



FIRST HAND



2022

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Mission Statement:

Sharing God's grace through prayer, witness, and service.

June 5, 2022 Pentecost Sunday



AND



*Confirmation
Sunday*

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The deadline
for the July
newsletter
articles is **June
20th**



FROM THE PASTOR'S DESK

3 Not many of you should become teachers, my brothers and sisters, for you know that we who teach will face stricter judgment. **2** For all of us make many mistakes. Anyone who makes no mistakes in speaking is mature,¹² able to keep the whole body in check with a bridle. **3** If we put bits into the mouths of horses to make them obey us, we guide their whole bodies. **4** Or look at ships: though they are so large and are driven by strong winds, yet they are guided by a very small rudder wherever the will of the pilot directs. **5** So also the tongue is a small member, yet it boasts of great exploits.

How great a forest is set ablaze by a such a small fire! **6** And the tongue is a fire. The tongue is placed among our members as a world of iniquity; it stains the whole body, sets on fire the cycle of life, and is itself set on fire by hell.¹³ **7** For every species of beast and bird, of reptile and sea creature, can be tamed and has been tamed by the human species,⁸ but no one can tame the tongue—a restless¹⁴ evil, full of deadly poison. **9** With it we bless the Lord¹⁵ and Father, and with it we curse people, made in the likeness of God. **10** From the same mouth comes a blessing and a curse. My brothers and sisters, this ought not to be so. (James 3: 1-10 NRSV)

Words matter. Words can lift up, and words can tear down. We all know this. We also know that the old saying about sticks and stones breaking our bones but names never hurting us is a lie. Christians must always use language in a way that speaks the truth and lifts people up, rather than tearing them down. Lies harm the body of Christ.

On May 14, 2022, an 18-year-old white man drove more than two hours out of his nearly all white neighborhood, wearing a bullet-proof vest and carrying a rifle. He arrived at a Tops supermarket in Buffalo NY and opened fire, killing ten people and wounding three others. 11 of the 13 people he shot were black. A written manifesto that he had written explained that his goal was to kill as many black people as possible. While sometimes circumstances are not clear as to whether or not a certain murder is a hate crime, these murders clearly were.

The manifesto kept referring to a lie, told over and over again by some political pundits, most notably Tucker Carlson, that the only reason Democrats want to expand immigration rights is to have brown people, who often vote Democrat, replace white people, who often vote Republican. The theory has been called “White Replacement Theory”. This theory is a lie; a monstrous lie. And as a result of hearing this lie perpetrated day after day, 10 people are dead. Now, obviously the shooter is the primary person responsible for his inhuman crime. But should Tucker Carlson and others who promoted White Replacement Theory also be held criminally liable for those deaths? No, not criminally, but morally, I do think they share some blame. Lies that destroy happen on all sides of the political spectrum. On May 19, the US Senate passed a bill to provide aid to Ukraine. The vote was 86 to 11. Instead of hailing the passage of a strong bi-partisan bill, Democrat Senator Chuck Schumer snarkily remarked that the Senate apparently has 11 pro-Putin members.

How ridiculous. Just because a Senator voted “no” on the bill does not make him or her “pro-Putin”. The bill was \$40 billion dollars. It is perfectly reasonable to argue that \$40 billion is too much money. Or some might have thought it was not enough. Or some even might have thought that the war between Ukraine and Russia is not one that we should be taking a side on. But of course, Schumer could not acknowledge these possibilities and immediately assumed the worst-case scenario; that those 11 senators must be Communists who love Putin.

This kind of hate speech does nothing more than add fuel to the partisan rancor already going on in Washington, in our neighborhoods, and in our families. Bullying has led to people committing suicide. Anti-gay and anti-trans remarks, insults, legislation, has led to people abandoning the church. Lies that the 2020 presidential election was stolen caused people to riot and break into the Capital building; an action that resulted in 5 deaths. Being pro-life does not mean you are a misogynist who wants to set women’s rights back 200 years. Being pro-choice does not mean you support killing babies. Voting for any candidate, no matter who it is, does not make you an idiot.

This kind of angry rhetoric goes against what Martin Luther says in the small catechism regarding the commandment to not bear false witness against your neighbor. Luther writes:

We are to fear and love God so that we do not tell lies about our neighbors, betray or slander them, or destroy their reputations. Instead, we are to come to their defense, speak well of them, and interpret everything they do in the best possible light.

It also, of course, violates that commandment of Jesus, who in John’s Gospel told his disciples:

I give you a new commandment; that you love one another. Just as I have loved you, you should also love one another. By this, everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another. (John 13: 34-35 -NRSV).

As Christians, the world is watching what we do and listening to what we say. Our children are listening too. We can and should have civil disagreements about important issues, but we can do this in ways that build one another up instead of tear one another down. Remember that in the Sermon on the Mount, Jesus said that “Thou Shall Not Kill” means not only do we not take a life, but when we insult someone, or even say something as mild as “you fool”, we will be liable to judgement. (Matthew 5: 21-22).

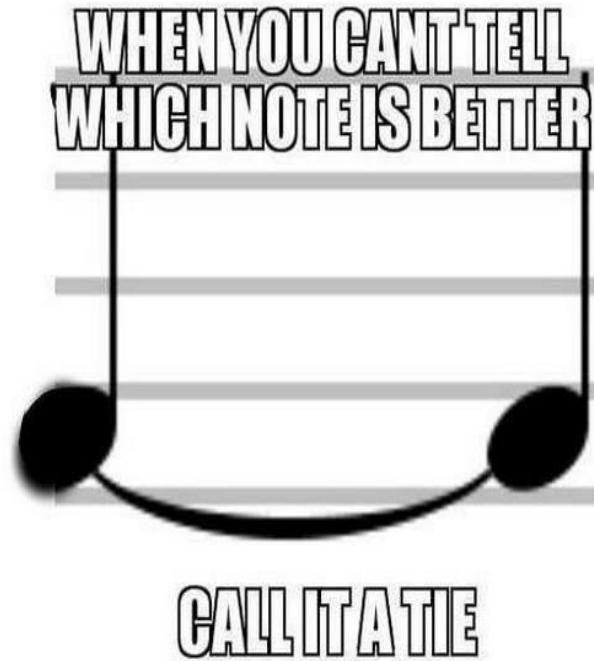
Let us as the church, as the body of Christ, be the ones to stop the hateful rhetoric. In the book of Acts, people were saying that this new group of people calling themselves Christians were turning the world upside-down. (Acts 17:6). Let’s get that back. Let’s turn the world upside-down. Let’s make it a world without prejudice, racism, gun violence, or hate.

In the abiding hope of the empty tomb,

Pastor Larry



Report of Director of Music



The Director of Music is trying to broaden your music terminology.

Hint to the pun:
one note held for two beats is a TIE

June 19 begins our summer special music schedule and summer favorite hymns.

Will yours make the cut???

From the Financial Secretary



"

Financial Secretary

Judy Vassar

Taken from “.....If the eagerness is there, the gift is acceptable according to what one has—not according to what one does not have,” 2 Corinthians 8:12
Give proportionately is our way of giving in relation to our abundance. We are to give according to our “means,” not according to an income or a budget.

GRADUATES



College:

Tommy Belser graduated from Wittenberg University with a degree in accounting. He will be working at Belser Accounting.

Madison Jones graduated Magna Cum Laude in 12, 2021 from Capital University with a degree in marketing and psychology. She is employed at the Mid-Ohio Regional Planning Commission as the Marketing Coordinator. She is residing in Worthington.

High School:

Emma Heath graduated from Bellefontaine High School, she is working this summer and will be attending OSU in the fall.

Lauren Dixon graduated from Benjamin Logan High School. She will be attending Rhodes State College in the fall.

Conner Gamble graduated from Bellefontaine High School/JVS. He plans to work for a year and then apply to attend the University of Northwestern Ohio, Lima, Ohio.

CHEF Grants of \$1500.00 each were awarded on May 29th to Brett Belser, University of Findlay; Jacob McKenrick, Purdue University; Connor Rose, Indiana University; Samantha Starkey, Baldwin Wallace University; Sarah Starkey, University of Findlay and Shelby Starkey, Ohio Northern University.



Pentecost Sunday,

June 5, 2022.

On this day, the church will gather to celebrate the ongoing life of the Holy Spirit who is its breath, vitality , and inspiration. We are asking everyone to wear something RED to church.

CONFIRMATION SUNDAY

JUNE 5, 2022

**WINNIE (WINIFRED MAE)
BODIN WILL BE CONFIRMED**



Tuesdays In The Park

*We will continue to meet for lunch on the 1st and 3rd
Tuesday in June.*



June 7 at Noon

*Bring you lunch, lawn chair and a friend. Any member of FLC and
their guests are welcome to join us...women or men.*

*We will enjoy the outdoors being able to sit over in Oakland Square
Park, weather permitting. (Meet in courtyard if inclement weather)*

Come and join us for fellowship & fun!



June 21st at Noon

Faith Circle and Friends

*We will be traveling to Cranberry Resort on beautiful Indian Lake
for an enjoyable lunch. Bring a friend. All are invited.*

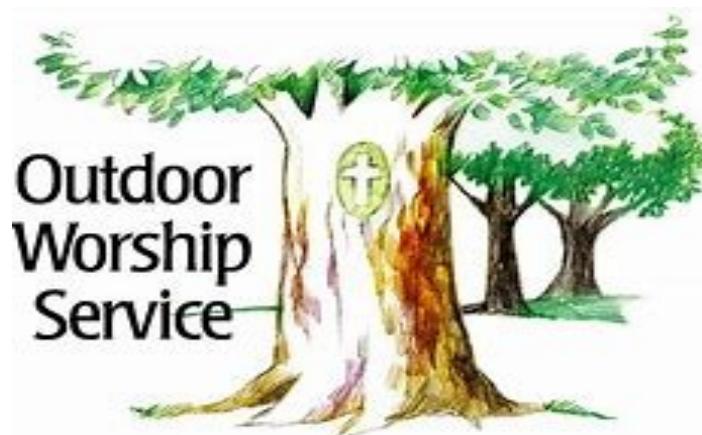
*For those who wish to carpool, meet in the church parking lot at
11:30 am. Let someone know that you want to carpool so plans
can be made to meet you.*



Christian Service and Fellowship/Mission Ministry Team

*Will meet on Sunday, June 12th at 7:00 pm in the church lounge.
We will be discussing BackPack Sunday, Fellowship in the Park
Sundays, God's work, Our Hands Sunday and
other upcoming activities*

Come Join the Fun!!



Come early on Sunday, June 12th, for an opportunity for fellowship with one another before the outdoor service. Doughnuts, coffee, and juice will be available starting at 9:00 am in Oakland Square Park. Our Outdoor Worship service will follow at 10:00.

BRING A LAWN CHAIR

In the event of inclement weather, Fellowship time will be in Rice Hall with Worship in the Sanctuary as usual.

Park Cleanup at Oakland Square Park will be on Friday, June 10th at 11:00 am to prepare for the Outdoor Worship Service on June 12th.

All helpers are welcome!



We will be serving at Daily Bread on June 20th.
Please arrive by 4:15 pm to help serve.

Donations of cupcakes, cookies, or brownies are needed for the meal. You can take to Daily Bread or leave in the church and we will make sure your baked goods get to Daily Bread.



June is bring a friend to church month.

A verbal invitation probably accounts for the majority of church discoveries between individuals. A personal invitation is also the best way to make a person feel more comfortable because of the existing connection you already have with that person.

Invite your friends and family to church



REMINDER

“Baby Bottle Campaign”
bottles are to be returned by
June 19th.

NURSERY

The nursery is being opened again to offer services to families with children ages infant to 10 years old. If anyone is interested in helping to staff the nursery please contact Brittany Porter at briporter2018@gmail.com



Pastor Larry will be starting a bible study on “Majoring in the Minors” - a study of the 12 minor prophets. It will begin 6/20 (M) at 1:30 pm and 6/22 (W) at 6:45 pm.

This will be a 12 week bible study.

MINOR PROPHETS

SELECT YOUR CHARACTER

HOSEA	JOEL	AMOS	OBADIAH
JONAH	MICAH	NAHUM	HABAKKUK
ZEPHANIAH	HAGGAI	ZECHARIAH	MALACHI

What Makes A Dad....

God took the strength of a mountain,

The majesty of a tree,

The warmth of a summer sun,

The calm of a quiet sea,

The generous soul of nature,

The comforting arm of night,

The wisdom of the ages,

The power of the eagle's flight,

The joy of a morning in spring,

The faith of a mustard seed,

The patience of eternity,

The depth of a family need.

Then God combined these qualities.

When there was nothing more to add,

He knew His masterpiece was complete,

And so, He called it ... Dad

HAPPY FATHER'S DAY JUNE 19TH



June Ministry Team Meeting Date:

06/06— 7:00pm Church Council
Meeting & NLCF

06/12— 7:00pm Fellowship & Christian
Service & Mission Meeting

06/27—7:00pm Worship Meeting



Highlights

Faith Circle

- “Lunch in the Park”

Faith Formation Ministry Team

- Nursery
- VBS

Fellowship and Christian Service and Mission Ministry Team

- Fellowship in the Park
- God’s Hands, Our Work Sunday
- Backpack Sunday



2021 Church Council

President- Susan Wyckoff

Vice-President- Brenda Shively

Secretary- Carolyn Novak

Treasurer –John Belser

Financial Secretary –Judy Vassar

Members- Chris Hildreth Blair, John Bodin, Ray Kramer,
Judy Lunz, Brittanny Porter, Sally Stephan, Ray Swisher

Sunday Attendance for April

	On site	Online
April 3	62	20
Aril 10	75	64
April 15 (Good Friday)	81	
April 17 (Easter)	109	65
April 24	72	62
Average	80	52

Property Ministry Team

- Outside repairs
- Building maintenance

Worship Ministry Team

- Summer Services

Copies of reports from the monthly meetings of each ministry team is available for you to view in the Partners In Ministry Book located in the upper narthex.

Remember In Prayer



During the past month we have remembered in prayer all who are in need of God's presence and care ... especially:

Health Issues:

Ray Swisher

Bill Fent

Maxine Brunke

Kylie Eaton

Surgery:

Pastor Karen Torrez

Larry Walker

John Drake

Jeff Fultz

Entered the Church Triumphant:

Victims of the mass shooting in Buffalo, NY

Victims of the mass shooting at Robb Elementary School in Uvalde, Texas

Thank You



Thank you for serving with us.

Evelyn Allen, Manager

THANK YOU to the congregation for all of your thoughts, prayers, and cards during my recuperation. Additionally, Thank you to John Gensemer and Pastor Larry for their visits.

Maxine Brunke





06/01 Rosemary LaBatt
06/02 Wellington Wickersham
06/04 Rosalee Horn
06/06 Jennifer Miller
06/08 Becky Longbrake
06/09 Don Lillard
06/09 Chris Tillman
06/09 April Jameson
06/09 Jenna Carman
06/10 Ron Oaks
06/10 Larry Walker
06/14 Ron Hadley
06/16 Tom Secrist
06/17 T.J. Weikart
06/19 Emma Heath
06/21 Jim Donnelly
06/21 Carolyn Novak
06/24 Bill Keck
06/24 Ellen Keck
06/24 Tyler Jones
06/24 Morgan Fultz
06/24 Zach Swisher
06/26 Charlotte Belser
06/26 Gloria Kipker
06/26 Diane Smith
06/29 Cindy Weikart



06/29/2013 Heath & Jaclyn Allen
06/06/1964 Max & Marjorie Bixler
06/01/1983 Scott & Cheryl Chamberlain
06/28/1996 John & April Fultz
06/21/1959 Ted & Carolyn Hoy
06/28/1986 Bill & Gail Keck
06/03/1972 Don & Deborah Lillard
06/30/1979 Terry & Judy Lunz
06/10/1967 Phil & Pam Pulfer
06/02/1990 Ray & Kris Swisher
06/25/1972 Tom & Cindy Weikart
06/02/2012 Jenna & Dustin Wickersham
06/15/1996 Gary & Susan Wyckoff



Worship Assistant:

June 5 Dick Griffith
June 12 Brenda Shively (Park Service)
June 19 Lucan McKenrick
June 26 Kris Shannon

Communion Assistant:

June 5 Dan Shively
June 19 Jean Wright

Usher for June: Kevin Miller

Reader:

June 5 Jean Wright
June 12 Marjorie Bixler
June 19 Dave Vassar
June 26 Chris Hildreth Blair

Altar Guild for June:

Stephanie Oaks & Kathy Fultz

Greeter(s):

June 5 Paul & Joann Karn
June 12 Dan & Brenda Shively
June 19 Jan VanHoose
June 26 Brad & Stacie Jones

Acolyte:

June 5 Misty Kipker
June 19 Winnie Bodin
June 26 Winnie Bodin

Crucifer:

June 5 Lottie Bodin
June 19 Lottie Bodin
June 26 Lottie Bodin

Communion Bread for June:

Roger & Rachel Kauffman

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
29 CHEF Sunday Guest Pastor: Mick Althauser Noisy Money Sunday 10:00am Communion Worship Service	30 Memorial Day - Office Closed 12:00pm AA (RH)	31 9:00am Quilters	1 JUNE 12:00pm NA (RH)	2 9:30 am Pastor Cluster Mtg. @ Covenant Lutheran 12:00 pm NA (RH)	3 Office Closed	4 2:00 pm Nevers Graduation Party Office Closed
5 Confirmation Sunday Pentecost Sunday - wear red 10:00am Communion Worship Service	6 12:00pm AA (RH) 7:00pm Council Meeting (NLCF)	7 9:00am Quilters 12:00pm Lunch in the Park	8 12:00pm NA (RH)	9 12:00pm NA (RH)	10 Office Closed 11:00am Oakland Square Park Cleanup	11 Office Closed
12 10:00am Park Service 7:00pm Christian Service and Fellowship Meeting	13 10:00am Staff Meeting 12:00pm AA (RH)	14 9:00am Quilters	15 12:00pm NA (RH)	16 12:00pm NA (RH) 6:00pm Outreach	17 Office Closed	18 Office Closed 11:00am Lois Latimer Memorial Service
19 Father's Day 10:00am Communion Worship Service	20 10:00am Staff Meeting 12:00pm AA (RH) 4:15pm Our Daily Bread	21 9:00am Quilters 12:00pm Lunch at Cranberry Resort	22 12:00pm NA (RH) 6:45pm Bible Study	23 12:00pm NA (RH)	24 Office Closed	25 Office Closed 7:00pm Dulcimers
26 10:00am Worship Service	27 10:00am Staff Meeting 12:00pm AA (RH)	28 9:00am Quilters	29 12:00pm NA (RH)	30 12:00pm NA (RH)	1 JULY Office Closed	2 Office Closed