

THE ASSISTANT PASTOR

June-July 2024



Volume 66 Number 6



FROM THE
PASTOR

Camp Firelight

“When I am afraid, I will put my trust in you,
God.” Psalm 56:3

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These are some lyrics from this year’s VBS theme song:

We are going where the sun shines bright
We are not afraid of what we leave behind
No looking back
There’s no slowing us down

It’s a place where we can get away
Learn to trust God and take a leap of faith
No looking back
There’s no slowing us down

Come on, light a fire, light a fire in our hearts
O God, your word is like a lamp in the dark

Welcome one, welcome all
Welcome to Camp Firelight

The 2024 Gomer VBS program will be Sunday, July 14 thru Thursday, July 18 from 5:45pm to 8:00 pm, with their worship songs on Sunday, July 21 during our regular service.

I just finished preaching a 5-week series on the Holy Spirit. It occurs to me: the way to light a fire in our hearts, as the song suggests, is through the presence of the Holy Spirit. John Wesley claimed, after years of preaching, that his heart had become strangely warmed. That “fire” was because of his encounter with the Holy Spirit. The only way to become “on fire for the Lord” is by the third person of the Trinity.

Please tell friends, neighbors, and relatives about VBS. It could have a wonderful impact on a child’s life. And pray for all the teachers, helpers, and students that God will light a fire in all our hearts.

In Christ’s Love,
Pastor Mo Dunn



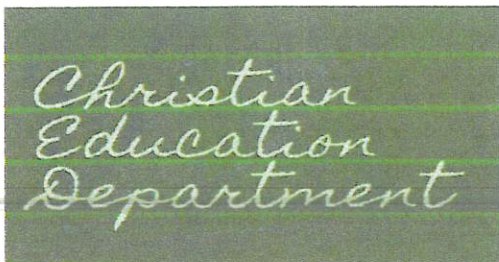
Children age 3 years through 5th grade
Vacation Bible School 2024
5:45-8:00 p.m.

Sunday, July 14 thru Thursday, July 18th

The children will perform the songs they have learned during our worship service on Sunday, July 16th. We have many fun activities planned for the week! There will be crafts, games, snacks, and music every day.



On Sunday, July 21 following the service, stay for our Church Picnic. Hamburgers, hot dogs, chips, drinks and table service will be provided. Everyone is asked to bring a covered dish to share. We look forward to seeing everyone!



VBS planning is underway! The dates will be Sunday July 14th thru Thursday July 18th. We are looking for volunteers to help with various tasks. If you are interested, please email Emily at emilycdiller@gmail.com.

You can now give to Gomer CC online through Tithe.ly! Simply visit our website – gomercc.org – and click on "Give Online" on the menu bar. You will be directed to the online giving page where you can click the link to begin your transaction.



You can make a one-time gift using the simple form at the link, or, by clicking "Sign Up" in the top right corner, you can register an account to track your giving or set up recurring transactions. You can also give by installing the Tithe.ly app on your mobile device. The "cover fees" check box will add the associated processing fees to your transaction. If you can, please consider contributing the processing fees also. You can save yourself and the church some money by utilizing a bank transfer (instead of a credit card) as these types of transactions have lower fees.

Our Father's arms

As a young boy, J. Ellsworth Kalas had to visit the Mayo Clinic for tests. His parents, knowing their son was safe in the hospital overnight, slept at a nearby hotel. But Kalas was so lonely and scared that a nurse called his folks. Kalas, who later became a pastor, recalled what it was like to have his father arrive.

"I remember his dressing me there in the darkness," he said. "Then I remember getting on a streetcar, sitting way at the back as we rode to the hotel. He held me very close to him, his long, ungainly arm wrapped around me. And the little boy who had been so frightened was now at peace." We all face trials that can seem overwhelming. "How good, then, to draw deeply on the resources of God!" Kalas said. "In him there is a peace which is greater than the trouble. How good, indeed, to burrow into a place of security, and to feel an arm wrapping strong about us and to know that it is the arm of our heavenly Father."



Stewardship is WORK

The Stewardship Committee has chosen The Lima Rescue Mission for the month of June. Donating items from our needs list is a great way to make a difference in the lives of the poor and homeless. Here are some items currently needed for our daily ministry.

Canned Beef and chicken, noodles/pasta in plastic bags, disposable cutlery, 12 oz foam cups, take out containers, napkins, grocery bags, twin blade disposable razors, shaving cream, Bodywash (3 in 1), bar soap, cough drops, cold medicine (tablets or capsules), new towels and washcloths, facial tissues, paper towels, and bleach.

The month of July we will be collecting items for the Veteran's Food Pantry.

Need fast relief? Slow down!

Actor Lily Tomlin reportedly said, "For fast-acting relief, try slowing down." Summer does not seem to be the "slow season" it once was — if indeed it ever truly was. But perhaps we can use it as incentive to take some "downtime" around the plethora of activities, travel and always-busy work schedules. Pause and accept Jesus' invitation: "Come with me by yourselves to a quiet place and get some rest" (Mark 6:31, NIV).

It may be a refreshing spot at a lake, a hike in the woods, an early-morning fishing trip. Maybe, around your work schedule, you can reserve time for a few days of church camp, a picnic at the city park, a nap on a blanket in the backyard sun. Help the kids in your life discover what it is like to *not* be on the go and to take a screen-time sabbath — even to experience boredom and see what creativity blossoms. Do art projects together, ride bikes, paint with water or chalk on the sidewalk, pick berries, bake cookies, solve puzzles, sing songs! Try slowing down, as Lily Tomlin — and even Jesus — advised. In summer, and any time, it's good for the soul!

thank you

Dear Friends,
Words do not describe it. Pictures do not do it justice. You must walk the neighborhoods of Lakeview and Russells Point to hear the stories from survivors of the Indian Lake tornado to fully grasp the magnitude of the disaster in our small towns. Over 1,000 properties affected, including more than 300 homes that were destroyed or suffered major damages. It is a miracle that only three people died in the storm.

Thank you for making your \$358. Gift to our Indian Lake Tornado Relief fund. Your generosity will help our community rebuild, one family at a time. More of the letter can be found on our church bulletin board.

Sincerely,
Dave Bezusko, Executive Director

What forgiveness is — and is not

Forgiveness does not mean ignoring what has been done or putting a false label on an evil act. It means, rather, that the evil act no longer remains as a barrier to the relationship. Forgiveness is a catalyst creating the atmosphere necessary for a fresh start and a new beginning. It is the lifting of a burden or the canceling of a debt. —Martin Luther King Jr.

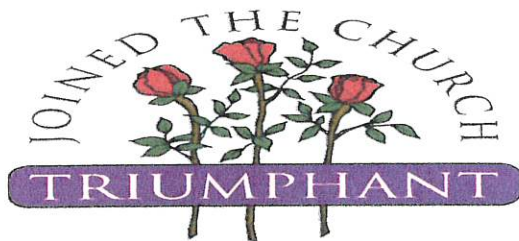


MEET

EAT

Jim, Beth, and Halle Kate Wilder will be visiting and attending our church service Sunday, June 2nd. We will be having a carry-in luncheon after the service. Please bring a dish to share, table service,

meat and beverages will be provided. We hope you will be able to join us as Jim and his family are looking forward to seeing their Gomer family!



MARILYN JUNE DUNLAP

September 1, 1937 – April 19, 2024

Marilyn June Dunlap, 86, of Delphos, passed away at her residence on Friday, April 19, 2024. She was born September 1, 1937, to Richard William Lewis and Sarah Emma (Risser) Lewis. They both preceded her in death.

June is survived by her sons, Steve (Sue) Dunlap of Elida and Doug (Kathy) Dunlap of Spencerville; six grandchildren, Meghan (Chris) Ulm, Nick (Ashley) Dunlap, Katelyn (Brandon) Miller, Natalie (Jessie) Mackey, Jennifer (Josh) Sherrick, and Susan Ball; and 17 great-grandchildren, Raylee, Kaedyn, Kensyn, Laylin, Ledger, Peyton, Lane, Renlee, Clay, Abigail, Julia, McKenzie, Davie, Dakota, Chloe, Hunter, Luke.

June was preceded in death by her only daughter, Lori Ball.

June graduated from Gomer High School, Class of 1955. She was a member of the Gomer Congregational Church, the Gomer Welsh Society, and the Delphos Senior Citizen Center. For a time, June worked for the Delphos Herald. She enjoyed her shoes and sweatshirts, the warm weather and bright, pretty flowers that summer always brought, taking her grandchildren to garage sales, and spending time with her friend, Ruby. June liked reading her novels, collecting cookbooks, and cooking, with chop suey being a family favorite. Not only will she be remembered for how she loved her family dearly, especially her grandchildren, always praying for them, but also how June loved with her whole heart.

Recognizing genius

Inventor Nikola Tesla, whose discoveries led to alternating current, was born in 1856 during a lightning storm. According to legend, a frightened midwife declared, "This child will be a child of darkness!" But Tesla's mother replied, "No, he will be a child of light."

As an adult, Tesla reportedly stood to applaud God whenever the skies opened. In *Please, Sorry,*

Thanks, Mark Batterson writes, "Every time lightning struck and thunder clapped, it was one genius giving a standing ovation to another Genius." Every day, about 3.46 million lightning strikes occur on our planet. "That is a lot of standing ovations," Batterson writes, "but according to the psalmist, the angels shout 'Encore' after each one!" He asks, "When was the last time you clapped for the Creator? When was the last time you gave Him a standing ovation?"



MAY 2024

Members present: Matt Nusbaum, Bob Ritchey, Jim Siefker, Jeff Weis, Deb Thomas, Bob Roethlisberger, Travis Watkins.

The meeting was called to order by Chairman, Matt Nusbaum. Pastor Dunn shared a devotion by Oswald Chambers. He defined a good conscience as being the "eye of the soul." Those with a good conscience are seen as open to God on the inside. The May financial report was presented by Dina Tadena. A motion to accept the report was made and approved.

OLD BUSINESS

Bob reported that the steps for entering side door of parsonage were near completion.

Travis is getting more mulch for completing parsonage landscaping.

The purchase of a tv for use in the fellowship hall by multiple organizations and members of the church was re-approved. Deb will take care of it and have it ready for Bible School.

NEW BUSINESS

Pastor Mo reported that the organ has an electrical issue and has been tended to by the company we use for repair.

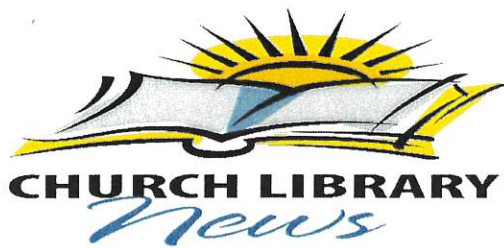
A question regarding folding chairs being rented was raised. It was decided that we would not engage in renting tables or chairs.

A motion to adjourn was made and approved.

Meeting adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Deb Thomas



LIBRARY RENOVATION IS COMPLETE!

Many changes were made to our library and our committee strived to take into consideration the various functions our library serves.

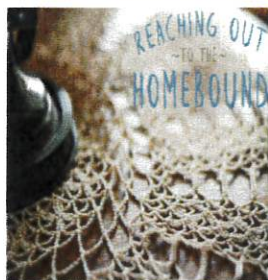
Thank You for all the donations received to make this project possible and to our church family for their patience as the project unfolded!

Assisting in the project; Kiel Diller, George Diller, Matt Nusbaum and Marty Thomas.

Committee members: Hope Diller, Sue Grusenmeyer, Donna Martin, Bob Roethlisberger, Deb Thomas and Carol Sunderland (Librarian).



June 2	Bruce & Vi Lloyd	Norah Baker
June 9	Steve & Dina Tadena	Zoey Diller
June 16	Bill Askins and Lori Crider	Emma Larimore
June 23	Cheyenn & Dian Ridley	Carson Sunderland
June 30	Ron & Denise Meyers	Morgan Thomas
July 7	Pat Sharrits and Martha Britt	Rayna Ogle
July 14	Brian & Rachel Baker	Kenna Larimore
July 21	Dan & Keisha Larimore	Becket Sunderland
July 28	Jeff & Mary Weis	Beth Ogle
Aug. 4	Kiel & Emily Diller	Norah Baker
Aug. 11	Louie & Jan Siefker	Zoey Diller
Aug. 18	Larry & Deb Stewart	Carson Sunderland
Aug. 25	Jeff & Melissa Thomas	Genna Thomas



Joan Thomas – The Meadows of Kalida, 755 Ottawa St., Kalida, OH 45853

Bob Jones – Primrose Retirement Community, 3500 W. Elm St. Room 120, Lima, OH 45807

Linda Alger – Wingate, 1070

Gloria Ave. Room 133, Lima, OH 45805

Don't be root-bound

As a new gardener, Jan Rigggenbach used to treat bedding plants with extreme care, setting them into soil without disturbing the roots. Eventually she learned that rough — even ruthless — treatment is better in the long run.

“If the plant has been growing in its pot so long that the roots are circling the bottom, I jab my finger into the bottom of the soil and pull down to untangle the roots,” Rigggenbach wrote in her gardening column. “If the whole pot is filled with circling roots, I have to be merciless. I don’t worry if I break some of the roots. That’s better than allowing the roots to continue to circle when the plants are growing in the garden.”

In the same way, it’s easy to grow complacent and inward-focused in our walk with God. But bunched-up roots can’t reach out for sustenance. So for maximum faith growth, dare to let God shake you up from time to time!



The electric sign in front of the church needs to be replaced. The cost is over \$25,000. The trustees voted to start a fund to get the sign back in working condition. If you would like to contribute, mark your envelope Sign Fund. Thank you!

WHILE YOU ARE AWAY

Taking regular vacations is key to our well-being. It is important to spend time with loved ones, experience physical and mental refreshment, enjoy changes in scenery and routine, and prepare for future productivity.

Just remember: God’s work goes on all summer long. When you are on vacation, your friends at church miss you. No one else can fill your unique role in the congregation. Your presence and gifts help the church thrive. So please give your regular offerings before you leave for vacation. And if you have the opportunity, try to attend church while you are away. Have a wonderful summer!



CARL LEON JOHNSON

December 8, 1947 - May 18, 2024

Carl Leon Johnson, 76, of Spencerville, passed away on Saturday, May 18, 2024 surrounded by his family at home.

Leon was born on December 8, 1947, in Lima to the Lewis Carl and Rita Jean (Bible) Johnson. He graduated from Gomer High School in 1966. After graduation, Leon proceeded to attend college at the University of Toledo until he received his draft notice. He could have opted out of the service, but that was not him. He left school and headed to the Army. After his training, he left for Vietnam and was part of long-range reconnaissance missions which were 3-5 man groups. He was wounded three times and received a Purple Heart and a Bronze Star for valor.

When he came home from Vietnam, he initially wasn't welcomed into the Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW). His cousin Sam talked him into giving the Spencerville VFW a chance and Leon went to his first meeting and was elected Jr. Vice Commander. As time went on, he became more involved and was elected post commander in 1998. In 2001 he became the District 2 Commander and then held the office of VFW State Commander in 2009-2010. As department commander, he earned All American Status.

In 2003 he was involved with creating the VFW Ohio Charities. They formed this charity to help ensure that posts would be able to help support their local communities.

Leon's passion in the VFW was his role as Veteran and Military Support Chairman. In 2010, he really saw the need for a program that could help support Veterans and National Guard and Reservist who needed financial assistance. He set up the Ohio Military Assistance Program (MAP) within the department. This program has helped so many and truly created a bond within the State of Ohio between the VFW and the Ohio National Guard. Leon

spent so many hours and miles on the road taking care of these members and their families. Leon has always made sure he took care of everyone else. It didn't matter if it was his family, employees, VFW members and posts, veterans or military members and their families. Leon will definitely be missed, but his legacy will live on forever with those he touched.

On January 22, 2000, Leon was united in marriage to Robin Ann Ramler. Once he returned home from the service, he worked as a plumbing, heating, and electrical contractor. He began working for John P. Timmerman then started Quality Mechanical Comp. Aside from his pride and love for his time in the military and work with the VFW, Leon loved his family more than anything.

He is survived by his mother, Rita Johnson of Wooster, OH; his wife, Robin Ann Johnson; three children, Michael Lee (Angela) Johnson of Delphos, Craig Robert (Tammy) Wilburn of Grayson, KY, Sarah Jane (Jason) Algeria of Casa Grande, AZ; five grandchildren, Nathan Johnson, Garret Johnson, Jackson Wilburn, Georgia Wilburn, and Riley Algeria; and three siblings, Vickie Sue Young of London, OH, Linda (Rory) Reed of Wooster, and Peggy (Jim) Retzler of Wooster. Leon was preceded in death by his father, and siblings, David Johnson and Becky Woo.

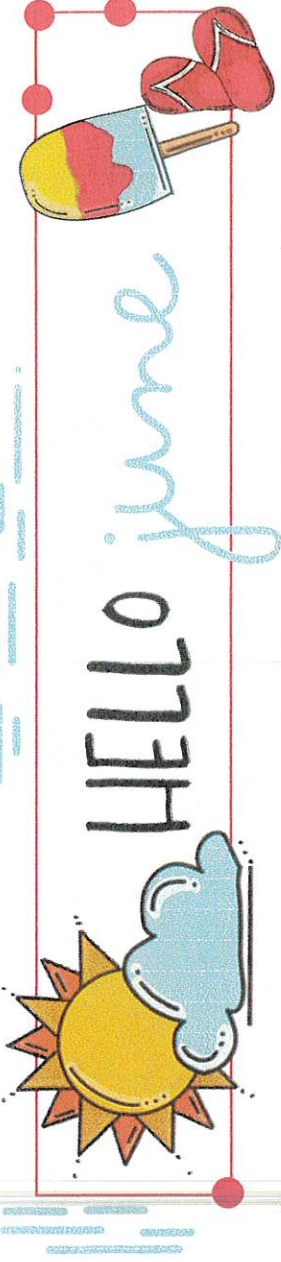
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—Martin Luther King Jr.

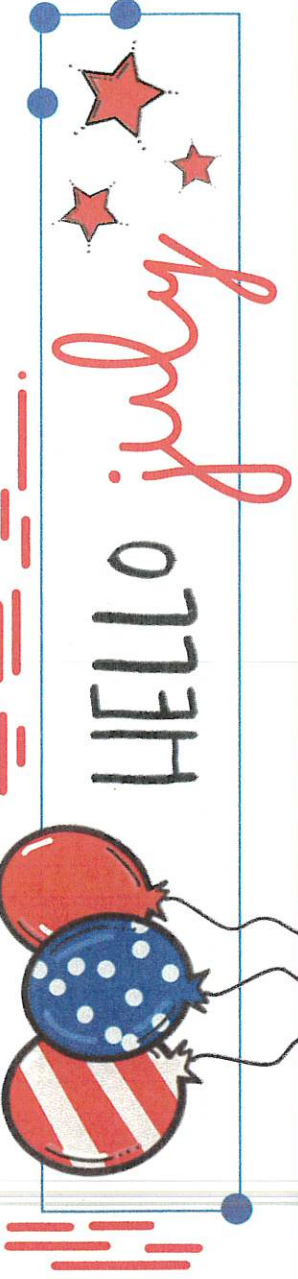


Church office hours STARTING May 27 are Tuesday and Thursday from 8:30 to 11:30am.



2024

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
						1
2 10am Worship 11:30am Carry in Luncheon	3 7:00pm - 4-H meeting	4 7:30pm - Deacon & Deaconess meeting	5	6	7	8
9 10am Worship 11:30am - Pastoral Relations Committee	10 7:00pm - Trustee meeting	11	12	13	14 Flag Day	15 9 to Noon Recycling at Uncle Al's
16 10am Worship Father's Day	17 7:00pm - 4-H meeting	18	19 Juneteenth	20 Summer Begins	21	22
23 10am Worship	24	25 7:00pm - Church Council meeting	26	27	28	29
30 10am Worship						



2024

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
	1	2	3	4	5	6
10am Worship	7:00pm 4-H meeting	7:00pm Trustee meeting	10	Independence Day 7:00pm-Bible Study	12	13
10am Worship 5:45-8pm Vacation Bible School	8	9	17	18	19	20
	7:00pm 4-H meeting	5:45-8pm Vacation Bible School	5:45-8pm Vacation Bible School	7:00pm-Bible Study 5:45-8pm Vacation Bible School	9 to Noon Recycling at Uncle Al's	
10am Worship Church Picnic	22	23	24	25	26	27
10am Worship	7:00pm 4-H meeting		31			
	29	30				
10am Worship	28					



Birthdays

- 1 Jan Siefker
- 2 Andy Olds
Mark Metz
- 4 Jim Siefker
- 5 Gabriella Nusbaum
- 7 Kiel Diller
- 8 Gage Myers
- 9 Colton Ewing
- 10 Teena Ebbeskottee
- 12 Claire Henderson
- 13 Jay Tadana
- 18 Katie Knoderer
- 26 Cheyenne Ridley
- 27 Dorothy Born
- 28 Betty Metzger
Megan Frank
Christian Long

29 Amelia Page

30 Hope Diller

Penblwydd Hapus i chwi!
(Happy Birthday to you in Welsh)

Anniversaries

- 1 Steve & Rita Siefker
- 3 Oren & Michele Long
- 14 Caryn & Ron Robinson
- 18 Deb & Bob Ritchey
Sarah & Kyle Brenneman
- 20 George & Hope Diller
Brian & Ann Knoderer
- 23 Cynthia & Scott Neubert
- 25 Rachel & Brian Baker
- 26 Dan & Keisha Larimore
- 28 Marty & Deb Thomas

Bible Quiz

King Ahab, assisted by his conniving wife Jezebel, appropriated for himself something belonging to a man named Naboth. What did he take?

- A. Naboth's oxen
- B. Naboth's farm
- C. Naboth's vineyard
- D. Naboth's house

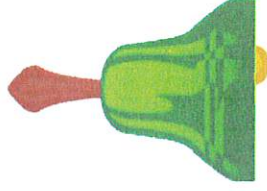


Special dates

Flag Day, June 14, 2024
Father's Day, June 16, 2024
Juneteenth, June 19, 2024
First day of summer, June 20, 2024

Christian symbol

BELL — A bell symbolizes the call to worship, reflected in the ringing of bells in many churches to announce or open a service. A bell also symbolizes the proclamation of the Gospel to the world: hence, the ringing of church bells at the close of some services as worshippers depart to spread Christ's good news in their daily lives.

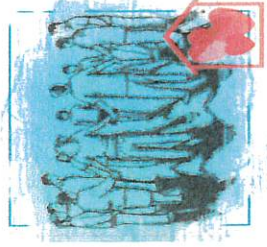


Bible Quiz Answer: C (See 1 Kings 21:1-16.)

PRAYER FOR FAMILIES

Dear heavenly Father, we come as your children to praise you for putting us in our family — and in our church family. Thank you for the love and

nourishment we receive from the people in whose presence you've placed us. We confess our need for your guidance in our families and congregation. Please grant us harmony in our homes and church body. In all situations, help us show love, patience and respect for one another. In your name we pray. Amen.





Birthdays

- 2 Cameron Barker
- 3 Ashli Diller
Tom Rice
- 5 Tammy Jackson
Stacy Barker
Mark Wannemacher
- 9 James Clevenger
- 11 Fara Ewing
- 12 Janet Alger
Bryce Ballard
Dan Larimore
Dan Spicer
- 13 Aason Page
Latham Clevenger
- 15 Norah Baker
Darrin Frysinger
- 16 David Streeter
Bobby Grandbois III
- 19 Rod Watkins

- 21 Ethan Watkins
Gary Watkins
Diana Barnt
Chris Britt
- 22 Gabrielle Garman
- 23 Gayle Alger
- 24 Brittney Jackson
- 25 Jaden Coonfare
Adam Long
- 26 Dean Alger
- 28 Kayla Martz Grant
- 29 Debra Stewart
Tom Lloyd
- 30 Samantha Nusbaum
- 31 Rod Clevenger

Penblwydd Hapus i chwi!
(Happy Birthday to you in Welsh)

Anniversaries

- 7 Mark & Sue Wannemacher
Kiel & Emily Diller
- 10 Andrea & Tracy Frank
- 11 Teena & Ron Ebbeskotte
- 20 Aaron & Lori Crider
- 23 Rod & Nancy Watkins

Special dates

Independence Day, July 4, 2023

Bible Quiz

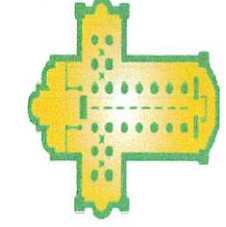
What musical instrument is mentioned in the final poem of Psalms as a means to praise the Lord?



- A. brass
- B. percussion
- C. strings
- D. woodwinds
- E. all of the above

Christian symbol

CATHEDRAL FLOOR PLAN —



Traditionally, a cathedral is laid out in the shape of a cross. The lower section or nave (from Latin for *ship*), along with the transepts (the arms of the cross), is where the congregation sits. The choir sits on either side of the chancel. Despite our common terminology, the sanctuary (from Latin for *holy*) isn't the full worship space but the area right before the altar. The location of the lectern, from which Scripture is read, and pulpit, used for preaching, may vary.

Bible Quiz Answer: E (See Psalm 150:3-5.)

A declaration of interdependence

"Dependence does not destroy human personality," writes Donald F. Baillie. Instead, people are "never so fully and so truly personal as when [they are] living in complete dependence upon God." Jesus modeled this type of living by depending completely on his heavenly Father.

In that light, let it be declared and hereby celebrated ...

That all people everywhere depend on one another.

That everyone needs everyone else for freedom, life, love and happiness.

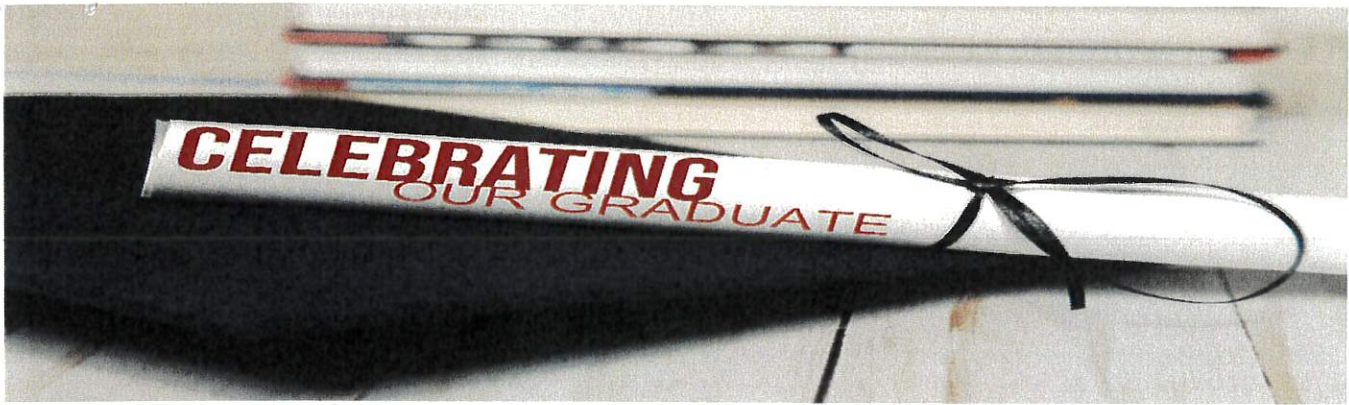
That all things in the natural order depend on everything else.

That the Earth and all planets and stars are mutually dependent.

That this universally shared dependence comes from God and is of God.

And that each individual part of this relationship has its own role in fulfilling God's plan.





Lexi Crider

Lexi of 2016 Irvin Rd., Elida, is the daughter of Aaron and Lori Crider and granddaughter of Bill and Pam Askins, Irvin Crider and Kathy Crider. She has an older sister, Shelby Crider. Lexi graduated from Elida High School on May 24th.

She was very active at Elida. She was a football cheerleader for 4 years, was in FFA 4 years, FCCLA 3 years, and Calculus Club 1 year.

She danced for 13 years, eight of those years she dance competitively.

She showed cattle for 9 years.

Lexi has received the Allen County Cattlemens Scholarship and the Donald and Marcia Barnhart Scholarship.

Lexi is going on a Florida vacation this summer.

She will be attending OSU Lima in the fall for Early Childhood Education.

Congratulations and best wishes, Lexi! We are so proud of your accomplishments.

A word for graduates

Congratulations to the young members of our congregation who are graduating! No doubt they look forward to the next phase of their lives with excitement, anticipation and perhaps a little apprehension.

We hope these words, adapted from Phillips Brooks, will serve graduates well as they embark on their journeys:

“Do not pray for an easy life; pray to be a stronger person. Do not pray for tasks equal to your powers but for powers equal to your tasks. Then the doing of your work shall be no miracle, but you will be the miracle. Every day you shall wonder at yourself and the richness of life which has come to you by the grace of God.”

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Praise for God's handiwork

How wonderful, O Lord, are the works of your hands!
The heavens declare your glory,
the arch of sky displays your handiwork.
In your love you have given us the power
to behold the beauty of your world
robed in all its splendor.
The sun and the stars, the valleys and hills,
the rivers and lakes all disclose your presence.

The roaring breakers of the sea tell of your awesome might;
the beasts of the field and the birds of the air
bespeak your wondrous will.
In your goodness you have made us able to hear
the music of the world. The voices of loved ones
reveal to us that you are in our midst.
A divine voice sings through all creation.



—from *Earth Prayers*