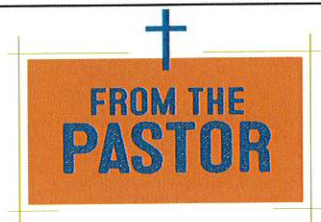




THE ASSISTANT PASTOR

MAY 2025

Volume 67 Number 5



Survey Finds Worth of Moms' "Salary"

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

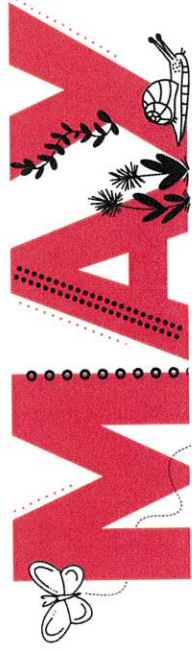
A wife of noble character who can find?
She is worth far more than rubies. (Proverbs 31:10)

Salary.com did a survey in the spring of 2021 asking the question - If stay-at-home moms earned an annual salary for all the jobs they perform on a daily basis, how much would they earn? They surveyed more than 19,000 moms and have estimated the value of a mother's work by tracking real-time market prices of all the jobs that moms perform. The result? The median annual salary for stay-at-home moms that year was \$184,820. Of course, it might have been a little higher that year due to the pandemic. But, I think we can agree, they are worth the wage! And let's not forget all the working moms out there! The data showed that they are spending on average 54 hours per week managing things on the home front in addition to the hours they put in at their job outside the home. When you add it all up, they are spending 100 hours each week split between work and home.

We all know that moms are the ultimate multi-taskers, juggling lots of different responsibilities all day, every day, but it doesn't really sink in until you regard the full list. The study gave consideration to traditional roles – like housekeeper, dietitian, and facilities director – and newer roles – like network administrator and social media communications. In the end, the moms' roles included more than 20 different positions. Here are some more - Chief Financial Officer, Child Care Provider, Laundry Manager, Van Driver, Meeting/Event Planner, Kitchen Manager, Staff Nurse - RN, Conflicts Manager, Interior Designer.

How are moms getting it all done? Moms are burning the candle on both ends it seems. Let's be sure to pray for moms and encourage them. Their contributions are vitally important. Sometimes civil groups undervalue the role of parents and practically suggest that the state could raise children, or at least make decisions for them. In peculiar ways, motherhood is actually under attack in our society. Let's affirm the role of mothers and honor them this Mother's Day and throughout the year!

In Christ's Love
Pastor Mo Dunn



2025

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
				1	2	3 9:00am Clean-up Day
4	5	6	7	8 National Day of Prayer 7:00pm Shalom 7:00pm Bible Study	9	10
9:00 am Sunday School 10:15 am Worship 3:00pm Ladies Tea		7:30pm Deacon & Deaconess	6:00pm Bells 7:00pm Choir			
11	12	13	14	15 7:00pm Bible Study	16	17 2-4 Museum 12:30-4pm Spinners
9:00 am Sunday School 10:15 am Worship Mother's Day	7:00pm 4-H meeting	7:00pm Trustee meeting	6:00pm Bells 7:00pm Choir			
18	19	20	21	22 7:00pm Bible Study	23	24
9:00 am Sunday School 10:15 am Worship Luncheon			6:00pm Bells 7:00pm Choir			
25	26	27	28	29 7:00pm Bible Study	30	31
10:15 am Worship	9:00am Memorial Day Service Memorial Day		6:00pm Bells 7:00pm Choir			



May 4	Larry & Deb Stewart	Zoey Diller
May 11	Bruce & Vi Lloyd	Carson Sunderland
May 18	Derik & Sarah Mooney	Wyatt Diller
May 25	Steve & Dina Tadena	Genna Thomas
June 1	Bill Askins and Lori Crider	Rayna Ogle
June 8	Cheyenne & Dian Ridley Kennedy	Larimore
June 15	Micah & Ellen Brentlinger	Beckett Sunderland
June 22	Rod & Nancy Watkins	Beth Ogle
June 29	Travis & Anna Watkins	Madi Larimore



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



The electric sign in front of the church needs to be replaced. The goal for the new sign \$25,000. The fund continues to grow with the balance currently at \$8735.00.

Powered by God

God made us: invented us as a [person] invents an engine. A car is made to run on petrol, and it would not run properly on anything else.

Now God designed the human machine to run on himself. He himself is the fuel our spirits were designed to burn, or the food our spirits were designed to feed on. There is no other. That is why it is just no good asking God to make us happy in our own way without bothering about religion. God cannot give us a happiness and peace apart from himself, because it is not there. —C.S. Lewis, *Mere Christianity*

The long-awaited ride home

In September 2024, NASA astronauts Butch Wilmore and Suni Williams headed to space for what was supposed to be an eight-day mission. Due to technical problems, that expedition exceeded nine months. Despite the unexpected delay, Williams said the astronauts didn't feel stuck or abandoned. Instead, they viewed the extended voyage as an opportunity to do more research.

Almost 30 years ago, another astronaut also faced setbacks with her return trip to earth. Shannon Lucid had to stay at the Russian Mir space station six months because of hurricanes and various mechanical problems. Before catching a ride back home on the space shuttle *Atlantis*, Lucid said, "You can rest assured I am not going to be on the wrong side of the hatch when they close it."

Followers of Jesus need not worry about being on the "wrong side of the hatch" someday. Although the gate to heaven is narrow, Jesus himself is the way and leads us safely home.

—adapted from an illustration by Craig Brian Larson



Stewardship and Missionary Committee is sponsoring Family Promise for May. Some of the more urgent needs are paper products and cleaning supplies. Such as Pinesol, toilet cleaner, and multi-purpose cleaners. Also paper towels and toilet paper. There are more things listed on the bulletin board outside of the office.

Over 100 items were collected and delivered to the Veteran's Food Pantry. They were especially grateful for the Ramen Noodles and canned fruits, they run out of those items on a weekly basis.

Thank you for the support you give to our committee, it is greatly appreciated by us and our community.

In Loving Memory

Gary Williams

Memorial Fund: Betty Rager and Family



APRIL 2025

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

Pastor Dunn opened the meeting with a devotion from the book of James. This scripture encouraged us to be slow to speak and willing to listen, also giving us encouragement to always do as God's teaching says. We ended with a thankful prayer.

The monthly financial report was presented on behalf of new treasurer, Joyce Larimore, by Bob Ritchey. A motion was made and approved to accept the report.

OLD BUSINESS

Bob Ritchey reported that Aaron Crider is willing to mow at both the church and the parsonage for another year. Thank you, Aaron!

Deb reported that the upstairs parsonage bathroom project was begun and is completed. The project took a week and looks very nice. A new vanity, toilet and floor was installed as well as adjustable shelving units for storage. Thank you to contractor, Scott Parker for completing this project so quickly.

Bob Ritchey reported that the new sound system is here and ready for installation. Part of it will be in before Easter to enable use for the cantata.

NEW BUSINESS

May 3rd was designated as the outside clean up day. Bob agreed to do some trimming before Easter but most will wait on the weather to improve. 9:00 a.m. will be the start time.

Travis reported some wind damage to roof during the most recent storm. Jeff Weis had previously agreed to address an issue regarding spouting so will also look at roof at that time.

Bob and Deb Ritchey will once again donate palms used for Palm Sunday service. Thank you to both for this beloved tradition.

Pastor Dunn reported that July 13th has been selected as start date for this year's Vacation Bible School. The church picnic will take place the

following Sunday, July 20th. A motion to adjourn was presented and approved.

Respectfully submitted,
Deb Thomas, secretary

Seizing holy opportunities

In *Holy Moments*, Matthew Kelly discusses the world's need for more small (but sometimes large) instances of people caring for others, cultivating joy, encouragement and love instead of anger, envy, fear. Kelly defines a Holy Moment as "a single moment in which you open yourself to God. ... You set aside personal preference and self-interest, and for one moment you do what you prayerfully believe God is telling you to do."

This may mean mowing the lawn for a neighbor with a broken leg, praising a child on his artwork, buying a surprise snack for someone having a bad day, working extra shifts for a coworker with cancer so she can receive her full salary while out sick, paying for the next car's drive-thru order. Anyone can create a Holy Moment, because you don't need special skills, position or wealth. "If you want to see miracles, make yourself available to God," Kelly suggests.

He adds that God has a track record of collaborating with "the most unlikely people to make amazing things happen, and now He wants to collaborate with you." When we're open to God's leading, holy opportunities abound. And we will experience as much joy as the ones to whom we show care.



A Memorial Day Service will be held Monday, May 26 at the Tawelfan Cemetery at 9am. The Gettysburg Address will be recited by Bentley Mooney. If it's raining it will be held in the sanctuary.



BOARD of DEACONS Meeting Minutes April 2025

Members Present: Rachel Baker, George Diller, Joyce Larimore, Vi Lloyd, Oren Long, Derik Mooney, Heather Nusbaum, Jeremy Price, Dian Ridley, Kim Stewart and Carol Sunderland.

The meeting was called to order by Heather Nusbaum.

Paster Dunn began the meeting with 1 Corinthians 1:18 on the message of the cross being foolish to those who are not spiritually connected but the message of sacrifice being understood by believers.

Election of officers was held. The officers for the 2025-2026 church year will be Heather Nusbaum – Chair, Dian Ridley – Vice Chair and Kim Stewart – Secretary.

Old Business:

Joyce Larimore reported the Connection Cards have been printed and are placed in back of pews. The cards can be used for prayer requests, contact by Pastor or new guests visiting us. The cards can be completed and placed in basket at the back of church.

New Business:

Dian Ridley proposed readings from Mark 14-15:37 for Maundy Thursday services. The committee agreed.

A motion was made by Dian Ridley to purchase new banners for sanctuary with cost of \$34. Vi Lloyd seconded the motion and the motion passed.

VBS is scheduled for July 13th and the Church Picnic is July 20th.

Joyce Larimore reported that the Gomer Congregational Church has April 24th for the Family Promise meal. Donations are appreciated.

Motion to adjourn was made and seconded. Meeting adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,
Kim Stewart, Secretary



Virginia Bok, 89, of Elida, passed away on Tuesday, March 11, 2025, at Roselawn Manor. She was born April 25, 1935, to Howell and Florence (Patton) Jones. They both preceded her in death. On June 22, 1958, she was united in marriage to Hiram Bok. He preceded her in death on August 7, 2011.

Virginia is survived by daughter, Florence Bok of Elida; and son, Richard (Diana) Bok of Ravenna, OH. Virginia was preceded in death by her siblings, Owen, Clark, Viola Mack, Mable Edna, and Neva Grace.

Virginia was a member of Gomer Congregational Church and the Elida VFW Ladies Auxiliary. She was a homemaker and worked as a secretary at Parks Kly Oil Company. She enjoyed sewing pillows, making doily dish towels, reading, and doing word searches. Virginia loves her dogs, Poppy Fred, and her cat, Mable Edna.

Memorial contributions may be made to Gomer Congregational Church or to the Allen County Humane Society.



Spring Clean-up Day is set for Saturday, May 3 beginning at 9:00am. Please make some time to come and help make our church look great!!

“Life is not measured by how much one owns.”

—Jesus (Luke 12:15, NCV)

“There is nothing in a caterpillar that tells you it’s going to be a butterfly.”—Buckminster Fuller



You can 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. If you have any questions, please contact the office.



Thank you for your donation for the canned items. Our Veterans are in need of help all year round. We appreciated all you do for them. Thank you again for your support!
Co-directors and Volunteers of Veterans Food Pantry

Reflecting on resurrection

In *Rest Your Dreams on a Little Twig*, poet Joyce Rupp finds in spring flowers the proclamation of the gospel: “we who have died / are alive today.” In another poem in the same volume, she writes: “A green shoot grows / out of an old tree stump, / announcing to the world / that power lies within death.”

As you move about outdoors these springtime days in the northern hemisphere, where do you see nature testifying to resurrection? Where is evidence that what seemed dead — bare branches, dry grass, inactive seeds — was not in fact the final word? What encourages you to believe in renewal, second chances, life that blossoms from death? In what ways are you, who had died, alive today? Part

of your life that felt like an old stump might be sprouting green shoots after all!



Thank you for the donations received from the Easter breakfast. It was a great turnout and all funds raised will be used towards Vacation Bible School.

Sunday May 18th the children will be singing during the service, Bibles will be given to our upcoming 3rd graders and gifts to the Seniors. A luncheon will be held afterwards to continue our fundraiser efforts for Vacation Bible School.

Planning is underway for Vacation Bible School that will be taking place July 13th-17th with the children’s performance Sunday July 20th. If anyone is interested in volunteering during VBS please contact Emily Diller (emilycdiller@gmail.com) or any of the Christian Ed committee members.

Next meeting to be held Sunday May 4th

Death is not the end

Loren Eiseley, an anthropologist who died in 1977, requested this epitaph for his wife and himself: “We loved the earth but could not stay.” No one can stay, of course. We’re all moving toward that final day when “the shadows lengthen, and the evening comes, and the busy world is hushed and the fever of life is over, and our work is done” (*The Book of Common Prayer*).

On Memorial Day, we remember people who have perished in war, making the ultimate sacrifice to protect others. May God hasten the day when humans can solve disputes peacefully. We also remember loved ones whose stay on earth is over.

A memorial stone at Ohio’s College of Wooster, placed by a class years ago, reads: “United in time / Divided in time / To be reunited / When time shall be no more.” Christians believe that death does not end all. When our earthly life is over, we have the promise of eternal life — and joyful reunions — in heaven.



BIRTHDAYS

- 1 Jeanine (Martin) Dredge
- 2 Shelby Crider
Miranda Flores
- 3 Jacqueline Martz
- 4 Kaylin Wreede
- 5 Kate Clevenger
- 6 Joe Studer
- 10 William Askins
- 12 Abby May
- 15 Rachel (Roberts) Baker
Jordan Martin
- 16 Jeremiah Price
- 17 Angie Siefker
- 21 Barbara Cerne
- 23 Mike Kohn
Doug Siefker
Nancy Watkins

24 Angie Walsh

30 Jeff Evans
Donna Martin

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

ANNIVERSARIES

- 11 Eric & Anna Ogle
- 18 Bob & Peg Grandbois

SPECIAL DATES

National Day of Prayer, *May 1, 2025*
 Mother's Day, *May 11, 2025*
 Armed Forces Day, *May 17, 2025*
 Victoria Day (Canada), *May 19, 2025*
 Memorial Day, *May 26, 2025*
 Ascension Day, *May 29, 2025*

Bible Quiz

What was the name of the wealthy merchant of purple cloth who met Paul and his companions, was baptized and became a leader in the Philippian church?



- A. Priscilla
- B. Lydia
- C. Dorcas
- D. Joanna

Bible Quiz Answer: B (See Acts 16:11-15, 40.)

Christian symbol



ALPHA MU OMEGA —
 The Greek letters that begin the words *yesterday, today and forever* remind us of Jesus' constant presence with us personally and his eternal nature that transcends time as we know it. "Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today and forever" (Hebrews 13:8, NIV). Dozens of psalms and other Bible passages also proclaim that the Lord's "steadfast love endures forever" (for example, Psalm 100:5, NRSV). What reassurance when life seems tough and fleeting!

A PRAYER FOR MOTHER'S DAY

Dear Lord, thank you for the blessings of children and families. Help us rely on you for guidance, patience and even-tempereness throughout our days.



We pray that our children will love you, worship you and serve you with their God-given gifts. Grant us the wisdom to know how to influence them to live godly lives. Prevent us from provoking our children to anger and from manipulating or nagging them. Fill our households with abiding love and respect. And help us all be united in purpose to do your will. In the name of Christ our Lord. Amen.

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

NON PROFIT ORGANIZATION
U S POSTAGE PAID
VAUGHNSVILLE OH
PERMIT #5

Return service requested

"He ascended into heaven..."



During his earthly ministry, Jesus could be physically present in only one place at any given time. "Only those could speak to him who came to where he was," explained Archbishop William Temple. "If he was in Galilee, people could not find him in Jerusalem; if he was in Jerusalem, they could not find him in Galilee" (from *Readings in St. John's Gospel*).

Spiritually speaking, Christ's Ascension means he is with us wherever we find ourselves. Christ desires to be present with us everywhere we go. His presence is universal. He is here now. "Believed in throughout the world, taken up in glory" (1 Timothy 3:16, NRSV) — that is what the Ascension affirms.