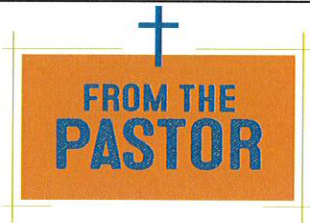




THE ASSISTANT PASTOR

January 2025

Volume 67 Number 1



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QUIT DESTROYING YOUR POTENTIAL

But one thing I do: Forgetting what is behind and straining toward what is ahead, I press on toward the goal to win the prize for which God has called me heavenward in Christ Jesus. (Philippians 3:13b,14)

2025 lies before us with much uncertainty, but also with much potential. Instead of worrying about what we can't control, let's take some steps to remove some things from our lives that hold us back. By taking control of our own lives, we will be in a place where we can achieve better for God. I saw a list of some things we need to cut out of 2025:

1. Clutter - physical mess equals mental stress.
2. Toxic relationships - they drain and discourage you.
3. Excuses - stop blaming circumstances, own your actions.
4. Diet - quit eating garbage, value your life.
5. Mindless scrolling - quit allowing social media to steal your time.
6. Overcommitments - learn to say "No!" and then say yes to God.
7. Sleep neglect - your body repairs itself at night.
8. Procrastination - don't wait for the perfect time.
9. Self-pity - bad things happen, move forward.
10. Excessive spending - stop buying things you don't need.
11. Fear of judgment - don't allow people's opinions to keep you from living your life.
12. Comfort zones - challenges bring some discomfort, but it changes you for the better.
13. Self-doubt - you can do all things through Christ, which strengthens you.

There you have it - thirteen behaviors that destroy your potential! Join me in leaving them behind. Let's not bring them into 2025.

In Christ's Love,
Pastor Mo Dunn

JANUARY

2025

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
			1 New Year's Day	2		4
5 9:00 am Sunday School 10:15 am Worship	6 Epiphany	7 7:30pm D & D's	8 6:00pm Bells 7:00pm Choir	9 7:00pm Bible Study 7:00pm Shalom	10	11 9:00am Noodles 12:30 Budget meeting
12 9:00 am Sunday School 10:15 am Worship	13	14 7:00pm Trustee's meeting	15 6:00pm Bells 7:00pm Choir Deadline for Annual Report	16 7:00pm Bible Study	17	18 9 to Noon Recycling at Uncle Al's
19 9:00 am Sunday School 10:15 am Worship	20 MLK Jr. Day	21	22 6:00pm Bells 7:00pm Choir	23 7:00pm Bible Study	24	25 9:00am Noodle Making Day
26 9:00 am Sunday School 10:15 am Worship	27 7:00pm Church Council	28	29 6:00pm Bells 7:00pm Choir	30 7:00pm Bible Study	31	

God's constant new work

From the beginning of time, God's pattern has been to continually do new things and make things new. Though we can celebrate this every day, the New Year's season is especially fitting to pause and recognize God's work of renewal. Consider the following scriptures (all NIV) and how God is making them real in your own life right now.

- [God] has granted us new life to rebuild ... and repair (Ezra 9:9)
- If [a tree] is cut down, it will sprout again, and its new shoots will not fail. (Job 14:7)
- He put a new song in my mouth, a hymn of praise to our God. (Psalm 40:3)
- See, I am doing a new thing! ... I am making a way in the wilderness and streams in the wasteland. (Isaiah 43:19)
- You will be called by a new name that the mouth of the Lord will bestow. (Isaiah 62:2)
- [God's] compassions ... are new every morning. (Lamentations 3:22-23)
- I will give you a new heart and put a new spirit in you. (Ezekiel 36:26)
- [Jesus] took the cup, saying, "This cup is the new covenant in my blood, which is poured out for you." (Luke 22:20)
- Just as Christ was raised from the dead through the glory of the Father, we too may live a new life. (Romans 6:4)
- Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, the new creation has come: The old has gone, the new is here! (2 Corinthians 5:17)



The electric sign in front of the church needs to be replaced. The goal for the new sign \$25,000. If you would like to contribute, mark your envelope Sign Fund. The fund continues to grow with the balance

currently at \$5925.00. Thank you!



We will be making noodles for St. David's Day Dinner on Saturday, January 11, January 25, February 8 if needed. We will begin at 9:00am.



BUDGETED - 2024

2024 Expense Budget-	\$134,767.00
2024 Monthly Expense Budget-	\$11,231.00
2024 Average Monthly Expenses	\$11,262.44

Actual Cash Flow 11/1 - 12/15 2024

Income Inflow

Interest Income-	\$0.48
Investment Payments-	\$5,070.38
Sunday Offering-	\$12,390.59
Tithely Offering-	<u>\$2,958.79</u>
Total Income Inflow-	\$20,420.24

Expenses Outflow

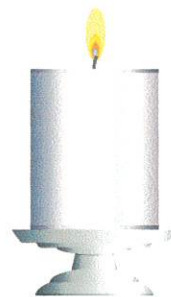
TOTAL Bills & Utilities	\$12,383.67
Earmarked Donations in Offering	\$3,810.00
Taxes-	<u>\$905.43</u>
Total Expenses Outflow-	\$17,099.10

Income Inflow - Expense Outflow - \$3,321.14

ANNUAL MEETING

All Annual Reports need to be in the office no later than January 15, 2025. Please, do not put it off. If you do not need bank statements, could you please turn them in earlier? You will receive a reminder in the mail soon. Thank you!

The 2024 Annual Meeting will be held on Sunday, February 23, 2025 following the worship service.



Deaths in Our Church Family

- | | | |
|---------|--------------------------------|--------------------|
| Jan. 5 | Tim & Joyce Larimore | Gena Thomas |
| Jan. 12 | Matt & Heather Nusbaum | Rayna Ogle |
| Jan. 19 | Eric & Anna Ogle | Kennedy Larimore |
| Jan. 26 | Donna Martin & Sue Grusenmeyer | Beckett Sunderland |
| Feb. 2 | Deb & Bob Ritchey | Beth Ogle |
| Feb. 9 | Jim & Susan Siefker | Madi Larimore |
| Feb. 16 | Jim & Sandy Schwartzengraber | Norah Baker |
| Feb. 23 | Jeff & Mary Weis | Zoey Diller |
| Mar. 2 | Janet Alger & Carol Sunderland | Carson Sunderland |
| Mar. 9 | Maxine Brooks & Martha Britt | Wyatt Diller |
| Mar. 16 | Marty & Deb Thomas | Gena Thomas |
| Mar. 23 | Oren & Michele Long | Rayna Ogle |
| Mar. 30 | Bob & Kim Roethlisberger | Kennedy Larimore |
| Apr. 6 | George & Hope Diller | Beckett Sunderland |
| Apr. 13 | Louie & Jan Siefker | Beth Ogle |
| Apr. 20 | Brian & Rachel Baker | Madi Larimore |
| Apr. 27 | Dave & Pam Smith | Norah Baker |

Linda Lou Alger

November 4, 1942 – November 29, 2024

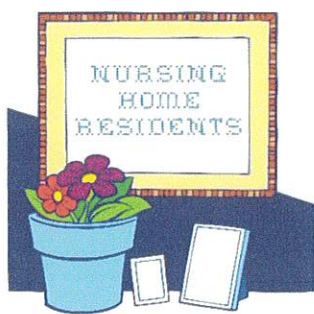
Linda Lou Alger, age 82 of Lima, passed at 11:29 a.m., Friday, November 29, 2024 at Wyngate Senior Living. She was born November 4, 1942 in Allen County Ohio to the late Boyd and Gladys Alger.

She was a life member of Gomer Congregational Church and enjoyed supporting the Our Daily Bread Soup Kitchen where she enjoyed the fellowship. Linda was raised on a farm and had a deep love for the land and all the animals that it nurtured. She had a love for all animals, especially dogs, sheep, goats, pigs, cows, and even her mule. She tended to them with the utmost care. Her life on the farm shaped the kind, hardworking, and compassionate woman she became. She found great joy in helping those in need and her heart was always open to others.

Traveling was one of Linda's greatest passions. She loved taking long car and RV trips, exploring new places. Some of her favorite destinations included Yellowstone, Hershey, PA, Tennessee, and Myrtle Beach.

Survivors include a sister-in-law – Mary Alger of Gomer; nieces – Carol Sunderland of Gomer, Janet Alger of Gomer, Julie Dunn of Lima; Debbie Lamb of Columbus Grove, Gayle Alger of Gomer; a nephew Dean Alger of York, PA; great nephews – Allen Lamb of Marysville; Travis Lamb of Columbus; her guardian – Christine Bollinger of Lima; all of which she shared a special bond with. She was also blessed with many other nieces, nephews, and great nieces and great nephews.

She was preceded in death by 2 brothers – Robert Alger and Richard Alger; and a sister – Margie Robey.



Joan Thomas, Dick Williams – The Meadows of Kalida, 755 Ottawa St., Kalida, OH 45853
Virginia Bok – The Meadows of Delphos, 800 Ambrose Dr., Delphos, OH 45833

The Stewardship Committee has selected **Five Loaves Food Bank** (located at Allentown Methodist Church) for the month of January. Place your items in the containers in the church hallway. Monetary

donations are also welcome if more convenient for you.



JANUARY

Anniversaries

1 *Jeremy & Monica Price*

JANUARY

Birthdays

1 Martha Britt
Carla Olds

2 Jim Metzger

6 Joan Thomas 93
Laura Knoderer

7 Beth Spain

8 Steve Evans
Mark Fogt

9 Pam Smith
Bill Jenkins

11 Leandra Price
Michele Long

13 Keri Evans
Andrew Clevenger

14 Wendy Eley
Linda Whittington

15 Sandy Schwartzengraber
Deb Ritchey



Christian symbol

NOAH'S ARK — The image of an ark, or boat — often shown with pairs of animals —

recalls the story of Noah and the "Great Flood" in Genesis. The floodwaters represent God's judgment on sin, while the ark reminds us of his gracious power to save and redeem. In this account, Christians see a foreshadowing of our baptism into Christ: "And baptism, which [God's] rescue of Noah and his family] prefigured, now saves you ..." (1 Peter 3:21, NRSV).

Giving your best

Like the Magi, we can respond with our best gifts — our industry, our devotion, our very lives. We disciples are Christ's tangible presence in the world. That same Child whose light brought such joy to the Magi now, through us, offers his mercy to every person. Through us, every day, Christ feeds multitudes; he heals, teaches and guides countless people. Through individual volunteers and major institutions, through simple acts of kindness or worldwide coordinated efforts, the world can encounter, through the Christian community, the enduring, tangible presence of Christ. —Michael Simone



Bible Quiz Answer: C (See Luke 2:46.)

- 16 Caryn Robinson
Janel Olds Scurlock
- 19 Daniel Brown
- 20 Wesley Walsh
- 23 Steve Siefker
- 24 Florence Bok
- 27 Tracy Frank
- 30 Julie Born

Penblwydd Hapus i chwi! In Welsh: Happy Birthday to you!

Bible Quiz

When 12-year-old Jesus stayed at the Jerusalem temple as Joseph and Mary started traveling home, after how many days did his parents find him?



- A. 1 day
- B. 2 days
- C. 3 days
- D. 7 days

Special dates

- New Year's Day, *January 1, 2025*
- Epiphany, *January 6, 2025*
- Baptism of the Lord, *January 12, 2025*
- Martin Luther King Jr. Day, *January 20, 2025*
- Week of Prayer for Christian Unity, *January 18-25, 2025*

PUBLISHED MONTHLY BY
GOMER CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH
7350 GOMER ROAD
GOMER OHIO 45809

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New Year's blessing

The eighth day of Christmas,
the eighth day of Creation,
the Next New Day,
New Year's Day.

May every day be a new year's day for you:
a chance to forgive and be forgiven,
to start again.
May you take courage to begin anew. ...

As you let go of the year past,
may you ... in your free fall find yourself held
by an eternal love that has come ages to be with you,
and will carry you all the way to the end. ...

Every day may you trust your belovedness,
your freedom from having to prove yourself,
and receive the grace that is given to you.

May this year be a year of grace and hope.

—Steve Garnaas-Holmes, unfoldinglight.net