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## July/August 2025 Newsletter

*"But now, this is what: the Lord says  
he who created you, Jacob,  
he who formed you, Israel:*

*"Do not fear, for I have redeemed you;  
I have summoned you by name; you are mine."  
Isaiah 43:1 NIV*

Recent events in the Middle East have seen the rise of fear in many people. For some it is simply the fear of another war. For others it is fear tied to Biblical prophecy they see as coming true. And for some, it is the fear that our nation may be entangled in an unpopular conflict. Yet, we should always remember that as followers of Jesus, there are promises and calls to action that help us to govern our response to fear.

Fear can be paralyzing, and this makes sense from a human point of view. But fear can also be a powerful motivator. It can spur us to action that helps to deal with our fear and perhaps makes better decisions about our lives. In Isaiah 43:1, we see the prophet give Israel, which had been not listening to God very well, give the nation a promise: FEAR NOT! Isaiah is reminding Israel that even though they will suffer the consequences of their sin, God has not abandoned them. This promise is also for us as followers of Jesus.

So, as we journey together, do not be afraid! Jesus has redeemed us and has called YOU by name! If it helps try speaking out loud this scripture inserting your own name or the names of your family. Fear not, God really is still in control!

- Pastor Sean



The **July/August** issues of **The Upper Room** devotionals are available to you on the wall rack in the outer Narthex.



If you would like to give **altar flowers** to celebrate a special occasion or in memory of a loved one, please get in touch with the church office. **Thank you.**

## **The Women of Woodlawn (WOW)**

After a cool spring most of us wanted it to be warmer, so God turned on the heat! We will miss it this winter.

The women had a regular meeting in June. We will be visiting shut-ins in July. Regular meetings will be held in August and September at the church.

We received thank-you notes from the mission recipients and if you would like to read them they are on the bulletin board across from the coat rack. They are all thankful for our donations.

Enjoy the rest of your summer and blessings to all!  
WOW

- The mission offering for July** will be given to **Samaritan Purse**
- The mission offering for August** will be given to **Reffey Family Mission**

### **3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday Benefit**

Just a reminder that **Woodlawn GMC** will continue to support **Jericho House** in mission every **3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday** but without a **meal**.

**We appreciate** your **donations** on each **3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday**.

**Blessings** for all of **Woodlawn** and the **folks at Jericho**.  
**Phyllis Crall** and **"The Kitchen Gang"**

## **July Mission is Samaritan Purse**

### **Mission Statement**

***Samaritan's Purse is a nondenominational evangelical Christian organization providing spiritual and physical aid to hurting people around the world. Since 1970, Samaritan's Purse has helped meet needs of people who are victims of war, poverty, natural disasters, disease, and famine with the purpose of sharing God's love through His Son, Jesus Christ. The organization serves the Church worldwide to promote the Gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ.***

The story of the Good Samaritan (Luke 10:30-37) gives a clear picture of God's desire for us to help those in desperate need wherever we find them. After describing how the Samaritan rescued a hurting man whom others had passed by, Jesus told His hearers, "Go and do likewise." For over 50 years, Samaritan's Purse has done our utmost to follow Christ's command by going to the aid of the world's poor, sick, and suffering. We are an effective means of reaching hurting people in countries around the world with food, medicine, and other assistance in the Name of Jesus Christ. This, in turn, earns us a hearing for the Gospel, the Good News of eternal life through Jesus Christ.

As our teams work in crisis areas of the world, people often ask, "Why did you come?" The answer is always the same: "We have come to help you in the Name of the Lord Jesus Christ." Our ministry is all about Jesus—first, last, and always. As the Apostle Paul said, "*For we do not preach ourselves, but Jesus Christ as Lord, and ourselves as your servants for Jesus' sake*" (2 Corinthians 4:5, NIV).

Samaritan's Purse

PO Box 3000

Boone, NC 28607

828.262.1980

## **August Mission is Reffey Family Mission**

A note from Lyle and Becky Reffey;

We continue to serve with Wycliffe Bible Translators and JAARS (Jungle Aviation and Relay Services). We serve in aviation, but Lyle no longer flies or performs maintenance on the planes. God now uses us on the safety side of aviation and in recruiting and preparing young men and women to serve in missionary aviation. We have been able to make many trips around the world and here in the USA visiting missionary aviation organizations and training schools. While we are there, we encourage the missionaries to continue to operate safely and effectively to help take the Gospel that last mile to some of the most remote people in the world. We also exhort the pilots and mechanics in areas where they need to improve to operate even more safely and effectively. We were able to make a 3-week trip to Indonesia and Papua New Guinea to visit the JAARS missionary aviation programs.

It was special to be back in Ukarumpa visiting many of our friends and colleagues that are still serving there. And we got to fly in the Kodiak airplanes that Lyle flew. God also gave us the opportunity to return to Liberia, Africa in April. It had been almost 33 years since our second evacuation from that country. We didn't think we would ever be able to go back there again. But God had other plans. It was an amazing trip seeing Monrovia and the wonderful people there and getting to walk on the beach where we would go every Saturday. And of course we spent time with the aviation team and heard how God was working among them and using them to reach the lost and hurting in Liberia.

When we are not traveling we serve at the School of Missionary Aviation Technology. We help on the safety side of things at the school. But we also get to spend time with the student and share about missionary aviation. Becky also helps lead a Bible study for the young lady student and spouses of some of the other students. It is exciting to see the young men and women who are now serving in missionary aviation with a number of the missions. In July, Lyle will be heading to Papua New Guinea to visit a different missionary aviation program. In October we will be headed down to Honduras to help another mission.

Thank you all for your partnership in our ministry. We see God answering your prayers every day. Your support enables us to travel to help JAARS and the other missionary aviation organizations and schools around the world. We are truly blessed by your generosity.

May God richly bless you in return.

## **Update on the 2025 Peanut Butter Drive, from Lifeline Christian Mission and New Vision FM.**

A huge **Thank you** to the churches, businesses, civic groups, and individuals who participated during the 25<sup>th</sup> Annual Peanut Butter Drive!

**You**, our faithful listeners, came through once again. We collected 4,051 (18 oz.) jars, totaling 4,558 lbs. of peanut butter and \$1,502.00 for shipping costs.

Thank you for making a difference!

**Special Note: Lifeline announced recently they will no longer be collecting peanut butter for Haiti**-due to unrest and shipping difficulties into many of the countries around the world.

This will be our last year to collect peanut butter for Haiti.

While this chapter is closing, our story with Lifeline Ministries isn't over- we're committed to continuing our partnership in new ways. We'll keep you updated through our newsletter and social media of ways you may participate.

"Thank you for 25 incredible years of spreading love and nourishment—one jar at a time—by sending Tons of life-saving peanut butter to fill the hungry bellies in Haiti and beyond!"



### **July Birthdays**

- 8 Nancy Johnson
- 24 Phyllis Spengler
- 26 Jim, Gillenwater

### **July Anniversaries**

- 17 Tom & Connie Kalb
- 31 Lyle & Becky Reffey

### **August Birthdays**

- 3 Barb Kent
- 5 Jared Dilley
- 9 Linda Heinlen
- 10 Pastor Sean McLeod
- 12 Ted Heinlen
- 12 Bob Trout
- 17 Jerry Efaw
- 27 Deb Teets
- 28 Herb Kleine

### **August Anniversaries**

# **MINUTES**

## **Church & Finance Counsel Committee**

### **May 27, 2025**

The Church & Finance Council Committee met together on Tuesday, May 27, 2025 with the following members present: Pastor Sean, Dave Teets, Phyllis Crall, Marlene Malone, Carla Gerhart, Barb Spaid, Tom Holtshouse, Karen Scott, Keith Blair and Laurie Reynolds.

**Pastor Sean started the meeting with prayer.**

Dave Teets led the meeting

**Reading of the Minutes:** Everyone was given a copy of the minutes and they were read silently. A motion by Barb Spaid was made to accept the minutes and Karen Scott second the motion. All in favor said I.

**The Treasurer's report: Financial Reports will follow with the most recent updates.**

**Pastor Sean:** Other than moving, not a lot going on. I did a last minute thing last week, the GMC as part of their discipleship imitative partnered with an organization called the river network. They help do coaching, training with churches on how to make disciples. It is not a church grow strategy, it's simply wanting to in power you to make disciples. An interesting thing about the organization is the person who runs it is a retired Pastor out of Pennsylvania who Pastor Heather knew. They are offering a training course on how to make disciples, so for the next 5 weeks or so I will be doing that on Thursday afternoons. It is free for Allegany West clergy. So far I have learned a lot about myself, good and not so good. The goal for the summer is to talk about what I have learned and how we can grow and improve, and to get moved. The talk about the website is on hold and we will talk more at the next meeting.

**3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday Benefit Meal:** Continue with donations. Sponsors are full through end of August.

**Hospitality:** On hold until September.

**Music:** Jenny Bennett is our fulltime pianist. Talked about a backup if Jenny could not be here. Phyllis will see if Bev Roby could be a backup. Tom said United in Harmony is filling up their spots for next summer and it would be a good idea to get them scheduled for next summer and also suggested to have a church potluck on that Sunday. United in Harmony schedule runs from the 1<sup>st</sup> Sunday in June to the last Sunday in August.

**SPR:** There has not been a recent meeting, so there was no report.

**Trustees:** Had their meeting, and cleanup day. Bob Greenick is getting a hold of Kiess Electric, going to look at putting poles not brick columns for electric and solar. Will get an estimate for both. Electric and solar. Linda is getting an estimate on cleaning out the gutters. We believe they

are clogged and the water is running down into the basement. The old dehumidifier at the parsonage quit working, we will need to get one for the basement. Pastor Sean is going to check to see if the dehumidifiers they have at the other parsonage can come with them. Carson has volunteered to paint the columns, he did not know about painting everything that needs painted. We are waiting on an estimate from Allen Young for all of the painting needs.

**WOW:** We will have a regular meeting in June and in July we will go visit all the shut in's.

**Worship:** There has been no meeting since Easter, but we will have one.

**Old Business:** We are making some progress on the lights out front. Shane from Ohio Mutual talked to Dave and they will be redoing the parking lot the week of June 16<sup>th</sup> and June 23<sup>rd</sup>. So they will use our parking lot during that time.

**New Business:** Keith had called 2 men and a truck to see how much it would cost to move Pastor Sean and Pastor Heather. The estimate he received was around \$800 to \$1,000. A motion to pay for the move of Pastor Sean and Pastor Heather was made by Keith Blair and Phyllis Crall second the motion. Pastor Sean said that they are able to stay at the other parsonage until the end of the month and Diane our renter will be out of our parsonage by June 8<sup>th</sup>. Pastor Sean has conference the week of June 16<sup>th</sup> so they are planning on moving the week of June 23<sup>rd</sup>. Phyllis ask about Diane's rent for the first part of June and Tom told her that they would prorate and take it out of her deposit and she would get the rest of her deposit back. There was talk about changing the meeting to the 1<sup>st</sup> Tuesday of the even months beginning August 5<sup>th</sup>. Barb Spaid motioned to change the meeting to the 1<sup>st</sup> Tuesday of the even month and Carla Gerhart second the motion.

Dave Teets ended the meeting in prayer.

Respectfully submitted: Alice Donaldson

### **Financial News as of June 30, 2025**

All bills are paid and current. This includes all medical, pension & disability income costs billed to us by the Global Methodist Church through the end of June.

The arrangement that we have had with Christ Covenant Church since July 1, 2023, of being able to share medical coverage costs on a 50/50 basis has come to an end effective April 30, 2025. This arrangement saved us \$11,504.06 in health insurance costs in 2024 and \$4,403.24 through April 2025 (including 50% of the \$2,000 Pastor Sean's Health Savings Account contribution). As reported earlier, going forward we will have to pick up these additional health and parsonage utility expenses that are estimated to be approximately \$20,800 or \$1,733 per month.

As of June 30, 2025 our checking account balance was \$23,364.82.

In March we have paid ALL of our 2025 Allegheny West Conference Connectional Giving expense of \$5,761.72 (which included a 5% prepayment discount) and \$1,496.55 to the Global Methodist Church. This represents 3.0% & 1.0% respectively of our Total Operating Income for 2024. We are hoping to continue annual payments to take advantage of the 5% prepayment discount. To support that goal, we are currently saving \$400 per month into a fund to help with that expense in March of 2026. Currently we have \$1,600.00 in that account.

Our parsonage is now occupied by Pastors Sean & Heather so we are without the rental income and utility savings that we enjoyed when not occupied by the pastor. This will increase our expenses for utilities by at least an estimated \$4,800 per year.

Our total Savings & Memorial Funds is recovering from a high of \$111,755.28 (on May 12, 2023) to a current total balance of \$109,985.12.

Patchworks House CEO, Barbara Flood discontinued looking for a “new home” for the services that they provide at Woodlawn. As we had requested, they now contribute \$350 per month to help with increased utility costs for having them use our building. Since that time they have paid \$4,900.00. As 07/01/25 they are current on their payments for 2025.

#### **Year to Date...For This Report as of 06/30/25**

- Year to Date Regular & Online Offerings of **\$64,760.00 up \$2,275.30 or 3.68% compared to this time last year.**
- Year to date we have paid \$928.61 to Christ Covenant Church in Galion for half of their parsonage utilities. These payments will now stop.
- Our current Parsonage Fund (including a \$50k CD with Edward Jones) is now \$69,291.64.
- Total funds in the Richard & Thelma Hawkins' Scholarship Fund are \$8,047.94
- The current balance of the Capital Improvements & Replacement Fund (including a \$25,000 CD with Edward Jones) stands at \$34,464.84. This fund was established to reduce the need for future borrowing for major expenses for such things as: eventually boiler and air-conditioner replacements, replacement of the deteriorating brick light columns at the end of the driveway, eventually roof replacements and the like. We have a growing need for some exterior painting.
- Year to date we have received \$1,235.00 in Memorial contributions. Our Undesignated Memorial Fund now stands at a **negative** \$6,418.90 because of the money needed for disaffiliation payments. This is an improvement from a negative \$14,297.21 balance this time last year.
- As shown above, our Total Memorial & Various Designated Savings & CD Account Funds Balance stands at \$109,985.12.
- **Total Mission & Evangelism Support Year to Date was \$4,223.68 and includes:** \$2,075.00 to Alpha 12 Step Recovery-Jericho House Project. 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday Alpha fund raising dinners were suspended during Covid and again in January 2022. However, the

Administrative Council voted to approve the contribution of the continuing \$150 per month sponsorship payments to Alpha...these sponsorship payments are included in the total payments to Alpha 12 Step.

Other Mission Support Offerings included:

- 285 Back Pack Program (April Mission Offerings)
- 400 Blanket Mission (February Offering thru Church World Services)
- TBD Born (will Incl. \$300 from General Offerings & Sept Mission Offering)
- TBD Flat Rock Homes (December Mission Offering)
- 0 Hawkins' Scholarship Fund (Stopped being a Mission Offering in January 2023)
- TBD Help Me Grow (October Mission Offering)
- 380 Life Wise (March Mission Offering)
- TBD Life Wise (Christmas Eve Offering)
- TBD Reffey Family Missionaries (August Mission Offering)
- 175 Mid-West Mission-Disaster Relief (June Mission Offering)
- TBD Salvation Army (November Mission Offering)
- 315 Samaritan's Purse (January & July Mission Offering)
- 104 Upper Room Publications
- 235 Voice of Hope (formerly known as Bethel House-May Mission Offering)

**Total Income for all of 2025 year to date was \$81,451.41 which was almost the same as this time last year of \$81,469.05.**

**Thank-you** for your continuing financial support of our Church. If you are unable to attend "in-person" services please continue mailing your offerings directly to the Church at 1675 Hopley Ave. Bucyrus, OH 44820.

On behalf of our Treasurer, Carla Gerhart, Finance Committee and Administrative Council, **I Thank you** for your faithfulness and ask that you continue to prayerfully look at your support level of our Church.

Tom Holtshouse  
Finance Chairperson

JULY 2025						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
		1	2 Trustee mtg @ 6:30pm	3	4	5
6 Worship @ 10 AM <b>Holy Communion</b>	7	8	9	10	11	12
13 Worship @ 10 AM	14	15	16 WOW meeting @ Orchard Park	17	18	19
20 Worship @ 10 AM	21	22	23	24	25	26
27 Worship @ 10 AM	28	29	30	31		

## August 2025

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
					1	2
3  Worship @ 10 AM <b>Holy Communion</b>	4	5  Finance & Council meeting @ 6:30pm	6	7	8	9
10  Worship @ 10 AM	11	12	13	14	15	16
17  Worship @ 10 AM	18	19	20	21	22	23
24 Worship @ 10 AM  ----- 31 Worship @ 10 AM	25	26	27	28	29	30

