

otterbein Connection

Summer 2023 Newsletter from:



Greetings from Pastor Matt:

2023 Summer Greetings from your Pastor,



It's that time of year again when the weather is warming up and time in the kitchen is sometimes less. Family reunions, cook-outs and special get-togethers are added to the calendar creating even less time in the kitchen. Sometimes that directs us to a local fast-food line when we are too tired to make supper. As you go through the line, what is your favorite go-to combo meal deal? Maybe I should ask... where do you go to get the best deal on a combo meal? I am always looking for combo meal deals and or coupons. The go-to deal for my family is the Wendy's \$ 5.00 biggie bag. Not long ago it was called the 4 for \$ 4 bag. I don't know if we scared them one too many times when my family placed an order for 10 after church on a Sunday but now it is called the \$ 5 Biggie Bag. And not only the name changed...but the sandwich is smaller, less fries,

and the drink cup even seems smaller. Things we become used to in this world-like it or not-are always changing.

But think about this...the gifts that came into the world with Jesus Christ NEVER get small or lose value. The hope, peace, joy and love of the Advent wreath continues to be one good combo deal. It is the ultimate combo deal that is good and absolutely needed all year long. The Apostle Paul gets on the band wagon about how precious this combo deal from God is for each one of us. Romans 15:13 says, "May the God of **HOPE** fill you with all **JOY** and **PEACE** as you trust in Him, so that you may overflow with **HOPE** by the **POWER (LOVE)** of the Holy Spirit." This is what God wants, longs for and desires for His church on earth.

The war between good and evil is the sin of humanity. We are born with it. I recently read a quote that said, "So long as there is humanity on this Earth, there will be mistakes and failure. If you cannot tolerate those who make them, I suggest you stop making them yourself!"

Wow, let us embrace our amazing relationship with Jesus Christ and because we have that relationship with Jesus Christ, we have no need to pick and choose between hope, peace, joy and love. This is for inside and outside of the church walls. We get them all and it is one amazing (life everlasting!) combo deal; it is not an ala carte pick and choose. This summer share the hope, peace, joy and love of your Lord and Savior.

Pastor Matt Garra-brant

Readiness 360 Survey July 6th through July 16th, everyone who attends the Otterbein UMC is invited to participate in an online survey. Pastor Matt will email the survey link out to those who receive the church email. The survey will take about 20 minutes. If you are not able to do the survey at home, feel free to stop at the church office during the week or you can do the survey during the Sunday School hour on July 9th or July 16th. Thank you and you will hear about the results after the Readiness 360 Team meets with Rev. Jeff Croft.



Family Picnic will be a Potluck lunch this year. It will follow the worship service on Sunday, August 6th. There will be a sign-up sheet on the narthex bulletin board for food-entrees, sides, salads, desserts. The church will provide drinks and paper products.

Shake-it-Up Sunday July 16th will be our Second Shake-it-up Sunday. The worship service might look out of order, the hymns might not look right, you might now know the person next to you, but it will all make sense. When you come to worship that day, choose another pew to sit in and meet a new friend. This Shake-it-up Sunday will be meaningful, informational and enjoyable. You will be glad you were here!!!



Christmas in



Celebrate with us, Sunday July 23rd. It will look like Christmas, sound like Christmas and you will receive a gift. You are asked to bring NEW sweatpants for Red Bird Mission. The sizes are children - M & L; adult - S, M, L, XL, XXL. We will collect these until July 31st. Merry Christmas everyone!!



Agnes & Stages & FaithKeepers Sunday school Classes The adult Sunday school class are studying the book, "Questions Jesus Asked". We will see what Jesus wants to know about us as this book presents challenges to us. Based on selected scriptures from Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John, we will be asked, "Why Are You Afraid? What do You Live For? Who do You Say That I Am? Why Are You Anxious? Whom Will You Love? What Are You Looking For?" These most provocative questions Jesus poses, bring us a fuller appreciation for the wisdom, power, and presence of God in our lives. Join us as we share, study, and strengthen our faith as we dig deeper into the Word. The classes met at 9:00 am on Sunday morning.



United Women in Faith

United Women in Faith The women are holding their monthly meetings the second Tuesday of the month at 1:00 pm. All women are welcome and encouraged to be a part of this group. The annual Fall Rummage Sale will be Wednesday, October 4th from 9:00 am-4:00 pm and Thursday, October 5th from 9:00 am-3:00 pm which is Bag Day.

Otterbein Summer Campers Otterbein has 12 campers attending summer camp this year. Their families took advantage of the camperships offered this past spring. East Ohio Conference and Tuscarawas District awarded \$ 2,384 as Otterbein's UMW matched with \$ 1,800. Even though summer is reserved for youth campers, there are still camping opportunities for families and adults at Wanake. The Conference & District Camperships were made possible through the Apportionments. You can find more details at <http://www.campwanake.org/>



Parent-Child Overnight - August 12-13 Labor Day Family Weekend - September 1-4
Women's Spiritfire Retreat Weekend - September 15-17 Wanake Fall Teen Retreat - November 3-5



August 13th is Celebration Sunday. The children changing classes, will be promoted that day. Those going into the third grade will receive Bibles and teacher recognition will be during the worship service that morning. We celebrate our children and teachers and helpers. We also will have a Blessing of the Sports that day, as this is the season that many of our children & youth are involved in sports, either in the community or schools.



We are providing our free monthly Community Meals as dine-in or carryout, Our summer dates and menus are cream chicken sandwich, corn, applesauce, desserts & beverages on July 18th and hamburgers, baked beans, potato salad, applesauce, desserts & beverages on August 15th. The meals are available from 5:00 pm - 6:30 pm. All are invited!!



Autumn Fest 2023 September 30th is our Second Annual Autumn Fest. This was a huge success last year and we want to build on it this year. If you are a vendor and would like to participate, please contact the church office at (330) 484-2776 and you will be directed to a person with that information. If you would like to be on the planning team, call the church office for that contact person, as well.



If you would like to receive the prayer concerns on our Prayer Chain, please call or text Michelle Feucht at (330) 309-6140 with your contact information.



Vacation Bible School Bible School was a great success this year! There were 60 kids in attendance and 42 adults and youth helpers. Money was collected to fill snack sacks for the Salvation Army/Fairless Clergy Back to School Bash. They collected \$405 which filled 92 bags! Thank you to ALL who participated and donated. Next year's VBS will be **CAMP FIRELIGHT - A SUMMER CAMP ADVENTURE WITH GOD!**