

# *Church News* ~October 2021

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

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ:

Recently, on Facebook, I saw a beautiful photo of autumn leaves, with brilliant oranges and reds. The photo was amazing in its beauty. Across the top of the photo it said "Fall teaches us that change can be beautiful."

Fall is one of my favorite times of the year. The cooler days, the beauty of God's creation surrounding us, warm soups to warm us up from the autumn chill....and football. We can't forget football!

Only recently have I begun seeing sayings like the one above. "Fall teaches us that change can be beautiful". I have also seen the saying, "The trees are about to show us how beautiful it is to let things go."

We don't often embrace letting go or change with this type of attitude. But I have found there to be real truth in this Facebook musings. There is, indeed, freedom that comes with letting go. There is beauty to be found in change, if we are willing to move gracefully into it.

Scripture tells us that God has a season for everything and a time for every activity under the heavens. Often, though, we find ourselves clinging to what has always been. If we are living with scripture as our guide, then we should lean forward into the season that God is calling us to next. In order to move forward, we must let go of what was. I don't know about you, but sometimes I have a difficult time doing that. I prefer comfort over change and what is known over what is unknown. But, as a Christian, I know that what is truly known is that God already knows all things and I am never traveling into unknown territory without God's companionship.

The past several years have been times of great unknowns for all of us. There seems to be much that we can't understand about the season that we are in right now (and it seems as if it is a never-ending season). When we are surrounded by the winds of change, we must remember that the wind still knows the name of God and still responds to God's voice.

*Blessings ~ Pastor Charlene*



An Invitation from Your Pastors:

On October 31<sup>st</sup>, we are celebrating the new season that God is leading us into with special worship days. In the Northern churches (Republic Trinity and St. Paul's) we are having a "Fall in Love with Church" Sunday. And in the Southern churches (Salem, Sycamore and Melmore), we are celebrating "Do-Nut Worry Sunday". These special services are a way for us to celebrate our faith communities.

Join us at any parish church for morning worship. Come and invite a friend to join us as we worship God!

Republic Trinity – 9:00 a.m.

Union Salem – 9:00 a.m.

Sycamore UMC – 10:00 a.m.

Tiffin St. Paul's – 10:15 a.m.

Melmore UMC – 11:00 a.m.

We can't wait to worship with YOU!

*Pastor Amy & Pastor Charlene*



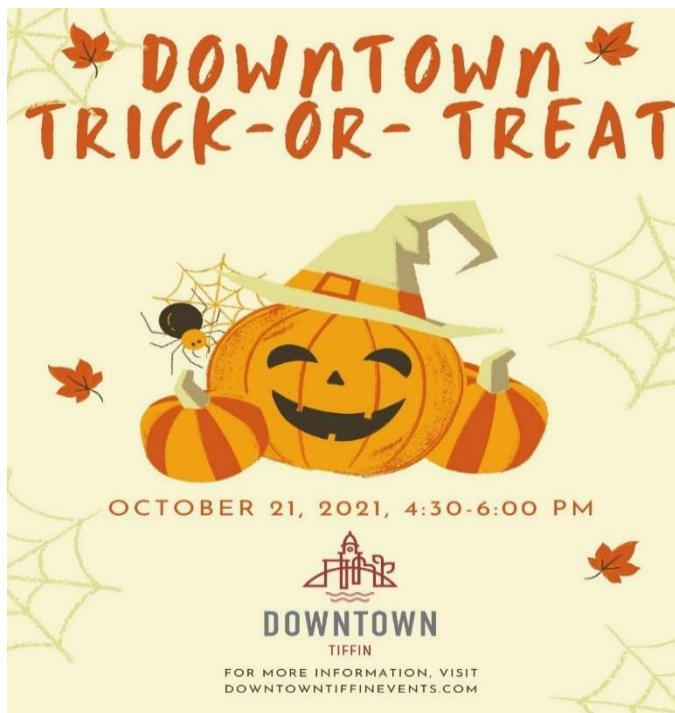
St. Paul's Youth Fellowship is looking at going on a road trip in October to Little Darby Creek. There is lots to do on the farm such as hayrides, corn mazes, pumpkin patch, and lots of other things. The cost is \$20 per person to go. Youth need to turn in permission slips to Tevin or Heidi.

The Youth Fellowship are meeting every other Sunday from 12:00-2:00. Any 6<sup>th</sup> grader and up can come to the fellowship. We ask that any youth coming to fellowship to please continue wearing masks.

The youth will soon be starting a new lesson on "Three sizes too small".

Downtown Tiffin Trick-or-Treat will be Thursday, October 21 from 4:30-6:00 p.m. The Youth will be handing out candy for this event. We need LOTS of candy donated. In years prior about 1,200 kids attended. You can drop off your candy donation to the church office during normal office hours or in the box that is at the back of the sanctuary.

~ *Tevin Drosky, Youth Fellowship Leader*



### Greetings from St. Paul's Missions Committee:

The Missions Committee met on September 12. We reviewed and voted on the distribution of the Leann Wolff funds for the 2nd half of 2021. We will be distributing \$110 to each of the following: Flat Rock, Sharing Kitchen, SOULS, YMCA food program, Connections, Youth Club, and First Call for Help-Teens Christmas.

Our mission projects for the remainder of this year were also discussed. We will be changing from supporting FISH to supporting a project for Sharing Kitchen for the September-October mission. FISH informed us that they have developed a very good and reliable supply chain and, in their abundance, have been bringing items to the Sharing Kitchen. A list of items still needed will be included at the end of this article. This list will include items desired for their Christmas party.

In October-November we will again be participating in Operation Christmas Child (The Shoebox Ministry). Our Youth Fellowship has again agreed to put together the cardboard shoeboxes and place them on the landing in front of the sanctuary. These will be available in late October/early November so that they can be turned in by November 15-22. Further directions and a display will be set up closer to this mission time.

In December we will again be participating in the Angel Tree mission. A need has been identified for not only the children's clothing that we have collected in the past but will also include much needed clothing for teens up to size 3x. The limit per item is \$20 and the items should be unwrapped. More information and a tree with angels will appear closer to this mission time.

It is always of interest to know what good works we helped support in our Missions projects. We sent money to Church World Service blankets and kits program. In 2020 they provided 16,965 blankets, 27,760 hygiene kits, 6,222 cleanup bucket kits, and 13,020 school kits in the United States.

Internationally they provided blankets and cleanup buckets to the Bahamas, blankets to Mexico, school and hygiene kits to Cuba, hygiene kits to Haiti, blankets, and hygiene kits to Puerto Rico, and 15,000 school kits to Romania. WOW!

The Third Sunday Offering for September was \$71.00. This donation goes to First Call for Help in Tiffin.

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

~ *Denise Lawson for the Missions Committee*

### **Sharing Kitchen Needs:**

Paper towels  
Dish soap (no laundry soap needed)  
Home cleaning products  
Canned goods: all soups (no tomato), entrees (pastas, beef stew, chunky soups, refried beans), fruit (regular size)  
#10 cans of fruits and vegetables  
canned meats  
Peanut Butter  
Ramen Noodles  
Applesauce  
Cereal

### **Sharing Kitchen Christmas Party Needs:**

small blankets  
small hand tools-pliers, hammers  
tape measures  
work gloves  
towels/washcloths  
Knick knacks  
jewelry  
anything gently used or new

A table will be set up at the front of the sanctuary to collect these items.



## **Two by Two Covering More Ground**

Last winter when things were still a little closed up due to COVID, Pastor Charlene and I were blessed by a new ministry called “Joyful Contagion.” The idea was hatched late one night when we were texting back and forth about something else with some church members. What we planned to do was to drop off goodie bags to all of our church members once a month—little reminders of joy in a season that hadn’t been as joyful as we liked.

Bagging the items was the easy part—the harder part was finding everyone’s homes and getting the items dropped off. Delivery times stretched out over entire afternoons—even with help. Who knew that it could take so long to drop things off? And then, one of our members realized that life could be easier if we combined forces. Some of Melmore’s members lived in Tiffin; some of Trinity’s members lived south of Bloomville; some of St. Paul’s members lived south of town right around where some Melmore members lived. There was overlap all over the place. So, we mapped it, broke it up into geographical sections rather than by church, and cut our delivery time down significantly. We were able to cover more ground in less time when we worked out a system together.

And our ministry is like that in other ways too. We help each other cover visitation; we find ways to share resources between churches; we look for people at one church who might love to join in mission with folks at another, because when we look at ways that we can streamline what we are doing and share in the kingdom work, we can cover more ground in the process. This has allowed us to have larger confirmation classes where the kids can interact with each other; has given us the opportunity to share food resources with more people in need; and has helped us to raise larger amounts of money to be used in mission, not just in our local area, but around the world. We can cover more ground when we work together.

~ *Pastor Amy*





### **October is Pastor Appreciation Month**

*Thank you, Pastor Charlene, and Pastor Amy.*

*Your servant hearts of love, compassion, and selflessness are reflected each day as you continue to serve God in the calling that He has placed in your hearts. You are appreciated, valued, and dearly loved.*

### **WHAT'S HAPPENING IN WORSHIP IN THE NORTHERN CIRCUIT**

Pastor Charlene is grateful to be back in the pulpit following her absence. It is nice to get back into the rhythm of worship. In the Northern Circuit, we have been learning about the “Marks of a Methodist”. It has been a wonderful refresher on who we are as Methodists and how we live out our mission with a Wesleyan perspective. In mid-October we will begin a series based on Adam Hamilton’s book, “Enough- Discovering Joy through Simplicity and Generosity”. For Advent, Pastor Charlene will be preaching through a series called “The Heart that Grew Three Sizes: Finding Faith in the Story of the Grinch”.

### **WHAT'S HAPPENING IN WORSHIP IN THE SOUTHERN CIRCUIT**

Things have continued running smoothly during worship in the Southern Circuit, largely due to everyone’s flexibility and willingness to be creative when we need. As the temperatures cool down, we will turn things up a bit—October is a busy month starting out with World Communion Sunday (October 3), The Bluegrass Festival (October 10), and Laity Sunday (October 17). And that is just the beginning! We will wrap up the month with Do-nut Worry Sunday on October 31<sup>st</sup>. Be prepared to enjoy some sweet treats and coffee.

## **Bluegrass Festival**

What’s important about the number 10? Well, it is the month, the day, AND the time of the Bluegrass Festival this year. **EVERYONE** is invited to come and join us in the old Fine Furniture building located across from Walmart on 330 (east of 23) in Upper Sandusky. If possible, please bring your own chair as folding chairs may be in short supply. We are looking forward to having a wonderful time of praise and worship together!

## **Fellowship Luncheon**

Directly following the Bluegrass Festival—somewhere around 12:00-12:30, there will be a fellowship luncheon at The Village in Upper Sandusky located at 435 Warpole St. The Village is a Family Restaurant with a large menu and generally features its broasted chicken and baked steak on Sundays but also serves a variety of sandwiches, and pasta and they are known for their delectable selection of pies.



## **Fall Festival-Melmore UMC**

Melmore UMC will be holding their annual Fall Festival on October 16<sup>th</sup> from 12:00 pm-4:00 pm. There will be games and crafts for the kids, fall refreshments for all, and music to enjoy. All are welcome. Please come out and join us and enjoy!

## Fall Festival for Kids-Sycamore

On October 19 from 5:00-6:30 pm, Sycamore UMC will be hosting a Fall Festival for kids from kindergarten-12<sup>th</sup> grade. There will be games, food, a bible lesson, and a pumpkin craft. Come and join in the fun!

## Combined Bible Study at Sycamore UMC

In October, we will be finishing up Reuben Job's book *Three Simple Rules*—a book about Wesley's General Rules: do no harm, do good, and stay in love with God. There is still time to join the discussion! We will be following that up with the book *Enough: Discovering Joy Through Simplicity and Generosity* and just in time for Christmas, we will be reading *The Heart that Grew Three Sizes: Finding Faith in the Story of the Grinch* by Matt Rawle. We meet Wednesday at 10:30 am. If you would like to join us, please contact Pastor Amy so that she can get you materials.

# Friday Funday

## Friday Fun-Days-Melmore UMC

Our second Friday Fun Day will be held on October 15<sup>th</sup> at 10:00 am-featuring local resident and author, Jill Gosche. Jill will be coming to talk about her book, *It the Beam Could Talk* which she wrote about the impact of the events of 9-11-2001 on our community. If you would like a copy of the book, it can be purchased on Amazon. There will be a light lunch provided.

There are more Friday Fun Days in the works: on November 12, Lori Arnold will be sharing a message of hope, and on January 14, John Cochran will be talking about his stained-glass art and sharing how he creates his own designs and puts together his pieces.

## Do-nut Worry Sunday

Come join us for coffee and freshly prepared donuts on October 31<sup>st</sup> for worship at Union-Salem, Sycamore, and Melmore UMCs. We will also be serving up a message to calm our anxieties and sweeten our souls!



August 16, 2021

Dear Joyce,

*Thank you for saving your leftover bulletin covers for us at Pleasant Ridge United Methodist Church. They are used each week and are very much appreciated.*

*There was a time in the past when the congregation didn't use a Sunday bulletin for their worship service, perhaps because it's a small group that meets each Sunday. The bulletin covers from St. Paul's UMC have helped us change that.*

*Please thank anyone whose choice is part of the decision to save bulletin covers for us.*

*Blessings and peace!*

*~ Rev. Gary Hicks*

A black laurel wreath framing the words "thank you" in a cursive, handwritten font.

## *Celebrating October Birthday's & Anniversaries*



### **Birthdays**

- 2 – Ben Kovach-Melmore
- 5 -- Solomon Richardson-Union-Salem
- 6 – Denzil Weaver-Melmore
- 7-- Bryce Loudenslager - Melmore
- 9 – Butch Warren-Melmore
- 9 -- Linda Warren-Melmore
- 10 – Jenna Gabel-Melmore
- 13 – Brenda Reinhart-Melmore
- 17 – Adrian Nedoblast-Melmore
- 17 -- Alexander Nedoblast - Melmore
- 18 – Marilyn Hutchins – St. Paul's
- 24 – Chelsea Cooper-Melmore
- 24 -- Sutton Distel-Melmore
- 24 -- Amy McDannell-Melmore
- 25 – Michael Gabel-Melmore
- 26 – Shirley McQuiston-Melmore
- 27 – Kurt Kieffer-Melmore
- 31 – John Knaup-Melmore

If you have a birthday or anniversary that you would like included in the five-church newsletter, please email St. Paul's secretary at [secretary@tiffinstpauls.org](mailto:secretary@tiffinstpauls.org)



### **Anniversaries**

- 5 - Jen & Shawn Loudenslager (96)-Melmore
- 5 - Kim & Terri Mohr (96)-Sycamore
- 11 – Bob & Beverly Gabel (75)-Melmore
- 11 -- Mike & Jill Thiel-Union-Salem
- 15 – Kate & Nathan Weaver-Melmore
- 20 -- Loren & Kathy Atkins-Union-Salem
- 22 – Matt & Tevin Drosky – St. Paul's
- 25 – Ben & Jill Lindhorst – St. Paul's
- 17 – Gerry & Cindy Brookes (92)-Melmore
- 24 – John & Evelyn Knaup (52)-Melmore





*A beautiful memorial tribute for a dedicated servant. Thank you, John and Diana Patterson, for memorializing Karen Kinstler in her flower garden at St. Paul's church. She will always be remembered for her servant heart.*

# ANNUAL CHURCH THANKSGIVING DINNER

**November 21, Noon  
St. Paul's UMC  
Fellowship Hall**

Provided: Turkey, dressing, mashed potatoes and gravy, steamed corn, pumpkin pie, bread, and tables service

**RESERVATIONS:** Can be made on Sunday November 7 and 14 or by calling the church office at 447-1743.

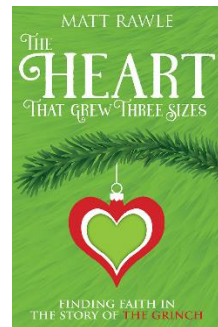
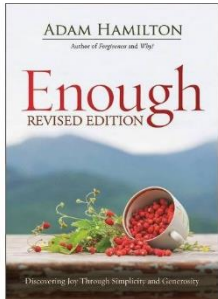
A freewill offering will be taken to cover expenses.

We hope you will join us this year after a year off. We encourage you to wear masks. We have eliminated people bringing a side dish to lessen the possibilities of passing the virus. We want to keep people safe.

Join us for this annual event.

## Important Upcoming Dates:

- Parish SPRC Consultation with DS – 10/14/21 - 7:15 p.m. at Faith UMC (75 N. Sandusky St, Tiffin)
- Parish Charge Conference - 10/31/21 – 9 a.m. at Attica UMC (98 Mill St, Attica)



## Parish Wide Book Studies

We will be offering several book studies to accompany our preaching series in the coming months.

In October, we will gather to discuss “Enough: Discovering Joy Through Simplicity and Generosity”. Pastor Charlene will be offering discussion gatherings on Tuesday evenings (beginning October 19<sup>th</sup>) at 6:30 p.m. at St. Paul’s in the Fellowship Hall. (Masks are required for participation, unless medically exempted.) Pastor Amy will be offering discussion gatherings on Wednesday mornings 10:30 a.m. at Sycamore UMC.

For Advent, we will gather to discuss “The Heart that Grew Three Sizes: Finding Faith in the Story of the Grinch”. The discussion gathering times will be the same (St. Paul’s on Tuesday evenings and Sycamore on Wednesday mornings.)

If you would like to join in the discussion, please reach out to Pastor Charlene or Pastor Amy for materials.