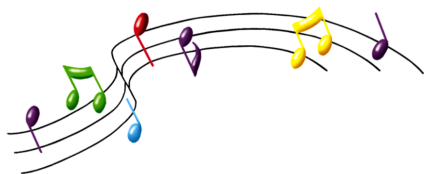




Music Ministry



Psalms 96 says Sing to the Lord a new song. In fact, the Bible contains over 400 references to singing! Music is an integral part of worship! I hope you all have been singing along from your couches these past months as we've been live-streaming. If you've tuned in to any of our online services, it's no secret that we've had some struggles with our sound system and our A/V equipment as we have navigated new ways of "doing church". I appreciate your patience with us as we have worked at ironing out the kinks. This past Sunday was a huge success for us as all the pieces finally started coming together. Our whole goal is to bring a message of healing and hope to this very broken world we are living in through the ministry of music. As one of my all-time favorite artists Sandi Patti sings "He inhabits the praise of His people...lift your voices and with gladness sing. Proclaim to all the earth that Jesus Christ is King". - Kay Belser

New Youtube Channel

WE NOW HAVE A NEW CHANNEL FOR OUR YOUTUBE LIVE STREAM SERVICES. GO THE YOUTUBE AND TYPE IN The Vine Fellowship in Copley.

Inside this issue:

Pastor's Pen	2
Pastor's Pen	3
Session Highlights	4
Worship Opportunities	5
Presbytery News	6
Prayer Meeting	7

Special points of interest:

All Sunday Morning services will be held via the Youtube channel The Vine Fellowship in Copley.

Pastor's Pen

Dear Members and Friends of The Vine Fellowship Church:

God, please, heal our land. These days, I am reminded of the words from II Chronicles 7:14 that says, "14 if my people, who are called by my name, will humble themselves and pray and seek my face and turn from their wicked ways, then I will hear from heaven, and I will forgive their sin and will heal their land." This has been my prayer over the past several months as we continue to move through two national crises: the Covid-19 crisis and the racial crisis. Even though I was not yet a teenager, these days bring back memories of the 1960's- the Vietnam War; the murdering of President John F. Kennedy, Bobby Kennedy and Martin Luther King, Jr. and the racial unrest. I ask you to join me as, together, we humble ourselves, pray, seek God's face, and turn from our wicked ways. God, please, heal our land.

On Tuesday, June 2, Eastminster Presbytery held its first, Zoom presbytery meeting. It was a long meeting (4+ hours) as we heard reports and took action on a motion for the presbytery to make a statement about the recent racial unrest and protesting. We were privileged to hear from Revs. Scott and Elmarie Parker who serve our church in Lebanon. Our church gives mission money to support Elmarie and her work with our national church in Lebanon, Syria, and Iraq. Elmarie reported about the on ongoing political crisis that finds outside political players from the region and the global community that are trying to take advantage of Lebanon's vulnerability. Food scarcity has multiplied over the past 6 weeks- not because food isn't available, but because of the economic crisis. People's purchasing power is 5 times less than it was four months ago. There is food on the shelves but people cannot afford to buy it. Over 50% of the people are under the poverty level.

Over the past several months, people have taken to the streets in protest over the corruption of the government, the economic crisis, fears of starvation, and people inability to work. More recently, different Lebanese political parties are infiltrating the protests with people who are inciting violence with religious overtones. This has not happened in Lebanon for decades and it is a deep concern for the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) partners in Lebanon. This is putting great strain on the Lebanese police and security forces.

We learned from Elmarie that the pastors of our partner church,

Pastor's Pen Continued

Cont. from page 2

to the economic crisis, have given ½ of their salaries to help feed people in their areas. With over 200,000 refugee children alone, in Beirut, there is a great concern for them and their families. NESSL has initiated a two-prong program: 1) Provide hygiene materials and 2) Provide food security for Syrian and Lebanese families. It was reported that even during the worst times of Lebanon's Civil War (1975-1990) people have never suffered to the extent they are today.

Elmarie also shared a written report. What follows is part of this report: Iraq has seen a rise in Covid-19 cases and citizens are demanding the government address its corruption. Iraq's health care system has been devastated by multiple wars and sanctions over the decades and at this time does not have the capacity to respond to rapid increases of COVID19 cases. So, continuing strict stay-at-home orders is the only way they can control the spread of the virus, which then has deep economic ramifications. And, as is the case everywhere, it is those who are already the most vulnerable who are most deeply impacted by restrictions on work—especially day laborers.

Please continue to pray for our partners who are seeking to respond to the vast needs within their contexts at this incredibly challenging time. Their work is ranging from addressing food insecurity needs, to providing hygiene supplies and education, to providing funds for emergency health needs and access to medication for chronic health conditions, to supporting their congregations. Please pray for their daily energy, for daily renewal of hope in the face of overwhelming challenges and diminished resources, for perseverance, for creativity, and for enduring love to overcome those forces that seek to divide and cause hatred and strife. We remain so very grateful for your prayer partnership! In Christ's Peace, Elmarie

Please pray for the power of God to move in our country, in Lebanon, and around the world. Stay well; stay safe; stay virus-free. And have a good summer.

Yours in Christ and on the Journey together,

mark

Session Highlights

JUNE SESSION HIGHLIGHTS

- The Session defeated the following motion: The Covid-19 Advisory Team seeks permission for Tai Chi classes and Copley Chamber of Commerce to meet at the HUB. Note: They'll be expected to follow our Covid-19 Guidelines.
- The Session defeated the following motion: To invite our congregation to a time to visit in the church's side lawn. Everyone would be expected to bring their own chair, wear a mask and practice social distancing. The restrooms will be available. Sanitizing guidelines will be followed. Suggested dates are Wednesday, June 17 from 6:30-8pm or Wednesday June 24 at the same time.
- Pat Franklin (Christian Growth & Development) reported that she has been sending out daily Biblical short passages. The team is also exploring how to handle Christian education once we can start meeting again.
- Worship Team reported the number of YouTube viewers per Sunday as of 6/1/20:
 - Sunday, May 3rd = 106
 - Sunday, May 10th = 92
 - Sunday, May 17th = 104
 - Sunday, May 24th = 117
 - Sunday, May 31st = 102There are 61 subscribers to our YouTube channel.
- Elder Commissioner, Edie English participated in the June 2, 2020 Eastminster Presbytery Zoom meeting. A report is in a separate article.

Something to Consider

Since we are not having church in the building but live streaming each Sunday, what if you invited your unchurched friends to tune in by going to YouTube at 11 a.m. on Sunday mornings? Just think, they can "try church" without coming to the church and they can watch in their pajamas and have a cup of their favorite drink. And if you invited those friends and they tune in, what if you call them, text them, email them and discuss the message with you? Folks, we have never had a greater opportunity than NOW to reach out to those you know and love who are not a part of the church. And why not tell them that you are praying for them? Something to consider....

Worship Opportunities

Worship in July

Sunday, July 5th

11:00 a.m. Worship Service
Scripture: Galatians 2:19-22
Sermon: "I Pledge Allegiance to ..."

Virtual Communion

Sunday, July 12th

11:00 a.m. Worship Service
Scripture: Ecclesiastes 3:1-8
Sermon: "Ah, the Seasons"

Sunday, July 19th

11:00 a.m. Worship Service
Sermon: Rev. Dr. Charles Hardwick, Interim Synod Executive, Synod of the Covenant

Sunday, July 26th

11:00 a.m. Worship Service
Sermon: Larry Vincent, preaching

NOTE: Until further notice, all services will be live streamed on YouTube. Search @ The Vine Fellowship in Copley

Prayer Concerns/ Bible Studies

Pray for our military: Paul Jones - Air Force

Please continue to pray for: Pete Jones, Larry Vincent, Hope Everhart, Frank Weaver, Steve Rowland, Irene Stelts, Nancy Smith, Jack Warrell, Nancy Dunaway, David Cook, JoAnn Marcinkoski, Mia Wilson, Gary in Chicago, All of those who are infected by the Coronavirus, The medical staff treating those infected, Members in Senior Living Facilities, Unrest and killing in our country and around the world, Racial reconciliation, Refugee crisis around the world, Syrian Refugee Educational Initiative, The Middle East, Local Missions: Love Akron, Missionaries Mark Hare - and wife Jenny Bent (Costa Rica) and Elmarie & Scott Parker (Lebanon/Syria), The Persecuted Church.

The PCUSA, President Trump and elected officials.

Men's Thursday Morning Bible Study

Every Thursday morning a group of men of all ages are currently meeting on a Zoom call at 6:45 am for Bible study and fellowship. If you would like to join this study, please contact Keith Morgenstern at keith.morgenstern@hotmail.com

The Women's Bible Review Fellowship, Tuesday Club, Afternoon Circle, WNGS

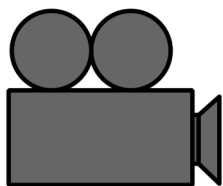
The above Bible Studies will not be meeting during the summer months..

Eastminster Presbytery News

ACTION BY EASTMINSTER PRESBYTERY AT THE JUNE 2, 2020

Elder Edie English reports the following: Presbytery approved the following statement on current events. The Stated Clerk will send this statement to appropriate elected officials and local Youngstown/Akron media. *We, the collected congregations of Eastminster Presbytery, stand with our sister in Christ, Bishop Mariann Edgar Budde, and the Episcopal Diocese of Washington, in condemning President Trump's use of St. John's Church as a political backdrop without receiving permission of church leaders. We also condemn the use of government force to disrupt the congregation's practice of the gospel of Jesus Christ in providing aid and support to the protestors. Such an invasion of church property and disruption of ministry directly violates the congregation's right to freely practice their faith. Furthermore, we call upon the President and our national leaders to join us in prayer for the families of George Floyd, Ahmaud Arbery, and Breonna Taylor. We call upon the President and national leaders to hear the cries for justice voiced through the peaceful protests while working steadfastly to bring safety and peace to our streets. Finally, we call upon the President and national leaders to join us in an ongoing ministry of reconciliation in a nation much divided.*

Here's a Chance for you to Have Your 2 Minutes of Fame!



How would you like to be on TV and for the right reasons? It was suggested that we encourage our members and friends who would like to share a message of hope/encouragement/where you have seen God, with those who watch our Sunday morning live stream service to do so. What you need to do is video tape your message, keep it to 2-(no more than) minutes and send it to Margaret Ruppert at mamarupp@sbcglobal.com. We look forward to receiving your video and airing it on a Sunday morning.

THE VINE FELLOWSHIP CHURCH

3676 Community Lane

Copley, OH 44321
Phone: 330-576-6608

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

tvfcopley@gmail.com
www.thevinefellowshipcopley.org

As a caring Christian community, The Vine Fellowship Church welcomes all people as we proclaim, witness and teach the good news of Jesus Christ through worship, prayer and service.

Prayer Meeting



We are inviting the congregation to join in a weekly time of prayer and reading from God's word beginning at 7:30 pm Monday evening. An outline will be available via the prayer chain. If you're not on the prayer chain contact Pat Franklin at pjfranklin.820@gmail.com.

PLEASE NOTE: IF THOSE OF US WHO HAVE BEEN AT THE CHURCH ON SUNDAY MORNINGS LIVESTREAMING THE SERVICE ARE NOT PERMITTED TO DO SO, PASTOR MARK WILL STILL LIVE STREAM FROM HIS HOME AT 11 A.M. SUNDAY MORNINGS.

The Vine Fellowship Church

Worship begins at 11:00 am.

Mark T. Ruppert - Pastor
Denise Negowski - HUB Marketing & Events Manager
Kay Belser - Pianist and Director of Music Ministry

Plain English

If we ever forget that we are One Nation Under God, then we will be a nation gone under!