



TVE News

Annual Congregational Meeting

Due to the pandemic and our inability to meet in person, we will be resorting to a zoom meeting for our Annual Congregational Meeting on February 28th at 1:00 pm. The packet of materials (this includes the Agenda, reports from the Clerk, Treasurer, Deacons, Staff, Teams, Presentation of the Pastor's Terms of Call and the Proposed 2021 Budget, Report from the 2020-2021 Nominating Team) will be either emailed to those who have email and can print the materials or sent through the postal service. The week of the meeting, those who are receiving information through our church Prayer Chain will be given information on how to join in on the zoom meeting by way of your computer, phone, or iPad. All previous years, when we were gathering in person for these meetings, those who were not active members of the church and friends of the church were welcome to stay on for this meeting but were not able to speak or vote. Due to the nature of holding this meeting via Zoom, we will only be able to have active members join in this year. If you have any questions or concerns, call the church office and speak with Audrey Nolte, Administrative Assistant or Pastor Mark.



Monthly Zoom Meeting

The first Saturdays in November, December and January, I have been holding a "Congregational Zoom Gathering" for anyone who would like to see/speak with other folks from our church. We have been averaging between 11-14 people and it has been very meaningful to those who have signed on. In February, we are moving to Sunday evening, February 14th at 7:00 pm to see how that day and time works. So if you are interested in joining in and seeing/communicating with others either by phone or computer, Elder Pat Franklin, who oversees our Prayer Chain, will be getting the information out the week of February 8th. If you have any problems or questions, call the church office and we will be glad to assist you. Thanks. Pastor Mark

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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:

I don't know about you, but I am getting tired- tired of this virus; tired of what has happened with our national politics; tired of being so short with my wife, Margaret and Margaret with me and falling back on the excuse of the pandemic; tired of not being with family and friends; tired of being tired. And the weather in northeast Ohio doesn't help, right?

So, what do you do when you are tired in a lot of areas of your life? At a recent Zoom Copley Chamber of Commerce meeting, we were discussing topics to address in 2021 that would be helpful to the various business folks who were on the computer screen. People were talking about having someone speak to mental health (mind); people were talking about the importance of staying physically active (body); and, after a time, I spoke up and said something like, "putting on my pastor's hat and from my perspective, and being sensitive that some might not agree, there is a spiritual component to all of this. I believe body, mind and spirit are intertwined and when one of these areas gets out of whack, it affects the other two." And that is when a staff person from one of the nursing homes (that happens to be affiliated with a Christian denomination) spoke up and affirmed what I was saying. And then other people chimed in and affirmed what I was saying.

So how are you doing taking care of your body, mind, and spirit? It is not always easy to address the body during the cold winter months but bundling up and getting outside for a walk, regardless of the temperature, or going to the gym or walking on a treadmill or riding an exercise bike, lifting weights or using exercise bands can all help our bodies. Setting aside time each day for the reading of scripture, prayer and meditation can help our spirit. What you watch on TV and read; how you spend your time; communicating with people via phone, texting, emailing, or zooming; having a set time when you go to bed and when you get up can have an impact on your mind. Not to mention how much time you spend on the computer via Facebook, Zoom, searching through Google, twitter, texting, and any other technical way you can spend hours upon hours of your time to the point that you do not even realize.

Yes, body, mind, and spirit are intertwined together and how we take care of all three can make all the difference in our relationship with God and with each other. And if you don't believe me, just ask my wife.

I leave you with this passage from scripture from Paul's letter to the Thessalonians where he writes, "May your whole spirit, soul and body be kept blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ". (I Thessalonians 5:23) Have a good month of February and know that I pray for you daily.

Yours in Christ and on the Journey together,

mark

Worship Opportunities

Sunday, February 7th

5th Sunday after Epiphany

11:00 a.m. Worship Service

Scripture: John 1:1-5; 19:17-18

Sermon: "The Light and the Nail"

Sunday, February 14th

Transfiguration of the Lord

11:00 a.m. Worship Service

Scripture: Mark 9:2-9 & II Corinthians 4:3-6

Sermon: "Blinded from the Light"

Wednesday, February 17th

7 p.m. Ash Wednesday

7:00 p.m. Worship Service

Please join us for a Live Stream, YouTube Meditative Service

Sunday, February 21st

1st Sunday in Lent

11:00 a.m. Worship Service

Scripture: Mark 1:9-13

Sermon: "Ministered by Angels"

Sunday, February 28th

2nd Sunday in Lent

11:00 a.m. Worship Service

Scripture: Psalm 118:22-23 & Mark 8:31-38

Sermon: "He was Rebuked and Rejected by His Own"

NOTE: Until further notice, all services will be live streamed on YouTube.

Search @ The Vine Fellowship in Copley. If you subscribe to the page, it will make it easier each Sunday to log on. Just click on Subscribe and you will be all set.

With Sympathy



Sympathy of the congregation goes out to the Tran and McGill families on the death of Ken Smith. Ken died on January 11, 2021

Sympathy of the congregation goes out to the Hillebrand and Younkin family on the death of Dr. Ralph (Bud) Younkin (Laurie Hillebrand's Dad). Bud died on January 16, 2021. Bud's Celebration of Life Service will be February 6th down in Florida.



Christmas Joy Offering

The leadership of our church want to thank you for your faithful giving to our denomination's Christmas Joy Offering. During the month of December, you gave a total of \$479.00 to this worthy collection. Many thanks.



Update: Beirut Hope Project

On August 4, 2020 at approximately 11 a.m. EDT, a terrible explosion occurred at the Port of Beirut. 204 people died; 7,500 were injured; the cost in property damage was US\$15 billion; 300,000 people were left homeless.

Our church, along with other churches in Eastminster Presbytery, contributed to the Beirut Hope Project. What follows is a report the **Beirut Hope Project** from Georges Ziadeh, Executive Director of the Compassion Protestant Society (CPS).

CPS is the diaconal (social services) arm of NESSL, organized as a nonprofit organization. After the devastating explosion in the Port of Beirut in August 2020, CPS created Beirut Hope Project to respond to the immediate needs of people whose homes were destroyed in the blast.

The goal for Beirut Hope Project is to provide financial assistance to 1,000 families to assist with repairing their apartment, house, or business through grants of \$1,000 per household. So far, \$225,000 has been raised and almost 200 families have received financial assistance. Funds are provided as a debit card so that families may purchase what they need.

Beneficiaries of the Beirut Hope grants are mainly Protestant families referred by Beirut churches to CPS and from another organization organized specifically to respond to the blast. The explosion in the Port of Beirut in August affected mainly the Christian area of the city, displacing 350,000 people and destroying or damaging 63,000 homes/apartments and 40,000 restaurants, hospitals, and institutions.



Prayer Concerns/ Bible Studies

Pray for our military: Paul Jones - Air Force

Please continue to pray for: Jacob Jaworsky, Kim Smith, Pete & Margaret Jones, JC Crawford, Frank Weaver, Steve Rowland, Pat Lally, Shirley Gibson, Evelyn Bell, David Cook, JoAnn Marcinkoski, Mia Wilson, John & Eileen Baker, Gary Robertson, Stephanie Bankey, Danielle Porter, Kay and William Belser. The distribution of the Coronavirus vaccine, Those who have lost their lives and homes to natural disasters. All of those who are infected by the Coronavirus, The medical staff treating those infected, Members in Senior Living Facilities, 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, Missionaries Mark Hare - and wife Jenny Bent (Costa Rica) and Elmarie & Scott Parker (Lebanon/Syria), Patras & Naomi Rahmat (Missionaries to Immigrant Students and Refugees in central Ohio), President Joe Biden and his cabinet. The Persecuted Church.

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 at keith.morgenstern@hotmail.com

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

The above Bible Studies are not meeting currently.

Per Capita

Each year, every Presbyterian Church is asked to pay per capita for every active church member. Per capita is a fundamental way in which all of the nearly 10,000 congregations and mid councils of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) connect, participate and share in the work of the wider church. Per Capita is the primary source of funding for the Office of the General Assembly, and is how Presbyterians mutually and equitably share the costs of coming together to discern the Spirit's leading for the future. The breakdown for this year's Per Capita is:

\$8.98 General Assembly, PCUSA
\$3.25 Synod of the Covenant (MI & OH)
\$19.77 Eastminster Presbytery
\$32.00 Total

Please. Prayerfully consider contributing \$32 over-and-above your weekly/monthly/yearly giving as this is a line-item of the church budget. Thank you.

Session Highlights

January Session Highlights

- The first part of the Session Meeting was a joint meeting of the Elders and the Deacons.
- The Annual Congregational Zoom Meeting will take place at 1 p.m. on Sunday, February 28th. Deacons will be contacting the Active Members on their call list to determine how they want to receive the Annual Report and 2020 Financial Report- either via email or postal mail.
- Staff Reviews (Personnel & Leadership Team) will take place on Tuesday, January 26th.
- Elder Edie English and Dr. Ruppert are participating in a once-a-month West Area (Eastminster Presbytery) Collaborations Clergy/Elders zoom Meeting to discuss ways the west area church can work together and support each other in our mission and ministry.

Ash Wednesday!

Thank you!!

As we begin the season of Lent, you are invited to tune in to our service on February 17th. YouTube at 7:00 p.m. The service will involve prayers, readings, quiet reflection, a brief message, and yes, the distribution of ashes. If you are interested in applying your own ashes in the comfort of your home, we ask that you prepare ashes and have them ready for the appropriate time that Pastor Mark will be distributing them to those who are at the church help-



Ash Wednesday
— Lent Begins

As many of you know, Donna Porter's granddaughter, Danielle Porter, was in a serious car accident last year that left her hospitalized for several months, followed by rehab. Donna recently sent a "thank you" and this is what she wrote:

Dear Deacons, Friends, Sisters/Brothers in Christ.

I can't begin to tell you how much your support means to me; your nurturing, the delicious meals, the money, phone calls and last, but not least, the wonderful Christmas you provided for Lyric and Levi [Donna's great-grandchildren]. Danielle is very thankful for everything and cries when she talks about it.

God Bless Each of You,

Donna and Family

Fellowship Directory Info

Happy February Everyone!

It has almost been a year since we have joined as a congregation in person. I wish I could be in person worshipping with all of you, so I could get to know you all better. That being said, I am going to be updating our Fellowship Directory so that we are up to date and current with who our members are. This will help out the people such as myself who are at the church almost daily, and also elders, deacons, and anyone else who might want to get in contact with another member safely!

What I need from each of you is the following:

Name, Address, Phone Number, Email

Address and an updated picture to go

with the contact (optional) if you would like to include spouses or children within your family, you may include those as well.

If I could get this info from each adult member in the church by 2-20-21, that would be great! My email to submit the materials to is aa.vinefellowship@gmail.com. If you would like to send them by mail or come out to drop your materials off, send me an email and we can speak further.

Thank-you all so much!

Audrey Nolte

Lentin Bible Series

Gardeners are beginning to think about their 2021 plantings in the coming spring. As followers of Jesus special times in the calendar prompt us to cultivate our spiritual growth. With this in mind Christian Growth and Development is planning a 5-week Lenten series called "Walking with Jesus". This study of Jesus from the gospels of Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John includes the events leading up to and the crucifixion, and his resurrection and ends with some incidents following the resurrection.

Because of limitations from Covid, we have planned only some Zoom groups, not in-person groups. Otherwise participants can study individually or perhaps within a family or with a prayer partner. We have purchased the right to distribute this via email to everyone on the prayer chain. This will be done by Ash Wednesday (February 17) or before. We know that some people do not use computers and/or printers, so if you would like to receive a print copy, please contact Pat Franklin at 330.928.8765 or pjfranklin.820@gmail.com by Valentine's day so we can get the materials before Lent. Also if you are interested in participating in a Zoom discussion of the lessons, let Pat know. Right now three people have indicated they are interested in leading a group.

January Encouragement

January is already over and here we are at the beginning of February just TWO WEEKS away from Ash Wednesday which leads us into Lent and then Holy Week. I feel like I am just catching my breath from the Christmas Eve service and it's already time to start planning music for the Easter season. I was thinking about Ash Wednesday and the things that people give up for Lent. I thought....hmmm, what in the world are we going to "give up" this year?? What's left to give up?? We've given up everything from in person church, eating out, shopping, in person school, office cubicles....even shaking hands and hugging for goodness sakes!! Each year, during the Ash Wednesday service we sing "Create in Me a Clean Heart". So, as I was thinking about the words to that song, I thought "there it is. THIS is what we have to give up... our hearts...the only thing He asks us for. Haven't I already given Him my heart? Of course! But this is a daily renewing of my heart and mind so that I can become more like Him every day. I challenge you to spend some time meditating on the words to this song that we will sing virtually in just 2 weeks. I love The Message version of this passage (Psalms 51:7-12) "Soak me in Your laundry and I'll come out clean, scrub me and I'll have a snow-white life. Tune me in to foot-tapping songs, set these once-broken bones to dancing. Don't look too close for blemishes, give me a clean bill of health. God make a fresh start in me, shape a Genesis week from the chaos of my life. Don't throw me out with the trash, or fail to breathe holiness in Bring me back from gary exile, put a fresh wind in my sails". - Kay Belsar

THE VINE FELLOWSHIP CHURCH

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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.

**PLEASE NOTE: IF
THOSE OF US WHO
HAVE BEEN AT THE
CHURCH ON SUN-
DAY MORNINGS
LIVESTREAMING
THE SERVICE ARE
NOT PERMITTED TO
DO SO, PASTOR
MARK WILL STILL
LIVE STREAM
FROM HIS HOME AT
11 A.M. SUNDAY
MORNINGS.**

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

During the great flood, what did Noah do with the woodpeckers?