



February 2015

Elliston Zion United Methodist Church

CROSSROADS

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Thank You & Congrats

Thank you to everyone who purchased Christmas gifts for the families on our Angel Tree! The families were extremely grateful. We also want to recognize the Awana children for collecting \$13.87 to help with the Angel Tree.

Lenten Services

All services will be held at 7:00 pm instead of 7:30.

- Men's Pre-Lenten breakfast on February 15 at Zion
- Ash Wednesday – February 18 at Trinity with Steve Korn
- Wednesday February 25 at Zion
- Wednesday March 4 at Trinity
- Wednesday March 11 at Zion
- Wednesday March 18 at Trinity
- Wednesday March 25 at Zion
- Maundy Thursday Service - April 2 at Zion with Steve
- Good Friday Service – April 3 with Paula – “Service of the Nails”
- Easter – Sunday, April 5 at **7am** with Trinity – breakfast to follow

Next Joint Committee Meeting: Wednesday, April 15 at 7pm at Trinity.

Blanket Day

The UMW would like to invite all members of the church to participate in the first “BLANKET DAY.” On March 21 from 11am to about 2 pm we will be getting together for soup, sandwiches and fellowship as we tie blankets that will be distributed by our visiting team...

These go to membership and/or their loved ones that are in care centers, hospital or home bound. We wrap them in our love as we give them these blankets to keep them warm. This is open to ALL, women, men, teens who are able to tie a knot we will offer child care for younger children. It will be a long cold winter and this is going to be a fun filled few hours on what is probably going to be a cold winter day ...

Parsonage is Rented

Welcome our new neighbors, Daniel and LeighAnn Martinez and their children: daughter, Raven and son, Dominic. They will be moving in February 1. **Thanks to the trustees and everyone who helped prepare the parsonage for renting!**

Upcoming Events

Sundays, 9 am
Breakfast & Communion

Tuesdays
Women's Bible Study, 7 am
Prayer in the Lounge, 8:30 am

Wednesdays
Bible Study at Smith's, 9 am
Awana, 5:15-7:30, all kids welcome

February 2
Trustees, 6:30pm
Ad Board, 7:30pm

February 7
Family Movie Night, 7pm, Box Trolls

February 15
Men's Pre-Lenten Breakfast, 8am

February 18 & Every Wednesday
Lent Service, 7pm

February 28
Red Cross Blood Drive, 8am-1pm

March 7
Family Movie Night, 7pm, Big Hero 6

March 21
Blanket-Making Day, 11-2

April 2
Maundy Thursday Service, Zion

April 3
Good Friday Service

April 5
Easter Sunrise Service, 7am

May 2
UMW District Spring Meeting

May 3
Ladies' Spring Banquet

Upcoming Book Studies

Sign-up sheets are available in the Narthex for the following studies:

- Listen: Praying in a Noisy World (for Lent)
- Forgiveness: A Lenten Study
- The I Am statements of Jesus (for Lent)
- Revelation: Immersion Bible Study (after Lent)

Make Prayer a Priority

Those *hoping* to find time for prayer will likely fail. You have to make time. "I like to compare it to exercise," said Jan Reed, leader of the Centering Prayer Group at University United Methodist Church in Austin, Texas. "We need exercise to keep our bodies healthy," she continued. "We need prayer to keep our souls healthy."

Reed recently asked her prayer group "what they would suggest for newcomers to prayer, and most of them said, 'Just do it!'" a slogan of a brand of apparel one might wear while exercising. The connection to our health may be stronger than we know.

Make an appointment with God. Set aside a specific time to pray. It may be first thing in the morning, in the evening, during your lunch break, your commute, or time spent waiting for the kids. Be creative. Then put the appointment in your calendar and keep it.

Find a sacred place. The Rev. Joseph Kim of Manlius United Methodist Church in New York encourages us to have a place to pray as well. "My closet," as Kim calls his prayer space, "is the front of the altar in the sanctuary." But not all of us have daily access to our church buildings. "Wherever this would be," Kim continued, "whether it is home, work, or in the car, finding your closet and time are important to deepen your prayer life."

Turn off the television. Remove distractions and pray. Reed reminds us, "We often spend at least 20 min a day doing insignificant things – checking emails, pattering around the house, watching TV, surfing the internet, etc." We could replace that time with 20 minutes of deep communion with God.

Pray with a group. Being part of a group may help motivate you to pray. Hixson United Methodist Church in Tennessee saw a group of moms come together to pray for their school-age children and the schools they attended. Years later, though most of their children have graduated, the moms still pray together every Friday morning. If you cannot find a group to join, start one by inviting some friends to pray with you.

Pray as a family. Another group to pray with is your family. Send the children off to school with a moment of prayer. Give God thanks in the evening for all the blessings of the day. Pray with your spouse as you read the morning paper over breakfast. Pause to pray as you watch the evening news.

Keep your Bible and prayer journal handy. Many people miss exercise classes because they cannot find their yoga mat or car keys in time. We can also significantly cut into our prayer time while looking for what we need. Keep your Bible, journal, and other tools where you can quickly locate them.

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Happy Birthday & Anniversary

11	DuWain Boss
12	Deanna Cluckey
13	Adam Andryc
13	Ben Andryc
13	Christie Andryc
13	Natalie Smith
14	Dale & Davina Gulau
17	Marion Rudes
21	Kathy Gregg
23	Sue Wyss
24	Trevor Stolz
24	Brian Wyss



Blood Drive February 28

Zion will once again host an American Red Cross Blood Drive on Saturday Feb. 28 from 8AM to 1PM. Breakfast will be provided. To date, Elliston Zion blood drive donations have helped as many as 489 people who needed blood! Praise God! Appointments are encouraged but walk-ins are welcome. Please register at redcrossblood.org or call 419.250.1188.

Save the Dates!

May 2 – UMW District Spring Meeting

May 3 – Ladies' Spring Banquet
Keep the evening open for great food by Chef Patrick and fun-filled entertainment.

Encouraging Word

For you are the fountain of life, the light by which we see.

- Psalm 36:9

Volunteer Opportunities

There are numerous volunteer opportunities available. Here are just a few for consideration!

Henderson Settlement Mission Trip

Serve in a team renovating a house and several jobsites at Henderson Settlement in Frakes, Kentucky.

- Sunday September 27 – Saturday October 3
- Cost: \$275 includes room & board, travel & team fee
- \$25 deposit due by July 3
- Registration form available in the narthex & also at maumeewatershed.org
- Contact: Casey Smith, 419.897.9770

3- Day Medical Mission Trip: Manos Juntas Medical Clinic Mexico

For the past 15 years, the West Ohio Conference has been sending VIM teams to a clinic at a non-denominational church in Nuevo Progreso, Mexico.

- March 4-8
- May 13-17
- July 22-26
- September 24-27
- November 4-8

Visit www.westohioumc.org/conference/manos-juntas-medical-clinic to learn more!

Food for Thought

Food For Thought is a 501(c)3 nonprofit organization dedicated to feeding the Toledo region in a thoughtful way.

- Mobile Food Pantries
- Warehouse Stocking & Inventory
- Friday Night Lunch Packing
- Saturday Morning Picnics
- Administrative

Visit www.feedtoledo.org for more details on these volunteer opportunities.

Operation Christmas Child Monthly Collection List

Let's start collecting items NOW for the shoeboxes! Here's a list of items, by month, that can be donated in the bin in the narthex.

January: Wash cloths and bar soap (Ivory preferred)

February: Toothbrushes, lip balm, dental floss, small pkg. of tissues

March: Bandanas, baseball caps, stocking hats, gloves

April: Small toys: cars, yo-yos, kazoos, jump ropes, dolls, Hot Wheels, jewelry, small stuffed animals, puzzles, mini play dough etc.

May: Craft items, coloring books, picture books, picture cards, Uno, Old Maid, etc.

June: Brushes or combs, hair clips and ties, head bands, bobby pins, rubber bracelets

July: Socks, sunglasses, small flashlights and extra batteries

August: School supplies: crayons, pencils, pens, small notebooks, markers, pencil sharpeners, scissors, water colors, stickers, rulers, solar calculators etc.

September: Donations to ship shoe boxes (\$7.00 per box) can be made by check payable to Zion with OCC in the memo.

October: Underwear, small sewing and tool kits, fishing items (lures, fishing lines, hooks, sinkers), rain ponchos, extras

November: Packing Party

These are just suggestions! Please feel free to donate items as you find them.

Make Prayer a Priority - cont'd from page 2

Keep the conversation going all day. The Rev. Ginger Pudenz, Associate Pastor at Platte Woods United Methodist Church in Missouri, encourages people to pray throughout the day with Twitter prayers. "I occasionally use Twitter to send a reminder to pray," she reports. "A few faithful followers have shared that it is a pleasant interruption to see that tweet and know that they are being called to pray with others in real time." Short prayers throughout the day are a great way to increase your prayer life.

Pray your calendar. If you are concerned about having time, pray for it. Pray through what the day ahead will bring – your meetings, children's events, doctor's appointments, and the like. A few moments in prayer may be just the right medicine to still your spirit despite a hectic schedule.

Use resources. Getting a time of prayer started can be challenging. The Upper Room provides helpful resources like their wonderful daily devotions, an online Living Prayer Center, and print resources on prayer.

J.D. Walt who writes another daily devotional called *The Daily Text* for Asbury Theological Seminary's Seedbed.com says his daily posts are a "way of sowing the seeds of Scripture into the people of God in ways that are sprouting up into all sorts of creative prayer and work in the Kingdom." Experiment with some helps to find what works for you.

Experiment with different methods. There is no right way to pray, as there is no right way to have a conversation with your best friend. The Upper Room Living Prayer Center offers examples of several different methods. Experiment with fresh ways to connect with God.

Enjoy it. Kim warns against viewing prayer time as just another box to check on a spiritual to-do list. "When you approach prayer as your Christian duty, you would not enjoy its time," he said. "You need to see prayer life as special time for dating with God." He continued, "God who loves you dearly wants to spend time with you and to hear everything about your life." Change your mindset from *having to* spend time with God, toward *getting to*.

Keep going. Change takes time. There will be days when you will fall short. When that happens, forgive yourself and keep going. Remember the benefits of the deeper prayer life you seek. As Reed pondered her prayer group she said, "I think [its popularity] reflects the need for us in our hectic and busy society, to slow down, let go of frustrations, anxieties, and any of the crises we might be facing in our lives, and reconnect to God."

Setting aside more time for prayer will change the rest of our day, making it a good year indeed.

The Message the World Needs to Hear

by Dr. Charles Stanley

Mark 16:15-20

Suppose I asked what the mission of the church is—how would you answer? Although the church accomplishes many tasks, its only message to the world is the gospel of Christ. Everything else we do is merely an extension of that primary goal. The gospel we offer the lost is superior to every worldly philosophy. Never outdated or in need of correction, it is always sufficient to meet humanity's greatest need: reconciliation with the Creator.

Although the message is always the same, methods of making it known are many—including the spoken word, music, printed material, and electronic media. But all these avenues of communication require the individual involvement of God's people. It is every Christian's responsibility to use his or her spiritual gifts, talents, and abilities to help fulfill the Great Commission.

Some Christians think that this role is given only to pastors, missionaries, or other people with an "up-front ministry." But all of us have the responsibility to be involved in whatever way we are able and in whatever opportunity God gives us. Not everybody is called to go abroad as a missionary, but we all can give, pray, and tell friends and family what the Lord has done for us.

When you're truly committed to getting the gospel out, God will reveal what work He is calling you to do. He has a place for every one of us—nobody is insignificant or unusable. **The limiting factor is not the Lord's ability to use us but our availability to His call.**

For more biblical teaching and resources from Dr. Charles Stanley, please visit www.intouch.org.