

First United Methodist Church  
201 West High Ave.  
New Philadelphia, OH 44663  
(330) 339-6411  
[office@npfirstumc.org](mailto:office@npfirstumc.org)

Return Service Requested

Non-Profit Org.  
U.S. POSTAGE PAID  
New Phila., Ohio 44663  
Permit No. 91

PLEASE NOTIFY US IF YOU NO LONGER WISH TO RECEIVE THIS NEWSLETTER

# FAITH HAPPENINGS

SEPTEMBER 2023



## Thoughts From The Pastor

BY PASTOR BRANDON KECK

**Matthew 19:16 Then someone came to him and said, “Teacher, what good deed must I do to have eternal life?” NRSV**

This verse begins one of the most challenging teachings which Jesus offers to his disciples. This story is depicted in three of our Gospels as it is also found in Luke 18 and Mark 10. In all three depictions we see a man come up to Jesus and ask him what must he do to attain eternal life. The man is shown to be a man of wealth and possibly even of political power. He has all that he has ever needed and seems to have been brought up to be an honest and ethical man. Jesus' first response is to ask the man why he would come and ask Jesus such a question. He even makes a statement that only one being is truly good and that would be our God. Jesus then continues to tell the man that he simply needs to follow the commandments of God. The man responds by saying he has done this for his entire life and seems to be prepared to happily go on his way. However, Jesus has a response that stops him dead in his tracks. You see, Jesus knows more about this man than anyone else for Jesus knows what is in his heart. This leads him to offer some truth which would be hard for anyone to hear. Jesus tells him that he lacks one thing and to gain that one thing the man must sell all of what he has, give the proceeds to the poor and then come and follow Jesus. Further, Jesus says that it is harder for the rich to get into heaven than it would be for a camel to make it through the eye of a needle. This explanation causes the disciples who are standing close by to wonder if anyone could ever attain eternal

life. As I consider this passage, I do not dwell on how hard it is for someone to get into heaven or what this teaching means for the stuff that I have accumulated over my lifetime.

What I wonder about is what was this man missing? He knows God's commandments and follows them. He seems to have a desire to do what is right and connect with God. So, what is he missing? This man has everything he needs. He is rich and powerful and it would stand to reason that he uses that wealth and power to get what he wants. He has skills, education and the ability to get things done. He knows where he will lay his head at night and he certainly knows where his next meal is coming from. He is self-reliant and I would argue that he does not need anyone else to do anything for him. What he is missing is trust in God. If he would sell everything he owns and give all of the proceeds to the poor, he would suddenly need to rely upon others. He would have to turn to God to provide for his needs. Jesus is proclaiming to all of us that what we need more than anything is to have trust in our God who created us and we need to look at our lives and decide what might be preventing us from gaining and growing in that trust. This man's wealth, power and station in life is what was the stumbling block in his life and Jesus spoke truth when he said it had to go. What is keeping you from trusting more fully in the God of our Savior Jesus Christ?

*Brandon Keck*

## **Christian Education**

Sunday school will be starting back up on Sunday, September 10th. All kids in prek-5th grade are welcome to attend. With the change in the traditional worship time to 10:30am, Sunday school will be held during the first service after the children's message and will end around 10:15am. If you have any questions or are interested in serving in our Sunday School program, please contact Shawn.

Our church is in the beginning stages of starting some life groups. If you are interested in leading a life group, please contact Pastor Brandon or Shawn. We will have more information coming soon about the start of life groups and the leaders.

## **Congregational Care**

**Note: meeting date change! Our next meeting will be Wednesday, September 6th at 6:30pm.**

If you cannot attend the meetings, please contact Johnna Keck or Suzanne Komaromy to see how you can get involved. We will be working on college care package planning and events for October and November.

If you are in need of visitation, communion brought to your home, meals, prayer, or any kind of support, please call (330-339-6411) or email the office ([office@npfirstumc.org](mailto:office@npfirstumc.org)), and they will put you in touch with this team.

## **Youth Group**

Youth Group will continue in its series on "Living Transformed" throughout the month of September. We will continue to meet Sunday nights from 6:30-8pm. All youth in grades 6-12 are welcome to attend. Any adult who would like to volunteer to chaperone or provide snacks, please contact the church office or email Shawn at: [ssullivan@npfirstumc.org](mailto:ssullivan@npfirstumc.org)

## *ANNIVERSARIES*

*Dick & Pat Bible  
September 12th*

*Dave & Kris Cardani  
September 12th*

*Jeff & Laura Goddard  
September 14th*

*Ryan & Krista Maxwell  
September 16th*

*Will & Delena Hinkle  
September 18th*

*Ray & Ronda Rummell  
September 18th*

# Care Packages

The Congregational Care Team will be sending out college boxes to our students in October. We need the names, school attending, and addresses to be given to the church office ([office@npfirstumc.org](mailto:office@npfirstumc.org)) by September 25th.

We would also like to send boxes to those that are in the military or enrolled in other schooling or training. If boxes would not be appropriate for their circumstances, then we would like to send a card to let them know that we are thinking of them. Please get their information to the church office also.

This is our church family's opportunity to let our young adults know that we are thinking of them and keeping them in our prayers.

We will need your help to gather goodies for these boxes. Look for the donation box by the front desk in the next few weeks to drop off items. Possible items include: candy, cookies, gum, granola bars, popcorn pkgs., and other snack items. We will also have a list of names so you may write individual cards to them. Donations for postage would also be greatly appreciated. Thanks for your help!

# Finance Committee

Kim Miller/Chairman, Bill Harding/Treasurer, Suzanne Komaromy/Financial Secretary

Class of 2024; Scott Ghezzi, Joe Linder, Joe Bachman, Steve Bair. Class of 2025; Jeff Goddard, Kim Miller, Chris Harmon, Leslie Riker

As a correction to our last update; By the end of the year, our Loanbalance at First Federal Community Bank will be below \$980,000.

A Planned Giving Seminar with some of our local professionals is still being planned.

The Finance Committee is working with our different committees and staff to finish out 2023 and to budget for 2024.

Online giving; please let Suzanne Komaromy know if you have any questions about this secure and easy way to tithe or make any donations to your church. When you set up giving online, however you decide, it helps to keep your intended giving coming without interruptions in your schedule.

# BIRTHDAYS

<i>Rose Tipka</i>	<i>9/2</i>
<i>Grace Cardani</i>	<i>9/6</i>
<i>Edwin Fisher</i>	<i>9/8</i>
<i>Larry Burton</i>	<i>9/9</i>
<i>Carol Lada</i>	<i>9/11</i>
<i>Mary Jo Gavin</i>	<i>9/13</i>
<i>Pat Potter</i>	<i>9/13</i>
<i>Josh Bichsel</i>	<i>9/15</i>
<i>Barbara Loader-Singhaus</i>	<i>9/16</i>
<i>Craig Barnett</i>	<i>9/17</i>
<i>Dave Reese</i>	<i>9/18</i>
<i>Audrey Garbrandt</i>	<i>9/18</i>
<i>Sally Benkowski</i>	<i>9/19</i>
<i>Denise Cochenour</i>	<i>9/19</i>
<i>Michael Exley</i>	<i>9/19</i>
<i>Kendra Krieger</i>	<i>9/20</i>
<i>Nate Kamban</i>	<i>9/21</i>
<i>Dave Cox</i>	<i>9/23</i>
<i>Johnna Keck</i>	<i>9/23</i>
<i>Mike Taylor</i>	<i>9/26</i>
<i>Steve Bair</i>	<i>9/27</i>
<i>Kathy Norris</i>	<i>9/29</i>

# Ice Cream Social

Thank you to all who attended and helped with the Ice Cream Social on August 14th. The weather cooperated & we were able to hold it at Tuscora Park. It was great to see so many returning and new preschool families! We ate ice cream sundaes, and the kids were given ride tickets. Next year's ice cream social will be held on August 18, 2024!



## Song Spotlight: Lord I Need You by Passion

*Psalm 145:3 states, "Great is the Lord and most worthy of praise; his greatness no one can fathom." I can imagine some pretty great things, whether it's sharing a dinner with close friends and family or sitting on the porch during a summer storm. All of these great things that God has blessed me with pale in comparison to His true greatness.*

*Take a moment to think about all the great things that He has done for you. The lyrics give us a few broad ideas of the things God has done for us as a people. He gives us life, love, light, and hope.*

## SAVE THE DATE

**October 8th**

- *Potluck and Movie in the Lifecenter*

**October 22nd**

- *Trunk or Treat*

## NOISY OFFERING

January - Welty Middle School - \$83.00

February - UMCOR

Ukraine - \$197.12

March - T4C Laundry Project - \$127.25

April - Greater Dover-New Phila Food Pantry - \$100.00

May - Brightside Project/East Palestine - \$157.83

June - Adaptive Movement Center - \$184.89

July - Camp Wanake - \$160.97

August - Elevate the Barber's Workshop/Back to School - \$130.97

**Total Generosity Received: \$1,141.64**

## Song Spotlight Continued:

More than that, He heals our broken hearts. He fills us with his Spirit, his breath fills our lungs so that we are able to praise Him.

Take a moment to listen to “Great Are You Lord” by All Sons and Daughters and reflect on His greatness. More importantly, take that light and let it reflect through your words and actions this coming month.



## A Note From Mel Sopher

To my dear church family.

From the bottom of my heart, I want to thank you for your loving care, concern and prayers over the past nine months. Doug and I really felt your prayers and your presence in our lives as we struggled along his journey. Your food, cards, song, flowers and visits lightened many of our days.

Doug received his miracle on May 28, 2023, a miracle I wish he could've had here on earth. However, he bravely left me his children, grandchildren, family and friends; all those he loved so deeply. Doug knew exactly and felt confidently that he would reside in heaven, and Jesus was swift in doing so when he carried Doug home. These words do not seem enough to express the amount of gratitude I have for all of you.

In love and faithfulness,  
Melanie Sopher

## *COMMITTEE CHAIRS:*

### Staff Parish Relations (SPR)

- Stephen Johnson

### Trustees

- Krista Maxwell

### Outreach

- Ryan Maxwell

### Finance

- Kim Miller

### Worship Team

- Kristi Prucha

### Congregational Care

- Johnna Keck

## *CONTACT US AT:*

*FIRST UNITED METHODIST  
CHURCH OF NEW PHILADELPHIA*

*201 W HIGH AVE  
NEW PHILADELPHIA, OH 44663*

*(330) 339-6411  
OFFICE@NPFIRSTUMC.ORG  
WWW.NPFIRSTUMC.ORG*

*FIND AND FOLLOW US ON  
FACEBOOK  
@NPFIRSTUMC*