



THE CHIMES

September 2024

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**Our Mission is to Make Disciples of Jesus Christ and to
Serve God by Sharing Compassion, Hope and Love**

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THE CHIMES

SEPTEMBER 2024

VISION STATEMENT

- courageously reach out and welcome;
- passionately worship and pray
- intentionally nurture and encourage; and
- lovingly share and serve.

MISSION STATEMENT

Our mission is to make disciples of Jesus Christ (Matthew 28:19-20)
and to serve God by sharing compassion, hope, and love



Christianity: Rooted in Culture Wars

Few of you will want to wade through the paper that I wrote this semester, but the material that I covered is important. Working through several chapters of Matthew, I detailed how our knowledge of modern archaeology and history adds to our understanding and gives depth to scripture. What follows is an edited excerpt of just one passage that I discussed.

When we read Jesus' caution that "No one can serve two masters," in Matthew 6:24, we find that our study of history expands our understanding beyond the surface meaning. Many of us have tried to please two bosses or have otherwise been pulled between our loyalties to work, family, and faith, but Roman Palestine, and Galilee in particular, felt many of these pressures, each demanding that they choose them as their master. At the time of Jesus, the rule of King Herod and Rome was less than 70 years old. But there were institutions, buildings, and cultural memories of the earlier Hasmonean dynasty under which Israel was free and independent.

The Hasmonean dynasty had emphasized, and even required, an adherence to a more traditional Jewish culture and religion, but with the fall of the Hasmoneans, the rise of Herod the Great, and Israel's subjugation by the Roman Empire, things were changing. There were changes in clothing style, architecture, language, art, and language, and all these changes were often seen as an incredible culture war between the traditional Jewish culture, and the newer Greco-Roman culture, known as Hellenism. Hellenism, of course, was not entirely new. It had begun generations earlier with the conquest of Pompey and the Greeks (in 63 BCE), even before the Hasmoneans rose to power, but was now, under Herod and the Romans, an increasingly strong influence.

While upper Galilee retained a traditional Jewish culture, lower Galilee, with the presence of the Greco-Roman cities of Sepphoris and Tiberias, as well as its proximity to Hippos on the opposite shore of the lake, was seen as having made a greater degree of accommodation to Hellenism. Israel's elites, including the chief priests and much of Jerusalem with them, adopted Roman culture to fit in, to get ahead, and to win favor. This influence of Hellenism triggered strong emotions, and this is the tension that we see in passages such as Matthew 6:20.

Further, when we remember that ninety percent of Roman Palestine lived at a subsistence level or below, we see Jesus' instruction in a different light when he says, "So, do not worry, saying what shall we eat?' or 'What shall we drink?' or 'What shall we wear?' For the pagans run after these things, and your heavenly father knows that you need them. But seek first his kingdom and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well" (Matt 6:31-33). With this in mind, we not only understand that Jesus is teaching his listeners that they should make God's kingdom a priority in their lives, but to people who were so poor that they often struggled to eat, or to drink, or wear, much of anything at all, Jesus was offering hope.

The people from rural villages in Galilee were insulated from Greco-Roman influence but they saw wealthy landowners, priests and other elites who were trying to fit into Roman culture, and they saw how that caused them to match what the Romans were eating, drinking, and wearing. But Jesus' message was that conforming to Roman culture was not important and that it was not a curse to be so poor that they could not afford those things. His message was that God remembered them, knew what they needed, and would provide for them if they remained faithful and pursued righteousness instead of chasing after wealth and culture.

This was more than offering empty hope. The message of Jesus was that people should follow the law and live lives of moral integrity but also that they should be filled with compassion for one another. Rather than just watching out for themselves, or for their immediate and extended family, which was often the norm, Jesus and his disciples teach, and model, a life in which they all care for one another. Moreover, Jesus says that God sees them and cares for them in real life and not only on a spiritual level. God's love for his children is not as a distant and disinterested observer, but as a father who cares for his children in tangible and physical ways saying, "ask and it will be given to you" (Matt 7:7) and "your Father in heaven gives good gifts to those who ask him!" (Matt 7:11)

That's just a sample from my paper, but the takeaway for all of us is that Christianity was born in the middle of an enormous culture war. What we see today is not new. But the message of scripture is still the same. No man can serve two masters, the people of the church should care for one another rather than only looking out for themselves, and God still loves us, not just spiritually or metaphysically, but deeply, tangibly, and physically.

Much has changed in two thousand years and times will continue to change with each generation. But God's love for us never changes.

~ Pastor John

Pennies from Heaven

We continue to collect pennies to support the Alliance of Churches work for people in need. We will continue to re-fill the collection jar! If you have your loose pennies gathering dust in a drawer, consider donating them. The need continues to be great and our combined sacrifice can Make a difference!

~ Christian Outreach Committee

Blessing Bags

Blessing Bags: We did 25 Blessing Bags in August. When we assemble blessing bags in the fall, we will be in need of the following items: Combs, Men & women deodorants, men & women socks, toothbrushes and gallon size bags. Thank you to everyone who have donated items for this worthwhile project. ~ Jean Webster & Carolyn Miller

Children's Sunday School

Special Sunday School this fall! Beginning September 15th!

Rev. Rebecca will be leading a wonderful study for the children, "Learning to Use my Bible." Over 4 Sessions, the children will explore: A Gift from God, God's Word, Teachings of Jesus, The Scriptures of our Church." Each Sunday, they will get to make various items from the Old Testament and New Testament. Don't be surprised when they bring home clay tablets, a Hebrew scroll, and the Fruits of

the Spirit to follow everyday! A real bonus will be learning the scripture passage that guides them each day! See you in Sunday School, September 15th!

UNITED WOMEN IN FAITH UPDATE:



United
Women
in Faith

September 3 (7PM) – UNIT MEETING, Dussel Room

****Program also offered via Zoom****

LITE SUPPER at 6:15PM

Program: “Take Care of YOU”

Greeters/Hostesses: UWF Officers

Our meetings are open to anyone who would like to attend.

If you’d like to “Zoom in”, contact Nancy Prueter at prueter@sbcglobal.net for an invitation.

GOOD TO KNOW:

September – Central Valley District Love Offering

A special Love Offering will be collected in September Circle Meetings.

This offering will support **Helping Hands Network**. The Helping Hands Network was established in 1983 to serve residents in southern Stark County, including the communities of East Sparta, Magnolia, Sandyville, and Waynesburg. Through community support the center provides yearlong food pantry and clothing giveaway services as well as school supplies, Thanksgiving turkeys, Christmas hams, Christmas presents, and Easter candy for local children.

Fall Basement Sale – October 4th & 5th

Setup is Thursday, October 3rd. Won't you volunteer to help with this worthwhile project?

The deadline to bring your donated items will be Wednesday, October 2nd.

We have plenty of storage space so feel free to bring your donations early.

As always, we ask for items that are clean and in good repair.

Central Valley District Fall Meeting – October 5

Location: Ohltown UMC, Mineral Ridge

East Ohio Meeting – October 26

“UWFAith EOC Annual Celebration”

Location: Faith UMC, North Canton

SAVE THE DATE!!

October 1 – Unit Meeting at 7:00PM

“Eleanor Roosevelt”

From **Women in History** – Lakewood, OH

Open to congregation and public

United Women in Faith always welcomes guests and new members.
Please call Jamie Greiner at (412) 601-4275 or any Executive Board Officer, if interested.

The Unit meets on most 1st Tuesdays at 7pm in the Dussel Room

- ❖ **Peg Williams Circle** meets at 1:00pm on 3rd Mondays at Copeland Oaks, Williamsburg Lounge
- ❖ **M & M Circle** meets at 7pm on 3rd Mondays in the Dussel Room
- ❖ **May Smyth Circle** meets at 10:30am on 3rd Tuesdays in the Dussel Room
- ❖ **Susie Buckel Circle** meets at 7pm on 3rd Tuesdays in the Dussel Room



Thank you to everyone that helped with the Summer Movie in July! Your donations of candy, distribution of flyers, and help that day were much appreciated! ~ Christian Outreach

Christian Outreach Food Pantry

We recognize a need in our community by collecting funds, food, personal and household items to help the Salvation Army in its outreach. The Christian Outreach Committee reminds you that there is always a shopping cart in the Lounge for donations, and that the third Sunday (Sept. 17th) of each month we collect the Noisy Can offering which benefits the Salvation Army and Alliance of Church. . Your response for this much needed community program is appreciated. Thank you!

Mayor's Commission on Aging

Senior Expo is on Wednesday, Sept. 18th from 9am – 2pm at the Alliance Senior Center, 602 W. Vine St. There will be a lunch, entertainment, and bingo.



THE FINAL FLIP – 40 YEARS



The 40th and final year for burgers in the park was truly spectacular. We sold out on Saturday of both hotdogs and burgers before 8pm! Thank you to everyone that has helped and run the project over it's amazing run. We have a lot to be thankful for. Thanks again to everyone for their support of this project.



CHRISTIAN OUTREACH COMMITTEE

AUGUST 12, 2024

The Beat the Heat movie had about a dozen people attend. They seemed to enjoy the activity but obviously we had hoped for a much better turn out as flyers were distributed in many different places. We discussed various other ideas for welcoming the community into our church as well as outreach into the community. Some of the suggestions included a summer arts and crafts day; make donations of school supplies to help the YWCA program; making school supplies donations to the Friends Church program. It would be helpful if any of our congregation has other suggestions for an outreach activity.

The Chuck Wagon donations and Noisy Can offerings are ongoing and have been more successful since we combined the two together on the third Sunday of the month. Thank you so much for your generous donations for this outreach mission!

The Alliance of Churches community family dinners are now sit down at the church at 5:00 p.m. It seems that the people in need of this dinner are glad to be back to see their friends and enjoy the dinner. Victor Lee changed the website to reflect the correct time for the dinners.

Jean Webster reported that 25 blessing bags were assembled for the Alliance Council of Churches and Salvation Army. This seems to be a well-received and needed outreach mission. We are looking for a room for Jean & Carolyn to continue putting together blessing bags. A cupboard is being donated for their supplies and will be put in the room that is made available to Jean and her workers.

The baby bottle collection netted \$100.00+ for the Pregnancy Center. Thank you to all who donated to this worthy cause.

We discussed upcoming projects. The possibility of a Sunday dinner was discussed with donations being accepted for Red Bird Mission. There is a possibility that a trip will be made to Red Bird in October after the Basement Sale. The Sierra Leone project is also accepting donations to help with school packs.

A suggestion was made to let the congregation know that donations of tuna and peanut butter to go with the Alliance of Churches bread ministry would be very welcomed by the community members using the bread ministry.

The next meeting is set for October 14th at 6:30 pm.

Please keep these committee members in your prayers. We are always in need of the support of the congregation. Please take the time to talk to any of these members if you have questions or suggestions to enhance our Christian outreach to the Alliance Community. Have a blessed day!





Thank you to everyone who said "yes" for the Sunday Friends Ministry. Since the ministry is ready for fall, the first card can go out in September. Welcome the children back to Worship and Sunday School and wish them a great school year! The response this year is incredible. We have men in our congregation who stepped up to take a child!
~ Rev. Rebecca, coordinator

Chancel Vocal Choir

Please feel free to join our Chancel Vocal Choir

Regular Rehearsal Times (starting on Sept. 4th):

7:30 pm Chancel Vocal Choir

September: Brass Choir at 6:00 pm and String Ensemble at 6:45 pm.

Handbell Choirs will start on Oct. 2nd (or as soon as bells/chimes arrive). Hallelujah Bells at 5:30 pm and Chancel Bells at 6:30 pm.

Financial Reminder

The more relaxed pace of summer is over and schedules start again! Now is a good time to take a look at your pledge giving and be sure you are up to date. The operating expenses of the church haven't taken a vacation so your attention to keeping your pledge current is important to us. Thank you for your consideration.

Prayer Chain

The Church Prayer Chain is available for anyone who is in need of prayer. Please call Sue Burden at 821-9744 or the Church Office at 330-823-7136. If you would like to be a part of the prayer chain please let the Church Office know. You can participate either by phone or by email.

Sunday Worship in Sanctuary



On Sunday, Sept. 8th we will return to worshipping in our beautiful sanctuary. Come and enjoy listening to Carolyn on the organ.

COMMUNITY FUNCTIONS

Christ Church has been happy to offer a location for area churches to provide a free meal each week on Tuesdays since 2014! But, we are only part of the free community meals offered each week.

The Congregational Care Committee would like to provide you with the schedule of free meals that are available. Please share this information with anyone who may need a connection to food and fellowship.

FREE COMMUNITY MEALS

<u>SUNDAYS:</u> 3pm 1p to 2pm	Alliance Catholic Workers, 830 S. Freedom Ave. Spirit of Faith Christian Center 425 E Market St. 1st Sunday of month only//	330-680-4501 330-913-7007
<u>MONDAYS:</u> 5pm 5p to 6:30pm 5:30 pm	Clothed in Righteousness 55 E. Main St. St. Anne's Catholic Church, Sebring OH 4th Monday of each month only Alliance Catholic Workers, 830 S. Freedom Ave.	330-501-8262 330-938-2033 330-680-4501
<u>TUESDAYS:</u> 11:30am 5p to 6p	Alliance Catholic Workers, 830 S. Freedom Ave. Alliance of Churches, 470 E. Broadway St. Various churches provide dinner	330-680-4501 330-829-9294
<u>WEDNESDAYS:</u> 11:30a 5p to 6:30p	Alliance Catholic Workers, 830 S. Freedom Alliance Commons, 405 S. Linden Ave.	330-680-4501 330-829-8168
<u>THURSDAYS:</u> 11:30a 5p 5p to 6 p	Alliance Catholic Workers, 830 S. Freedom Ave. Clothed in Righteousness, 55 E. Main St. Michael's World, 333 E. Market St. 4th Thursday of the month only	330-680-4501 330-501-8262 330-575-9319
<u>FRIDAYS:</u> 5:30 pm Noon to 1 pm	Alliance Catholic Workers, 830 S. Freedom Ave. 1ST Friday of month only Salvation Army, 57 W Main St.	330-680-4501 330-823-5188
<u>SATURDAYS:</u> 11:30a	Alliance Catholic Workers, 830 S. Freedom Ave. 3rd Saturday of month only	330-680-4501

GROCERIES

Alliance of Churches Bread Ministry 470 E. Broadway Ave. Tuesday & Thursday 9a – 11:30am	330-829-9294
Alliance Community Pantry 215 E Market St. Monday & Wednesday 4p-7p Tuesday 9a- noon	330-680-8130
The Vine UMC Pantary 1544 W. Vine St Thursday 10:00 am	330-823-8580
Spirit of Faith Pantry 625 E Market St.	330-913-7007

1st & 2nd Fridays 6p-7p

WORSHIP - ONLINE

How to Find Our Livestream

During the congregational care meeting, it was brought up that some of our folk, on those days when they cannot attend in person, are still struggling to find our livestream on Sunday morning. So, I will write it out here because I know, for many of us, it's much easier to learn new things by following the directions a few times.

First, turn on your computer or your smartphone, either will work, but after that the directions will be just a little bit different.

On a computer:

- 1) Open whatever browser that you commonly use. This is probably Google Chrome, Apple's Safari, Microsoft Edge, or Firefox but it might be something a little less common. Hopefully, you know which browser you use.
- 2) Navigate to YouTube.com. You may need to type that in the navigation bar at the top or you can type it into the "Search" bar. Either way, click on that and go to YouTube.
- 3) Once you are on the YouTube webpage, click on the search bar at the top and type "pastor John Partridge" or "John Partridge church." You can't just type "John Partridge" even though that's the official name of my channel because there is a well known actor by the same name and you will be inundated with his videos unless you include "pastor" or "church" in your search.
- 4) After you've typed that, click on the magnifying glass, or hit "Enter."
- 5) That should bring up, within the first few options, a picture of me, and the name of my channel "John Partridge." Click on that.
- 6) Once there, my instructions might be a little... fuzzier... because I never go online to look at my channel while we are livestreaming. But, what I think happens, once we start the livestream at 10:15 am Sunday morning, is that at the top of my channel, you will see some notification that we are, at that moment streaming video.
- 7) Click on that notification and it should take you to the livestream that is in progress.

On a smartphone:

If you have **not** installed the YouTube app on your phone, then follow the directions for "On a computer" listed above.

- 1) Open the YouTube app.
- 2) Click on the magnifying glass.
- 3) Type "pastor john partridge" in the search bar as described above.
- 4) Click on the circular photo of me where it says something like "98 subscribers, 256 videos."
- 5) That will take you to my channel and at that point the instructions are the same as for #6 above.

Another note: If you haven't done so already, subscribing to the "John Partridge" YouTube channel might make it easier for you to find it. In addition, if you are watching on your smartphone, if you click on the "notification bell" and allow notifications, then YouTube will send you a message whenever our livestream is... live.

WORSHIP PARTICIPANTS FOR SEPTEMBER

USHERS - Team #2

Jim Greiner, Captain
John Christian Mike Greiner
Keith Noble Bill Sol
Gene Stroia

LITURGISTS

1 Ellen Sol
8 Judith Hookway
15 Rhys Sampson
22 Victor Lee
29 Jim Greiner

WELCOME CENTER

1 Dolores Lawrence
8 Bonnie McVicker
15 Peg Rodefer
22 Kathy Stroia
29 Denise Aeling

SANCTUARY GREETERS

1 None
8 Dick Diser
15 Ellen Sol
22 Jill Greiner
29 Patti Travis

TELLERS

1 Pat Helsel/Marilyn Ruff
8 Mark Locke/Bruce Helsel
15 Donna Essick/Jill Greiner
22 Jim Greiner/Nancy Prueter
29 Bill Prueter/Dick Diser

SEPTEMBER VISITATION MEMBERS

1 Craig Post, N.Canton
8 Charlie Manypenny, Sebring
15 Mary Louise Ford, Sebring
22 Mary Aufrance, Alliance
29 June Luca, Alliance

SEPTEMBER BIRTHDAYS

4	Charles Manypenny	
7	Pat Helsel	23 Jim Greiner
13	Joshua Shields	23 Gene Stroia
16	Keith Noble	24 Joanne Springer
17	Dan Feess	26 Peg Rodefer
18	Amy Essick	29 Sharon Riddle
19	Mike Greiner	29 Dan Gard
19	Bruce Helsel	16 John Innerst

SEPTEMBER ANNIVERSARIES

1 Steven and Sonya Reisch
8 Stephen and Pat Stone
16 Roger and Shirley Gantz

To have your birthday and/or anniversary listed in THE CHIMES: Just call the church office, 330-823-7136, place information in the Secretary's slot outside the church office or email to secretary@cumcalliance.org.



CHIMES DEADLINE: The deadline for the October 2022 issue of *The Chimes* is Monday, September 19th. Articles may be placed in the Secretary's slot outside the church office or emailed to secretary@cumcalliance.org

September 2024



***Sunday** Worship & Program Opportunities

9/9:15 am Sunday School
 10:15 am Worship Service.

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 9/9:15a Sunday School 10:15a Service Communion	2 	3 5p Community Dinner 6:15p UWF Unit Meeting	4 6p Brass 6:45p Strings 7:30p Ch Vocal	5	6	7
8 9/9:15a Sunday School 10:15a Service National Grandparents Day	9	10 5p Community Dinner 6:30p Finance 7p Adm. Council	11 6p Brass 6:45p String 7:30p Ch Vocal	12	13	14
15 9/9:15a Sunday School 10:15a Service	16 1p Peg Williams Circle 7p Scouts 7p M&M Circle	17 10:30a May Smyth 5p Community Dinner 7p Susie Buckel Circle	18 6p Brass 6:45p String 7:30p Ch Vocal	19	20	21
22 9/9:15a Sunday School 10:15a Service	23 7p Scouts	24 5p Community Dinner 6:30p Trustees	25 6p Brass 6:45p String 7:30p Ch Vocal	26	27	28
29 9/9:15a Sunday School 10:15a Service	30 7p Scouts 7p UWF Exec Bd					