

THE ASSISTANT PASTOR

August 2024



Volume 66 Number 7



FROM THE
PASTOR

STUDENTS OF THE WORD

Do your best to present yourself to God as one approved, a worker who does not need to be ashamed and who correctly handles the word of truth. (2 Timothy 2:15)

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August is a time for students to go back to school. In September, some of our church youth will also begin a confirmation class as students of the Bible. We can all be students of the Bible whenever we want. But to really be a student takes more than 5 minutes of study before bedtime. Paul told Timothy to study to not be ashamed (KJV). Have we become a student of the word of God?

On our VBS Sunday, I shared a fictitious story about a young pastor applying for a job. Some of those in church thought it was funny. I invite you to identify the Bible stories and teachings that this ill prepared young minister shared. Here's the story:

The chairman said, "Tell us the story of the prodigal son." The young man said, "Sure."

"There was a man of the Pharisees name Nicodemus, who went down to Jericho by night and he fell upon stony ground and the thorns choked him half to death."

"The next morning Solomon and his wife, Gomorrah, came by, and carried him down to the ark for Moses to take care of. But, as he was going through the Eastern Gate into the Ark, he caught his hair in a limb and he hung there forty days and forty nights and he afterwards did hunger. And, the ravens came and fed him."

"The next day, the three wise men came and carried him down to the boat dock and he caught a ship to Nineveh. And when he got there, he found Delilah sitting on the wall. He said, "boys, lower her down through a window." And, they said, "How many times shall we lower her down, till seven time seven?" And he said, "Nay, but seventy times seven." And they lowered her down four hundred and ninety times."

"And, she burst asunder in their midst. And they picked up twelve baskets of the leftovers. And, in the resurrection whose wife shall she be?"

The Committee chairman suddenly interrupted the young minister and said to the remainder of the committee, "I think we ought to ask the church to call him as our minister. He is awfully young, but he sure does know his Bible."

No! That young man didn't know his Bible. The bits and pieces were thrown together in a manner that told a bizarre tale. Some people know just enough of the Bible to make themselves dangerous or miserable. His comments were all in the Bible but were also out of context. It's possible to make the Bible say anything we want when we take verses out of context. This tendency is why we need to rightly divide the word of truth.

The young pastor is a good example of a poor teacher. Bible can stand for - "basic instruction before leaving earth, "(B-i-b-l-e). Let us study it and then be ready to take our finals.

In Christ's Love,
Pastor Mo

I thought the congregation might be interested in a report of the church's income and expenses. This is the cash flow from the first half of the year.

Respectfully,
Dina Tadena, Treasurer

CASH FLOW

1/1/2024- 6/15/2024

INFLOWS

Interest Inc	5.18
Investment Payment	30,026.43
Sunday Offering	29,116.84
Tithely Offering	2,026.00
Transfer From Organ Fund	<u>325.00</u>

TOTAL INFLOWS 61,499.45

OUTFLOWS

Bills & Utilities

AEP	3,288.81
Boiler	1,273.82
Church Repairs Misc	1,614.00
Custodial Exp	256.57
Devotionals	25.80
Flowers	299.00
Insurance	4,313.50
Library Memorial	4,558.90
Miscellaneous	683.54
Monthly Copier Costs	696.07
Monthly Offering Donations	2,562.99
Mowing	680.00
Offering Envelopes	239.90
Organ	325.00
Pastor Mileage	188.27
Payroll	34,907.66
Permits	101.25
Phone & Internet- Spectrum	692.89
Real Estate Tax	1,596.32
Sewer	1,386.00
Snow Removal	550.00
Stone	284.00
Subscriptions	121.40
Trash	240.00
VISA Payment	1,359.11
Water	111.50
Worker's Comp	<u>120.00</u>

TOTAL Bills & Utilities 62,476.30

Cash & ATM 50.49

Tax

Fed	2,169.67
State	<u>45.50</u>

TOTAL Tax 2,215.17

TOTAL OUTFLOWS 64,741.96

OVERALL TOTAL -3,242.51

Baptisms

On Sunday, June 9 we welcomed **Roberta Lou Brentlinger** into God's kingdom and our congregation through Holy Baptism. Roberta was born March 21, 2024 to Micah and Ellen Brentlinger. His maternal grandparents are Carol Sunderland and Martin and Donna Sunderland and paternal grandparents Jake and Deb Siefker.

We also welcomed **Micah David Brentlinger** into God's kingdom and our congregation through Holy Baptism.



Sunday, June 9, we celebrated the reception into Gomer Congregational Church new member Micah David Brentlinger! We welcome him!



Congratulations to Derik and Sarah Mooney! They were United in Marriage on Sunday, June 2, 2024.

Joan Thomas, Dick Williams – 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



Save the date!
The Blackswamp Bluegrass Group
will return this summer!
Sunday, August 11 6:00 PM
At the Gomer Museum
Across from the Gomer Church
Food and Drinks will be available
Bring your lawn chair and enjoy
an evening of local entertainment

Free will donation accepted




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. The fund continues to grow with the balance currently at \$1230. Thank you!



Church office hours through August are Tuesday and Thursday from 8:30 to 11:30am.



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
Sept. 1	Bob & Deb Ritchey	Rayna Ogle
Sept. 8	Jim & Susan Siefker	Kennedy Larimore
Sept. 15	Cheyenne & Dian Ridley	Beckett Sunderland
Sept. 22	Jim & Sandy Schwartzengraber	Beth Ogle
Sept. 29	Dave & Pam Smith	Madi Larimore
Oct. 6	Donna Martin & Sue Grusenmeyer	Norah Baker
Oct. 13	Nathan & Fara Long	Zoey Diller
Oct. 20	George & Hope Diller	Carson Sunderland
Oct. 27	Rod & Nancy Watkins	Wyatt Diller
Nov. 3	Steve & Dina Tadana	Genna Thomas
Nov. 10	Willard & Betty Metzger	Rayna Ogle
Nov. 17	Janet Alger & Norma Jacoby	Kennedy Larimore
Nov. 24	Tim & Joyce Larimore	Beckett Sunderland
Dec. 1	Aaron & Lori Crider	Jameson Thomas



Oziah William Thompson was born at home on June 2, 2024 to Tristin and Amelia (Page) Thompson. He was 21.6 inches long and weighed 10lbs. 4oz. Both mom and baby are doing great! Monica and Jeremy Price are the proud grandparents.

Following Christ

To have faith in Christ means, of course, trying to do all that he says. There would be no sense in saying you trusted a person if you would not take his advice. Thus, if you have really handed yourself over to [Christ], it must follow that you are trying to obey him.

But trying in a new way, a less worried way. Not doing these things in order to be saved, but because he has begun to save you already. Not hoping to get to heaven as a reward for your actions, but inevitably wanting to act in a certain way because a first faint gleam of heaven is already inside you.—C.S. Lewis, *Mere Christianity*



Trustees Meeting

JULY 2024

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

The meeting was called to order by chairman, Matt Nusbaum. Pastor Dunn offered a meditation that sited God's ability to include all people and that "everything is beautiful, in its own way." We should be reluctant to cast judgement on others.

The financial report was given for both June and July by treasurer, Dina Tadena. A motion to accept the report was made and approved. A motion was made giving Dina authority to begin sending monthly reports of congregational financial donations to each committee chairperson. She will also be sending a condensed version of finances to be included in Assistant Pastor.

OLD BUSINESS

It was reported that the Sign project presently has a total of \$995.00.

Deb reported that the new, larger TV was purchased and is available for use by anyone needing it. It is connected to a DVR player as well as the internet.

Repairs are still needing addressed in the Men's restroom. Matt will take care of calling Grotehouse. Another discussion was held regarding church members ability to get entry to church during hours that office is not open. Matt will investigate possible lockbox for housing key that could be opened by a code given to church members upon request.

NEW BUSINESS

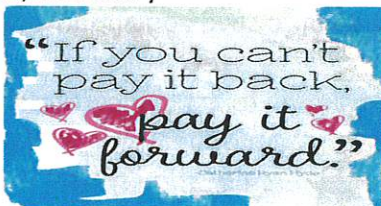
Bob Ritchie distributed Pastoral Review sheets to each trustee to be turned in at next meeting.

A motion to adjourn was made and approved.

Meeting adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Deb Thomas, Secretary



Christian Education Board

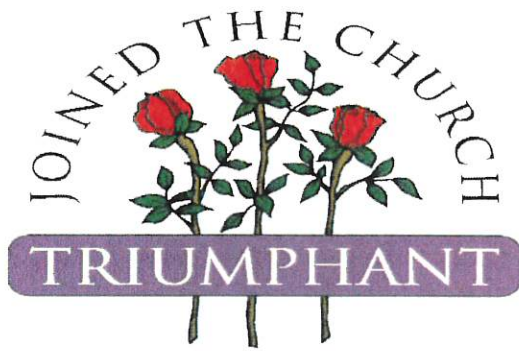
The Christian Education Committee would like to thank the following people for their help. Vacation Bible School would not have been a success without you. Claire Henderson, Bennett Baker, Morgan Thomas, Colin Siefker, Brooklyn Schwartzengraber, Clara Grindell, Kaliyah Wallace, Addie Collins, Janet Alger, Deb Thomas, Norma Jacoby, Matt and Heather Nusbaum, Pastor Mo, Uncle Al's Pizza, and everyone who donated cookies.



The Pilgram Fellowship is hosting a youth kickball game on Sunday, August 4th at 5pm at the Gomer Park. All ages welcome. Food to be provided.



Annie Stolz, daughter of Sarah and DJ Stolz and granddaughter of Carol Sunderland, is battling back from Synovial Sarcoma in her knee, for which she had extensive knee replacement with a muscle from her calf moved up to the knee area. She also had a second surgery for a skin graft on her knee. She is facing a long road of recovery with therapy, once her cast comes off in early August. Due to the extent of work done, she has a lot of pain. She is counting the days when she can get back on her beloved horses again! We continue to be blessed and thank you for your prayers, thoughtfulness, and kindness. Cards may reach Annie at 9140 Brakeman Rd., Chardon, OH 440241.



Robert (Bob) Dean Jones
January 22, 1928 – July 25, 2024

Robert D. Jones, age 96, of Gomer, Ohio, died on Thursday, July 25, 2024, at St. Rita's Medical Center.

Bob was born on January 22, 1928, in Allen County, to the late Kenneth and Ellen Elizabeth Jones. In 1947, he married Eris Patton, who died in 2004.

Bob is survived by his children, Pam Holden of Lima, Julia (aka Judy) (Kevin) Webb of Sylvania, and Gary (Nancy) Jones of Ft. Jennings; a sister, Shirley Moore of Ada; six grandchildren, Jason (Patricia) Holden, Dawn Sheets, Lynne (Andy) Focht, Heather (Matt Zamarripa) Jones, Rachel (Jim) Wannemacher, and Brad (Kasia) Jones; eleven great grandchildren; one great-great grandson; two step-granddaughters, Emily (Guillermo) Prado, Mary Webb, and one step-great granddaughter.

Bob was a graduate of Gomer High School. He previously owned a clock repair business and a refrigeration service business. He worked most of his life in the refrigeration industry and retired from the Maintenance Dept. at General Dynamics.

Bob was a member of the Gomer Congregational Church and a previous member of the Delphos Fraternal Order of the Eagles, the Welsh Society of Northwest Ohio, and the Gomer Coffee Club. In earlier years, he enjoyed playing the clarinet, swimming, fishing and ice skating. In his retirement years, Bob enjoyed gathering with his many Gomer friends at Uncle Al's for morning coffee. He kept astute track of the weather and enjoyed visits from the grandkids and being outdoors. During the last two years, Bob lived at the Primrose Retirement Community in Lima and enjoyed the friends he made there.

Per Bob's wishes, a private service for the immediate family will be held on August 3, with burial in Pike Run Cemetery in Gomer, Ohio. Harter & Schier Funeral Home, Delphos, Ohio, is handling arrangements.

In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be made to the Gomer Congregational Church or to the charity of one's choice.

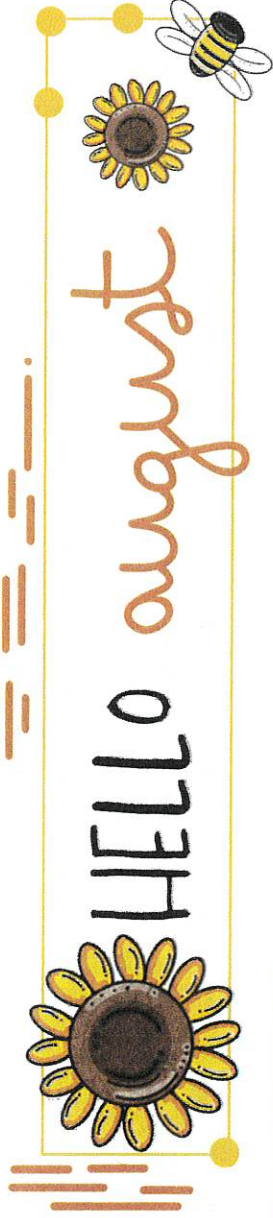
The family would like to publicly thank Dr. Eric Fisher and Michelle Watkins for the outstanding healthcare they provided to Bob over the last 23 years. We would also like to thank the staff at Primrose Retirement Center for his care over the last two years.



Pastor Mo will begin a new 6-week Bible study in the library on Thursday, August 1, at 7:00pm using the book "A Shepherd looks at Psalm 23". Everyone is welcome to attend!



The Stewardship Committee has selected our annual collection of school supplies for our August project. Please put your items in the boxes in the church hallway. Some examples are tissues, colored markers, colored pencils, tape, #2 pencils, lined tablets, glue sticks, and any other items you see when walking down the school supply aisle! Thank you for your generous support for all our selected projects.



SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
				1 7:00pm Bible Study	2	3
4 10:15am Worship 5:00pm PF at Gomer Park	5 7:00pm 4-H meeting	6	7	8 7:00pm Bible Study	9	10
11 10:15am Worship	12 7:00pm Trustee meeting	13	14	15 7:00pm Bible Study	16	17 9 to Noon Recycling at Uncle Al's
18 10:15am Worship	19	20	21	22 7:00pm Bible Study	23	24
25 10:15am Worship	26	27	28	29 7:00pm Bible Study	30	31



- 1 Nick Tadena
- 3 Tisha Kill
- 5 Michelle Clevenger Spencer
- 6 Jo Ballard
- 7 Brooks Flinn
- 8 Mitch Evans
- 9 Lisa Coonfare
- 12 Dallas Jackson Wyatt Diller
- 17 Pamela Askins
- 18 Elaine Bass Delaney Barnes
- 19 Sarah Dyke Brenneman
- 20 Dave Renner
- 23 Pat Sharrits
- 24 Nathan Fogt
- 25 Bennett Baker
- 26 Tom Renner Amber Griesdorn Andrews
- 27 Jacob Sunderland
- 28 Dave Smith
- 31 Dina Tadena



- 3 Charles & Carolyn Edwards
- 4 Tim & Joyce Larimore
- 5 Pat & Russell Sharrits
- 6 Bob & Kim Roethlisberger
- 9 Nicholas & Kristin Siefker
- 10 Chris & Kathleen Britt
- 14 Angela & Kevin Walsh
- 17 Ray & Angie Thomas
- 18 Evan & Emily Hollar Adrian & Miranda Flores Nick & Jo Ballard
- 19 Betty & Willard Metzger (73)
- 25 James & Cynthia Clevenger
- 29 Travis & Anna Watkins
- 31 Jan & Louie Siefker

Sabbath sight

Miners used to use mules underground to pull the loaded carts. Spending so much time in the darkness, some mules eventually went blind. But one old miner found a solution: He simply let the mules spend one day a week outside the mines.

In a very real sense, God gave us the Sabbath to keep us from going spiritually blind. The

Sabbath, as Jesus said, was made for humankind, but to use in sacred ways. It's our responsibility as followers of Jesus to decide how to best keep the intent of this commandment.

How might observing Sabbath improve your ability to "see" clearly?—from *The Wired Word*

Bible Quiz

What kind of birds does God use to supply

Elijah with food at the Kerith Ravine?

- A. quails
- B. ravens
- C. eagles
- D. doves



Christian symbol

WEDDING RINGS — The exchange of wedding rings isn't found in Scripture. It came into practice among Christians

in the late ninth century.

The unending circle profoundly symbolizes a

couple's mutual promises

of ongoing love and

commitment, as well as God's promise of eternal love that surrounds all — including each couple and marriage.



"The greatest thing that we can do is to help somebody know that they're loved and capable of loving." —Fred Rogers

Bible Quiz Answer: B (See 1 Kings 17:2-6.)

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God's gift of music

What helps you sort out what you are feeling, or experience an emotion more deeply? What allows you to let loose and cry, or fully celebrate when you're joyful?

Nature helps some of us get in touch with our feelings, perhaps because it removes us from screens and other distractions.

But when getting out isn't possible — no mountain lake is nearby, or the weather isn't tranquil — consider the gift of music. Often instrumental or vocal music helps us access the depths of our soul like nothing else can.

God may even speak to us through music — whether in song lyrics, our own inner thoughts or wordless stirrings of the heart.

Albert Schweitzer, a pastor, musicologist, physician and more, said, "Joy, sorrow, tears, lamentation, laughter — to all these music gives voice, but in such a way that we are transported from the world of unrest to a world of peace, and see reality in a new way, as if we were sitting by a mountain lake and contemplating hills and woods and clouds in the tranquil and fathomless water."

Make some playlists for various emotions: joy, grief, anxiety, hope. Then imagine yourself relaxing in nature, and experience God's love.

