



One Great Hour of Sharing



Started in 1949, One Great Hour of Sharing is a long-standing ecumenical effort aimed at raising the funds necessary to provide relief and reconstruction for communities in the aftermath of disaster. What started as an hour-long radio appeal has evolved over the years, varying from eight to 29 participating denominations, and has become the most participated-in Offering in the Presbyterian Church (USA). The offering is received during the season of Lent and makes a difference in the world through three impactful programs: Presbyterian Disaster Assistance (PDA) which works alongside communities as they recover and find hope after the

devastation of natural or human-caused disasters. This program receives 32% of the funds raised and our congregation has sent workers to Gulfport, MS and Jamaica, NY to work after hurricanes; Presbyterian Hunger Program (PHP) which takes action to alleviate hunger and the systemic causes of poverty so all may be fed. This program receives 36% of the funds raised; and Self-Development of People (SDOP) which invests in communities responding to their experiences of racism, oppression, poverty and injustice and educates Presbyterians about the impact of these societal ills. This program received 32% of the funds raised. Please prayerfully consider giving to this worthy offering by marking on your offering envelopes or checks **One Great Hour of Sharing** Thank you.

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All Sunday Morning services will be held via the Youtube channel The Vine Fellowship in Copley.

Pastor's Pen

Dear Members and Friends of The Vine Fellowship Church,

By the time you read this edition of TVF News, we will have already moved through the first two weeks of Lent. It is hard to believe that it was one year ago, the third Sunday of Lent (March 15), when we postponed in-person worship and we have not gathered together in our Main Hall ever since.

The other day, I spoke with a fraternity brother, Doug Jacobs who has come through his bout with Covid-19. We were reminiscing and he brought up a weekend, a few years ago, when the fraternity brothers and their spouses were all together at Oglebay Park in Wheeling, WV. He was remembering some of us talking about going to the Holy Land at some time in our lives. He then told me that he and his wife went on a pilgrimage a few years ago and what a life-changing experience it was for them. He talked about the first leg of the trip that took them to Egypt, then to Jordan, and then to Israel. We were reminiscing about Bethlehem; the Garden of Gethsemane and those olive trees that were there when Jesus lived; The Church of the Holy Sepulchre, the traditional site of Jesus' crucifixion; and the stations of the cross. Our phone visit brought back memories of the trip I took in 1998 as I visited some of the same places and sites as Doug and SueAnn. It made me think about our group walking through the streets of Jerusalem on the road Jesus traveled as he carried His cross to Golgotha. Today, that road is known as the Via Dolorosa, *the way of sorrows*. One of the things our group was able to experience was actually carrying a cross along that road to give us an idea of what it might have been like for Jesus to make that lonely journey to the place where He would suffer and die.

Hebrews 10:10 says, "And by that will, we have been made holy through the sacrifice of the body of Jesus Christ once for all." For centuries, the Jews had sought to come into the presence of God through the sacrifice of animals and through keeping the law. And yet we read in that same chapter 10 of Hebrews that the law was "only a shadow of the good things that are coming" (vs.1), for "it is impossible for the blood of bulls and goats to take away sins" (vs. 4).

At the end of Jesus' Via Dolorosa was His death, but also His resurrection. And it was because of His ultimate sacrifice that we can be made holy when we trust Him to forgive us of our sins. Jesus' way of sorrow opened up for us a new and living way to God.

May the Lord be with you as we make our way to the last few days of March and the beginning of April- Holy Week- a week that shook the world.

Yours in Christ and on the Journey together,

Mark

Worship Opportunities

Sunday, March 7th 3rd Sunday of Lent, Communion

11:00 a.m. Worship Service

Scripture: John 4:5-30, 39-42

Sermon: "Left Behind"

Sunday, March 14th 4th Sunday of Lent

11:00 a.m. Worship Service

Scripture: John 2:13-22

Sermon: "House Cleaning"

Sunday, March 21st 5th Sunday in Lent

11:00 a.m. Worship Service

Scripture: Jeremiah 31:31-34 & Psalm 51:1-12

Sermon: "The Heart of the Matter"

Sunday, March 28th Palm/Passion Sunday

11:00 a.m. Worship Service

Scripture: Matthew 21:1-11 & Revelation 5:12

Sermon: "He is Worthy"

NOTE: Until further notice, all services will be live streamed on YouTube. Search @ The Vine Fellowship in Copley.

Lenten Bible Study

How Can Lent Be Personal for Me?

Lent has begun, and many of us worshipped on Ash Wednesday and even applied ashes to our foreheads. So how do we follow up? *Walking with Jesus** will come to your inbox if we have an email address for you every weekend with the portion of the study for that week. In addition during the week you will receive a daily Lenten Bible reading taken from the study. You may work through it on your own or with someone else or in a Zoom group. If you do not have access to a printer, we have run a couple of print copies that you may request by emailing or calling Pat Franklin (330.928.8765 or pjfranklin.820@gmail.com).

The Thursday morning men's group will be using the study once they have finished their current topic. In addition we are offering a one hour 7:30 pm Wednesday Zoom study. Details will be sent to you on the connection link. If you would like to participate, it would be helpful if we (contact Pat) have your email address so we can ensure that everyone who wants it gets the connecting link.

May your own "walk with Jesus" during Lent deepen your understanding of the strong love God has for us and strengthen your commitment to live as light to others.

Per Capita/ Zoom Meeting

Words of Encouragement

Per Capita for 2021 is \$32.00. Please consider giving to this line item in the church budget. Thank you. The Stewardship & Finance Team



Interested in joining in and seeing/communicating with others either by phone or computer? If so, we are going to set up another Zoom Gathering on Sunday, March 14th at 7:00 p.m. Elder Pat Franklin, who oversees our Prayer Chain, will be getting the information out the week of March 8th. If you have any problems or questions, call the church office and we will be glad to assist you. Thanks. Pastor Mark

Here we are one month away from Easter! I always look forward to Easter. As a little girl, it was a new fancy dress and sitting through that 6 am sunrise service and then Sunday School and then “big church” all with the anticipation of a few sweet treats in a basket that we knew was at home waiting for us! Over the years, the new dress and the basket full of chocolate became a sweet memory but the reflection of the cross, the tomb and the rolled away stone has become more beautiful. We don’t tend to think of blood as beautiful but when I pause to think about my precious Savior’s blood flowing down to the foot of the cross, when I take in the imagery of His broken body spilling out His life’s blood just because He loved me?? That’s when that 3rd verse of my most favorite hymn truly speaks to my soul... “And when I think that God, His Son not sparing sent Him to die, I scarce can take it in. That on the cross my burdens gladly bearing, He bled and died to take away my sin.” Truly, I scarce can take it in! I would ask as we sing our way through the Lenten season that you don’t just sing the songs but that you take the time to reflect on the words and what they mean in your daily walk with your Savior.

- Kay Belsar

Prayer Concerns/ Bible Studies

Pray for our military: Paul Jones - Air Force

Please continue to pray for: Jacob Jaworsky, JC Crawford, Pat Lally, Shirley Gibson, John and Eileen Baker, Gary Robertson, Stephanie Bankey, William Belser, Doug and SueAnn Jacobs, Pete Jones, Frank Weaver, Steve Rowland, Evelyn Bell, Danielle Porter, Nancy Dunaway, David Cook, JoAnn Marcinkoski, Mia Wilson, All of those who are infected by the Coronavirus, The medical staff treating those infected, Members in Senior Living Facilities, The humanitarian crisis in Texas, Unrest and killing in our country and around the world, Racial reconciliation, Refugee crisis around the world, Syrian Refugee Educational Initiative, The Middle East, Local Missions: Love Akron, The Well C.D.C, Truly Reaching You, Patris, and Naomi Rahmat (Missionary to Immigrant Students and Refugees in Central Ohio) Mark Hare - and wife Jenny Bent (Costa Rica) and Elmarie & Scott Parker (Lebanon/Syria), The Persecuted Church.

The PCUSA, President Biden and elected officials.

Men’s Thursday Morning Bible Study

Every Thursday morning a group of men of all ages are currently meeting on a Zoom call at 6:45 am for Bible study and fellowship. If you would like to join this study, please contact Keith Morgenstern

The Women’s Bible Review Fellowship, Tuesday Club, Afternoon Circle, WNGS

The above Bible Studies will not be meeting during the pandemic.

February Session Highlights

- The Session approved (Stewardship & Finance Team) the proposed 2021 budget that will be presented at the February 28, 2021 Annual Congregational Meeting for the congregation to receive.
- The Session approved a motion made by Elders Edie English and Pat Franklin to amend the church by-laws that will be voted on at the February 28, 2021 Annual Congregational Meeting. The amendments are in bold italics:

Article VI. Meetings

Section 9. Congregational meetings may be held in person or via a videoconference. If the meeting is held via videoconference, the meeting invitation would be sent to the congregation two (2) weeks prior. At the beginning of the meeting, voting procedures will be outlined and explained, including that voting is for active members.

Article VII. Amendments

Section 1. These by-laws may be amended subject to the charter of the Corporation, the laws of the State of Ohio, and the Constitution of The Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) at any annual meeting or at any special meeting by a two-third (2/3) vote of the voters present provided that a full reading of the proposed changes or a printed distribution of the same **or electronic form of the same** shall have been made in connection with the call of the meeting.

- The Christian Growth & Development Team reported on the Lenten Bible Study written by John Birch titled *Walking with Jesus* that they will be encouraging people to participate in. Currently three small groups are being planned for the series that will meet via Zoom or some other platform.
- The Property & Maintenance Team reported on the following projects: 1) new carpet that will be installed in February at the entrance to the Main Hall; 2) The wireless network has been upgraded (by Small Business Technologies, Wadsworth) to resolve the unreliable signal that we have been experiencing; 3) Kane Sign Company has been contacted to remove the HUB from the signage on Cleveland-Massillon Rd.; 4) new outlets for the sound system will be installed in the Main Hall and new cables will be installed for in wall sound system connections.

THE VINE FELLOWSHIP CHURCH

3676 Community Lane

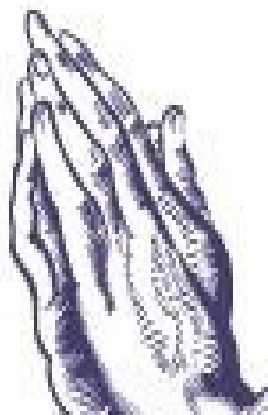
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ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

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As a caring Christian community, The Vine Fellowship Church welcomes all people as we proclaim, witness and teach the good news of Jesus Christ through worship, prayer and service.

Prayer Meeting



We are inviting the congregation to join in a weekly time of prayer and reading from God's word beginning at 7:30 pm Monday evening. An outline will be available via the prayer chain. If you're not on the prayer chain contact Pat Franklin at
pjfranklin.820@gmail.com.

The Vine Fellowship Church

***Worship begins at
11:00 am.***

Mark T. Ruppert - Pastor

Kay Belser - Pianist and
Director of Music Ministry

Audrey Nolte - Administra-
tive Assistant

Plain English

Is prayer your steering wheel or your spare tire?