



THE HAPPENING



February 2016 Minister's column by Rev. Craig

February 2016

What's Happening

Movie Night

Feb 6 Family Movie Night

Special Events

- Feb 6 Family Movie Night
- Feb 7 Town Hall Meeting
- Feb 10 Ash Wednesday Service
- Feb 14 Jonesville, VA Mission Trip Meetings
- Valentine's Day

Chosen servers

- Feb 7 Jorgensen
- Feb 21 Cantrell

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Pinley

It is my hope and prayer that this year God will make us a more unified church and re-ignite ministries from a variety of sources and I'm encouraged by what I witnessed recently.

First off, a host of folks (31 in all) were on the Gilmore Lanes for the first annual Pastor Craig Birthday Bowling Bash on January 10. A good time was had by all who played and watched (about 20 others). Kent Hoes and Mary Oakley took top honors in the scoring department among the men and ladies, with the added bonus of funny cards and a tasty cake, cookies and cupcakes combo that ended the affair sweetly.

The second encouragement was when 30 lay leaders from Redeemer Church were part of our leadership retreat on January 16. We used the story of Nehemiah and a seminar on change to propel us to pray for our congregation and to plot the points (at least on our church calendar) for the journey we'll make together in 2016. And while I'm not so naïve to suggest that a six-week Covenant Affirmations sermon series is the end all for informing you of all things Evangelical Covenant, I am glad to be sharing with you about a denomination that has become meaningful to my life.

Thanks to all who participated in the retreat and to those who've been praying for that event in recent weeks. Stephanie Tillman gets special kudos for leading our unit on change, but I valued the feedback we received from stories and surveys and appreciated the positive spirit in the room. We also put a lot of our regular events on the docket, so here are a few things to be aware of as we move into the coming months.

-On February 7, following our 10:30 a.m. combined worship service, we'll have a town hall meeting to update you on a few things and give you a chance to ask questions or give insights to our leadership. We had promised to have such an event at last fall's Annual Business meeting, so keep that on your calendars and stay after if it's at all possible.

-Our Ash Wednesday worship service will commence at 5:30 p.m. on February 10th, followed by our regular Wednesday night programming (dinner and studies and kids program). We've invited our other local Covenant congregations to this event as well. *(continued page 2)*



-On Saturday, March 6 at 4 p.m., we'll have a **March Food Madness (MFM)**, an event formerly known as the Pork & Sauerkraut dinner. Yes, our staples from previous years are still on the menu, but we're adding a kid-friendly item or two and perhaps a few other foods with hopes that it'll entice a larger audience. For those with kids, we'll have a craft table to give youngsters something to do after their meal. The newly-named (at least for now) MFM shouldn't conflict with our first Saturday of the month movie night that starts at 6:30 p.m. that evening.

-Following our combined 10:30 a.m. worship service on March 7th, we'll re-dedicate the Margie Childs Children's Education wing, (at this time the departure of the local YMCA childcare group will be complete.) If you know of people who haven't been around in a while, let them know of this event please.



-On March 20th, Palm Sunday, we'll have a combined service at 10:30 a.m. as we host our annual Easter cantata to begin Easter Week.

-On March 24th at 7 p.m., we'll host a Maundy Thursday worship service in our sanctuary and will invite our area Covenant congregations to join us.



-On March 25th, we're planning to combine with Covenant Community Church in Fairfield as they'll host a Good Friday worship service (time to be announced).

-On Easter Sunday, March 27th, we'll host three services: at 7:30 a.m., we'll have our version of sunrise service, followed by breakfast at 8:30 a.m. Our heritage and contemporary services follow at 9:45 a.m. and 11 a.m. respectively, with baptisms reserved for the latter service in the Family Life Center if there are those who desire it.

For those of you who think six months down the road and want to know what's going on at Redeemer later in the year, here are a few dates to note:



-From April 27-30, a mission team from Redeemer plans to head to Covenant Mountain Mission Bible Camp in Jonesville, VA, to help with projects. Al Schumm is the contact person for this ministry if you'd like to join us. An information/signup meeting is scheduled for February 14th after each service.



-June 10th and 11th is our annual Yard Sale. We'll alert you to when you can start bringing stuff around, but if you have an interest in helping, please contact me or Gary or Carolyn Maschmeyer.

-July 31st through August 4th is our Vacation Bible School, with our final program occurring on August 5th.



Of course, a few other events were discussed during our 'working lunch' on January 16th, but not everything has been finalized, so we'll leave you with this morass of calendar items for now. If you have questions about the retreat or would like to discuss something specific at our February 7th town hall meeting, please alert Consistory President Sam Lohrer, Elder board chair Dan Childs or Deacon board chair Linda Hoover.

IN CHRIST,

Pastor Craig



President of the Congregation

I am very excited that over 30 Redeemer people met this past January for our Annual Leadership Retreat where we discussed change, small groups and the church calendar. This time together allowed many people to see all the activities that Redeemer does, the amount of effort and work needed to make these functions work and to identify leaders for each event. I would encourage you if asked to volunteer please get involved and help make these events successful.

Our first Town Hall meeting is fast approaching and I look forward to talking with everyone. At the Congregational meeting I stated that these meetings would be a way for leadership to have healthy discussions with the congregation and to work on our communications. If you should have any questions, concerns or input please don't hesitate to let me know.

In Christ.

Sam

Corn Beef Sandwich SALE



Our mission team headed to Covenant Mountain Mission Bible Camp in Jonesville, VA will be hosting Sandwich Sundays to raise funds for team projects. These Rueben Sandwiches are delicious! Mark your calendars and plan to have a great lunch.

February 21st

March 13th

April 10th

Anyone wishing to donate desserts, please contact Al Schumm

Early Spring Cleaning

Although Lent starts early this year, before spring appears in many areas, it's an appropriate time for spring cleaning. Indeed, *Lent* comes from old German and English words for "spring." So, while it might be too soon to open windows or hang clothes on the line, now is ideal for some *spiritual* spring cleaning.



Lent calls us to examine our beliefs, confess and dispose of old grudges and selfish habits, dust off our Bibles for a new routine of study and prayer, air out our hearts and brighten up our attitudes. "Lent cleaning" lets the Holy Spirit freshen our faith — and it's never too early for that.

What Defines Us

When their minivan was hit by a drunk driver, Gerald Sittser lost his mother, wife and daughter all at one time. Sittser, a religion professor, escaped without physical injury but was then forced to navigate his extreme loss. Eventually he concluded that "the experience of loss does not need to be the defining moment of our story" (quoted in *AHA*, by Kyle Idleman). Instead, "the defining moment can be *our response* to the loss," Sittser says.



"In this world you will have trouble," Jesus warns in John 16:33 (NIV) — no sugar-coating or pretending there. But then he says, "Take heart!" Jesus doesn't want our troubles to define us; he wants to define us! The defining truth of our story is that Jesus has "overcome the world" — even at its worst. He's stronger than our struggles and sorrows. And in him, so are we. —Heidi Mann





REMEMBER OUR SHUT IN'S

Redeemer Church has a number of members who are either confined to their homes or residing in Care Centers. Please remember them with a card or call. Remember, if you send a card please be sure to add "Redeemer Church" after your name!

Norma Gammell
Heartland of Woodridge
3801 Woodridge Blvd Apt B-402
Fairfield, OH 45014

Evelyn Warner
c/o Andrew Lampl
130 Farmington Drive
Hamilton, OH 45013

Willard & Hester Childs
2877 Long Pine court
Hamilton, OH 45011

Janet Evans
200 Lindale Drive
Fairfield, OH 45014

Community Corner

KROGER

Redeemer Church has been approved as a Nonprofit Organization in the new Kroger Community Rewards Program. Please visit www.krogercommunityrewards.com to register your Kroger Plus card.

Redeemer's NPO # is 80053.



Thank you

Thank you for all the prayers and cards during Jim's illness and also for the same after his death. I really have felt the prayers.

They are helping me deal with the loss.

Mary van Lieu and family

Serving in Worship

Liturgists

- Feb 7 Dan Childs
- Feb 14 Amy Dermen
- Feb 21 Lisa Mannix
- Feb 28 Karl Oakley

Prayer Intercessors

- Feb 7 Linda Hoover & Charlotte Burkhart
- Feb 14 Carrie DeFevvers & Carol Moore
- Feb 21 Joan Riley & Nancy Henry
- Feb 28 Gary & Carolyn Maschmeyer

Flower Chart

- Feb 7 still available
- Feb 14 still available
- Feb 21 still available
- Feb 28 still available



Ushers

1st Service

- Feb 7 Carol Moore, Karl Oakley, Faye Muddle, Bill Grubbs
- Feb 14 Ed & Kathy Swope, Nancy Henry, Mary Van Lieu
- Feb 21 Dan & Bev Childs, Duane & Claudia Cantrell
- Feb 28 Bill & Sherry Phillips, Ron & Gloria Spurlock

2nd Service

- Feb 7 Duane & Claudia Cantrell
- Feb 14 Lori Lohrer & Lee Skorupa
- Feb 21 Jon & Tari Lawson
- Feb 28 Karen Wittmer & Carol Hahn

Birthday list

- Feb 1 Bob Huntington
- Feb 1 Frank Denham
- Feb 1 Dustin Eubank
- Feb 2 Kent Hoes
- Feb 3 Emily Hecker
- Feb 5 Abigail Rose
- Feb 7 Andrea Hecker
- Feb 10 Edna Robinson
- Feb 10 Dot Huntington
- Feb 10 Lauren Girton
- Feb 11 Dawn Shah
- Feb 11 Joel Mobley
- Feb 12 Shirley Clevenger
- Feb 13 Keri Roberts
- Feb 13 Joan Riley
- Feb 14 Richard Riley
- Feb 15 Ed Crowthers
- Feb 15 Terri DeFevvers
- Feb 18 Tim Doane
- Feb 19 Carol Moore
- Feb 19 Nicole Hahn
- Feb 21 Beth Moore
- Feb 22 Michaela Avery
- Feb 22 Matt Taylor

- Feb 24 Cori Mobley
- Feb 24 Duane Kimble, Jr
- Feb 24 Laurel Myers
- Feb 25 Lloyd Jackson
- Feb 26 Travis Jones
- Feb 27 Stephanie Tillman

