

Loving, Learning and Serving Together

TODAY (8:30 am) Worship at New Hope
(9 am) Devotions and Doughnuts in FH *Every Second Sunday*
(10 am) Worship at Highland
(After worship) Highland Council meeting
MONDAY (7 pm) United Methodist Women (UMW) *Every 3rd Monday*
WEDNESDAY (Noon) Community Lunch at Bethany COB *3rd Wed*
SATURDAY Newsletter Information due to Pat Webb
January 21 (After worship) CREW
(After worship) WHY Youth Meeting
January 22 (7 pm) Choir Starts Back! *Every Monday, except 3rd*
January 24 (6:30 pm) Audit NOTE CHANGE of DATE
January 31 Superbowl Subs Form Due
February 3 (6 pm) Youth Group Game Night
February 4 (After Worship) Pick Up your Super Bowl Subs
(5:30 pm) Community Celtic Worship at St. Peter's
Episcopal Church *Every First Sunday Night of Month*
February 14 (Noon) Ash Wednesday Service at New Hope
(7:00 p.m.) Community Ash Wednesday Service at
Highland. Piedmont and Bethany will join us.
March 10 Youth Group Trip to Snow Plex and Dinner at CB
March 17 UMW Prayer Breakfast
March 24 (10 am) Easter Egg Hunt at Highland
March 25 Daylight Savings Time
April 1 (TBA) Sunrise Service at Callaway Cemetery
Snacks and Fellowship at Highland
(8:30 a.m.) Easter Worship at New Hope
(10:00 a.m.) Easter Worship at Highland
April 7 Dinner Served and Offered by the Youth

PRAYING FOR OTHERS

Please write down these names shared in worship so that together we can pray for them this week.

Thank You!

Thanks to everyone who worked so hard on the mission projects for November and December. Many contributed food, items, or cash to both the Thanksgiving "sacks" or to the adopt-a-families for Christmas. Thanks SO much! At the same time, our church was sponsoring a CREW mission project. I had announced a couple Sundays for those who contributed cash, that if there was any left-over money, it would go to the CREW project. However, God blessed that project with folks and materials to take care of her floor as well as her heat. There is no other explanation other than GOD IS AWESOME!

I wanted everyone to know that all cash for Thanksgiving donations were used for the student "sacks", 3 community food baskets, and 3 additional gift cards; however, there was a little extra money that was left over after everything was bought for the Christmas families, and it was deposited as "mission donations" into Highland's account before Christmas. (At that point, we still thought we would have to fund a portion of the CREW project for flooring or heat.) Even though it was not used for this particular CREW project, there may be other projects that come up that may need the funds. All projects will be announced prior to being carried out, even though names are often kept confidential. Thanks again for supporting our community as needs arise. Before your generous gifts are spent to help someone, Council will discuss and vote and we will share so you can participate with your prayers and/or presence. Thank you!
Jennifer Brubaker

It Otter Be a GREAT Time!

Vacation Bible School Dates are June 3-7, 2018. This year's theme is "Rolling River Rampage!" A purple otter is our fun animal to lead us to experience the ride of a lifetime with God! "Along the river, children discover that life with God is an adventure full of wonder and surprise, and that they can trust God to be with them through everything!" See Katherine McPherson for more information!

Continued Prayer: Commission on the Way Forward

Thank you for your continued prayers for our UM Leaders and the Commission on the Way Forward. Last Saturday, we were invited to gather with Bishop Sharma Lewis to hear about updates on the Commission's work; we also worshipped and shared in small groups. Bethlehem UMC offered wonderful hospitality and free, lavish food. Thank you to Betsy Stanley, Eric and Sherri Krauss, and Jennifer Brubaker for attending. I also attended.

The Commission's work (that began in May 18, 2016) acknowledges there are divisions in the denomination. We will not change each other's minds. But, these divisions are hurting our witness of Jesus Christ. So, the Commission is working to come up with a plan on how we can be united in our differences? They have been researching structures for the church—a way we can be organized. Remember, this is not just about us—we are a world wide church. The Commission has some possible proposals, but they are still working. Nothing has been decided. We continue to pray.

Bishop Sharma Lewis asks us to continue to pray and trust in God's promises. She preached on Jesus' Greatest Prayer Ever Prayed: *John 17:6-9, 20-23*. By the end of this year (2018) we will know more. A called General Conference will meet February 23-29, 2019. Possible proposals will be voted on at this gathering.

I will continue to share as updates and requests for prayer are made. I am always here for your questions. Many resources are on line about the Commission's work and I am more than happy to share copies. I had a very holy experience in my small group on Saturday (at Bethlehem UMC). Tears and laughter, scripture, tradition, and experiences were shared. For two and half hours our conversation focused on Jesus commandment: "Love God and Love your neighbor as yourself." "How can we love each other?" "How can we witness to a world that needs Jesus?" Thank you for your prayers. May we continue to deepen our relationship with Jesus and each other.

Once a Month Callaway Community Celtic Worship Service

The first Sunday evening (5:30 p.m.) of each month at St. Peter's Episcopal Church a candlelight service using sacred music to provide a meditative worship experience. "Celtic" means this is from the Scots-Irish tradition. Communion is served and there are many moments of silence. Questions: Amy would love to tell you all about it!

Workshop Offered

"Beyond Sunday School: Empowering Regular Folks to Lead a God Movement" is being held on March 10, 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.. The featured presenter is Rachel Billups from Ginghamburg's Executive pastor of Discipleship and is part of the preaching team. Rachel, is an Ordained Elder within the United Methodist Church and was the first clergy resident for the United Methodist West Ohio Conference's Residency Program.

The sessions will include:

You are One: Reclaiming the Servant Leader in You
No Fear: Embrace the Mess of Ministry

Coffee talks, Family Walks and Fellowship Dinners: The Lifestyle of Discipleship

If you are interested in going, please see Amy.

Did you Know?

January is a time clergy are required to turn in year end statistics to the Conference. Pastor Amy thanks Pat Webb, Tricia Custer, and Lynn Bayley who week after week record numbers to help with reporting to the Conference.

UMCOR (United Methodist Committee on Relief) is the first ones in and the last ones out in disasters around the world. When we hear the news—a mudslide, an earthquake...we can imagine that the bedding kits, health kits, and school kits are there helping!

LIVING GOD'S WORDS