



Reserve Your Spot for Worship

As many of you are learning, you will be able to come to the church for in-person worship, beginning Sunday, May 2nd. Unfortunately, because of the limited space in our Main Hall and Cafe and due to safely distancing people, it will be necessary for those who want to attend in-person to make reservations. There are two ways to make reservations: 1. By going to the church website (www.thevinefellowshipcopley.org) and filling out a form/survey (this is the preferred way and the easiest for our Administrative Assistant, Audrey Nolte to process) and 2. By calling the church office and making your reservation. With both ways, we are asking that you make your reservation by 5 p.m. Friday, before the Sunday service. What an exciting time for all of us as we look forward to gathering again as a community of faith. We hope to see U in CH_RCH soon.



Inside this issue:

Pastor's Pen	2
Session Highlights	2
Worship Opportunities	3
Prayer Concerns	4
Prayer Meeting	5

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:

It is hard to believe that it has been over a year since we have gathered for in-person worship. Sunday, March 8, 2020, the day that Daylight Savings Time began, was the last time we were together in worship. It seems like eternity, doesn't it?

This time away from each other has been hard on all of us. We all know of people who have contracted the virus. Some have had mild cases while others have been hospitalized and even on ventilators. Some have died. One of our own, Nancy Smith, was one of them. Some now have chronic medical issues. And we are not "out of the woods" yet due to variants of the virus that keep rearing their ugly heads. As a matter of fact, other parts of the world are really struggling with Covid cases. I just read (on April 22nd) that the country of India recorded the world's highest daily tally of 314,835 COVID-19 infections as a second wave of the pandemic raised new fears about the ability of crumbling health services to cope. And to make matters worse, most hospitals in India are full and they were running out of oxygen. So, even if things are getting better in our country there are other parts of the world where the suffering continues and is getting worse.

But through it all the Lord was and continues to be "with us." It will be a glorious day when we are together again. Please, stay well, stay safe, and stay virus-free.

May the Lord bless you always. (Hebrews 13:5)

Yours in Christ and on the Journey together,

Mark

April Session Highlights

- Session approved the new Building Use Policy and Event Information Form that was presented by the Building Use Task Force (Tony Miller, Pat Franklin, Andy Schrum and Mark Ruppert).
- Session approved (Community Ministry/Mission Team) a \$400 donation from the Mills Foundation Community Fund to support Habitat for Humanity's latest building project that people from our church will be participating in this summer.
- Christian Growth and Development Team reported that they are preparing one-use/take home worship bags for ages 4-7 and 7-11 as we prepare to hold in-person worship beginning Sunday, May 2nd.
- Property and Maintenance Team reported: 1. That new signage has been installed at the entrance on Community Lane and Cleveland-Massillon Rd. by the Kane Sign Company; 2. Two new water absorbing floor mats are now in the entrance area; 3. Renovations to the kitchen will be taking place in the near future; 4. Plastic barriers for the church soloists have been ordered and one is being used.

Worship Opportunities

Sunday, May 2nd 5th Sunday of Easter/Communion

11:00 a.m. Worship Service

Scripture: Psalm 46

Sermon: "What Have We Learned Since We Have Been Apart?"

Sunday, May 9th 6th Sunday of Easter/Mother's Day

11:00 a.m. Worship Service

Scripture: II Thessalonians 3:16

Sermon: "Peace!"

Sunday, May 16th 7th Sunday of Easter

11:00 a.m. Worship Service

Scripture: Colossians 1:9-14

Sermon: "Where Do We Find Fulfillment?"

Sunday, May 23rd Day of Pentecost

11:00 a.m. Worship Service

Scripture: Acts 2:14a, 22-32, 37-42

Sermon: "The Transforming Power of the Holy Spirit"

Sunday, May 30th Trinity/Memorial Day Sunday

11:00 a.m. Worship Service

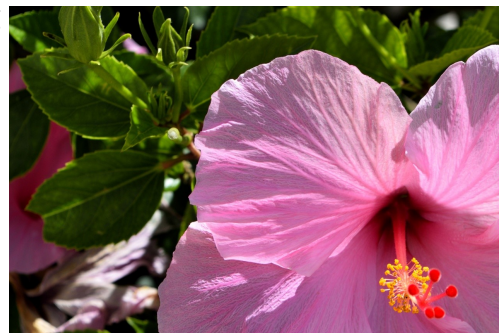
Scripture: II Corinthians 11:17-26

Sermon: "Can't We Come Together?"

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

Words of Encouragement

May is a month of growth. Flowers are blooming, it's time to start cutting the grass and to get out the lawn furniture. We can start being outside more and taking in the beauty of God's creation. More than that, for the congregation at The Vine Fellowship, May marks an event that we have been anticipating for months now...live, in-person worship! The excitement that is building around having people back in the sanctuary is invigorating! I cannot wait to worship with you and to hear your voices lifted in song...even if it is through a mask!! It has been a crazy, scary time but as believers how good it is to know that we are held in the arms of our Father and nothing can happen to us that is outside of His will. There is a song that I love to listen to called He Will Hold Me Fast. My favorite version of it is sung by Selah. Some of the words are "When I fear my faith will fail, Christ will hold me fast; when the tempter would prevail, He will hold me fast. I could never keep my hold through life's fearful path; For my love is often cold, He must hold me fast. He will hold me fast, He will hold me fast; For my Savior loves me so, He will hold me fast." Take some time today to listen. See you in church!! - Kay Belser



TVF Receives a Grant

During Holy Week we were blessed with a grant from Akron Community Foundation, thanks to the philanthropy of the late Lisle M. Buckingham. Mr. Buckingham was a faithful follower of Jesus and member of our church. Thanks to his generosity, we received a grant of \$5,000 for general program support. Thank God, from whom ALL blessings flow.

Welcome to Our New Staff Person

At the March 8th Session Meeting, William Belser was approved as part-time to work in the area of church media. If you have been watching our live stream services on YouTube, you have noticed, over the months, especially our Christmas Eve, Good Friday and Easter services, there has been a lot more technical media included. This has been the result of William's work and it has added so much to the services. We welcome William to this ministry that reaches people as far as Alaska and Florida.



Prayer Concerns/ Bible Studies

Pray for our military: Paul Jones - Air Force

Please continue to pray for: Jacob Jaworsky, Paige Burris, JC Crawford, Pat Lally, Shirley Gibson, Suzanne Gibson, John and Eileen Baker, Gary and Mark Robertson, Stephanie Bankey, William & Kay Belser, Doug and SueAnn Jacobs, Pete & Margaret Jones, Frank Weaver, Steve Rowland, Evelyn Bell, Danielle Porter, Nancy Dunaway, David Cook, JoAnn Marcinkoski, Mia Wilson, John Plawsan, Jon Caito, All of those who are infected by the Coronavirus, The medical staff treating those infected, Members in Senior Living Facilities, those killed in the mass shootings around our country, Unrest and conflict in our country and around the world, Racial reconciliation, Refugee crisis around the world, Migrant situation on the Southern Border, 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 akeith.morgenstern@hotmail.com

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

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

THE VINE FELLOWSHIP

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Your business tag line here.

tvfcopley@gmail.com

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 - Administrative Assistant
William Belser - Media

Plain English

God's grace gives us what we DON'T deserve. God's mercy saves us from what we DO deserve.