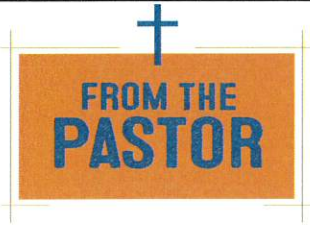


THE ASSISTANT PASTOR

AUGUST 2025



Volume 67 Number 7



Trivial Pursuits

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

"The kingdom of heaven is like treasure hidden in a field. When a man found it, he hid it again, and then in his joy went and sold all he had and bought that field. Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a merchant seeking beautiful pearls, who, when he had found one pearl of great price, went and sold all that he had and bought it." (Matthew 13:44-46)

In the theological classic, "The Pursuit of God," AW Tozer argues that a shallow, "Sunday-morning" Christianity is insufficient. He urges readers to actively pursue an intimate, transforming relationship with God, seeking Him with the same passion as a lover or a treasure hunter. To seek after and pursue God is an ideal worthy of our time and efforts. It carries with it life-changing knowledge and eternal benefits. What a joy and blessing it is that God is accessible to us! The psalmist posed a great question in Psalm 8:4, "what is man that you are mindful of him?" Let's be glad. God is intimately present and readily available to those who seek Him. Tozer wrote "we need never shout across the spaces to an absent God. He is nearer than our own soul, closer than our most secret thoughts." James 4:8 says, "Come near to God and he will come near to you. Wash your hands, you sinners, and purify your hearts, you double-minded."

Unfortunately, we often have more pressing matters along with many trivial pursuits. I recall playing a board game called "Trivial Pursuit," years ago. At one time it was very popular and they developed many different versions of it with different themes. You can easily find some type of Trivial Pursuit game at a Goodwill for \$2.99. No thanks! And I don't want my life to be about trivialities, even though there are many attractive versions available to us. The pursuit of God is a noble pastime, if only we can find the heart for it. Our relationship with Jesus is the treasure hidden in the field and the pearl of great price.

In Christ's Love,
Mo Dunn

AUGUST

2025

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



Trustees Meeting

June 2025

Members present: Bob Ritchey, Matt Nusbaum, Deb Thomas, Bob Roethlisberger, Ryan Stewart, Micah Brentlinger

Pastor Dunn began with a devotion centered around "An hour of need." Prayers were given for those in need as well as to acknowledge the many blessings that surround us.

Treasurer's report was given by Joyce Larimore and a motion was made and approved to pay the bills that occurred for the month.

OLD BUSINESS

Two roof estimates were presented for the replacement of roof over the newer addition. One was from Lawson Brothers and the other was from Winegardner Roofing. A discussion was held and it was noted that replacement of the roof is a priority. A discussion transpired in regards to paying for it. No action transpired.

Bob reported that the insurance was successfully changed to Advanced Insurance Group. Coverage is immediate.

Travis reported that he and Ethan will remove the railroad ties at the North parking lot and will also call Bruce about getting it leveled and more stone. Bob has volunteered to trim at the parsonage and Deb will purchase mulch.

An inquiry was made about connecting speaker in library sanctuary. Bob will talk to Kiel about getting that done. Bob reported that the new Sound System has been installed and that training for operating will be done soon. Matt reported that he will take suggestions to Church Council for restructuring the operation of the new system.

NEW BUSINESS

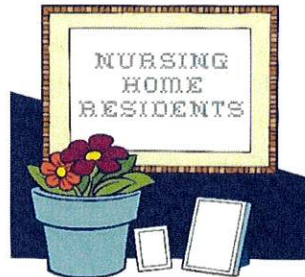
Bob reported that there is a rather sizeable crack in hallway wall on west side of the Fellowship Hall. Deb offered to call Dan Sackinger for estimates in contracting outside landscaping upkeep and new construction of area formerly included in parking on north side of church. A thank you was expressed to Rachel Baker for planting flowers on southside

entrance. A motion to adjourn was made and approved.

Respectfully submitted,
Deb Thomas---secretary



Aug. 3	Jeff & Mary Weis	Rayna Ogle
Aug. 10	Kiel & Emily Diller	Wyatt Diller
Aug. 17	Jan & Louie Siefker	Carson Sunderland
Aug. 24	Larry & Deb Stewart	Madi Larimore
Aug. 31	Jeff & Melissa Thomas	Genna Thomas
Sept. 7.	Jim & Susan Siefker	Beckett Sunderland
Sept. 14	Bob & Deb Ritchey	Jameson Thomas
Sept. 21	Cheyenne & Dian Ridley	Rayna Ogle
Sept. 28	Sandy Schwartzengraber & Sue Grusenmeyer	Wyatt Diller
Oct. 5	Dave & Pam Smith	Carson Sunderland
Oct. 12	Donna Martin & Jenni Marti	Genna 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 \$14,300.



When on vacation, be with us in spirit.
The rest of the summer, be with us in person.



Our July project is collecting School Supplies.



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



We would like to extend our heartfelt thanks to Pastor Dunn, Brian Knoderer and the members of our church family who provided us with support and condolences. This church was an important part of Joan's life, as were all the people within it. We were very comforted by the support shown by so many.

The Doris Joan Thomas family.

The Decorating Committee is sponsoring our church participation in the Lincoln Highway Yard Sales on Thursday, August 7 and Friday, August 8th. We will be accepting donations (NO CLOTHING PLEASE). Donations can be brought during church office hours on Tuesday & Thursdays: 8:30am-11:30am or Sunday mornings. You can also contact Hope Diller (419) 236-0469 to set up a time to drop off! Donations will be put in the first Sunday School Room on the right

YARD SALE
DONATIONS
NEEDED

at the North End!

Thank You,
Hope Diller, Deb Thomas & Donna Martin

"Gratitude can transform common days into thanksgivings, turn routine jobs into joy and change ordinary opportunities into blessings." —
William Arthur Ward



A Loss *in the* Church Family

Doris Joan (Lloyd) Thomas

January 6, 1932 – June 21, 2025

Doris "Joan" Thomas, 93, of Gomer, passed away on Saturday, June 21, 2025, at the Meadows of Kalida. She was born on January 6, 1932, in Gomer, OH, to David R. and Vera (Hunt) Lloyd. They preceded her in death. Joan was united in marriage to Ross Thomas on May 24, 1951 in Gomer. He preceded her in death on December 2, 2021.

Joan is survived by three children, Donald (Alesia) Thomas of Tucson, AZ, Marty (Deb) Thomas of Elida, and Pat (Russell) Sharrits of Columbus Grove; five grandchildren, Michelle Thomas of Elida, Russell (Stephanie) Thomas of Tucson, AZ, Beth Thomas of Akron, Chris (Sarah) Thomas of Plain City, and Jeff (Melissa) Thomas of Elida; two step-grandchildren, Scott Sharrits of Lima and Amie Sharrits of Raleigh, NC; 12 great-grandchildren, one step-great-grandchild; a sister-in-law, Pam Lloyd of SC.

She was preceded in death by her brothers, Richard (Maureen) Lloyd, Ronald (Monetta) Lloyd, Wayne, (Gloria) Lloyd, David (Barbara) Lloyd and Gary Lloyd.

Joan was a farm wife. She retired from Elida Local Schools as a bus driver. She was a camp counselor for Elida Band for over 30 years. She was a member of Gomer Congregational Church and the Welsh Society of Northwest Ohio. She was an excellent cook, sharing her homemade jelly with friends and family. She enjoyed sharing her homemade candies with the kids on her bus. She was an accomplished seamstress. She was a HUGE fan of the Cincinnati Reds and the Ohio State Buckeyes. She enjoyed cooking, gardening, reading, and spending time with her family and friends.

Beautiful feet

"How beautiful are the feet of those who bring good news!" (Romans 10:15, NIV). Such beauty has nothing to do with the feet being clean, newly pedicured, elegantly clad. They may be the dusty feet of aid workers bringing food to drought-stricken areas, or the muddy shoes of those rushing disaster relief to flood zones. They may be the swollen feet of a dedicated nurse after a 12-hour hospital shift, or the tired feet of a parent pacing with a baby at 3 a.m.

In the upper room before Jesus' arrest, he declared his disciples' dirty feet beautiful by touching and washing them lovingly, preparing them to go out yet again with his good news for all. And on the cross, Jesus' own feet — nail-pierced — were beautiful.

After Pope Francis died on Easter Monday 2025, many mourners who paid their respects noticed his shoes. Instead of new, well-polished "dress shoes," the scuffed items clearly had walked countless steps. They were the sturdy boots of a worker, a pilgrim, a travel companion on the road of life, the journey of faith. They were the shoes — the feet — of a disciple of Christ willing to go wherever needed to bring the good news of God's love. How beautiful! —Heidi Hyland Mann



Doris Joan (Lloyd) Thomas
January 6, 1932 – June 21, 2025

Memorial Fund: Joanne Koehl, Bill & Toni Schroeder, Tom & Jolene Brubaker, Tim & Bev Carder, Jeff & Kris Thompson, Willard & Betty Metzger, Kim & Bob Roethlisberger, Jim & Sandy Schwartzengraber, Tammy Jackson, Candi Miller, Donna Martin, Bruce & Vi Lloyd, Allen & Nancy Clum, Art Holman, Ron & Teena Ebbeskotte, Rick & Cathi Lloyd, Jim & Susan Siefker

Choir Fund: Carol Sunderland

Organ Fund: Lowell & Carol Smith

Virginia (Jones) Bok,

April 25, 1935 - March 11, 2025

Library Fund: Richard and Diana Bok



THANKS to Our VBS Volunteers!

The Christian Education Committee would like to thank all our teen volunteers, Janet Alger, Rachel Baker, Carolyn Dyke, Donna Martin, and Deb Thomas for all your hard work during VBS. Also, thank you to all that donated snacks and to Uncle Al's for the donation of pizza!

We had a fun-filled week on our Road Trip adventure. We had 43 children attend VBS and \$184 collected for the Heifer project.

A path of persistence

Some Christian converts in an overseas village were diligent about daily prayer. In the thicket outside town, they each had a place where they prayed in solitude. Over time, these believers wore pathways through the brush to their special prayer areas. If someone neglected his or her prayer life, it was evident because fresh grass started growing on that footpath. Out of concern, fellow Christians offered this loving reminder: "Friend, there's grass growing on your path."

How worn is your own path to prayer? Are you persistent when answers don't seem to come? Do you trust that God will answer your prayers, according to his good and gracious will?

When you grow weary, remember this promise in Galatians 6:9 (NIV). "At the proper time we will reap a harvest if we do not give up."

Back by Popular Request!

Sunday, August 3 at 6:00pm

At the Gomer
Community Welsh
Museum

Food and Drinks
will be available
Bring your lawn
chair and enjoy an
evening of local
entertainment.



Need a vocation vacation?



"It is not more vacation we need," said Eleanor Roosevelt. "It is more vocation" — in other words, something that God calls you to do. God uses his people to accomplish amazing things, even dur-

ing the summer! Call it a "vocation vacation."

If you're planning a trip, call ahead and offer to serve at a local homeless shelter or urban ministry. If you want to be outdoors, ask a Bible camp or recreation department if it needs volunteers. Other possibilities include assisting with programs that help elderly residents or people with special needs enjoy outdoor activities.

You'll enjoy summertime fun (vacation) *and* the knowledge that God is working through you (vocation).

Lifelong learners

"If you don't have wisdom that goes with knowledge, you are only a walking encyclopedia," wrote Jack Wellman, a Kansas pastor. "A book of knowledge is useless without the wisdom to know how to apply that knowledge. ... Information without transformation leads only to frustration."

Consider the many benefits of wisdom — and how you can use what you've acquired to serve God, your church and your community. To better fulfill your calling, what wisdom might you yet need to acquire?

As another school year begins, here's a prayer for students of all ages: All-wise, all-knowing God, make us willing learners and seekers of your wisdom, not for the gain of knowledge for its own sake, but that we might handle every situation we face with the wisdom of Christ, in whose name we pray. Amen. —adapted from *The Wired Word*

Puzzle!

The biblical calendar had many feasts and festivals. They were connected with the changing of the seasons or special events.

Use the code to find the name of the special days the Israelites observed.

CODE:

A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J	K	L	M	N	O	P	Q	R	S	T	U	V	W	X	Y	Z
Z	Y	X	W	V	U	T	S	R	Q	P	O	N	M	L	K	J	I	H	G	F	E	D	C	B	A

SEASON

HOLIDAY

1. End of Summer

New Year

I L H S S Z H S Z M Z S

2. Fall

Day of Atonement

B L N P R K K F I

3. Fall

Festival of Booths

H F P P L G S

4. Winter

Festival of Rededication

S Z M F P P Z S

5. Winter

Festival of Lots

K F I R N

6. Spring

Festival of Unleavened Bread

K Z H H L E V I

7. Spring

Feast of Weeks/Pentecost

H S Z E F L G

Answers: 1. Rosh Hashanah, 2. Yom Kippur, 3. Sukkot, 4. Hanukkah, 5. Purim, 6. Passover, 7. Shavuot



- 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



- 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 (74)
- 25 James & Cynthia Clevenger
- 29 Travis & Anna Watkins
- 31 Jan & Louie Siefker

- 27 Jacob Sunderland
- 28 Dave Smith
- 31 Dina Tadena



Bible Quiz

For years, King David showed special

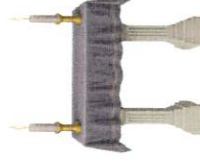
kindness to the son of King Saul's son Jonathan, because David and Jonathan had been dear

friends. Which of the following statements is *not* accurate?

- A. The name of King Saul's grandson was Mephibosheth.
- B. He was lame in both feet.
- C. His feet had been injured when he was 5.
- D. He was injured while playing with his brothers.

Christian symbol

ALTAR — This central furnishing in a Christian worship space is usually large, with a solid front that may be decorated with



symbols or words. The flat surface, often covered with a cloth, is where the Communion elements are prepared and placed, reminding us of Jesus' sacrifice as the Lamb of God. In some churches, the altar looks more like a table, with open legwork. We remember that Jesus invites us into fellowship with God now and to the heavenly banquet for eternity. We place offerings on the altar to symbolize our sacrificial response to God's redeeming love.

Answer: D (See 2 Samuel 4:4; 9:1-7; 21:7.)

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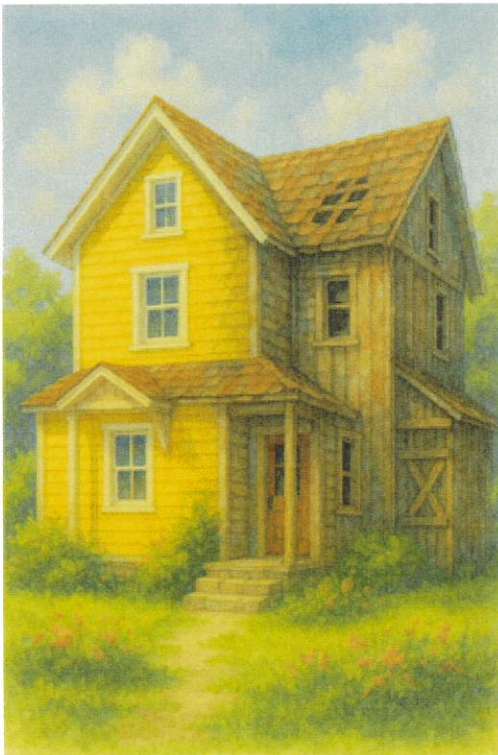
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Fixer-uppers

Summer is peak time for home renovations and remodeling projects. Those can be super stressful, starting with the selection of a contractor.

In a blog about her own family's construction plans, Laura Elliott explains the challenge: "It's



not just any builder I want. I want one who has impeccable workmanship, is completely trustworthy and delivers our long-awaited [projects] early and under-budget." After sifting through bids and reviews, she discovered that most builders "look like they do pretty similar work for a pretty similar price."

For spiritual renovations, however, the choice is clear. "God is the builder of everything," says Hebrews 3:4 (NIV). Elliott writes, "Jesus is not only the *builder* of His Father's house, but He is the *buyer*, and the *heir* as well." And what he's building, she adds, is "a better Bride," his church.

Faith upgrades are an ongoing, lifelong process. "The renewal of our natures is a work of great importance," said 18th-century minister George Whitefield. "It is not to be done in a day. We have not only a new house to build up, but an old one to pull down." It's a good thing God oversees this project! —Stephanie Martin