

THE ASSISTANT PASTOR

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Don't Hate the Haitians!

7350 Gomer Rd.
Gomer, OH 45809
419-642-2681
gomercc.org
secretary@gomercc.org

Deuteronomy 27:19, "Cursed be anyone who deprives an alien, an orphan, or a widow of justice.' All the people shall say, 'Amen!"

In America today, we don't all say "Amen" when it comes to welcoming immigrants. There are simply so many in our country! The statistics are debatable, but with our population near 332 million, and if undocumented citizens total 16.5 million, then 1 out of 20 people are living in our country illegally. The vast majority of them are peaceful, but some are a threat to community safety.

Having said all that, the Old Testament Jews were taught to welcome strangers and part of their story is the reminder that they were strangers in Egypt. That's sort of like remembering how we are all immigrants. Actually, Christians are aliens and pilgrims by even being on earth at all. This world is not our only citizenship. We are also citizens of heaven. Considering how God cares about the poor and needy, then we also should. Psalm 146:9 says, "The Lord watches over the strangers; he upholds the orphan and the widow, but the way of the wicked he brings to ruin." Then in the New Testament, Hebrews 13:1-2 instructs us, "Keep on loving one another as brothers and sisters. Do not forget to show hospitality to strangers, for by so doing some people have shown hospitality to angels without knowing it." Plus, in Jesus' Parable of the Sheep and the Goats, the different judgements were due to the way people treated the needy strangers. Clearly, the Bible holds lofty ideals for helping strangers.

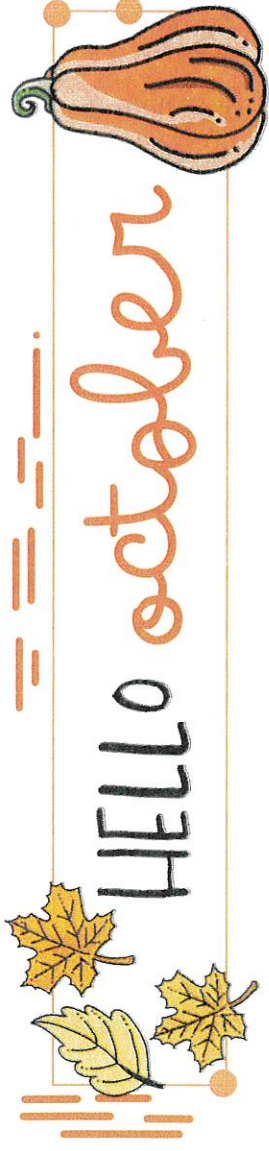
While aspiring to follow biblical values, we might worry though how American society can absorb such an increase in the number of foreign people. In Springfield Ohio, there are close to 20,000 Haitians who have escaped persecution from a country that lost its president and is now being run by gangs. They have been flown in by our Federal government and given a temporary protected status along with generous vouchers to live on. It's been good for the Haitians, but not for many of the residents, some who have been displaced because landlords can profit better with Haitian tenants.

There is also confusion because the Haitians don't know English. Springfield's former state senator Kyle Koehler claims their public school system is suddenly crowded with non-English speaking students. He's also concerned that Haitians are getting temporary driving permits without adequate skills and that the culture of Springfield is rapidly changing.

Bill O'Reilly wrote - "it is demonstrable that unregulated immigration leads to social disorder and many harmful unintended consequences as governments are overwhelmed.... Christian doctrine is built on justice which requires lawful discipline." So, the difficulty that Christians are faced with is how to follow the Bible while dealing with imposing social realities. Pragmatism suggests that we can't help everybody.

Remember, God loves Haitians too! It's our duty to maintain a Christian attitude while dealing with a difficult and growing problem. It's a social conundrum.

In Christ's love,
Pastor Mo Dunn



SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
		1 7:30pm Deacon & Deaconess meeting	2 6:00pm Bells 7:00pm Choir	3 7:00pm Bible Study	4	5
6 9:00am Sunday School 10:15am Worship 7:00pm Gymanfa Ganu World Communion Sunday	7 7:00pm Trustee meeting	8 6:00pm Bells 7:00pm Choir	9 6:00pm Bells 7:00pm Shalom	10 7:00pm Bible Study 7:00pm Shalom	11 3:00pm PF	12
13 9:00am Sunday School 10:15am Worship 11:30am Christian Ed.	14 Canadian Thanksgiving Columbus Day Indigenous Peoples Day	15	16 6:00pm Bells 7:00pm Choir	17 7:00pm Bible Study	18 9 to Noon Recycling at Uncle Al's 4-6 pm Fall Festival	19
20 9:00am Sunday School 10:15am Worship 11:30am Luncheon	21	22	23 6:00pm Bells 7:00pm Choir	24 7:00pm Bible Study	25 9 - 2:30pm Fellowship Hall Reserved	26
27 9:00am Sunday School 10:15am Worship 1-4pm F.H. Reserved Reformation Sunday	28	29	30 6:00pm Bells 7:00pm Choir	31 7:00pm Bible Study Reformation Day		

PASTOR appreciation

Please join us for a carry-in lunch following worship on Sunday, October 20. This lunch is to show Pastor Mo our appreciation for him during Pastor Appreciation Month. The main dish of sloppy joes and chicken sandwiches and table service will be provided as well as the drinks. We would like those that can, to join us in fellowship and bring a dish to share. We hope all can attend to help our church celebrate our pastor.

Pastors appreciate your prayers

October is Pastor Appreciation Month, an observance that some clergy don't publicize. It's an ideal time to thank pastors for their dedication to God's people and the ministry. A written note, a card or even a free meal is a nice gesture of appreciation. But if you were to ask pastors what they'd like or what they need, most would probably reply, "Pray for me."

That's what the apostle Paul requested throughout his letters. To the church at Rome, he urged, "Join me in earnest prayer to God on my behalf, that I may be rescued from the unbelievers in Judea and that my ministry to Jerusalem may be acceptable to the saints, so that by God's will I may come to you with joy and be refreshed in your company" (Romans 15:30-32, NRSV).

As you appreciate and encourage your pastors, remember them in your prayers. Then let them know you're doing so!



Our 107th Annual Gymanfa Ganu will be held on Sunday, October 6, 2024. The program will begin at 7pm. Jill Coston will be the director for the evening. The Gomer CC Children's Choir will be singing. We hope you will be able to join us for this fun filled evening

Annual Welsh Society Meeting



The annual meeting for the Welsh Society of Northwest Ohio will be held on Sunday, October 6 at 4:00 PM in the fellowship hall of Gomer Congregational Church. A light meal will be provided. Dan Rowbotham will deliver a presentation on Welsh migration to South East Ohio in 1818. The program and meal are open to the public. Cost of the meal is \$10.00. Please RSVP by October 1 to Sue Grusenmeyer 429-236-0289 or Deb Thomas 419-230-4344.

Dan is the Director of the Madog Center for Welsh Studies at the University of Rio Grande / Rio Grande Community College in Ohio where he started his tutor career. He is originally from Llangeitho in Ceredigion, Wales and has been a Welsh tutor since 2018.

Dan teaches a number of weekly Welsh classes both online and in person. He also holds a weekly Welsh language conversation on line for those who are learning Welsh and for those who are fluent and wanting an opportunity to speak Welsh in North America. He oversaw the administration and teaching of Extracurricular Welsh language classes at the University of Wales Trinity Saint David. Dan is an Ex-President of the Urdd and received the prestigious Merd memorial award at the National Eisteddfod in 2016.



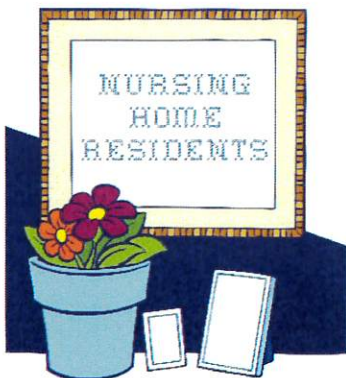
Robert (Bob) Dean Jones
January 22, 1928 – July 25, 2024
Memorial Fund: Diana Barnt



- 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 Tadena
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
- Dec. 8 Marty & Deb Thomas
Beth Ogle
- Dec. 15 Kim & Bob Roethlisberger
Madi Larimore
- Dec. 22 Adam Long and Dan Brown
Norah Baker
- Dec. 24 Travis & Anna Watkins
Zoey Diller
- Dec. 29 Ryan & Kim Rager
Carson Sunderland



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 \$2740. Thank you!



Joan Thomas, Dick Williams – The Meadows of Kalida, 755 Ottawa St., Kalida, OH 45853
Linda Alger – Wingate, 1070 Gloria Ave. Room 133, Lima, OH 45805

The Christian Education Committee will be hosting the Fall Festival on Saturday, October 19th from 4-6pm at the Gomer Congregational Church. All are welcome to join us for Trunk or Treat, costume parade, games, crafts, and food. The menu will include chili, shredded chicken sandwiches, hot dogs, chips, and applesauce. Please bring your favorite fall dessert to share!

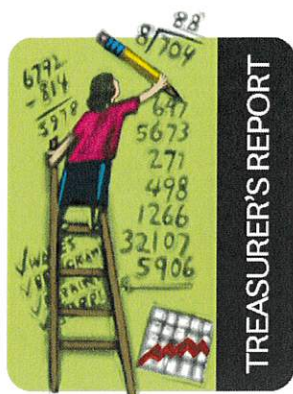
We also encourage you to come and support our children by passing out candy to the children during the trunk or treat. If you have any questions please contact Emily Diller.

Living out grace

Talk is cheap, especially when it comes to biblical concepts such as grace. How can people grasp the meaning of unmerited favor unless they experience it firsthand?

That happened to Mephibosheth, son of Jonathan and grandson of Saul, in 2 Samuel 9. After his father was killed in battle, the disabled Mephibosheth hid in fear. Why? In Old Testament times, a new king killed the previous ruler's bloodline. But David, keeping a promise he'd made to his friend Jonathan, showed Mephibosheth "the kindness of God" (v. 3). Imagine the impact that had on Mephibosheth's life.

By contrast, failing to live into God's grace and failing to give it out to others leads to many struggles, according to pastor David Seamands. "We read, we hear, we believe a good theology of grace," he wrote, but "that's not the way we live. The good news of the Gospel of grace has not penetrated the level of our emotions." Instead, may we make a point each day to treat others with God's kindness and mercy.



Cash Flow
8/1/2024 - 9/23/2024



The Stewardship has selected collecting monetary donations for the month of October for purchasing coats for those Elida School children who need a warm coat for winter. We thank everyone for their generous support for the projects we have chosen.

INFLOWS

Uncategorized	2,546.43
Interest Inc	0.83
Investment Payment	5,840.75
Sunday Offering	7,177.17
Tithely Offering	<u>865.20</u>
TOTAL INFLOWS	16,430.38

OUTFLOWS

Bills & Utilities

AEP	1,471.98
Church Repairs Misc	725.08
Custodial Exp	86.06
Devotionals	82.40
Library Memorial	175.21
Miscellaneous	33.00
Monthly Copier Costs	330.86
Monthly Offering Donations	125.00
Mowing	255.00
Outreach Cards	73.00
Payroll	12,701.95
Phone & Internet- Spectrum	279.96
Sewer	693.00
Trash	125.00
VISA Payment	256.06
Water	64.00
Website	<u>754.81</u>
TOTAL Bills & Utilities	18,232.37

Tax

Tax Fed	375.97
State	<u>44.03</u>
TOTAL Tax	<u>420.00</u>
TOTAL OUTFLOWS	<u>18,652.37</u>
OVERALL TOTAL	-2,221.99

Pumpkin prayer

In *The Pumpkin Patch Parable*, Liz Curtis Higgs uses kid-friendly analogies for the Christian life. Many parents now use a Pumpkin Prayer while carving jack-o-lanterns in October. What a great reminder about everything God has done for us!

- While cutting off the pumpkin top, pray, "Lord, open my mind so I can learn new things about you." (See Proverbs 1:7.)
- While removing the seeds and pulp, pray, "Remove the things in my life that don't please you. Forgive the wrong things I do and help me forgive others." (See Matthew 6:14-15.)
- While making eyes, pray, "Open my eyes to see the beauty you've made in the world around me." (See Psalm 104:24.)
- While making the nose, pray, "I'm sorry for the times I've turned up my nose at your many gifts." (See James 1:17.)
- While making the mouth, pray, "Let everything I say please you." (See Psalm 19:14.)
- While lighting the candle, pray, "Lord, help me shine your light to others through the things I do." (See Matthew 5:16.)

Display your carved pumpkins as examples of how God's love transforms us into new creations. (See 2 Corinthians 5:17.)





SEPTEMBER 2024

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

The meeting was called to order by chairman, Matt Nusbaum. Pastor Dunn provided devotions as well as special prayer concerns.

The financial report was given by Dina Tadena. A motion was made and passed to pay the current expenses.

OLD BUSINESS

A security box has been purchased and will be installed by Matt soon. It will house a church key. A code is needed to get into the locked box. Chair people of various committees will be given the code. This will provide entry to church at times in which no one is present.

Kiel Diller purchased new cameras for security entrance at North end of building.

Lights for lobby entrance were cleaned and bulbs replaced, which took care of the operating issue previously addressed.

Further discussion was held in regards to repair of sign in front of church. Donations for this project are currently at \$1615.00.

NEW BUSINESS

A motion was made and approved to remodel men's bathroom.

A motion was made and approved to adjourn

Respectfully submitted,
Deb Thomas, Secretary

Total immersion

In college, I took an American Sign Language class from a Deaf instructor who couldn't speak. On the first day, another staff member explained that we'd be experiencing total immersion. She left, and the classroom remained silently engaged for the rest of the semester.

Creatively, the instructor began by writing "same" and "different" on the whiteboard and demonstrating those signs. Then he took us through several examples where we were to use the signs to

identify what was the same or different. That's how he taught ASL, graciously guiding us without audible voices. We embraced a brand-new approach to communicating.

The church can do that too. We can use "all that is within" us to praise God's holy name (Psalm 103:1). We can get creative and harness everything — all our senses — to worship.

This might mean removing distractions, learning a new style of music, using visual arts or engaging with a different culture — all while offering praise. Instead of feeling bound by what's familiar and comfortable, try to be immersed and all-in while worshipping the Lord!—Janna Firestone

Parable of the pufflings

As summer ends on a remote island off Iceland, parent pufflings — black and white seabirds with rainbow beaks — stop bringing fish to their chicks. These "pufflings," whose first few weeks were lived in burrows in cliffs, now must launch into a wind current to glide out over the sea and find their own food. Some babies, however, mistake a lit-up house or gas station for moonlight on the water and, as locals say, "fall out of the sky." Because pufflings can't yet take off from land and fly, if left alone they starve.

So for generations, during "puffling season" people on this island have stayed up late to rescue baby birds. On his *Animal* podcast, reporter Sam Anderson tells how, with an islander's help, he picks up a puffling one night, placing it in a box for morning release over the ocean. As the frightened, confused bird squeals and scratches to get free, Anderson supposes it thinks this is the worst night of its life. In fact, it is the best: It's being saved.

We humans often get confused, pulled in wrong directions. We're misled and land in trouble from which we cannot save ourselves. Scared and confused, we believe we're irredeemably trapped in the worst of circumstances. We can't perceive that, even now, we are being protected and rescued, that God is working to give back to us the fullness of life we cannot attain for ourselves.

Hang on, beloved one. Though you can't sense it at this moment, you are held in God's care, soon to be lifted on the wind of the Holy Spirit, who will carry you into better days.

OCTOBER Birthdays

- 2 Kara Siefker
- Grace Martz
- 3 Jean Shank
- Gabrielle Martz
- 7 Will Watkins
- 9 Bob Grandbois
- Deb Thomas
- Tyler Shrider
- Ryan Price
- 11 Lynn Metzger
- 13 Peg Grandbois
- Dennis Jay
- 16 Emma Larimore
- Darlene Montooth
- 18 Jacob Evans
- Madison Jackson
- 19 Todd Kohn
- 21 Tammy (Kohn) Nicely
- 22 Doug Born
- 23 Norma Jacoby
- 26 Maxine Brooks
- 29 Cindy Clevenger
- Louie Siefker
- Rita Siefker
- 31 Logan Fisher

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

OCTOBER Anniversaries

- 16 David & Pam Smith
- 18 Cheryl & David Craig
- 19 Rob & Kristina Barnes
- 22 Jeff & Stephanie Evans
- 25 Tom & Wilma Evans
- 26 Andrew & Kate Clevenger
- 29 Richard & Diana Bok

Special dates

- Pastor Appreciation Month
- World Communion Sunday, *October 6*
- Columbus Day, *October 14*
- Indigenous Peoples Day, *October 14*
- Reformation Sunday, *October 27*
- Reformation Day, *October 31*

Bible Quiz

When Jesus asks a Samaritan woman for a drink, at which site related to the ancient Israelites is he resting?

- A. the edge of the Jordan River
- B. beside the Red Sea
- C. Jacob's well
- D. the Pool of Bethesda

Christian symbol

CHRISTIAN FLAG — Dating to the early 20th century, the Christian flag



represents all of Christi

anity, though it's been used primarily in the Americas and Africa. The red Latin cross

symbolizes Jesus' blood shed on Calvary to grant us eternal life. The blue background represents

Christ's faithfulness even unto death, as well as our baptism into Christ. The white field signifies

Jesus' purity, nonviolence and surrender to God's will, plus the peace we gain by surrendering ourselves to Christ.

Bible Quiz Answer: C (See John 4:6.)

An autumn poem

Fall, leaves, fall; die, flowers, away;
lengthen night and shorten day;
Every leaf speaks bliss to me
Fluttering from the autumn tree.
I shall smile when wreaths of snow
Blossom where the rose should grow;
I shall sing when night's decay
Ushers in a drearier day.

—Emily Brontë

Common ground

"Christianity was never intended to be a solo



walk with God," says pastor Jeremy Basset. "A conversion to Christianity is also incorporation in the body of Christ, the church."

That's a fitting reminder as we observe World Communion Sunday in October. Christians don't take Holy Communion alone; the very name of this sacrament refers to unity with God and others. We don't baptize ourselves. We don't learn Scripture or Christian theology and history alone. We can't have Christian fellowship by ourselves.

The New Testament is clear that one cannot be a solitary Christian. We are members of Christ's body (Ephesians 5:30) and "belong to the family of believers" (Galatians 6:10, NIV). As you gather for worship and receive Holy Communion, thank God for "our common salvation" (Jude 3, ESV) granted to all followers of Jesus.

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Humble beginnings

True Christian religion does not begin at the highest as all other religions do, but at the lowest. Therefore whenever you are concerned to think and act about your salvation, you must put away all speculations about the Majesty, all thoughts of works, traditions and philosophy — indeed, of the Law of God itself.

And you must run directly to the manger and the mother's womb, embrace this Infant and Virgin's Child in your arms, and look at Him — born, being nursed, growing up, going about in human society, teaching, dying, rising again, ascending above all the heavens, and having authority over all things.

—Martin Luther, *Commentary on Galatians*

