



Crossbeams

February 2021

A Cheviot United Methodist Church Newsletter

What is a Disciple?

It was about 6pm, a Monday evening in 2010, and I was sitting next to our current bishop at the time, Bishop Bruce Ough. Bishop Ough had participated in a Clergy training that day and had invited some of us to dinner afterward. As the conversation got around to the topic of discipleship, I sensed an opportunity to ask the Bishop a question that had been on my mind since the beginning of my ministry. "How do you define discipleship?" I asked. What I remember about his response was not so much what he said, but the difficulty that he had in answering.

His difficulty was not because the Bishop was not well-versed in the definition of discipleship or had momentarily forgotten the mission statement of the United Methodist Church: to "Make Disciples for the Transformation of the World...". It was because defining what discipleship actually looks like in the local church is different for every church and difficult to put one's finger on.

Most of us know that discipleship is more than just coming to church—although coming to church is important. We know that it's more than just attending a Bible study—although Bible study is important. We also agree that it's more than just praying and reading our Bible—although praying and reading our Bible is important, too. But putting our finger on just what the "something more" of "discipleship is" is challenging.

Since that dinner with the Bishop, I have continued to search for a definition of discipleship that causes the church to more faithfully serve Christ in the world. Over the past two years, one definition has risen to the top as my most favorite. I love it for its simplicity. And I also sometimes find myself resisting it because of the challenge that it brings to my comfort and convenience.

Here it is: "A disciple is someone who has moved from being the recipient of the church's mission to being responsible for the church's mission."

Have you ever thought of yourself as being responsible for the church's mission? This is not just a definition from a stressed out Pastor who is overworked and in need of a day off! No. This is a biblical mandate that shows all followers how they should function in the church. We are the Body of Christ and every member is needed.

So, the question that we are left with is this: Are disciples of Jesus people who come every Sunday to receive the blessings of being a member of the church? Or are we people who count it our privilege to make carrying out the Mission of Jesus Christ our primary responsibility. Because, that is what true discipleship is.

I believe that we are a church that is growing by leaps and bounds toward becoming those kinds of disciples. In fact, everything that we have planned to do in 2021—Growing Wide with children, youth, families and young adults, Growing Deep in our personal relationship with Christ, and Growing High as we serve Him in the community of Cheviot—all of it is wrapped up in the definition of Discipleship. I say that to say this: *If you are interested in growing as a disciple of Jesus Christ this year, Cheviot United Methodist Church is the place to be.*

See you in church or on-line soon!

Pastor Carne



A MESSAGE FROM YOUR ADMINISTRATIVE COUNCIL

Dear Cheviot United Methodist Church Family,

Since the pandemic began almost one year ago, the Administrative Council has struggled with many difficult decisions related to changes in church life and the operation and use of our facilities, but none has been more complex or important than the question of whether we could hold live worship.

We have attempted to balance our strong need and desire to congregate and worship together against the safety of our staff, volunteers, congregation, and the community around us. At times, the decision was made for us as some staff and congregation members tested positive and quarantines made live worship impossible. Nevertheless, at every meeting the Administrative Council thoughtfully considered the question of when we might be able to reopen. On January 17, the Administrative Council met and voted to return to in-person worship effective February 7, 2021, with appropriate precautions and with strict adherence to social distancing guidelines. This decision should not be seen as an indication that it is now safer to be in our church or out in the community than it was when we suspended live worship. In fact, infection statistics are considerably worse now and the capacity of our health care systems to deal with the pandemic is greatly diminished compared to 5 months ago. Instead, this decision was based on the feeling that individual members of the congregation could determine whether it would be reasonably safe for others and for themselves if they were to return to in-person worship.

As you make this decision, we encourage you to consult the many resources available regarding the pandemic, including the recommendations of public health officials. We will continue to record services for online viewing and post them on YouTube as before.

We will also send you an e-mail reminder in early February of the protocols and procedures in place for those attending in-person worship which will begin February 7.

If you have any questions, feel free to call the church office. We all look forward to putting this nightmare behind us and returning as soon as possible to life as we once knew it, especially the opportunity to fully greet one another and to worship and serve our Lord together.

Until then, please stay safe,
Eric Bruestle Chair, Administrative Council

February

Birthdays to Celebrate

1-Feb John Cummings & Hank Johnson
3-Feb Bill Flight & Jessica Schummer
5-Feb Gary Black & Lisa Cox
8-Feb Eleanor Jackson
9-Feb Susie Hauser
11-Feb Beulah Streifthau
12-Feb Cindy Bruestle
16-Feb Maria Barr
18-Feb Wayne Smith
19-Feb Greg Goodwin
20-Feb Ernest Kobbe
21-Feb Kay Beiderbeck & Fran Koch
22-Feb Silver Flight
25-Feb Sharon Ackermann, Janice Marsh,
Mary Ann Sparenberg & Evelyn Widner
28-Feb Peach Moser & Jim Nose

Thanks to all of you who sent cards, called to check on my progress, delivered dinners and remembered me in their prayers during my recent bout with Covid-19. I am now fully recovered, off the supplemental oxygen, and trying to get back to my usual routine. I feel truly blessed by your caring.

Bobbi Ostermeyer

*Thank
you!*

Dear Friends,

It was a joy to receive Thanksgiving and Christmas cards from so many friends at CUMC. Although I have been at Twin Towers for almost ten years, I often think of Cheviot Church and enjoy reading Crossbeams.

Sincerely,
Evelyn Widner



February

Anniversaries to Celebrate

5-Feb Bill & Bobbi Ostermeyer
22-Feb Karen & Ken Meiners

Two great men in our church have passed away. They each had a heart transplant. Jeff Lueder's new heart lasted 26 years. Jim Maurmeier's new heart lasted 15 years.

We thank the Lord that He gave them both more time on this earth by receiving their new hearts.

The best news of all though, is that besides having a new physical heart they both knew Christ as their Savior and received from Him that "spiritual heart transplant." Because of that they are now with Jesus and will live in Eternity with Him forever.

This leads me to the topic of discussion that everyone in this world needs a spiritual heart transplant which I am calling the "ultimate heart transplant."

Ezekiel 36:26 says, "I will give you a new heart, and a new spirit I will put within you."

Several months ago, in my article, I told about Max Lucado getting a heart adjustment and before he was put to sleep, he asked the doctor if while he was in there fixing his physical heart could he take out the things that were in his heart like pride and jealousy and greed. The doctor said that was above his pay grade!

The truth is no one on this earth can give us a new heart like that. It is impossible.

The Bible tells us that our hearts are deceitful and desperately wicked, who can know or understand them. We are inherently selfish, judgmental of others, calloused and proud. So, the more we try to "be like Jesus", the more we fail at it!

Paul knew that -- he said "what I do not want to do, I do. What I do want to do, I find I cannot do. There is a battle going on in my heart."

Paul found the answer and so can we.

We all need the "ultimate heart transplant." Paul said, "I die daily."

I am finally beginning to understand what he meant.

Paul also said, "I have been crucified with Christ, and it is no longer I who live, but Christ lives in me. The life I live now I live by faith in the Son of God Who loved me and gave Himself for me." Galatians 2:20

In our own selves, we can do nothing. That is, we cannot be like Jesus. It is that "spiritual heart transplant" that gives us the "life of

Jesus Christ Who lives in us, giving us His Heart."

That, my friends, is the ultimate heart transplant. How does this come about?

I have learned a lot from a Bible teacher, Nancy Missler, who has gone on to be with the Lord. She says in her teaching that our will is the passageway for God's Life to flow into our lives.

We as Christians already have God's Holy Spirit living in us. The will in the Greek means "channel of the mind." It is the conduit where we choose to allow God's Spirit to be free to allow Jesus to live His life in us.

Daily we face many different situations and daily we choose to either walk according to our fleshly choices or allow God's Spirit to live the life of Jesus in us. When we trust God and constantly choose His way, we free Christ to perform miracles in our lives!

It is up to us to *die* ourselves and allow Jesus' heart to transform us or we can choose to live according to our emotional choices and uncontrolled feelings and self-centered desires. When we do that, we end up unhappy and have the ability to *sin big time*!

Following Jesus goes way beyond our emotions and feelings to living a life of faith in Christ. Choosing to deny our own willful self and follow God's way is what gives us this "ultimate heart transplant."

Remember what Jesus said in Ezekiel 36:26, "I will give you a new heart, and a new spirit I will put within you."

We cannot reform our sinful nature. It is impossible. But, we can choose by exercising our will to allow Christ in us to give us His heart and live His life in us. It is as hard, yet fruitful, as Jesus prayed to His Heavenly Father in Gethsemane, "Not my will but thine be done!"

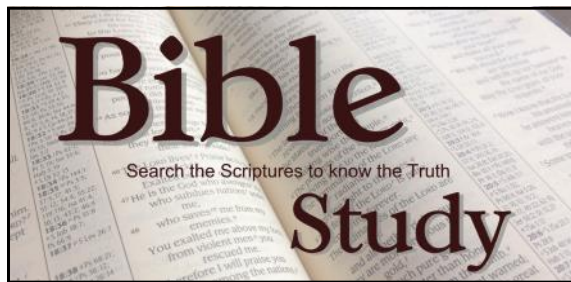
Daily we can choose in our mind and will to say "yes" to Christ and "no" to our feelings, emotions and own sinful way.

When we do, God will always be there for us. We will not have to "try" to love someone. The Living Christ whose heart we give free rein will live in us and love through us.

That is the "exchanged life" and the ultimate heart transplant!

.....***The Heart of Christ***





Thursday Evening Women's Bible Study

The Bible Study, open to all women,
Is entitled:

**Here We Go Again...Reading the Bible in a
Year...or Two.**

We currently meet every 1st and 4th
Thursday, 7pm to 8:30pm via ZOOM.
*Should this change, an all church e-mail will be
sent out with revised meeting location and
other information*

We are using the book *A Women's Guide to
Reading the Bible in a Year* by Diane Stortz.
We will not finish in one year (more like two
years), but the wonderful thing about the Bible
is that you can always join in at any time.

New members are always welcome to join us.

Questions? Contact --

Pam Outt: peoutt@cinci.rr.com

February 4 1 Corinthians 10-16 &
1 Samuel 1-15

February 25 1 Samuel 16-31 &
2 Corinthians 1-6

*"The Bible is the only book whose Author is
always present when one reads it". --Anonymous*

In January, Cheviot Elementary School
asked for support with their Every 1st Grader
Reads Book Drive. Their goal was for book
donations that included a diverse range of
characters so the books can both be mirrors for
their diverse learners, as well as windows into
other worlds -- books that ranged between
preschool and 2nd grade were a blessing to the
students. If you would like to help, a list of
suggested books can be found at:
<https://www.weareteachers.com/first-grade-books/>
If you would like the invite team do the
shopping for you, please have checks made out
to the church with "Cheviot School Book Drive"
in the memo field.

Please contact Debbie Hauser with questions:
513.748.0705
webhau1@yahoo.com

Saturday Morning Women's Bible Study

- ♦ All women are welcome to join the Saturday
Morning Woman's Bible Study.
Invite friends & relatives, too !!
- ♦ **We have resumed meeting every other
Saturday, using the ZOOM app.**
- ♦ We begin at 8am and finish around 9:15am

Our February readings from
**The Joshua Code:
52 Scripture Verses
Every Believer Should Know**
by O. S. Hawkins are:

February 13 Proverbs 10:9 & John 1:14
February 27 Exodus 20:2-3 & Matthew 6:9

Questions? Contact--
Vicki Groh: vgroh@zoomtown.com

Mary Ann Jacobs: majacobs@ritter-randolph.com

or

Pam Outt: peoutt@cinci.rr.com

Feel free to begin joining us at any time.

The GOOD Book Club of the Month!

In February, our reading selection is
Holy Discontent by Bill Hybels. What is that one
item, that one issue, that God sparks a passion in
you to say "I want to help fix this"? How do we
become passionate about something that needs
the passion of God's people to correct? How can
we individually "lean" into these feelings and hear
God say "I feel the exact same way... let's fix this
together"? Join us as we talk about the Holy
Discontent of God's people and of each of us.

Join us **February 10**, 7pm, for what is always
a lively discussion!

We will announce each month whether we will be
together via ZOOM or in person.

Questions?

Contact:

Vicki Groh
vgroh@zoomtown.com

or

Mary Ann Jacobs
majacobs@ritter-randolph.com

Men's Bible Study

The Men's Bible Study is currently meeting via
ZOOM Saturday's at 8am.

E-mail Mark Woodward:
markwoodward082@gmail.com
for the link.

Great are the works of the Lord.

Sandwiches for Our Daily Bread



Our Daily Bread®

Again, **thank you** to the dedicated volunteers who have been providing sandwiches to Our Daily Bread for the last several months.

For the month of December, eighteen Cheviot United Methodist Church members donated over 500 sandwiches! You are so appreciated by the hundreds who receive the sandwiches you make each month.

Our February "Sandwich Day" will be Thursday, February 25. We will be making all sandwiches at home, and will deliver them to church from 9:30am to 10:30am. If you plan to make sandwiches for February, please contact Barb Scheibling: jwscheibling@fuse.net, by Sunday, February 21, to let her know if you will make PB&J, or meat and cheese (no meat that contains pork), and how many.

A reminder will be sent closer to the 25th, with more specific details for any newcomers.

Remember to save your plastic Kroger bags. Our Daily Bread uses lots of them for bagging lunches.

Blessings! Women's Ministry

Women of Hope

Women of Hope is a group of ladies committed to serving our church and community. During this pandemic, we have continued to meet and work – hosting monthly food drives to benefit the Westfed and Elizabethtown food pantries, providing sandwiches monthly to Our Daily Bread, continuing to assist the participants and alumni of the Hamilton County Change court and coordinating a last-minute need for gifts for children at St AL's. We meet monthly through Zoom on the fourth Tuesday at 7pm. All women are invited to join this active and amazing ministry! Please send an e-mail to Vicki Groh: vgroh@zoomtown.com if you would like to be added to the Zoom invite or would like more information.

Lenten Study "The Chosen" begins February 21st

In just 5 short weeks, the season of Lent begins. This 40-day season of Lent is a special time in the life of Christ followers, when we focus our reflection on the Gospels and the story of Jesus' journey to the cross. This year, we invite you to experience this journey by watching the acclaimed video "The Chosen" Season One. This is an 8-part video series that became the #1 highest crowd-funded media project of all time and digs into the backstories of the people and events of the Gospels. Beginning on Sunday, February 21, Pastor Carrie will coordinate her sermons with 6 of the most popular episodes beginning with "I Have Called You By Name".

The App Store and Google Apps have a free download for this series. If you need help with downloading the series to your phone or computer please contact Mark Phair or Chip and Peggy Cummings from the Grow Team for assistance.

Please note, watching the series is not necessary for the Lenten sermons but will enhance the weekly messages.

The App is free and can be downloaded by Googling *The Chosen*, at the App Store or Google Apps.

Mark Phair
mark.phair.ext@siemens.com
513.227.7952

Chip and Peggy Cummings
CharliePeggy@hotmail.com
513.941.6889

LENT
WALKING WITH CHRIST

Cards for Shut-Ins

Please take a moment to send a birthday card to our shut-ins to remind them they are loved and cared about.....*it is so appreciated! Thank You.*

Milt McCamey - January 2 [*SORRY--we missed this one*]
4921 North Arbor Woods Unit 101
Cincinnati OH 45248.

Beulah Streifhau - February 11
2953 Gilligan Avenue
Cincinnati OH 45233

Evelyn Widner - February 25
Twin Towers
1208 South Ridge Drive
Cincinnati OH 45224

Peach Moser - February 28
3600 Homelawn Avenue
Cincinnati OH 45211



Westfed Food Pantry Update



Thank you for your continued support of our neighborhood pantry.

All unexpired, non-perishable foods, cleaning products, and toiletries are welcome.

We particularly need shampoo & paper towels.

Non-perishable items requested are cereal, jelly (plastic jars please), canned fruits, vegetables and cleaning products. Pork and beans, toothpaste, spaghetti and spaghetti sauce (plastic or metal cans) are always needed.

An added bonus would be having the items placed into paper bags.

The food pantry uses paper bags to distribute to families.

Items may be left in the Westfed baskets outside Werner Lounge or brought to neighborhood food drives listed on our Facebook page:

<https://www.facebook.com/Westfed-Food-Pantry-683028575069765>

The next Women of Hope food drive is February 20 in the front parking area: 10am - Noon.

Monetary donations may be made through the church.

[checks made out to CUMC with memo: *Westfed*]

HOPE – that's the word that comes to mind when thinking about all the programs offered by The City Gospel Mission – our second offering opportunity this month.

The City Gospel Mission, a local mission in Cincinnati, offers HOPE for those who are homeless, hungry or have addictions. They tutor over 1200 at-risk youth in our city at 60 sites. They offer meals morning and evening 24/7/365 to the hungry, and they offer shelter to the homeless, much-needed in this frigid weather we can experience during Cincinnati winters.

Their programs help to turn around the lives of addicts, both men and women. They are one of the first stops on their journey from substance abusers to productive lives. The transformation in six or nine months is incredible. The men and women are led through a goal-oriented process of inner healing, Biblical spiritual development, recovery, job training, and a 12-step program, which leads them to healing, jobs and transitional housing. All supported by our donations to this mission.

The City Gospel Mission is a beacon of HOPE in our community. Your donation to this worthwhile mission will give vital support for many in need.

CHANGE Court update

The CHANGE Court of Hamilton County works with women who have been trafficked and are attempting to overcome addiction. It is a specialty court created with the goal of effecting change in the lives of these women – providing guidance, support and accountability over a 2-year period. Women of Hope has continued to work with the participants and alumni of Change Court over this past year. We have helped to provide furniture and household items to participants as they move out of transitional housing into apartments, hosted a gathering of participants, alumni, court staff and Women of Hope ladies, to start to get to know each other, provided food and monthly household items to participants and alumni who are struggling with reduced work hours and opportunities due to the pandemic, as well as continued prayer for all involved in this important work. Recently, some of the women attended a virtual training to become mentors and/or become involved in helping to provide intermittent programs/assistance.

Kashena, a current participant, had a childhood and adolescence which included movement between many foster homes, and a mother with past and current addiction. She has recently moved into a Westside apartment and the ladies of Women of Hope have already stepped up to help provide household items to create a home. One of our members is now serving as her mentor – an additional layer of support to help these women cope with a new life of sobriety in an unsupervised setting.

Once we are able to gather safely, we are also looking forward to regular gathering of participants and alumni to help support the women who are now out of the umbrella of the courts, yet continue to face challenges in maintaining a life of sobriety and wholeness.

We are asking the church to join in praying for Kashena as she starts her new life and for the work of Women of Hope and all of those involved with Change Court.



Non-Profit Organization
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
Cincinnati, Ohio
Permit. No. 2775

3820 Westwood Northern Blvd.
Cincinnati, Ohio 45211-2597

(513) 662-2048

www.cheviotumc.com

Address Service Requested

Cheviot United Methodist Church

How to Reach Us

Pastor	Reverend Carrie Jena pastor@cheviotumc.com
Prayer Requests	office@cheviotumc.com
Contemporary Worship Leader	Greg Goodwin gpgoodwin7.gg@gmail.com
Flower Orders	Juanita Woodburn flowers@cheviotumc.com
Choir	Carol Gangwer cgangwer@fuse.net
Bells	Marcia Lucas mslucas@zoomtown.com
Traditional Worship Leader	Anne Schummer piano@fuse.net
Custodian	Lindsey Bethel custodian@cheviotumc.com
Event Promotions	communications@cheviotumc.com

Church Office
513.662.2048
office@cheviotumc.com

Worship with Us...

If you will be attending
Worship Services:

9:10am
Traditional Worship
in the Sanctuary

Bible Studies
See our website or call the office for
information and to learn how to join
our online studies during the week.

11:15am
Contemporary Worship
in the Fellowship Hall

If not, view Pastor Carrie's
Sermon Message:

Go to Youtube.com,
type "Carrie Jena" in the
Search box.

...this February

*Our vision is to connect and serve all people so that lives are transformed
and empowered through the love of Christ.*