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ERRONEOUS EROTICISM

- Marriage *is* honorable among all, and the bed undefiled; but fornicators and adulterers God will judge. (Hebrews 13:4)
- “You have heard that it was said, ‘You shall not commit adultery.’ But I tell you that anyone who looks at a woman lustfully has already committed adultery with her in his heart.” (Matthew 5:27,28)

Valentine’s Day was named after St. Valentine, who was pro-marriage, but not in favor of sex outside of marriage. Our sexually saturated society promotes eroticism and sexual promiscuity so much that it’s easy for people to become de-sensitized to God’s holy standard. It’s an obvious example of “as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways and my thoughts than your thoughts.” (Isaiah 55:9) As Christians we need to follow a different path from unbelievers.

The 39th President of the United States, Jimmy Carter, passed away on December 29, 2024. Even people that thought he had been an ineffective president were likely to admit that he was a good Christian, known for his work with Habitat for Humanity and he was even a Bible study teacher at his church. He had the temerity when asked one time to admit that yes, he’d committed adultery in his heart by lusting, but he also celebrated forgiveness and redemption through the grace of Jesus Christ. We might all be relieved that God can forgive the sin of lust.

Unfortunately, lust and love are used as interchangeable language, including in shows and songs. We often hear the word “love” but what they usually mean is lust. There is a difference. We need to realize when it comes to sex - that lust can’t wait, but true love waits. Regardless of what the world claims, sex is designated for within the boundaries of marriage.

A good illustration about romantic love and sex is fire in a fireplace. Sex is like fire. It can be beautiful, warm, and cozy in the fireplace, but in the curtains it’s a disaster! A fireplace in this example is marriage. Sex is a gift for only in marriage. Christians especially need to keep it in the fireplace. We can be glad there’s a Valentine’s Day, but we can also be glad that we know the truth about love and marriage.

In Christ’s Love,
Pastor Mo Dunn

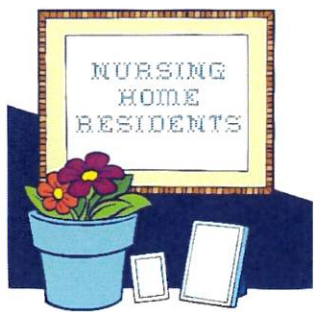
FEBRUARY

2025

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
						1
9:00 am Sunday School 10:15 am Worship 11:30am Christian Education						8 9:00am Pike Run Cemetery meeting
2	3	4	5	6	7	15 9 to Noon Recycling at Uncle Al's
9:00 am Sunday School 10:15 am Worship 11:30 Luncheon	10	11	12	13	14	22
9	10	11	12	13	14	21
9:00 am Sunday School 10:15 am Worship	17	18	19	20	21	28
16	17	18	19	20	21	28
	<i>President's Day</i>					
9:00 am Sunday School 10:15 am Worship 11:15am Annual Meeting	24	25	26	27	28	
23	24	25	26	27	28	



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
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 Tadana	Genna Thomas
June 1	Bill Askins & Lori Crider	Rayna Ogle



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

“Time”

Time is too slow for those who wait, too swift for those who fear, too long for those who grieve, too short for those who rejoice. But for those who love, time is eternity.

—Henry Van Dyke

The Stewardship Committee has selected collecting needed items for nursing homes in the area. Some ideas would be new decks of cards, puzzles (300 large pieces or less), word searches, adult coloring books (larger, less busy pictures), colored pencils, and special birthday cards (such as; daughter, son, brother, sister, or grandchildren). We have also asked our Sunday School Department to make cards for the residents which we will deliver.

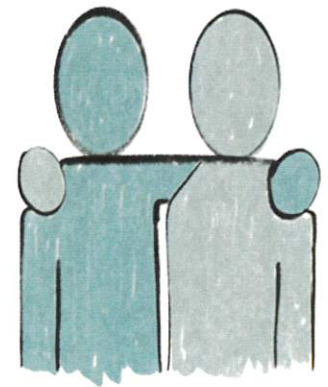


ANNUAL MEETING

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

“I am here”

In *Bread for the Journey*, theologian Henri J.M. Nouwen calls consolation — from “to be with” (con-) “the lonely one” (solus) — “one of the most important ways to care.” He writes, “Life is so full of pain, sadness and loneliness that we often wonder what we can do to alleviate the immense suffering we see.”



Although consoling doesn’t necessarily remove someone’s pain, Nouwen notes that it serves a deeper purpose: To console means “to be there and say, ‘You are not alone, I am with you. Together we can carry the burden. Don’t be afraid. I am here.’ That is consolation. We all need to give it as well as to receive it.”

“Try to be a rainbow in someone’s cloud.”

—Maya Angelou



Word has been received that our former Pastor Robert Quillen passed away. He was our Pastor from 1970 through 1979. He supplied our pulpit while still in school and was called as full-time pastor and ordained in Gomer on July 11, 1970. Pastor Bob's interest in area youth activities helped strengthen the youth program, and membership grew during his years.

During his time with us the parsonage was relocated farther north and the sanctuary was remodeled.

Robert B. Quillen

January 17, 1945 — January 2, 2025

Upper Darby, PA

Robert B. Quillen passed away on January 2, 2025 with his family at his side in Bryn Mawr, Pennsylvania.

Bob was born January 17, 1945 to Erma Marie (Rees) and Lee Quillen. He attended Muskingum University as a Greek and Latin major and became a pastor after attending Winebrenner Theological Seminary. He married Joyce L. Rossman on July 4, 1969 and received his Doctor of Divinity (DDIV) from Eden Theological Seminary in 1983. Bob was affectionately known as Pastor Bob or P.B. to his congregations and served as pastor to Gomer United Church of Christ, First United Church of Christ Fremont, First United Church of Christ in Sandusky, and St. John's Lutheran Church in Fremont, Ohio. He retired in 2010 with 40 years' service.

Bob treasured his family and dedicated his time to them. He is remembered by his family as Uncle Bob or Grandpa for his sense of fun, humor, and adventure, wise counsel, and many hours of patient listening to family, friends, and all those in need of an ear. He was an excellent teacher and loved spending time teaching others - whether that was chess, how to drive, woodwork or the inner workings of the human spirit. Grandpa and Dad were his favorite roles and he was counselor, in-house Uber, and

adventure enabler for all his grandkids. In his spare time, he enjoyed facilitating adult Sunday school, making pens or woodworking, and keeping up on current events.

Bob is survived by his wife of 55 years, Joyce (Rossman) Quillen, and daughters, Amanda (Nels Sundquist) and Meghan (Matt Cavas) and grandchildren Zoë (Jackie Knight) Boston, Sasha Boston, Mira "Reed" Boston, Ella Cavas, and Dax Cavas, and his brother, David Lee Quillen. He was predeceased by his parents, Frank and Erma Quillen.

Bob has chosen to donate his body to science. A memorial will be held to celebrate his life at 2 pm on Saturday, January 18, 2025 at Temple Lutheran Church with reception to follow in Fellowship Hall. There will be a celebration of life for Ohio family and friends this summer. In lieu of flowers, memorials may be made to Habitat for Humanity, habitat.org.



Gomer Church Friends,
Thank you for your support, kind words and prayers regarding Linda's passing. Pastor Mo thank you for your thoughtful service. And thank you for the meal donations and servers. It is all appreciated.
Linda Alger's Family



The Annual Meeting for Pike Run Cemetery will be held Saturday, February 8 at 9:00am in the church library at Gomer CC.

*In Loving
Memory*

Linda Lou Alger

November 4, 1942 – November 29, 2024

Memorial Fund: Don & Diane Enslin

Soup and Sandwich Luncheon



The PF will be hosting a luncheon of chicken noodle soup or tomato bisque and toasted ham and cheese or toasted cheese sandwiches on Sunday, February 9 following the worship service. All donations appreciated for youth activities.

Note from our Pastor/Staff

Pastor Dunn is available to you for counseling and visitation. You can often catch him at church between 9:30am and 11:30am on days that the office is open. However, to ensure you see him, it is best to call or text his phone at 937-855-7665 to arrange a meeting. It could be set for at the office or in a public meeting place or in your residence. He wants to be accessible.!



St. David's Day Dinner

The Annual St. David's Day Dinner and Bazaar will be held on Saturday, March 1, 2025 serving from 4:30 to 6:00pm. The menu is baked steak or scalloped chicken, mashed potatoes and gravy, green beans, homemade noodles, applesauce or coleslaw, rolls, and homemade desserts. The cost is \$12 for adults or \$12.50 at the door and \$6. for children under 10. If you would like to purchase a ticket, call, or come to the church office 419-642-2681.

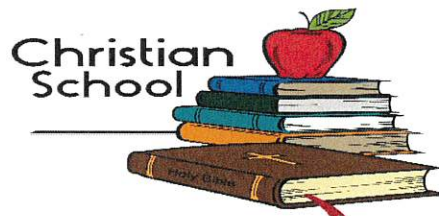


The electric sign in front of the church needs to be replaced. The goal for the new sign \$25,000. The fund continues to grow with the balance currently at \$6050.00. Thank you



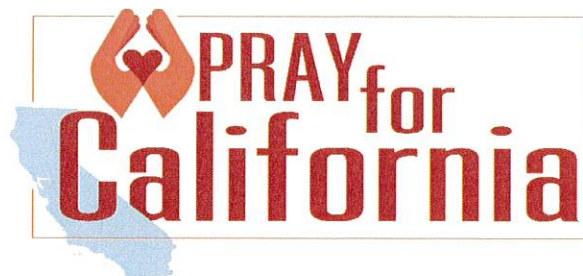
We need your help for the St. David's Day Dinner and Bazaar! Shalom Circle only has 7 active members! It takes approximately 42 pies and 8 cakes to serve with the dinners. If you can help bake there is a sign-up sheet on the bulletin board outside the church office or call the church office 419-642-2681 and Susan can let you know what is needed and sign you up!

If you can make bazaar items just drop them off before 3:30pm on March 1. Some item donations suggested by the ladies working the bazaar: brownies, cookies, jelly, half pies, and scrubbies. However, we will take whatever you can make. We can also use help with the serving and clean up on the day of the dinner. Please call Janet Alger or the church office if you can help or have questions.



The next Christian Ed meeting will be held Sunday, February 2nd.

The children will be singing during the church service on Sunday, March 2nd for St. David's Day. Planning is underway for Easter breakfast hosted by the committee.



The following article appeared in the Ninnau, The North American Welsh Newspaper.

Gomer Carries on the Tradition with their 107th Cymanfa Gannu

By Michael Hieber

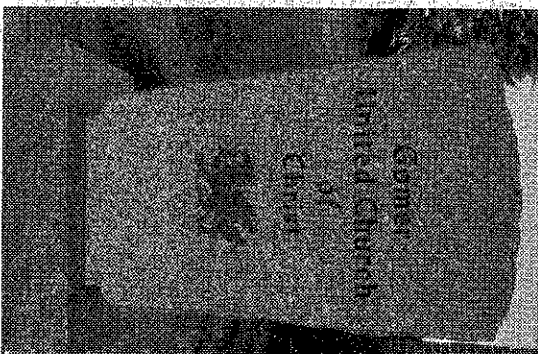
Traveling with great expectation to the pleasant village of Gomer in northwest Ohio to sing at the 107th Gomer Congregational Church Cymanfa Gannu on Sunday evening, October 6, 2024 was well worth the trip. A nice sized contingent filled the beautiful sanctuary with echoes of the past while bringing joyful sounds to all present. The event this year was dedicated to a pillar of the church, Monetta Lloyd with an emotional tribute to her many contributions over the years. The Prelude started the music with an arrangement of *O God, Our Help in Ages Past* played by the organist Martha Britt. Pastor Maurice Dunn provided the Invocation. As was the case last year, the Welcome was in the form of the song, *We'll Keep a Welcome* sung by Martin Thomas and Tim Latimore, with the congregation chiming in on the second verse. *The Star Spangled Banner* was led by Dan Brown followed by the traditional first hymn, *Rachie*, lead by the Sr. Choir Director, Leanne Dunn.

A new Guest Conductor graced our presence this year, Jill Sandy Coston, who was born in nearby Lima, Ohio (Lima, like in lima beans) and has spent her entire life in the Gomer area. Starting in music at an early age, she fondly recalled and gave an emotional introduction to her first piano teacher, Miss Miller, who was present in the audience, saying how her teacher appointed her piano accompanist for the Gomer Elementary School Bicentennial Choir while Jill was only a third grader. She

continued as a piano accompanist throughout her high school days into her adult life playing for many churches, synagogues, schools and numerous regional symphony orchestras. Her long ties to the area and her rich involvement in music made for a genuine and authentic expectation that evening. In the program, it stated that "Jill's motto for music has always been 'Tell the Story!' Music is such a wonderful gift God has given us. May we all use our musical abilities to tell fabulous and exciting stories that worship our Lord! She looks forward to leading us in our glorious singing this evening!" Jill made sure this was the case as we sang every verse of each chosen hymn as she emphasized the glory of four-part harmony as being essential as we are "all created differently, yet harmony brings us all back together". She really did unite us in song displaying authentic enthusiasm, energy and joy throughout the evening.

With Martha Britt on organ and Joyce Latimore & Sue Garsenmeyer on piano, the first hymn set included *Diadem* (14), *Milwaukee* (6), and *Byrn Callaria* (3), finishing with soloist Martin Thomas singing *Hen Wlad Fy Nhadau* in Welsh and English and leading us in the chorus. Some "special" Special Music was provided by the Gomer Congregational Church Junior Choir (including some very young ones) directed by Rachel Baker and Melissa Thomas singing in Welsh a variety of Welsh melodies that put a smile on everyone's face and warmed our hearts.

Hymn set 2 started with two Gomer favorites *Deemster* (29) and *Huddersfield* (18) with the



conductor having the basses practice the later in double time! The set was completed with *Rhoymedre* (4) and *Sonnetus* (30). Martha Britt then played an arrangement by Diane Bishop of *Amazing Grace* during the Offertory followed by the Memorial Hymn *Penpark* (26). Jill Sandy Coston then displayed her piano talent in a rousing, foot-stomping rendition of two "good ole" Baptist songs, *Soon and Very Soon* followed by *When We All Get to Heaven*.

Hymn Set 3 included *Drying I Rymy* (108), *Groeswen* (42), the peppy *Lily of the Valley* (114) and *Calon Lan* (66). This was followed by a Gomer tradition of identifying the Participants where attendees declare where they have come from to attend, which included a variety of states and distances. One good thing about driving to Gomer is that you get more singing as they always include a fourth set, this year *Blodwen* (60),



Jill Sandy Coston

Arghwyd, Dyma Fi (96) and of course concluding with *Cwm Rhonda* (40).

Pastor Maurice Dunn offered the Benediction and a more heartfelt than usual rendition of *God Be With You* (117) concluded the festivities, as Conductor Jill Sandy Coston had us sing the chorus 3 times: the first time was to honor all those present at the service; the second time she asked us to sing blessings to our loved ones who are still with us here on earth; and a third time in a soft reverent/acapella style to pay tribute to those who have gone to their heavenly home. Jill noted that

she will be remembering her father who passed in 2012. She wears a remembrance of the flowers from his funeral that were made into a bracelet whenever she performs music. The congregation held hands across the aisles, symbolizing just how powerful music can be to bring us all together in times of need, times of joy, and times of sorrow.

Martha Britt sent us on our way with the Prelude: *Postlude for Organ*. As you travel to support local Cymantfaedd Canu in 2025, try to make sure and put Gomer on your list for the first Sunday in October!

February Birthdays

- 1 George Diller
Cheryl Craig
Lisa (Regula) Meyer
- 2 Makenna Jackson
- 3 Katie Sunderland King
Marnee Smith
- 4 Jim Schwartzengraber
- 5 Nick Siefker
Leanne Dunn
- 8 Nathan Johnson
- 9 Ron Myers
- 12 David Walters
- 13 Rob Barnes
Willard Metzger
- 18 Bob Ritchey
- 20 Lexi Crider
Morgan Stewart
- 21 Kevin Christlieb
- 23 Alivia Page

Scott Bushong

26 Zoey Diller

27 Andrea Frank

February Anniversaries

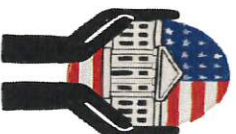
- 4 Doug and Jayna Siefker
- 11 Chuck & Robbin Schmersal

SPECIAL DATES

African American History Month
Valentine's Day, *February 14, 2025*
Presidents Day, *February 17, 2025*

A prayer for Presidents Day

Lord of heaven and earth, we offer you our deepest gratitude for this country and the freedom to worship you. Stir up a sense of stewardship so we all may care for our



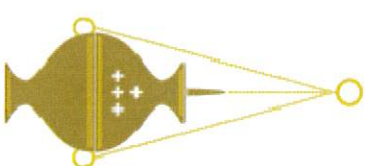
nation and each inhabitant of it. We pray especially for our leaders, that you will bless them with wisdom and humility. Prompt everyone in positions of authority to pursue righteousness, justice and the welfare of all.

Remind us of the psalmist's teaching: "Happy is the nation whose God is the Lord" (Psalm 33:12, NRSV). May that promise be fulfilled "from sea to shining sea." Amen.

Bible Quiz

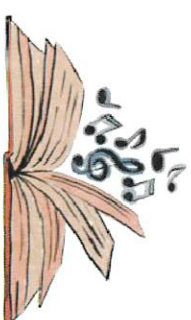
The short Old Testament book of Lamentations is a set of communal laments (sorrowful songs) about the destruction in 587 B.C. of which city, by which people?

- A. Babylon; the Assyrians
- B. Jerusalem; the Babylonians
- C. Rome; the Greeks
- D. Caesarea Philippi; the Romans



Christian symbol

CENSER & INCENSE — A censer (or thurible) is a vessel for burning incense during worship. Eastern Orthodox and Roman Catholic churches, as well as some Protestant ones, often do this on special occasions. Censers come in many sizes, shapes and designs. A worship leader may swing a chain censer to waft the fragrant smoke over the congregation during a procession or benediction. As incense burns in a censer and smoke wafts upward, it symbolizes prayers of the faithful, floating to God. "May my prayer be set before you like incense; may the lifting up of my hands be like the evening sacrifice" (Psalm 141:2, NIV).



Bible Answer: B (See Bible commentaries.)

Return service requested

TRUE LOVE

Many of us celebrate Valentine's Day in both fun and serious ways. Children exchange treats and humorous cards with classmates and friends; some bring home handmade cards for the adults in their lives. Romantic partners may go out to eat and present each other flowers, chocolate, a fancy card — maybe even an engagement ring!

As playful as Valentine's Day can be, it is also a great time to remember the serious side of love, as indicated by these quotes:

- "When you love someone, you love the whole person as he or she is, and not as you would like them to be." —Leo Tolstoy
- "You don't love someone because they're perfect; you love them in spite of the fact that they're not." —Jodi Picoult
- "Love ... is quiet understanding, mutual confidence, sharing and forgiving. ... It settles for less than perfection and makes allowances for human weaknesses." —Ann Landers



We can do the difficult work of true love — actions, not just feelings — only because God loved us first. He did (and does) so despite our imperfection, and in Jesus, God shows us how to share true love with others. This Valentine's Day, if you do not remember any other profound quotes, hold this one in your heart:

- "We love because God first loved us." —1 John 4:19 (NCV)