
THE BEACON

February 2023 *A Publication of the Union Hill Church of Sugarcreek*



“Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a right spirit within me” (Psalm 51:10).



Marked by love



Through the centuries [people] have displayed many different symbols to show that they are Christians. They have worn crosses in the lapels of their coats, hung chains about their necks, even had special haircuts. Of course, there is nothing intrinsically wrong with any of this, if one feels it is [one’s] calling. But there is a much better sign, a universal mark that is to last through all the ages of the church until Jesus comes back.

Love — and the unity it attests to — is the mark Christ gave Christians to wear before the world. Only with this mark may the world know that Christians are indeed Christians and that Jesus was sent by the Father.

—Francis Schaeffer



February Dates to Remember



Church Work Day
Saturday, February 11th
9:00 AM



Sugarcreek Frost Fest
Downtown Sugarcreek Fire station



Timothy and Hosanna Noble
Sunday, February 19th
3:00 PM



ASH WEDNESDAY
Lent begins!
Ash Wednesday Service
February 22nd
7:00 PM



Walk in the Light

The apostle John loved to write about light and darkness. As I read from 1 John 1:5-10, he talks about the phenomena of Being(in the light) and Non-being (being in darkness). Scripture says "God is light, and in him is no darkness at all."(1Jn1:5aESV)

Let us understand Our Lord is perfect in every way. Everything he made was good. It was when sin came into the world that pain, suffering and darkness came into God's perfect creation. Darkness can't come from light. There will be a time that it will be remade.

"If we say we have fellowship with him while we walk in darkness, we lie and do not practice the truth." (1Jn1:6) First, darkness does not mean sin. Darkness means not realizing or not accepting the need of a savior. When you do not believe all have sinned and fallen short of the glory of God, then and only then are you in darkness. People say think "Well, I'm ok and you're ok." Or "I'm better than others, so I should be fine." That is DARKNESS. "I am a sinner. I mess up. I'm a sinner, Lord, forgive me." Guess what? You are in the light.

"But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus his Son CLEANSSES us from all sin." (1Jn1:7) When I recognize my sin, I am in good fellowship with God. If I don't recognize my sin, fellowship will be broken. When we deny our sinful ways, our intimacy with each other and God is broken. Do you know people who continue sinning and it hurts your fellowship? Brothers and sisters, if a person is in spiritual darkness we should speak the truth in love with them. When you expose darkness to light what happens?

If we walk in the light (for we are all sinners) then the blood of Jesus CLEANSSES us from all sin. The word CLEANSSES is in present tense. The blood of Jesus keeps cleansing us when the Holy Spirit convicts us of our sins. If we confess and ask for forgiveness, we walk in the Light.

Next is the flip side: "If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us." (1Jn1:8) Self-deception. You may think, that's not a sin; but then you shut off the flow. We need to walk in a repentant state.

A question I had for a long time is "Why do I still struggle with sin now that I am saved?" Jesus takes us in, but in this flesh we still sin. Unfortunately our sinful nature is still there. Can there be victory over sin? Absolutely! We can be overcomers, but we will never be sinless until we are taken out of this flesh. I know some of you may be like me, in need of constant cleansing while trapped in these vessels .

Even though we are forgiven it does not mean we will not keep sinning. God cares about your heart, that you believe what His word says, not the attacks of the enemy. It doesn't matter what you did, focus on what Jesus did for you. This life will be a struggle against sin. And that's a good thing, right? When we don't care then look out! Did you care about your sin before you were saved? Probably not! We are in a fight. We should put on the armor Paul talks about in Ephesians Six.

Now for the good news "If we confess our sins, he is faithful and JUST to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness" (1Jn1:9) For yes! God is faithful and Jesus paid the price for all sin. Period. Amen!!!

OFF TO ISRAEL!

Pastor Jeff will be traveling to Israel leaving on Tuesday, January 31st and returning on Saturday, February 11th. While he is gone, Pastor Wes George of Dover First will be covering for him with any emergencies or concerns from the congregation. Please contact Lynette while he is gone if you need to be in touch with Pastor George.

While he is gone, there will be Bible Study on Wednesdays at 10:00 am and 6:30 pm. Bob DeSeyn will be leading.

COFFEE CAKES AND PRAYER

Calling all of our church family to prayer for this ministry. For anyone newly joining us, this ministry was started as a way to let our school staff, firefighters, and police know that we appreciate them and are praying for them.

A sign-up sheet for needed supplies will be in the narthex on the Sunday before the first Thursday of each month during the school year, except for April (due to Spring Break). Supplies, bakers, and delivery people are needed each month along with faithful prayers.

CHURCH WORKDAY



On Saturday, February 11th at 9:00 AM, we will be having a Church Work Day. With our upcoming disaffiliation from the UM Church, we have many tasks to do. An example is: anything with the UM symbol on it must be taken down or covered up. Another is: all of our tables, chairs, furniture, etc. need to have a sticker placed on it with our new name. If you can, please plan on coming to help. Many hands make light work!

SOUPER BOWL AND SUB SALE

All orders for the TATC Souper Bowl and Sub Sale are due Sunday, January 29th. Contact any youth or the church office to place an order. Subs are 8" Turkey or Italian for \$6.00. Chili and Chicken Noodle Soup will be by the quart and by donation. Pick-up is on Super Bowl Sunday, February 12th after the Worship Service.



A SPECIAL CONCERT

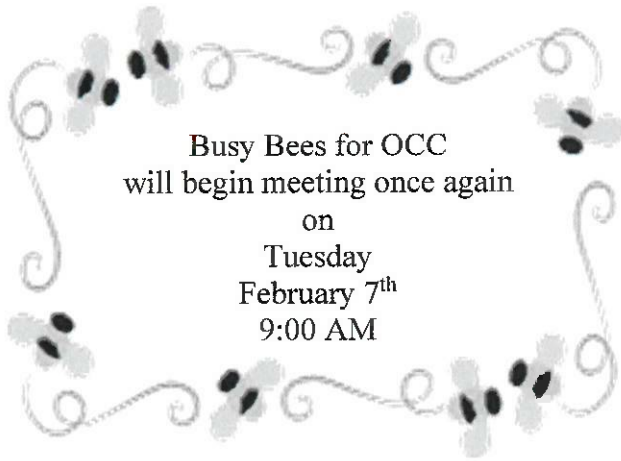
On Sunday, February 19th at 3:00 PM, Timothy and Hosanna Noble will be performing a special concert for us in the sanctuary. Timothy is a very accomplished pianist and singer. We were blessed to have him perform for us when he was just 14 yrs. old. He is now married to Hosanna, who plays violin and they perform together. They are also the parents to 2 young children. Come, welcome them and enjoy an afternoon of beautiful music.



ADMINISTRATIVE BOARD NEWS

For the month of February, the Administrative Board meeting will be held on Monday, February 13th at 7:00 PM.





FROST FEST!

The Village of Sugarcreek with the help of the Sugarcreek Ministerial Association will once again be sponsoring the ever popular Frost Fest at the Sugarcreek Fire Station. At the last minute, we were told that it is being postponed and will be re-scheduled soon. When it is rescheduled, we will be in charge of providing 200 packs of cookies. Watch for details! We were told the new date will be scheduled this week.



LENT BEGINS!



Ash Wednesday Service
February 22nd at 7:00 PM



Lenten Devotionals will be available on
Sunday, February 19th in the narthex.

HARBOR OF HOPE FOOD PANTRY



Laundry & Cleaning Supplies

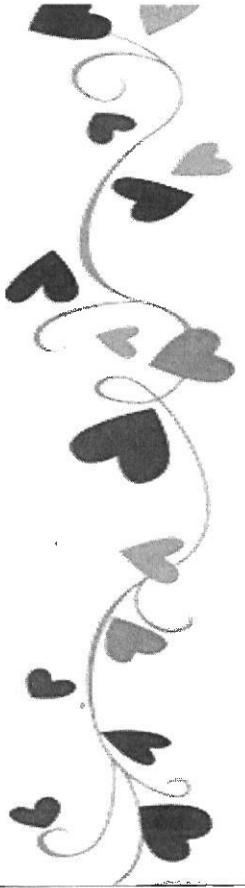


FEBRUARY BIRTHDAYS & ANNIVERSARIES

- February 2: Linda Mitchell
- February 3: Wylie Numbers
Kathy Zumbach
- February 6: Doug Rufener
- February 7: Steve Dunn
Wade Hershberger
Tammy Rufener
Valentin Tolentino
Amie Yoder
- February 12: Sedric Gerber
- February 14: Sherry Calkins
- February 16: Kevin Barnhart
- February 20: Carolyn Vaughn
Denise Winkler
- February 21: Jacob Mahaffey
- February 24: Don Lorenz
- February 28: Ura Miller
Weber Numbers

February 29
Travis & Allaynah Siegenthaler

Church Directory
Pastor Jeff Calkins: 740-680-5605
Email: pastorJC07@gmail.com
Secretary: Lynette Mahaffey
Office: 330.852.4449
Website: unionhillumc.com
Email: unionhillumc7877@gmail.com
Church School: 9:30 am Worship: 10:30 am
Deadline for copy: third Monday of each month.



Sun Mon Tue Wed Thu Fri Sat

5 6pm - T A T C	6 7pm - Ad. Board	7 9am - Busy Bees 7pm - Trustees	8 10am - Bible Study 6:30pm - Bible Study 7:45pm - Choir	9 Office closed 9am - Coffee Cakes 1pm - Packaging 7pm - Darball - home	10 9am - Church Work Day
12 Soup & Snd Pick Up 9pm - T A T C	13 7pm - Ad. Board	14 HAPPY Valentine's DAY	15 10am - Bible Study 6:30pm - Bible Study 7:45pm - Choir	16 12pm - SIS 7pm - Darball-home	17 FH in private use - AM
19 3pm - The Nobles In Concert 6pm - T A T C	20 Presidents Day	21	22 ASH Wednesday 10am - Bible Study 7pm - Ash Wed. Service	23 7pm - Darball-away	24 10:30am - FH in private use
26 Special concert	27	28	29 ASH WEDNESDAY		

FEBRUARY