



Operation Christmas Child



Just because we are not meeting as a congregation doesn't mean that we can't do Operation Christmas Child Shoebox Ministry. On the website of Samaritan's Purse it states that we can purchase shoeboxes that have already been filled by Samaritan's Purse and stored in their warehouse. On their webpage it says, **"You can still**

help share God's love with children around the world even if you don't have a way to shop for and pack an Operation Christmas Child shoebox gift. ... We'll pack your shoebox and send it for you, for a suggested donation of just \$25." If \$25 dollars is too much of a donation, we will accept any amount you would like to give. Please make your check out to The Vine Fellowship Church with Operation Christmas Child on the note line. In October we will take the amount of money that is collected and purchase the shoeboxes on the Samaritan's Purse website. Don't let COVID19 keep you from putting a smile on a child.



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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

The Thursday Morning Men's (Zoom) Study is working their way through the book of Mark. Thursday, August 20th we were looking at the passage where Jesus walks on the water (Mark 6:45-52). After they witness this miracle, they think it is a ghost (vs. 49) and it says that immediately, he spoke to them and said, "Take courage! It is I. Don't be afraid."

There has been a lot of fear and anxiety ever since this pandemic reared its ugly head and there still is a lot of fear and anxiety today. When I think back to all we have experienced since the middle of March and all the changes that we have had to make, it is mindboggling.

As I was studying this passage, I read something that caught my attention and that is whenever Jesus was absent from the disciples (or appears to be) they find themselves in distress. This really spoke to me as I think about the last 5 months. Yes, there is reason to be concerned and cautious; there is reason to make smart decisions and lean on the learnings and the research and expertise of our scientists. And yes, it is understandable that there is fear and anxiety on the part of people all around the world. Yet, as followers of Jesus, who put our faith and trust in Him, we need to remember that He is never absent from us and that we can take courage from Him and His presence with us. His words, "Take courage. It is I. Don't be afraid", are the reassuring words I need to hear and remember each day.

We have gone through a lot these past 5 months and it is not over, by a long shot. But doing what the best scientific experts in the world tell us to do; being smart with our decisions; trusting in Jesus and the Word of God; and supporting and praying with and for each other is what will get us through.

With the coming of Labor Day, in school terms, the fall season will begin. Many schools have started up and are either going with digital learning, back to the classrooms or a combination of both. We have no idea what the fall and winter seasons will be like and with the flu season right around the corner, it could get really interesting. So, the words of Jesus to His disciples are words that we can take with us into this unfolding and unknown times. Remember and hold onto His words, "Take courage! It is I. Don't be afraid." He is with you and we need to be there, with and for each other.

Bless you all and know that I am praying for you. (Hebrews 13:5)

Yours in Christ and on the Journey together,

Mark

Thank You

As some of you are aware, as a result of Covid-19 and the closing down of the HUB Community Center for the rest of 2020, Denise Negowski, our Marketing and Events Coordinator, is no longer serving on our church staff. We have appreciated the 7 years of Denise's ministry in our midst and her faithful service to her work at the HUB. We pray God's blessings on her as she continues her employment at a local business.

Worship Opportunities

Sunday, September 6th

Communion

11:00 a.m. Worship Service

Scripture: Luke 9:46-48

Sermon: "Ministry"

Sunday, September 13th

11:00 a.m. Worship Service

Scripture: James 5:13-16

Sermon: "Confession and Communion"

Sunday, September 20th

11:00 a.m. Worship Service

Scripture: Lamentations 3:19-24 & Romans 8:31-35, 37-39

Sermon: "Hope in the Midst of Fear"

Sunday, September 27th

11:00 a.m. Worship Service

Scripture: Deuteronomy 6:4-9; I Corinthians 3:10-11; II Corinthians 5:1-5

Sermon: "Turning Your Heart Toward Home"

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

With Sympathy



Sympathy of the Congregation is extended to the family of Jack Warrell who passed away on Wednesday night, August 19th and joined the Church triumphant. He was 93. Jack joined our church on December 23, 2018. Jesus said, "I am the resurrection and the life."

Welcome Baby Maverick

The congregation would like to welcome the newest addition Maverick James Moore-Dunson who was born to Ashley (Ruppert) and Dominic Moore-Dunson on August 5, 2020. Maverick is also the grandson on Mark and Margaret Ruppert and nephew of Rebecca and RaJhon Butler.



Church Receives Memorials

During the month of August, we were blessed to receive memorial gifts in memory of Hope Everhart and Irene Stelts. Both of these faithful followers of Jesus died on July 14th. "Blessed are the dead who die in the Lord." (Revelation 14:13)

Congregation Gathering

We would like to see you on TV

Congregational Gathering
Wednesday , September 9 ,
2020 at 6:30 p.m. Everyone is
invited to gather in the side
yard. Please bring your chair,
mask and water.



How would you like to be on TV and for the right reasons? It was suggested that we encourage our members and friends who would like to share a message of hope/encouragement/where you have seen God, with those who watch our Sunday morning live stream service to do so. What you need to do is video tape your message, keep it to 1 minute (no more)-no more, and send it to Margaret Rupert at mam-arupp@sbcglobal.com. We look forward to receiving your video and airing it on a Sunday morning.



Prayer Concerns/ Bible Studies

Pray for our military: Paul Jones - Air Force

Please continue to pray for: Pete Jones, Larry Vincent, Dr. Bud Younkin, Paul Janos, Frank Weaver, Steve Rowland, Nancy Smith, Pat Franklin, Nancy Dunaway,

David Cook, JoAnn Marcinkoski, Mia Wilson, Gary Robertson, Those who have lost their lives and homes to Hurricane Laura, 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, The city of Kenosha, WI. Refugee crisis around the world, Syrian Refugee Educational Initiative, Beriut, Lebanon, The Middle East, Local Missions: Love Akron, Missionaries Mark Hare - and wife Jenny Bent (Costa Rica) and Elmarie & Scott Parker (Lebanon/Syria), The Persecuted Church.

The PCUSA, President Trump and elected officials.

Men's Thursday Morning Bible Study

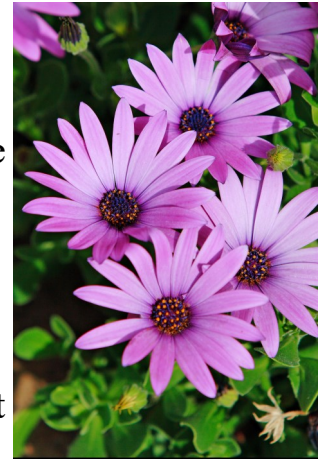
Every Thursday morning a group of men of all ages are currently meeting on a Zoom call at 6:45 am for Bible study and fellowship. If you would like to join this study, please contact Keith Morgenstern at keith.morgenstern@hotmail.com

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

The above Bible Studies will not be meeting during the summer months..

Words of Encouragement

September....the words that people use to describe this month are things like back to school (which can be a positive or negative depending on whether you're a kid or a parent! LOL), pumpkin spice, fall, bonfires, cooler weather, football, etc. Those are all great descriptors for this month but my favorite isn't on that list...my favorite is "Choir Rehearsals Start Again!!" Yet, here we are, heading into the fall of 2020 and month 7 of the pandemic and things are a bit different. I miss my choir! I miss seeing their faces on Thursday nights! I miss joining our voices in worship! I miss seeing your faces on Sunday morning! I cannot wait for that day when we are back together again! In Scripture we are told to "not forsake the assembling of ourselves together" (Hebrews 10:25) and as Mark has been preaching this past month on Community and Unity, it has been a reminder to us that we need to be together. I'm glad that we have modern technology and the capability of live-streaming worship and Zoom meetings to keep us connected at least a little bit but it's definitely not the same as physically being together. The prelude I played a couple weeks ago was an old gospel song called "The Family of God" and I wanted to share those words with you as they remind us of how important our church family is to us and to our daily walk with the Lord. "You will notice we say brother and sister 'round here, It's because we're a family and these folks are so dear. When one has a heartache, we all share the tears, and rejoice in each victory in this family so dear. I'm so glad I'm a part of the family of God, I've been washed in the fountain, cleansed by His blood. Joint heirs with Jesus as we travel this sod, for I'm part of the family, the family of God." I am so very glad that I am a part of THIS family.



News from the Christian Growth Team

Feeling isolated? Want to share some spiritual vitamins with others?

The Christian Growth team will be sending out a short questionnaire soon to determine if we can find additional ways to study together. Men are invited to join the 6:45 am Thursday morning study, and women are invited to dive into the Gospel of John on Wednesday mornings using Community Bible study on-line from 9:45-11:45. Edie English and Pat Franklin have info on that study.

We are also making available some children's curriculum to work on at home with parents and guardians. If you have additional needs or options, help us explore them by contacting Brenda Fisher or Pat Franklin.



AUGUST SESSION HIGHLIGHTS

- Session approved (Worship Team) a new document- *Posting Guidelines: Social Media & Bulletin Boards* (a copy can be seen/provided upon request)
Session approved (Worship Team) that funds be made available from TVF Memorial Funds, for the purchase of microphones, monitors, streaming equipment, lighting, electricians, etc. for the continuation of live-streaming services to our church family.
- Session approved (Covid-19 Health Team) that Kay Belser (Director of Music Ministry) be permitted to hold choir rehearsals at the church. (Covid guidelines will be posted and Kay will be responsible for supervising cleanup.)
- Session approved (Covid-19 Health Team) that small groups from The Vine Fellowship Church can meet to visit outside on the side lawn. (Restrooms can be used. All Covid guidelines must be followed. Person arranging the group will be responsible. Elder Edie English will schedule the meetings so contact her.)
- Session approved (Covid-19 Health Team) that members are permitted to work on projects at the church such as sorting files, etc. (Person in charge will be responsible to assure that Covid guidelines are followed.)
- Session approved (Personnel & Leadership Team) that Stew Buchanan be reelected as Treasurer for the Vine Fellowship Church for a one-year term of 8/8/20 to 8/7/21.
- Session approved (Personnel & Leadership Team) that Barbara Conklin be reelected as Clerk of Session for a one-year term of 8/1/20 to 7/31/21.
- Session approved (Personnel & Leadership Team) that, in recognition of her past work that Denise Negowski (Hub Marketing and Events Coordinator) be given the laptop computer utilized by her for The HUB Community Center and TVF in Copley.
- Session approved (Personnel & Leadership Team) that Personnel & Leadership interview and hire an Administrative Assistant [part-time] for completion of duties as needed by TVF in Copley for up to ten (10) hours a week at \$15.00 an hour. And that this person not be a church member.
- Session approved (Personnel & Leadership Team) that a replacement laptop be purchased for usage by the Administrative Assistant and taken from Memorial Funds. And this computer is property of TFFV Church and is to be used for church business only.

Special Offering for Beirut, Lebanon

The world was shocked to see the huge explosion in Beirut, Lebanon on August 4, 2020. This calamity has killed hundreds, injured thousands and made hundreds of thousands homeless.

The Vine Fellowship has a particular connection to this area of the world through our support of the National Evangelical Synod of Syria and Lebanon. Pastor Mark has visited the area twice.

In response to this emergency, The Community Ministries and Missions team has approved a donation of \$1,000 for relief efforts via Eastminister Presbytery.

We would like to invite the congregation of the Vine Fellowship to also contribute to the relief fund. Your offering will help those devastated by this huge event. Please designate on your check "Beirut Relief".

Thank you for prayerfully considering making an offering to contribute to the Beirut Relief Fund.

THE VINE FELLOWSHIP CHURCH

3676 Community Lane

Copley, OH 44321
Phone: 330-576-6608

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

[tvfcopley@gmail.com
www.thevinefellowshipcopley.org **]**

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 SUNDAY 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

Plain English

Peace starts with a smile!