immediately.

St. Paul's Youth Fellowship

The Secret Santa was a success!! The Secret Santa received ornaments, cards, cookies and a cross box from our Youth Fellowship. The youth gave Pastor Charlene a blanket with all the youth road trip pictures from this past year.

We are looking at attending the Winter Jam on Saturday, January 8th in Columbus, weather permitting. We will meet in the church parking lot and leave at 3:00 p.m. The youth can bring extra money to purchase merchandise if they would like.

Heidi and I will be attending Youth Leadership training on January 22nd.

Youth Fellowship will continue to meet every other Saturday morning 10:00 a.m.-11:30 a.m. Currently we have ten youth attending the group. Any questions, please contact Heidi or me and checkout the St. Paul Youth Fellowship page on Facebook. We are looking at doing fundraising for camp this year and other road trips, so stay tuned more details will be coming!

Thank you for all your support and God bless.

~ *Tevin Drosky, Youth Fellowship leader*

St. Paul's Children Ministry

Thank you to all who helped with the Happy Birthday Jesus party! It was fun for all.

~ *Melody Woessner, Children's Church leader*



Acolyte Ministry

We will be holding a mandatory acolyte training at St. Paul's on January 23, 2022. This short training will be held immediately following worship and will serve as first time training for new acolytes (any youth third grade and up) and a refresher training for existing acolytes. Parents are asked to attend this training with their young person. As part of the training, we will cover the importance of the acolyte ministry, proper lighting and extinguishing of the candles, fire safety and what to do if you are unable to attend worship on a Sunday you are scheduled to acolyte. This required training should not take long, but it is mandatory for those young people who are serving as acolytes. If you have questions or concerns, please see Pastor Charlene or Coordinator Jill Lindhorst.

Pajama Worship at Republic Trinity

Pajama Worship at Republic Trinity was a huge success! Thanks to everyone who came out to worship and hear the Christmas story through the Alphabet.

Young and Young-at-Heart all celebrated in worship together. It was an amazing night of worship!



Thanksgiving Dinner

Thank you to all who assisted to make Thanksgiving Dinner possible! Just a couple pictures of the helpers preparing the dinner and fellowship hall.





The Southern Points

Melmore UMC ~ Sycamore UMC ~
Union Salem UMC

What's Happening in Worship in the Southern Points

Although it is hard to say what the weather might be dishing out in the upcoming weeks, we know that it is likely (as we live in Ohio) that it will get colder at some point, and, that there could very well be some of those dreaded “s” words (sleet and snow) in our near future. Yet the warmth of our worship together will continue all the same. The first week of January (2nd), we will remember our baptisms (and at Sycamore, we will celebrate a baptism) and then celebrate communion on the 9th. On January 16th, Pastor Amy will be taking a Sunday off and on January 30th, Pastor Charlene will be in the pulpit. We will also start a new sermon series this month called “The Body of Christ” as we continue to celebrate the season of Epiphany in the days leading up to Lent. In this series, we will study and honor all of the ways that the church works as one body in remembrance of Christ.

Movie Night-Sycamore

A big thank you to Kim Mohr for setting up his “big screen,” Linda Mygrant for making us hot chocolate, and Ashley Myers for coming up with the most fun Christmas games for our *The Grinch that Stole Christmas* movie night! A good time was had by all.



Kids Programming

Junior Youth continues at Union-Salem on January 11th and 25th and 5:30. On December 14th, we took time to celebrate the birth of Jesus together with music, games and crafts (as well as some delicious treats). In January, we will continue our study of the life of David. A big thank you to all of our teachers, helpers, and cooks! We are blessed to have a wonderful group of people who work hard to make sure our children have an opportunity to learn and grow in their faith.



Bible Quiz

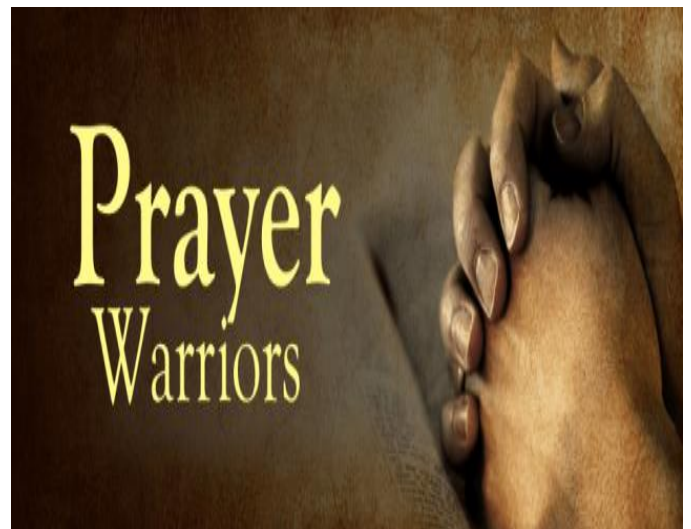
Quizzing resumes in January with a match on January 23rd at Evangelical Pietist at 2:30 pm. Come out and support Noah and Luke McDaniel from Union-Salem UMC as they continue to quiz on the Gospel of John.

Christmas in the Village

Sycamore UMC would like to thank everyone who came out and helped with Christmas in the Village on December 11th. Despite the seriously windy weather, a good time was had by all! There were delicious pancakes and eggs at the church in the morning. And in the evening, after the parade and during the village festivities, the church served 160 hotdogs alongside chips, hot chocolate and coffee—and hundreds of delicious cupcakes for a wonderful “Happy Birthday Jesus” party. (Please see pictures on the last page)

#HisLightStillShines

Last year, when many of our most vulnerable were in lock down because of Covid-19, Pastor Amy and I were searching for ways to remain connected with all of our congregation members. We decided that the power of prayer could penetrate any walls! So, we began doing prayer walks at area nursing homes, hospitals and rehab facilities. We were blessed through this ministry. We called it His Light Still Shines because even on the darkest of days, God's light shines brightly through God's people. Several folks on our Better Together team wanted to revive the prayer gatherings/walks. Dominic Consolo and Donna McConahay are co-chairs of the prayer walks and are hoping that you will join them at 4:30 p.m. on January 16 and January 23 as we begin, once again, to take our prayers out into the world. Watch for more information to be announced at worship services.



Gazebo Update

Just in time for Christmas in the Village, the gazebo took another ride so that it could be moved just a little closer to what we hope we be its more “permanent” location.

The Sycamore Gazebo Preservation Society met on November 19th and discussed placement plans and will be working to have the concrete pad poured this April and the gazebo in its permanent location by Memorial Day so that events can be scheduled and held in the gazebo this summer.

In the meantime, the Mohawk Community Service Club members wasted no time after its recent move and finished decorating it in true holiday style. The Gazebo was the “host site” for Santa and his helpers during Christmas in the Village. If you missed Christmas in the Village, you may want to mark your calendar for next year, but in the meantime, feel free to drive by the corner of North Sycamore Ave. (231) and 5th St. and enjoy the beautiful decorations!



Friday Fun Days-Melmore

It may be cold outside, but Friday Fun Days are hot, hot, hot! Last month, we enjoyed a special presentation by local historian, Kim Mohr. Kim is the president of both the Mohawk Historical Society and the Sycamore Gazebo Preservation Society and has spent many years collecting artifacts and stories about the local area. He shared pictures and stories from Eden Township and a wonderful discussion of local history ensued. And, as usual, thanks to the delightful Charlene Biller and her delicious cooking, no one went away hungry!

We would love to have you come and join us for a program! Below is our schedule for the upcoming months. And, if you would be interested in sharing a talent or gift with us, contact Pastor Amy.

January 14-local artist, John Cochran, presents a program on his stained-glass artistry.

February 11-master gardener, Jean Preston, shares her knowledge and love of butterflies and how we can help them thrive.

March 18-Michael Gabel-Everything You Want to Know About Technology but Were Afraid to Ask (Bring your phones, computers, tablets, etc. This will be a “show and tell and learn” event.).



Joyful Contagions Comeback

For those of you who are unfamiliar with Joyful Contagions, it started back when the pandemic was “new” and we were jokingly trying to find ways to “infect” people with “joy” during a time when many folks were still homebound. However, what started out as a text stream between half a dozen people, quickly turned into a ministry as ideas started flowing.

Our first delivery was a little “corny”—popcorn and jokes and movie suggestions. It was followed by Advent bags and other “sweet” ideas that let people know that they were not alone and that others were thinking about them. It took some time for us to perfect our system—delivery took a long time when we were dropping off to all church members, but we mapped it out and created zones for delivery and were able to reduce the amount of time it took to make drop-offs.

More recently, during a Better Together meeting, we discussed how as the pandemic drags on, there are people who are still in need of a little pick-me-up. To that end, we have decided to bring the Joyful Contagion back with a renewed purpose to ***“uplift those who are shut-in, hurting, healing and isolated.”***

However, to make this a success, we need your help. If you know someone who fits into one of those categories above, please let us know by contacting Laura O’Millian at lomillian5@yahoo.com or (419) 618-0873.

Also, if you would like to volunteer to help in this mission, we could use people who have great ideas or would like to bring ideas to fruition in the following ways: finding items to distribute; packaging items, donating items (or helping to fund the purchase of items); or delivering items (Note: deliveries work better if you have a team, and one person can drive while the other navigates and delivers, so we are looking for both kinds of people.). If you just want to come and find out if this ministry is for you, we will be having a workday on January 19th at 1:00 pm at St. Paul’s in Tiffin.



Calendar of Events for the Southern Points

1/2-10:00 am-Baptism of Malia Sausan Ames @ Sycamore UMC

1/2-2:30 pm-Bible Quiz @ Evangelical Faith Fellowship

1/3-7:00 pm-PPR @ Sycamore UMC

1/5-10:30 am-Combined Bible Study @ Sycamore UMC
The Case for Christ

1/9-Communion Sunday

1/10-6:00 pm-PPR @ Union-Salem UMC

1/10-7:00 pm-PPR @ Union-Salem UMC

1/11-5:30 pm-Junior Youth @ Union-Salem UMC

1/12-10:30 am-Combined Bible Study @ Sycamore UMC

1/14-10:00 am-Fun Day Friday @ Melmore UMC
w/ Johnny Cochran presenting on his stained-glass art

1/16-Pastor Amy off

1/17-7:00 pm-One Board Meeting @ Sycamore UMC

1/19-No Combined Bible Study @ Sycamore UMC

1/19-1:00 pm-Joyful Contagion Workday @ St. Paul's UMC

1/23-2:30 pm-Bible Quiz @ Evangelical Pietest

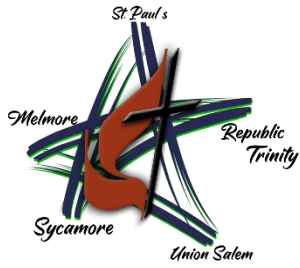
1/24-6:30 pm-Better Together @ Melmore UMC

1/25-5:30-7:00 pm-Junior Youth @ Union-Salem UMC

1/26-10:30 am-Combined Bible Study @ Sycamore UMC

1/30-Pulpit Swap Sunday

1/31-6:30 pm-5 Church PPR Meeting @ Melmore UMC



5 POINTS PARISH

Five Points Celebrations

Birthdays, Anniversaries & Celebrations Across the Five Points Parish

Happy Birthday to:

- 2 – Ryan Hampshire-Melmore
- 3 – Nathan Maybee-Melmore
- 4 – Barbara Letterly-Melmore
- 6 – Shanna Price-Melmore
- 8 -- Lydia McDaniel-Union-Salem
- 9 – John Morter-Melmore
- 9--Doris Riedel-Sycamore
- 10 -- Jessica Creamer-Union-Salem
- 10 – Dylan Fox-Melmore
- 11 – Becky Price-Melmore
- 13 -- Jean Byrd-Union-Salem
- 13 -- Pat Riedel-Union-Salem
- 13 - James Roush-Melmore
- 15 – Nathaniel Luhring-Melmore
- 16 – Donna McConahay - St. Paul's
- 18 -- Dylan Orians-Union-Salem
- 19 – Paul Brookes-Melmore
- 19 - Christine Davidson-Melmore
- 20 – Janet Rennels - St. Paul's
- 20 -- Kathy Atkins-Union-Salem
- 20 -- Quin Voorhees-Union-Salem
- 21 – Andrew Luhring-Melmore
- 23 – Shirley Counselman - St. Paul's
- 23 -- Bonnie Snook-Union-Salem
- 24 – Charlene Biller-Melmore
- 24 -- Luke McDaniel-Union-Salem
- 25 -- Jean Preston-Melmore
- 25 – Catie Yambert-Melmore
- 26--Marjorie McCall-Sycamore
- 27 – Elaine Luhring-Melmore
- 28 – Shandell Dilgard
- 28 -- Jessica Luhring-Melmore
- 28 -- Thomas Price-Melmore
- 31 – Charlotte Michaels-Melmore

Happy Anniversary to:

16-Barb and Frank Letterly-Melmore



Thank You!

Thank you so much for the gifts of appreciation and thoughtfulness this Christmas season. I am so blessed to be in ministry with all of our churches. You have been wonderful to me and to my family and I cannot thank you enough.

My prayer is that your holiday season was blessed, and you feel ready to take on the challenges of the new year. Please know how much I value each and every one of you.

In Appreciation -
Pastor Charlene, David, and Dominic

