



THE CHIMES

October 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

October 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.



Context is Important

Things aren't always what they seem at first glance.

I recently read a story about two young mothers in the drop-off line at school. The first apologized to the other because her son told her that he had pushed the other mother's daughter in the playground. They decided to talk to the teacher about it, and the teacher said, "It was the sweetest thing how he pushed her on the swings all through recess."

Context is important.

Later in the day, I replied to a meme that had been posted on social media. It wasn't the first time I had responded to this particularly annoying type of post. I often ignore things with which I disagree, but there are a couple of these, especially when posted by church folk who should know better, that I feel compelled to correct, rebuke, and admonish.

Why?

Because context is important.

The first example is reported to come from a page in a "Inspirational scripture of the day" calendar. On a particular day, a page was turned and it quoted Luke 4:7 which said:

"If you worship me, all will be yours."

It might seem like a nice sentiment, but if you look at the context of that verse, the person quoted is Satan during Jesus' temptation in the desert. So, while it somehow accidentally appeared in a calendar of inspirational quotes, it certainly isn't something that God intends to teach us.

The second example seems to have suckered several of my social media friends into misquoting, misunderstanding, and misusing scripture. This meme appears as a warning about resident aliens and quotes from **Deuteronomy 28:43-44** where it says:

⁴³ The foreigners who reside among you will rise above you higher and higher, but you will sink lower and lower. ⁴⁴ They will lend to you, but you will not lend to them. They will be the head, but you will be the tail.

But as I have noted...

Context is important.

If you read the entire chapter from which this is taken, you discover that it begins with the words, "*If you fully obey the Lord your God and carefully follow all his commands I give you today...*" and then lists a great many blessings that God will pour out upon his people. And after the list of blessings, it says, "*However, if you do not obey the LORD your God and do not carefully follow all his commands*

and decrees I am giving you today, all these curses will come on you and overtake you..." and then lists a great many curses that God will pour out in punishment on the nation of Israel if they break the vows that they have taken and disobey the commands of God.

Nowhere does it say that these blessings and curses are broadly applicable to every nation on earth for all time (though some will assume that to be true). And the list from which this meme quotes is clearly intended as a curse that God might impose and not as a general warning about the perils of migrants and resident aliens.

Quite to the contrary, the consistent and repeated message of scripture, even in Deuteronomy where this misquoted passage is found, is that migrants, foreign laborers, immigrants, and resident aliens are to be treated the same as the native-born citizens of Israel because God's people were once wanderers and strangers also. This theme is repeated dozens of times in passages that say, "*Do not mistreat or oppress a foreigner, for you were foreigners in Egypt (Exodus 22:21)*. Or "*For the Lord your God is God of gods and Lord of lords, the great God, mighty and awesome, who shows no partiality and accepts no bribes. ¹⁸ He defends the cause of the fatherless and the widow, and loves the foreigner residing among you, giving them food and clothing. ¹⁹ And you are to love those who are foreigners, for you yourselves were foreigners in Egypt.*" (Deuteronomy 10:17-19)

This theme is so persistent that it is found throughout the Old Testament and into the New Testament in Hebrews, Romans, and Jesus' own words in **Matthew 25:35** when he describes the final judgement. God declares that the sheep "would inherit his kingdom because "*I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty, and you gave me drink, I was a stranger, and you welcomed me.*"

Nowhere in scripture does God warn us about aliens, strangers, migrants, or immigrants that live among us. It's quite the opposite. The regularly repeated theme is that those who persecute aliens and strangers will be judged because God is their defender.

Context is important.

Pastor John



2024 Annual Stewardship Campaign

It is again time for our annual Stewardship campaign. This year's campaign will begin Oct 20 and conclude with consecration Sunday on November 17th. This year's campaign will be taken from a devotional series by Rev. Dr. David Rangel entitled "Cultivating Gratitude".

I hope as we go through the series and reflect on what we are grateful for, you will prayerfully consider how God has blessed you and how you might want to respond in your giving to the church.



LAITY SUNDAY AND FIFTY YEAR

MEMBER RECOGNITION

Please join in worship on Sunday, October 20th. That Sunday will be Laity Sunday and as part of the Worship Service we will recognize members who have 50 or more years of membership in Christ United Methodist Church (and in First Methodist Church too, prior to 1969).

This tradition of 50-year member recognition began at CUMC in 1975. We will be celebrating 50-year membership for members who joined in 1974:

Please plan to attend and join in congratulating the new 50-year members and receive congratulation for your lifetime of membership and service to God's Church at Broadway and Freedom. A reception will follow the worship service. We will try to get pictures of small groups of 50 year+ members during the reception in the lounge.

Church History and Records Committee

PASTOR APPRECIATION MONTH

Celebrating Our Pastors: A Heartfelt Appreciation

It is hard to believe that it is Fall already, but as we look at October, it's time to pause and express our deep gratitude for our beloved pastors – John Partridge, Chris Martin and Rebecca Innerst. Their unwavering dedication, compassionate spirit, and tireless work enrich our community and inspire us in our faith journey.

From leading Sunday services to offering support during life's challenges, John, Chris and Rebecca embody the heart of our church. Through their leadership, we have seen our congregation grow in faith, love, and unity. Insightful sermons not only deepen our understanding of Scripture but also encourage us to apply these teachings in our daily lives. Beyond the pulpit, our pastors are actively involved in education and outreach programs, providing hope and assistance to those in need. Their commitment to serving others is a testament to their calling and sets an example for us all to follow. The impact they have made in our community is immeasurable.

Thank You, John, Chris, and Rebecca!

This month, let's come together to show our appreciation! Join us on October 13 to honor John, Chris and Rebecca during the service and with a fellowship gathering afterward. Throughout the month, write a card or send a note to share your favorite memory or how each of them has impacted your life.

Let's take this opportunity to express our heartfelt thanks for all our pastors hard work and dedication. We are truly blessed!

Staff Parish Relations Committee

UNITED WOMEN IN FAITH UPDATE:



United
Women
in Faith

October 1 (7PM) – UNIT MEETING

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

Program: “Eleanor Roosevelt”
From Women in History – Lakewood, OH
Greeters/Hostesses: UWF Officers

*Open to congregation and public
Refreshments provided*

**Our meetings are open to anyone who would like to attend.
If you’d like to “Zoom in”, contact Nancy Pruetter at pruetter@sbcglobal.net for an invitation.**

GOOD TO KNOW:

IT’S SOUP SALE TIME!

In **October** we will offer Vegetable and Vegetable Beef - \$8 quart – pickup on October 27
Pre-order is required / watch for our display in the lounge.

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 – UWFAith Annual Celebration – October 26, 9am-3:30pm

Location: Faith UMC, North Canton

“Women United in Mission”

Celebration Scripture: 1 John 3:18, NIV

“Dear children, let us not love with words or speech but with actions and in truth.”

Registration deadline – October 19

United Women in Faith & Christian Outreach Luncheon – October 20

We are Bringing Back the *Bodacious Baked Potato & Salad*

Honoring our 50-Year Members and supporting Red Bird Mission!

SAVE THE DATE!!

November 5 – Unit Meeting at 7:00PM

Program: “Is Your Plant Too Full? Keeping Your Life in Balance as an Woman of Faith”,

Presenter: Rebecca Innerst

Greeters/Hostesses – M&M Circle

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



We have received \$780.00 in donations for from this year's **Concerts at the Caboose**. This money will be given to The **Alliance Habitat for Humanity** for this year's building project. Many thanks for all the people who volunteered and supported us at the concerts.

HOSPITALIZED OR HAVING SURGERY?

If you are going to be hospitalized or have surgery. Please take a moment and let the Pastor know either by a phone call to office, text or prayer card. If you are ill and need a pastoral visit, please have someone leave a message for Rev. Partridge at the church office at 330-823-7136 or text Pastor John at 419-948-0020.



If you are moving and have a change of address, please let the church office know. Also, if your phone number or email address changes, don't forget to give the update to the church office. Thank you.

UWF SOUP SALE

UWF SOUP ORDER FORM

Date: _____

Please fill out this form to order your soup.

QTY

NAME _____	Vegetable Soup	\$8 per quart	_____
	Vegetable Beef Soup	\$8 per quart	_____

VEGETABLE SOUP: Place your order by October 20nd. Pickup will be on October 27th.

Soup will be frozen. You may pay for your soup when you pick it up. Thank you for your support!



A Mission and Vision of Thanksgiving

Why I Love Thanksgiving

Thanksgiving is my favorite holiday (well, after Christmas). When I was growing up, it meant a big feast with special foods, a gathering of extended family, and the Macy's Thanksgiving Day parade. These days, I've mostly lost interest in the parade. I still dine on the special foods, a blending of Susan's and my family traditions. And I still gather with extended family – you and the other Thanksgiving Day volunteers.

The Thanksgiving Meal mission is Christ United Methodist Church hosting a family feast for the whole community. Serving our neighbors, those we know by name or sight and those we've never met before, brings me joy. As the Apostle Paul said in his letter to the Hebrews, "Do not forget to show hospitality to strangers, for by so doing some people have shown hospitality to angels without knowing it."

Thank you for being part of my Thanksgiving tradition. We welcome both hosts (volunteers and contributors) and guests (meal recipients). We especially are looking to volunteers beyond our own church - as helpers on Thanksgiving mornings or to provide turkeys.

Reach out and Welcome:

- **Recruit more helpers. Talk to your friends and associates and encourage them to help on Thanksgiving morning or to provide a roasted turkey.**
- **Spread the word to potential recipients - post flyers, on social media. What other ways do you see?**

Nurture and Encourage:

- **Support others. Many people have been helping for years in this program and others. They could use a word of thanks. They would like to pass on their experience and nurture a new generation of volunteers.**

Share and Serve:

- **Provide food: roasted, sliced, and boned turkeys, or desserts**
- **Take meal orders: During November, answer the phone and fill out order forms**
- **Help on Thanksgiving morning: Heat up, dish out, or deliver meals**

Worship and Pray:

- **Always and forever**

Victor Lee, Christian Outreach Committee

Congregational Care Committee

The **Congregational Care Committee**, by virtue of its very name, has the responsibility to maintain nurturing connections with the congregation.

Some of the ways we currently reach out are:

Pastoral visitation to the hospitalized and shut-in,
Holiday visits, cards and gifts to the shut-in members,
Sharing of prayer concerns through our prayer chain by phone or email
Remembrances at Mother's and Father's Day,
Greeters at the Welcome Center and sanctuary door,
Coffee, tea and water offered during the worship service,
Guidepost devotionals.

Another opportunity is available to all of us each week. Every Sunday we remember the "person of the week" during our prayer time. Keeping them in our prayers is important, but letting them know they are remembered is just as important. So, to make this easier, we will weekly have several cards and address labels available for you to pick up. Jot off a quick note, or maybe ask a few people around you to add their good wishes too. Add your stamp and let them know that they are a valued part of our church family.

NOISY CAN COLLECTION

The success of the Noisy Can Collection stems from the active participation of the congregation and the enthusiasm of the children circulating throughout the sanctuary (basement services during this past summer too) during the worship service.

The results from Sunday, September 15, are a collection of \$114.50 (\$101.50 in loose coins). This included a few 'spills,' a little training to insure the most possible noise was generated by the donations, and many smiles (even sharing some laughs) while the collection was taken! This monthly 'third Sunday collection' has been a part of the Sunday morning service for nearly a year. The beneficiaries of the congregation's donations are the Salvation Army and the Alliance of Churches. (As well as the children of our Church learning about doing good for those in need.)

The coins come out, make noise and awaken all of our spirits to support those in need!

Plan for the third Sunday of each month with food donations to the Chuck Wagon and coins to support these ministries.
Christian Outreach Committee

Peanut Brittle time is on the way!

The peanut brittle project is getting geared up to start making peanut brittle on October 27th. Friendship II and Explorers will again be making the brittle. The cost per container will stay the same as last year (\$6.00 per container).

We plan to complete the production (cooking) before Thanksgiving, so get your order in early in November to void any possible shortages due to 'high demand.'

Contact any Class member or the Church office to order and thank you for your support!

WORSHIP PARTICIPANTS FOR OCTOBER

USHERS - Team #3

Bruce Helsel, Captain
Karen Locke Mark Locke
Bill Prueter

LITURGISTS

6 Pat Helsel
13 Jamie Greiner
20 Bill Sol
27 Susan Haddox

WELCOME CENTER

6 Jean Webster
13 Bonnie McVicker
20 Susan Burden
27 Nancy Prueter

SANCTUARY GREETERS

6 Dick Diser
13 Ellen Sol
20 Patti Travis
27 Jill Greiner

OCTOBER TELLERS

6 Pat Helsel/Marilyn Ruff
13 Mark Locke/Bruce Helsel
20 Donna Essick/Jill Greiner
27 Jim Greiner/Nancy Prueter

VISITATION MEMBERS

6 Dan Gard, Canton
13 Faye Heim, Alliance
20 Craig Post, N. Canton
27 Charlie Manypenny, Sebring



OCTOBER ANNIVERSARIES

3 Doug and Amy Kirk
6 Jessica and Colin Richmond
17 Gene and Kathy Stroia
21 Larry and Connie Pyers



OCTOBER BIRTHDAYS

3 Mary Aufrance	21 Erin Stone
7 Jamie Greiner	22 Janet Fisher
9 Bill Prueter	28 Nancy Prueter
10 Susan Haddox	29 Eric Shields

OCTOBER 2024



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1 5p Community Dinner 7p UWF Unit Meeting	2 6:15p Brass Choir 6:45p Chan Bells 7:30p Chancel Vocal	3 Basement Sale Setup	4 9a-3p UWF Basement Sale	5 9a-12p Basement Sale 12p Cleanup
6 World Communion Sunday 9-9:15 Sunday School 10:15 Worship Service	7 6:30p Scouts	8 5p Community Dinner	9 5:30p Halleluia 6:15p Brass Choir 6:45p Chan Bells 7:30p Chancel Vocal	10	11	12
13 9-9:15 Sunday School 10:15 Worship Service	14 6:30p Scouts 7p Christian Outreach	15 10:30 May Smyth 5p Community Dinner 7p Susie Buckel Circle	16 1p Cong. Care 5:30p Halleluia 6:15p Brass Choir 6:45p Chan Bells 7:30p Chancel Vocal	17	18	19
20 Laity Sunday 50-yr members 9-9:15 Sunday School 10:15 Worship 11:30 Red Bird Luncheon Stewardship Campaign begins	21 1 pm Peg Williams Circle 6:30p Scouts 7p M&M Circle	22 5p Community Dinner	23 5:30p Halleluia 6:15p Brass Choir 6:45p Chan Bells 7:30p Chancel Vocal	24	25	26
27 9-9:15 Sunday School 10:15 Worship Service	28 4p FII Peanut Brittle 6:30p Scouts 7p UWF Exec Board Mtg	29 5p Community Dinner 6:30p Trustees 7:15p Worship	30 5:30p Halleluia 6:15p Brass Choir 6:45p Chan Bells 7:30p Chancel Vocal	31		