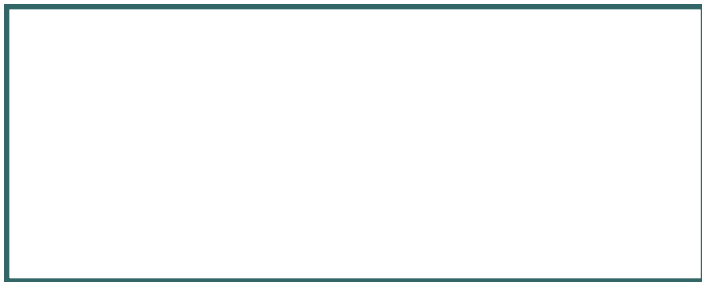


Grafton United Methodist Church
973 Mechanic Street
Grafton, Ohio 44044 Church Office: 440-926-2034

<http://www.graftonumc.org>



August 2019





Things Don't Happen by Chance

Good morning from my veranda (or as what most people would call my front porch). Just got a weather alert. It's 6:07 in the morning and it's supposed to start raining at 6:20. Well, guess what? They missed it by a little bit. It's sprinkling right now. But the birds are still singing. I couldn't help but think about what Scripture tells us in Mark 6:26.

“Look at the birds of the air. They neither sow nor reap, nor gather into barns, and yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Are you not more value than they?”

I think we sometimes forget about how important we are to the Lord. That's not speaking from a boastful point of view that Paul warns us about, but from a point that he relies on us to continue to spread the word of Jesus Christ, to continue to be the hands and feet of Jesus Christ in order to transform his creation back into the type of creation that he made.

We take so much for granted, just like the singing of the birds this morning. As the rain started, the birds became a little more silent and a little more silent until now, there's only one or two that I can hear singing in the distance. That reminded me of the still small voice of God. Even though we get busy in our daily lives and we focus on things that might not be for the will of the Lord, He is still there and that still small voice is still whispering to us, giving us direction leading, guiding and directing our lives down the path that brings us closer to him. I am encouraging you to just take some time this month and sit and listen to the birds and contemplate the nature that God has created. Look at a flower. Imagine the work that went into creating that flower. Maybe there's an ant crawling across the porch like I have right now. All this is God's creation. There are those that say that these things just happened. Well, I'm not one that believes things just happen. God created everything and continues to create. Let us be a force in that creation for God's will. Until next month, signing off from the veranda.

Pastor Bob



Serving the Lord

August 2019



Lay Liturgist

4 Barbara Abbott

11 Marilyn Chavalia

18 JJ Justice

25 Shirley Groves

Greeters and Ushers

Lloyd and Judy Miller

Kellie and Aidan Bertling

Chris Clapper and Barb Lynch

Dick and Margie Lisle



Back to School ... back to normal!
the Church Office will return to “normal” hours
Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday
from 9:30 am – 1:00 pm
beginning the week of August 19th



happy birthday



AUGUST

- 1 Mary Louise Gill
- 4 Michelle Mitchell
- 5 Betty Chopich
- 12 Todd Steele
- 16 Wesley Eddy
- 18 Jason Benko
- 19 Kim Justice
- 23 Alexandra Justice
- 26 Melissa Baldoza
- 27 Mike Patik
- 28 Carol Morley
- 30 Barb Lynch
- 31 Mindy Harris

SEPTEMBER

- 4 Chris Hoffmaster
- 9 Courtney Elliott

Happy Anniversary



AUGUST

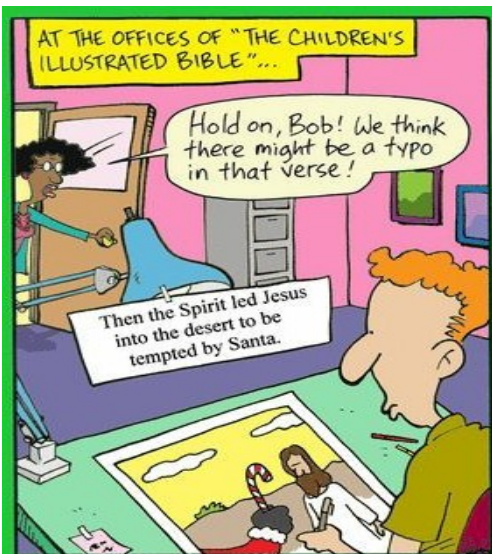
- 2 Wes and Mary Eddy
- 3 Joe and Phyllis VanKerkhove
- 14 Pastor Bob and Jan Spaulding
- 21 Eric and Karen VanKerkhove
- 31 John and Helen Cutter



Newsletter Info

Wanted!

Deadline
for
SEPTEMBER
Carillon
Articles
and
Information
Wednesday
August 14



AT THE OFFICES OF "THE CHILDREN'S ILLUSTRATED BIBLE"...

Hold on, Bob! We think there might be a typo in that verse!

Then the Spirit led Jesus into the desert to be tempted by Santa.



**Alzheimer's
Group
Meeting**

Monday August 19
at 6:30 pm

Our Church Family who are Away from Us

Please remember those that are not able to be with us due to health and/or physical restrictions. They would LOVE to receive cards, phone calls and visits of ALL kinds at ANY time. Calls and visits are always welcomed. YOU could be the one to make the difference in someone's life!

Pete Bokesz 1210 South Abbe Rd
 Room 225
 Elyria, Ohio 44035
 Phone: 440-366-1014

Betty Chopich Avon Oaks Caring Community
 37800 French Creek Rd
 Room 101
 Avon, Ohio 44011

Mary Dawson 13720 Durkee Rd Grafton 44044

Angelica Ritsko 756 N Center St LaGrange 44050

Ruth Sayles Life Care of Elyria
 1212 South Abbe Rd
 Room 211
 Elyria, Ohio 44035



Count Your
BLESSINGS



**It's hard to get in shape spiritually
if you only work out on Sunday.**

[@imsoblesseddaily](#)



August 2019

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
				1 9:30 am Women's Study	2	3
4 10:00 am Worship Service Holy Communion Open Table Birthday and Anniversary Sunday	5 6:00 pm OutReach Meeting	6 6:30 pm Finance Meeting	7	8 9:30 am Women's Study	9	10
11 10:00 am Worship Service Blood Pressure Sunday	12 6:00 pm Trustees Meeting 7:00 pm Administrative Council	13	14 CARILLON ARTILCES DUE 6:00 pm Praise Team Rehearsal	15 9:30 am Women's Study	16	17
18 10:00 am Worship Service	19 6:30 pm Alzheimer's Meeting	20	21 6:00 pm Praise Team Rehearsal	22 9:30 am Women's Study	23	24
25 10:00 am Worship Service Change for Change Sunday	26	27	28 6:00 pm Praise Team Rehearsal	29 9:30 am Women's Study	30	31

Annual Conference Report June 10 -13, 2019

Theme: Bearing Fruit that Lasts COMMITTED



Returning to Lakeside for my fifteenth year was again a spiritual experience. The worship services, the music, the people, and the setting all make the fact that this is a business conference a wonderful way to spend my time. Bob and I witnessed Pastor Bob participate in the worship service for retiring pastors. It was a spiritual service

with beautiful music and an inspirational message. There were a total of 35 men and women who, when combined, equaled 868 years of service. They may have retired from their conference appointments, but Bishop Malone is certain God will have them continue serving in some other way.

The rain and the water level of Lake Erie were topics that just about everyone discussed. Then there was the topic of the decision from The Way Forward Commission regarding the LGBTQ members and friends of our denomination. While everyone could agree the rain needed to stop and the lake water needed to recede, there was not the same consensus with the vote which took place in February of this past year. It was evident to me of a division in our conference. With over 1400 Clergy and Lay Delegates in attendance, when votes were taken on resolutions or petitions that dealt with the topic, it was impossible to get a 2/3 majority. Most vote totals were very close to 50/50.

The one phrase that I heard many times each day from many different speakers was: “**God loves you.**” We are each a child of God and Jesus commanded us to **love each other.** I leave you to ponder the connotation.

In business sessions we spent much of the time voting for Jurisdictional and General Conference Delegates (as well as Alternates). This also is where the division showed up very clearly. A list of “suggested” candidates was given for the “liberals” and a list was given for the “conservatives.” I could feel the tension in the auditorium as the results were given for each ballot. Through this whole process Bishop Malone was calm, polite, respectful, diplomatic, and reminded us often that we were connected by our faith in Jesus Christ. She led us in prayer quite frequently and had others lead us in prayer prior to each ballot. A delegation for each upcoming conference and the alternates was elected.

Continued on next page

Other business news included the following information:

*The trucks for the Midwest Distribution Center were leaving Lakeside with more than \$12,000 in cash donations; 850 cleaning buckets, 750 hygiene kits, 540 school kits, 1325 personal dignity kits, 135 baby palettes, 300 home-made hospital gowns, and medical supplies. Our conference members know Jesus.

*Church membership numbers, and attendance numbers continue to decline.

*Small group participation (not Sunday School) and persons serving in mission/community ministries **increased**. PTL

*Five churches from 5 different districts closed this past year.

*The conference is aware of the struggle many churches have in paying their shared ministries obligation. About 68% of churches paid 100% of their required amount, while over 250 churches were able to pay more, so the conference was able to pay out about 83%. We must realize we are a connec-tional church. We must once again be one of the churches who fulfills their obligation to the conference. We must all work together to make that happen. The East Ohio Conference was able to once again, pay 100% of their shared ministries obligation to the General Conference.

As we begin a new conference year with Pastor Bob Spaulding let us all pray for God to pour out His blessings upon us and lead us on His path. Pray that we will be able to: fulfill our conference obligations; participate in grow-ing in our faith through Sunday School, Bible Study, and worship; follow our calling to help in the community; and be the hands and feet of Jesus. We are a Called, Committed, and Connected people. Through Jesus Christ we are to go into the mission field to make disciples of Jesus for the transformation of the world.

Thank you for allowing me to be your representative at Lakeside for An-nual Conference. It is a privilege. May God Bless You.



Carol Morley