

A Cheviot United Methodist Church Newsletter

Our Church is Growing High

As I was traveling to Columbus a few months ago, my GPS re-routed me through a small town just outside of the city to avoid a traffic jam. It was a typical small town with one stoplight, a gas station and...of course a church on the corner. I don't remember what denomination the church was, but I do remember one defining trait of that church. The steeple was very high. It seemed to push through the trees that surrounded the street below and extended high above the hustle and bustle of the little town as if to say, "hope is here."

As I drove by, I thought, "Maybe that is what God intended for steeples to do—to be seen from near and far and to point people to the church; a place where answers are found, where love is expressed and most importantly, where the life-saving message of the Gospel is shared". Over the years, that little church with its crumbling steps and its faded paint had most likely been a place of hope for hundreds of people in that town. That's why it was built right there on the corner. And it's why the steeple still stands today.

Every morning as I drive into Cheviot United Methodist Church, I look at our bell tower with the cross on top stretching high above the rooftops of Westwood Northern Boulevard. Just like the steeple on that little church near Columbus, our bell tower is meant to draw people to a source of hope, healing and new life here at Cheviot United Methodist Church. That's what we mean when we say, "We are Growing High." It means that the influence of our church is beginning to be noticed—in our community of Cheviot as well as in Greater Cincinnati. We are beginning to live into one of our God-given

purposes—to "Create more opportunities for people in our community to connect to Cheviot United Methodist Church and to recognize our church as a valuable resource in their lives."

I am pleased to say that over the past several months these ideas have become more than just words on a page. They are words that reflect real ministries that are taking shape every month. This is happening because as more and more teams are asking the question, "How can our church become a valuable resource in our community?" God is answering in tangible ways. With more than 10 small groups, Bible studies, and children's programs, we are helping people of all ages grow in their faith. From the *Hearts and Hammers* community construction projects, our work with the *Cincinnati Change Court, Bloc Ministries, Westfed*, and more, we are helping people improve their lives. Last March 24, we partnered with Xavier University Dementia Symposium to offer education and training for dementia care providers; a growing need in every community.

In the 10th chapter of the book of John, Jesus said, "*The thief comes to kill, steal and destroy. But I have come so that they may have life abundant.*" I am proud to serve in a church that is working so hard to offer people abundant life in Christ—spiritually, relationally and physically. Together, may we continue to Grow High and offer hope and life to the community around us.

Until we meet again,

Pastor Carne



HEARTS AND HAMMERS

The outreach to our community from the Hearts and Hammers Team has been very exciting in the past few months. The team did repair on the home of Lois Johannes, and now she can safely walk down her back steps and not have to worry about it getting wet inside the house when rains.

When Tom Green became incapacitated and needed to use a wheelchair, this group built an awesome ramp in front of his home in the pouring rain. This allowed Tom to be at home with his family, including Christmas Day, until his final days. The ramp was repurposed with the blessing of Ella and Kim Green, into much-needed steps at the trailer of Mike and Amanda Rowland, who are part of the Elizabethtown UMC and served by our members Jayne and Glen Lash. Much work was done to help the Rowland family with beds for their three children, insulation, walls and floors.

We want to thank the congregation for their support of Hearts and Hammers through their prayers, gifts and talents.



it

April

Birthdays to Celebrate

- 05 Tabatha Phillips
- 06 Mitchell Barr
- 10 Kenneth Smith
- 12 Linda Hoff
- 13 Joe Hoff **and** Terry Webb
- 14 Larry Leimbach **and** Hunter McGill
- 15 Ryan McGinnis
- 16 Barb Scheibling
- 17 Carol Becker
- 18 Don McGinnis
- 19 Joyce Johnson
- 20 Mark Woodward
- 23 Eric Bruestle **and** Lauren Phair
- 26 Phil Brice **and** Mary Painter-Romanello
- 28 Ryan Lawson
- 30 Garry Kremer **and** Callie Summers

April

Anniversaries to Celebrate

- 01 Jim & Cathy Klein
- 08 Ken & Barb Boesherz
- 20 Dick & Carol Becker
and
Bud & Joyce Hoffman
- 24 Dick & Janice Marsh
- 25 Herman & Renee Heine
and
Bob & Fran Loudin

Easter Services Postponed

Dear CUMC Church Family,

On March 23, your Administrative Board met by conference call and decided to follow both the Bishop's and Governor Dewine's orders to cancel worship services through Easter Sunday. In his letter to the churches, Bishop Palmer mentioned that there is no requirement regarding when Easter Sunday can be celebrated in the church. Therefore, we look forward to holding an Easter service "like none other" as soon as these restrictions are lifted and it is safe for all of us to be together again.

This April 14, our Administrative Council will meet again and decide on what our worship schedule will be after Easter. Our decision will be based on the recommended guidelines in place at that time. In the meantime, the safety of our entire church is our primary concern. Until then, you are in my prayers and in God's constant care.

Until we meet again,
Pastor Carrie



In reading a book by T. Scott Daniels, "Embracing Exile," the last chapter had something in it that totally caught my attention. The author was talking about God showing up!

The people of Israel had to wonder what God was like. In what ways was Yahweh unlike other gods? How do we know when God shows up and acts? How can we recognize the works of God? The people had to operate like master detectives. There had to be some in their midst who would see the clues, connect them and point to what has happened and tell the people, "It's Him Again!"

The clues are not disconnected but point to the same One.

One day in the desert an old couple have a baby. They are way past the ability to have any children. But it happens. The people ask, "How did this happen?" The wise ones in their midst say, "It's Him again." Yahweh, the One who created the universe, "It's Him again."

Moses stands before the Red Sea facing the wrath of Pharaoh. He raises his staff, and the waters part in two. The people look on and wonder, "How does this happen?" How does the sea open and the people walk across on dry land into a new beginning? Again, the wise ones reply, "It's Him Again!"

It's Yahweh, the One who created the universe, the One who gave the baby to an old couple, yes, "It's Him Again."

In the wilderness the people are hungry, they have nothing to eat. One day they wake up and there is this strange kind of daily bread on the ground. "How did this happen?" Again, the wise ones say, "It's Him again."

It's Yahweh, the One who created the universe, the One who gave the baby to the old couple. It's the One who parted the Red Sea. "It's Him Again."

The Old Testament goes on, the walls of Jericho fall, a shepherd boy defeats a giant, a prophet calls down fire from heaven. Three men in a fiery furnace are saved. On and on it goes. Clues are given and connected to one another. "It's Him Again!" "It's Him Again!"

The clues continue into the New Testament. Standing at the cross the people look up at the One on the cross. The people ask, "Who is this One who comes in the name of the Lord?" "Who is this One who made the lame to walk, the blind to see, the deaf to hear and the mute

to sing with joy? Who is this One Who says, "Father, forgive them for they know not what they are doing."

Oh yes, the wise ones know, they say, "It's the One who created the universe, the One who gave the baby to the old couple, the One who parted the sea, the One who rescued the three Hebrew children. It's the One who came to His own but they refused Him. The One who opened the Way for all to come to Him and find New Life." Yes, He's the One, "It's Him Again."

And now Easter is here and this same One is raised from the dead in three days, just as it was prophesied. Death had no hold on Him.

Yes, He's the one, it's Him again!

And the church is looked upon by a hurting world, an evil world and they see us. They see us with our own fears and uncertainties, with our trials and tribulations. And when they see in the midst of this crazy mixed up world the church praising the name of Jesus, showing mercy

and grace and spreading His love wherever we go, they ask, "Who is this One you worship, Who is this One you serve?"

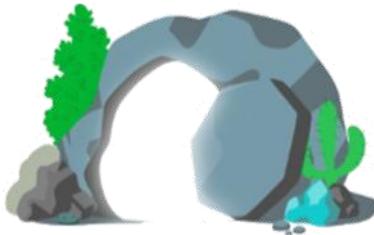
We have the privilege of telling them, "It's Him Again." His name is Jesus, the Christ and He died for our sins, lives again forever and loves us. He will give you new life when you believe in Him, open up your heart and invite Him to come in.

God's Kingdom is on this earth through His Church. And it is our privilege to be the salt and light to this world to point those lost to Him.

Have you seen God work in your own life? Can you say, "It's Him again!" God speaks to us in many ways and if we can connect the times and ways He has been there in our lives we become a part of the Greatest Story ever told.

Share the Bible truths with others and how the whole Bible connects to our God. And share with others your stories. He will show up in our lives and in our church again and again as we follow and serve Him. Jesus is alive and at work in our church and our lives.

Yes, it's Him! "It's Him Again!"



First Fruits.....

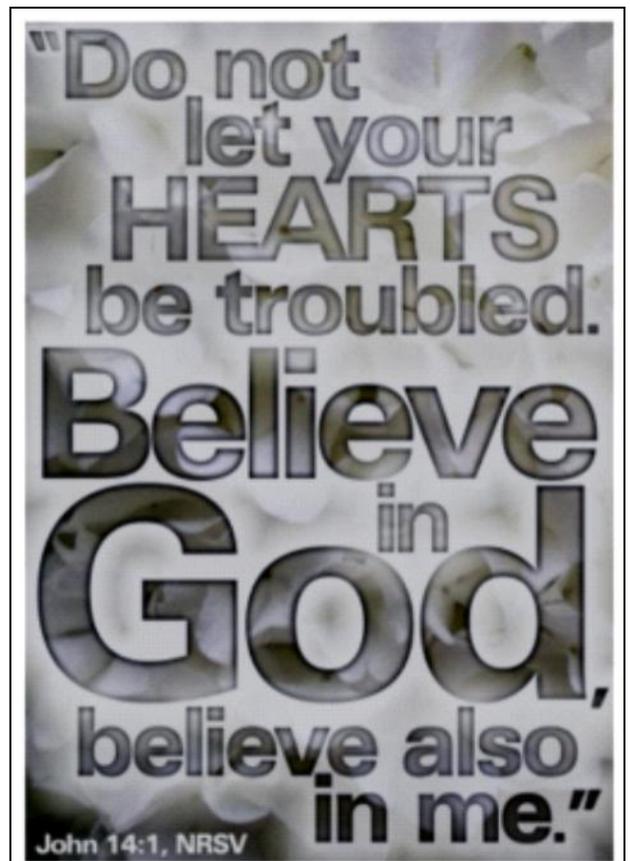
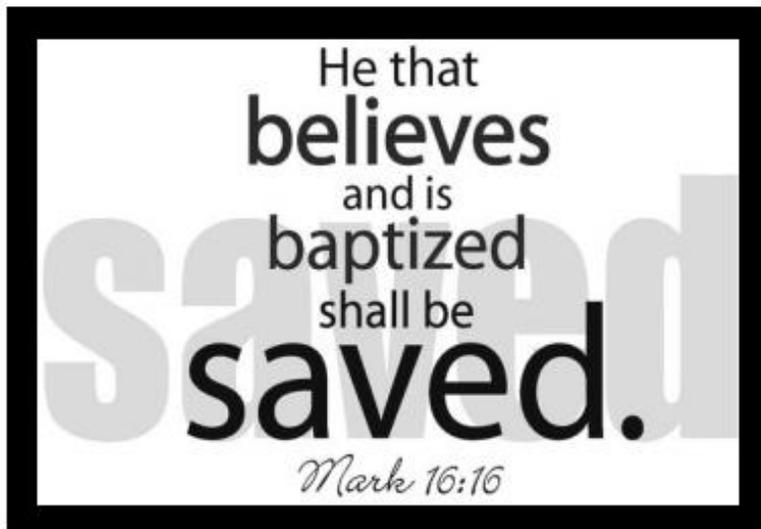
We are in the midst of a life event of uncertainty that the majority of us have never experienced. We are praying for God's guidance and protection for our personal family, church family, friends, community, and nation. This is and should be our primary focus.

Even though the vast majority of our normal weekly church activities are suspended, our church is still functioning where reasonable and within the restrictions on social contact, to serve the needs of our congregation and community.

The reality is that in order to continue providing service, necessary expenses must be paid on a monthly basis.

The Stewardship and Finance committee is asking all who are able to continue to make tithe and offering contributions. One method is to mail contributions to the church. Another method is to utilize the free on-line bill paying service provided by most banks. For convenience, these bill paying services support scheduling regular payments.

Additionally, the committee will be examining other possible web-based payment services.



The April 26 Mission Offering will be for the Red Bird Mission.



Let's Do Dinner

Our April gathering will be skipped due to the current health crisis.
Our dinner fellowship will resume in May.

For more information, please call the Church Office: 513.662.2048, or
Shirley Pemberton: 513.368.8995.

The Ladies of Lydia Circle visit by Andrea Holtman, Director of Weightless Anchor, from Bloc Ministries has been rescheduled for our May 19, 2pm, gathering.

More information regarding her presentation portraying a women's point of view of living on the streets and then changing a whole life for the good will be in the May Crossbeams.



Important Notice Regarding the Cheviot United Methodist Church Office

In keeping with the Governor's guidelines and for our staff's health and safety, Charlie Sparenberg and our SPRC committee is asking Juanita Woodburn to work from home until further notice. If you need assistance, you may call the church office as Juanita will be accessing messages from home. You can also e-mail Juanita at office@cheviotumc.com or Pastor Carrie at pastorcarrie123@gmail.com

Juanita will be checking the church mailbox daily.

Other church communication can be accessed through all-church e-mail, by checking our website at www.cheviotumc.com or by accessing our Facebook page at Cheviot United Methodist Church.

Thank you for your patience and continued prayers during this time.

MATTHEW 25 Ministries

The next Mathew 25 Ministries, conditions permitting,

Is Saturday, April 18, 11am to 1pm.

Meet in the *Matthew 25 building* located at:

**11060 Kenwood Road
Blue Ash, Ohio 45242**



Questions? Contact Lisa Cox: coxalisa728@gmail.com or 513.661.8487

Our Giving & Sharing Update

Sharing our blessings with others is one form of expressing praise and thanksgiving to God for all that He provides us. During March, our members shared blessings in a number of ways:

The **Red Bird Mission Trip team** collected donations of blankets, clothing, small kitchen items, and baby items that are desperately needed in the Appalachia area of Kentucky.

Hearts & Hammers completed the home repair project in conjunction with Elizabethtown UMC that improved living conditions for a family with three young boys.

Financial support for our church's ministries, mission projects, and staff summary:

Weekly Tithes & Offerings goal: \$6,946.00

Average per week: \$7,252.00

Monthly mission offering for City Gospel Mission: \$557.00

Year-to-date Designated Giving for all Missions: \$1,392.75



Attention Cheviot United Methodist Church parents with "Kiddos"!

Our Children and Youth Ministries are planning a mailing campaign to our members that are home, by themselves.

We are looking to send letters, drawings- any art!, pictures, bookmarks, games you've created (like word searches or crosswords)--anything to help make our members smile!

Telephone Ministry

During these difficult and uncertain times, more than ever we need to be mindful of one another in our congregation. There are many in our church who are elderly and live alone, members who have experienced the passing of a loved one or members who live by themselves.



Our Ministry Council has organized a telephone ministry whereby members of the congregation volunteer to call other members who need our love and care. If you are willing to be a volunteer, contact Linda Page, who will give you names and phone numbers of those who need to be reminded that they are loved and not forgotten at this time.

Contact Linda: 513.574.1853 Stay well and stay strong.

Thursdays-To-Gather — *The Shroud of Turin*

Join us April 16, 6pm, as we host a program by local author, Dr. Michael Dourson —conditions permitting.

[For more information, please call Mary Ann: 513.604.5821 or Shirley: 513.368.8995]

Dr. Dourson is a toxicologist and Director of Science at the nonprofit organization, Toxicology Excellence for Risk Assessment. He was formerly a senior advisor to the Administrator of EPA, and prior to that, a professor at the Risk Science Center at the University of Cincinnati College of Medicine.

Dr. Dourson has written several books, has a doctoral degree from University of Cincinnati College of Medicine and will be speaking on ***The Shroud of Turin***.

This will be educational and interesting as he weaves scripture and science in story form to make his case: the Shroud is not only real, it holds the key to the greatest mystery of the Christian religion.

Custodian Position Available

Cheviot United Methodist Church is looking for a person to fill the Custodial duties of the church, requiring approximately 25 to 30 hours per week. Scheduling is flexible.

Contact the church office, 513.662.2048, if you or anyone you know may be interested.

Help with Our Soundboard

The Traditional Service is in need of people to help run the sound board for the 9:10am Service only.

Stop by the sound board after service to learn what is involved.

Women Of Hope

Women of Hope (formerly known as Sarah Circle) is starting the new year with a new name and new energy!

We still plan to meet Tuesday, April 28, 7pm, in the Werner Lounge—but things could change.

We look forward to seeing how we can continue to support the women of the Hamilton County Change Court and offer programs which promote social justice in our community. We also plan to continue to find ways to support our Cheviot neighbors and the local mission efforts of Cheviot United Methodist Church.

....and we like to have some fun and enjoy fellowship along the way

Please join us April 28 and every 4th Tuesday of the month. Contact Vicki Groh at: 513.661.5852 or vgroh@zoomtown.com with any questions. *Hope to see you there!*



Got Pictures?

When you have an event, we'd like to share your best pictures for the rest of us to enjoy. Send them to the communications team: COMMUNICATIONS@CHEVIOTUMC.COM

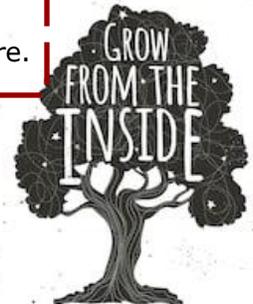
It's easy — take a picture  on your smart phone, tap share  and send via your email app .

Cheviot United Methodist Church Vision for 2020 & Beyond

Growth

Growing Deep—Implement a church-wide strategy for all people to grow in a personal relationship with Jesus Christ and an understanding of God's Word.

We are launching a new Grow initiative called "Memorize and Mediate". Each week, one Key Scripture will be printed in the bulletin for you to memorize and meditate on throughout the week in preparation for Pastor Carrie's message. Each week in worship, anyone who wants will be given an opportunity to show their memorization skills and to hear how this one scripture has been helping someone "Grow Deep" in their walk of faith. Won't you join us in "Memorize and Meditate" beginning today? Check the bulletin for the weekly Key Scripture.





3820 Westwood-Northern Boulevard
Cincinnati, Ohio 45211-2597

(513) 662-2048

www.cheviotumc.com

Address Service Requested

Cheviot United Methodist Church
Special Announcement

Church Office
513.662.2048
office@cheviotumc.com

With our worship services being suspended as well as fellowship opportunities being postponed, other methods of communication such as Youtube, Facebook, the church website, and all-church e-mail will be the primary methods of communication for a while.

During this Coronavirus outbreak, when so many are uncertain of the future and struggling to adapt to widespread changes, the people of faith are called to Pray. Each week, I will be sending out a special prayer for us to pray together every day at 8am or 8pm and posting on our Facebook webpage as well as our church website.

I will also be posting a sermon on Youtube every week until we are back together again. Please let me know if you have any questions or concerns.
[do a search on Youtube.com: carrie jena]

In the meantime, God is with us and I am praying for all of you.

Blessings,
Pastor Carrie

Pastorcarrie123@gmail.com
Church Website: www.cheviotumc.com
Church Facebook: Cheviot United Methodist Church @Cheviotumc

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