

# CrossTalk



## A Shared Letter for Growing in Faith

Recently I sent a letter of encouragement to those who boldly made a new or renewed spiritual covenant with God by accepting my challenge to grow with **10 Spiritual Commitments**. Those included:

1. Focus on God, 2. Daily Bible Reading, 3. Weekly Bible Fellowship, 4. Daily Prayer, 5. Weekly Fast, 6. Sunday Worship with the Church, 7. Tithing (one-tenth), 8. Weekly Serving People in Need, 9. Never miss Holy Communion and 10. Boldly Witness every week.

Since testing our spiritual progress is very important to the spiritual health and vitality of God's church, I thought that even if you did not sign **The Covenant** you might still be encouraged in your own walk with Christ by the letter I sent to those who did.

Here it is. I hope you are blessed by it.

*Tom*

Dear Friends in Christ,

Last November you renewed your love relationship with God by agreeing to pursue or renew spiritual disciplines. In signing **My Holy Covenant With God** and agreeing to some or all of its direction you took a wonderful step forward to enhance your daily walk with the Lord Jesus.

I have enclosed your covenant so that you can test your progress.

Please don't let this cause you to feel guilty about what you have *not* done. Rather, use this as a time to realistically assess what it is that works well to drive you into the arms of God. Perhaps, for instance, you could now expand those spiritual paths that delight you in your relationship with God, thereby increasing your joy in Christ.

However, please be eager to accept a challenge from God as well, to improve upon your pursuit of His Lordship over your life.

We are embarking upon a marvelous new era in the life of the Greensburg United Methodist Church. In the coming months, we will welcome new staff, adopt the 5 Prescriptions of the Healthy Church Initiative and pursue God's will in drawing lost people to the life-changing Grace of Jesus Christ. But for all those changes to actually enhance the effectiveness of our witness for Christ, God must find in us the fertile soil of a Godly Culture. That Godly Culture flowers when each one of us in the church seeks daily to walk more fully with Jesus.

Thank you for your commitment to do just that. My commitment to you in Christ is that each week, as God provides, I promise to teach from God's Word in such a way that you will feel encouraged in your faith, challenged in your weakness and delighted in the love that God has given you in Jesus Christ.

I hope to see your Sunday for our next installment of "**Jesus Speaks to the Church**" from Revelation 2 and 3. Please bring a friend with you.

A Friend in Christ,

*Tom Poremba*

# HAPPY BIRTHDAY!

2	1	Brenda Pfeil
2	3	Kylee Holzopfel
2	3	Michelle Csaky
2	4	Charles Hackathorn
2	5	Bethany Calaway
2	7	Reese Cowgar
2	8	Ralph Sigenthaler
2	10	Caleb Smesko
2	13	Dorothy Reichman
2	18	Betty Keck
2	20	Jenne Holzopfel
2	23	1996 Ashley Hamrick
2	24	Kelsey Schwertfeger
2	24	Kyle Schwertfeger
2	25	Amanda Perrine
2	25	Jaclyn Oplinger
2	26	Gary Mc Laughlin
2	27	Mary Lee Handschumacher
2	28	Cassidy Calaway
2	28	Linda Bethel



A very heartfelt "thank you" to my new church family for your generous Christmas gift. As many of you have already discovered, I love books and will use my gift for some "good reads". I especially thank you for the way that you have warmly embraced my husband, Randy, and I into the life of your faith community. We feel so very welcome!

Rev. Pam

Dear GUMC,

Thank you for your love and support and the gift you gave to us for Christmas!! Your kindness and generosity is SO appreciated!

Andrea Cowgar

Dear Church Family,

We would like to thank everyone for their prayers and concern for Mom (Mallador Matthew) during the past nine months. We would especially like to thank Rev. Mitch and Carol, Roger and Judy Martin, Clyde and Nancy Pennington, George and Donna Ayers, Doris Feddersen and the CareRing team for their visits and gifts to Mom when she was in rehab and at the Green View Inn. During her last hospitalization, visits by Doris Feddersen, Roger Martin, and especially Pam Monteith were much appreciated by our family. After Mom's passing, we have received many cards and condolences. Thank you once again for your prayers and words of encouragement.

John, Lori, John & Daniel Myers

I wanted to take this time and thank you for your committed response to paying 100% of your 2011 shared ministry funds. Because of your generosity, mission and ministry will receive even more funds in 2012!

Thank you again,  
Jessica Vargo  
Conference Treasurer

# HAPPY ANNIVERSARY

2	4	Bob & Pam Milhoan
2	27	Gene & Karen Calvin

## All-Church Brunch and "Lent Event" Sunday, Feb. 26

The CareRing Team is hosting a brunch at 9:30 am in Fellowship Hall on Sunday, Feb. 26. Everyone is invited! This is the first Sunday of Lent. The Education Team invites you to learn more about Lent and Easter by participating in interactive activities that will be set up on the perimeter of Fellowship Hall that morning. Why do we say that Lent is 40 days? When we count the days from Ash Wednesday, the first day of Lent, to Easter, it numbers 47! What do eggs and rabbits have to do with Easter? What's Fat Tuesday and Mardi gras?

### **Lenten Study:**

#### **24 Hours That Changed the World**

Sign up now and plan to participate in a seven-week video Lenten study entitled **24 Hours That Changed the World**. This study, based on Adam Hamilton's powerful book, guides us through the last day of Jesus' life and takes us to the Holy Land to visit the sites where those events took place. Several opportunities will be offered. Watch for sign up sheets on our famous clipboards during worship and posters located near the sanctuary and Fellowship Hall. Gatherings will include watching the video and discussion.

If you are interested in hosting a group, please contact Rev. Pam at the church (or home: 330.699.6846). Books by the same title, although not required reading, will be available for purchase.

### **REDUCING CAREGIVER STRESS**

#### **CAREGIVER'S GROUP MEETING AT A NEW TIME**

The caregiver support group is the place to begin to reduce your stress as a caregiver, whether you are caring for a child, a parent, or a spouse. It is a place to share and learn what has worked for others who are also caregivers for a loved one. Sometimes we have discussions on given topics and other times we have speakers come in.

We are changing our meeting time to 4 pm on the third Tuesday of each month, in the hope of being available to people who work and may want to attend the group. We draw strength from each other, and we want anyone, from our church or not, to be a part of both our giving and receiving ideas and strength.

### **NEW PRAYER GROUP STARTING**

A new prayer group is being formed. Anyone interested in joining the group, please call Doris Feddersen at 899-1654, so that we can set a time to get together and plan when and where we shall meet and what kind of prayer group we want.

### **CARE-RING TEAM NEWS**

The mission of CareRing Meals Ministries is to try to provide meals for people in our church family who are having a challenging time during an illness, after a hospitalization, when there's a death in the family, a new baby, etc. Meals that are provided and donated by congregation volunteers and are delivered for a couple nights to twice a week for 2-3 weeks. If you need some help, please call the Church office with your request or if you know of a Church family in need.

**We need volunteers to cook for CareRing Meals Ministry.** If you volunteer, you may be called once every 2-3 months, to prepare a meal for someone in need. You do not have to be a gourmet cook to be part of this ministry. A simple meal prepared with love and caring is all that is necessary. Your offering will be a blessing for the person or family in need. And, I guarantee that you will be blessed as well.

For more information or to add your name to our volunteer list, please contact, Arlene Mumm, 330-285-9329, coordinator of the program. Thank you!

*Thank you,* to Arlene Mumm who has made this program so successful and touched so many people the past three years. To all the volunteers who donate their time and delicious food, you deserve a big hug and pat on the back. - Mike and Cindi McWhorter

Our next meeting is Wednesday, March 7th at 7:00pm in the Church library- You are invited!

Have a Great Month,  
Love, the Care-Ring Team

### **GET CONNECTED!**

If you'd like a snapshot of some of the ways you can become involved in your family's activities - your **church** family that is - look for the *Small Group Opportunities* folder available for you to pick up on the welcome tables outside the sanctuary and Fellowship Hall. You may be surprised to see how much is going on each and every day of the week. There's always an open invitation to join one of our small groups, or maybe consider starting a new one. Please pick up a folder today and take another for a friend or neighbor.

## **CHAPTER TWO**

is another grief group that is for people who are in their second, or more year of grieving and have been in grief counseling or a grief group. It will meet for six or seven weeks and will focus on how to move on and begin to develop a new life without your loved one. New studies are indicating that the second year of grief is at times more difficult than the first year, as the reality of the loss becomes much more real during the second year.

We will look at what "moving on" means for each person in the group, what stops them from moving on, what are their fears of moving on, etc. We will also have a panel of people who have suffered a loss and how they found ways to create a life for themselves. This is the only group of this kind offered in the Akron area and will be led by a retired licensed social worker.

The group is free and will meet Monday nights from 6:30 to 8:30, starting February 27.

The following piece was written by Melissa, a young woman in our last grief workshop. It quite clearly states the goals of the two new grief groups that will be starting the next to the last week of February.

### **WHY GRIEF IS LIKE MANURE**

**It Stinks and No One Wants to Deal with It**  
Grief is like manure. You can bury it and the stink will be gone. Under the surface, however, it decays and leaves holes in the earth. Eventually you will step in the same spot that you once buried the manure, thinking that all is well and totally buried. To your surprise, you sink in the hole that has been created. Now, not only do you smell the stink again but you are also dirty, depressed and potentially hurt.

However, another option with manure (grief) is to spread the manure out. The stink will slowly air out and disappear with time. The more you spread the manure and work it into the ground, the healthier the ground becomes. Work every day whether it is rainy or sunny. Eventually you might want to plant a beautiful flower

garden in the area you have created. If not, the stink at least will be gone and you will have solid ground to walk on in the future. No one wants to deal with manure, but you will be happier in the long run if you buy some nose plugs and dig in.

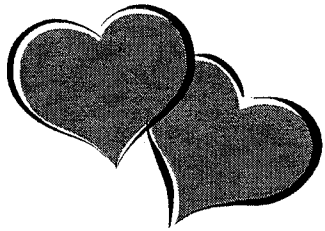
### **SEVEN WEEK GRIEF WORKSHOP**

As the above statement indicates, this workshop is the spreading out phase so that the stink of grief diminishes. It is for people recently experiencing grief and for those whose grief has been buried and they find themselves stepping in it. The goal of the workshop is to create healthier ground. This workshop will begin Thursday, February 16 and will meet each Thursday night from 6:30 to 8:30 and will continue through March 29. This group is for anyone who has suffered the loss of a loved one. It will meet in the church parlor, which is directly across from the sanctuary. The group is free and open to anyone who wants to attend.

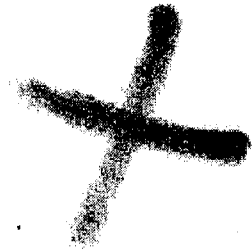
## **CHAPTER TWO**


Chapter Two is about how to begin to plant beautiful flowers in the newly healthy ground. We focus on "moving on" and "moving out" of the grief. The group is for people who are in their second, or more year of grieving and have been in grief counseling, a grief group, or who have significantly worked through the initial grief and loss and want to know how to move on in their lives. It will meet for six or seven weeks. New studies are indicating that the second year of grief is at times more difficult than the first year, as the reality of the loss becomes much more real during the second year. The group is free and will meet Monday nights from 6:30 to 8:30, starting February 27.

**Loving Hands Preschool** is now accepting registrations for the 2012-2013 school year! If you have a 3, 4 or 5 year old, or know someone who does, please stop by the office to pick up a registration packet or visit us online at [www.loving-hands.org](http://www.loving-hands.org).



# February 2012



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			<p>1 Good Neighbors 9-12:30 Staff Meeting 10:00am-L Band 5:45-8:00pm-FH Boy Scouts 7pm SR Bells &amp; Choir CareRing Team-7:00-L</p>	<p>2 TOPS 5:30-7pm SR,18</p>	<p>3 Men's Bkfst-7am Cub Scouts 6:30-7:30-G</p>	<p>4 Church Council 8:00-L Scout Overnight 6:00-FH,G,SR,K</p>
<p>5 SCOUT SUNDAY Cont Service 8:30am FH Sunday School 9:30am CR 7 Churches 9:45am-FH Trad. Service 10:30am-S 7 Churches 5:30-7:00pm-FH THRIVE 7:00-8:30pmYR,GA</p>	<p>6 Cub Scouts 7-8-SR, G Girl Scouts 6-8 #13</p>	<p>7 Men's Bball 6:30-9 Gym Cub Scouts-7:00-SR Bible Study 7:00-#21 Girl Scouts 6-8:00pm #14 Education Team 7:00pm-L</p>	<p>8 Good Neighbors 9-12:30 Band 5:45-8:00pm-FH CareRing Planning 7:00-L Boy Scouts 7pm SR Bells &amp; Choir</p>	<p>9 TOPS 5:30-7pm SR,18</p>	<p>10 Men's Bkfst-7am</p>	<p>11</p>
<p>12 BUCKET SUNDAY Cont Service 8:30am FH Sunday School 9:30am CR 7 Churches 9:45am-FH Trad. Service 10:30am-S 7 Churches 5:30-7:00pm-FH THRIVE 7:00-8:30pmYR,GA</p>	<p>13 Lunch Bunch 1:00pm Daisy's 6:00-7:00 SR Cub Scouts 7-8-SR Scouts 6-8 #13 Preschool Valentine Party</p>	<p>14 Men's Bball 6:30-9 Gym Girl Scouts 6-8-#14 Bible Study 7:00-#21 Cub Scouts-7:00-SR Preschool Valentine Party</p>	<p>15 Good Neighbors 9-12:30 Staff Meeting 10:00am-L Band 5:45-8:00pm-FH Boy Scouts 7pm SR Man to Man 7:00-L Bells &amp; Choir</p>	<p>16 TOPS 5:30-7pm SR,18 Grief Group 6:30-8:30-P</p>	<p>17 Men's Bkfst-7am Preschool Board 12:00-L</p>	<p>18 Outreach Dinner???</p>
<p>19 Cont Service 8:30am FH Sunday School 9:30am CR 7 Churches 9:45am-FH Trad. Service 10:30am-S 7 Churches 5:30-7:00pm-FH THRIVE 7:00-8:30pmYR,GA</p>	<p>20 NO PRESCHOOL Cub Scout 7-8-FH Girl Scouts 6-8 #13</p> 	<p>21 Care Givers Support 4-L Men's Bball 6:30-9 Gym Cub Scouts-7:00-SR Girl Scouts 6-8:00pm #14 Bible Study 7:00-#21 Trustees 7:00-L</p>	<p>22 Good Neighbors 9-12:30 Small Group Mtg 6:00 #21 Boy Scouts 7pm SR Bells &amp; Choir Band 5:45-8:00pm-FH Finance 6:30pm-L ASH WEDNESDAY SERVICE 7:00-Chapel</p>	<p>23 TOPS 5:30-7pm SR,18 Grief Group 6:30-8:30-P Set up for Blue &amp; Gold 6:00-FH (Attn: Kyle)</p>	<p>24 Men's Bkfst-7am Blue &amp; Gold Banquet 7:00pm-FH,K,SR</p>	<p>25 Set up for Mini Bkfst 10:00 K,GA</p>
<p>26 Cont Service 8:30am FH Sunday School 9:30am CR Mini Breakfast 9:30am-GA Lent Event 9:30am-FH Trad. Service 10:30am-S THRIVE 7:00-8:30pmYR,GA</p>	<p>27 AARP Board-9-L Daisy's 6:00-7:00 SR Cub Scouts 7-8-SR Grief Group II-6:30-8:30-L UMW 7-8:30-P,CR</p>	<p>28 AARP Mtg. 1:00-FH Men's Bball 6:30-9 Gym Cub Scouts-7:00-SR Bible Study 7:00-#21 Girl Scouts 6-8-#14</p>	<p>29 Good Neighbors 9-12:30 Staff Meeting 10:00am-L Band 5:45-8:00pm-FH Scout Dinner 6-8:30-FH,K,SR Bells &amp; Choir</p>		<p>C=Chapel CR=Class Room F=Field FH=Fellowship Hall G=Gym GA=Gathering Area K=Kitchen L=Library</p>	<p>MR=Mtg. Room 21 P=Parlor PV=Pavilion S=Sanctuary Y=Youth Room</p>