



# GOD BLESS AMERICA

## Circuit Rider

Saybrook United Methodist Church

*“People trying to live like Jesus”*

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### *God's children are heirs in Christ*

<sup>25</sup> But now that faith has come, we are no longer under a custodian.

<sup>26</sup> You are all God's children through faith in Christ Jesus. <sup>27</sup> All of you who were baptized into Christ have clothed yourselves with Christ. <sup>28</sup> There is neither Jew nor Greek; there is neither slave nor free; nor is there male and female, for you are all one in Christ Jesus. <sup>29</sup> Now if you belong to Christ, then indeed you are Abraham's descendants, heirs according to the promise.

During our Last Area Ministerial meeting a disturbing email surfaced concerning the various make up and theologies found within our Ministerial Association..... So, this one individual no longer wished to receive notices from the Ministerial Association because they felt that they could not associate with individuals who believed in a certain way. The ensuing conversation led to the below thoughts from me, which I have tweaked some since sending them to those who were in attendance at the meeting that day. The opening story reminds me of my first day, first class of seminary, in the fall of 1985. A class titled "Understanding Theology". The Professor began that day with the statement "Your theology is not my theology, and my theology is not your theology. They may have the same fundamental basis (*for us Jesus... my emphasis*), but they are different." And for those who care, I myself am basically a moderate traditionalist theologically and socially who leans a little bit more toward a conservative perspective, but I have friends and mentors who I greatly respect who, in those areas, are my complete opposite, leaning much more to the left.

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I begin with a story that I heard years ago.....

It is about a man who passed away and went to heaven, and on his first day upon entering through the Pearly Gates he was given by St. Peter the grand tour. They eventually came upon one room where they heard some very sacred type music and smelled some incense coming from that space.....

The Man asked, what is going on there and St. Peter responded.... Oh, that is the Catholic



room and they are in the midst of worship.

The tour continued.... and they came upon another room, and from that room they heard the joyful sounds of music written by the Wesley's..... "Christ the Lord Is Risen Today", Hark! The Herald Angels Sing", Love Divine, All Loves Excelling", O for a Thousand Tongues to Sing"..... and the man asked, "What's going on in there?" And St. Peter responded, well that's all the denominations that at one time or another on Earth had a Wesleyan connection..., the African Methodist Episcopal, the Wesleyan Church, the Church of the Nazarene, the Free Methodist, the Southern Methodist, the United Methodist..... just to name a few, and they're just singin' and praisin' from their old hymnals like brother John instructed them to do.

And the tour continued..... and they came upon another room..... and there was silence, and the man asked, and what is going on in there, and St. Peter responded, that is a Quaker meeting, and they are worshipping and waiting for someone to be moved by the Spirit.

And the tour continued room by room, area by area until finally they came to a room and St. Peter quickly and quietly said to the Man.... shhhhhh and he tip toed quickly and quietly past the room. And when they were a safe distance on the other side the Man asked, who was that, and what was going on in there..... and St. Peter responded, Well, That was the (YOU CAN FILL IN THE BLANK) and they think they are the only ones up here.

I have to admit, I love and have loved the various ministerial faith groups that I belong and have belonged to, and one of my favorites is the Ashtabula Area Ministerial Association. It is a group of men and women from various churches and agencies in the area who gather and celebrate our common faith in Jesus Christ. That does not mean that we all agree theologically on everything with one another, but I do believe we are all in one accord when it comes to the saving grace that we receive through God's Son, Jesus. We baptize differently..... some immerse, some sprinkle. We commune differently, some use wine, some grape juice, some wafers, some bread- leavened or unleavened. We even differ on the meaning of the bread and cup. We probably also see various social issues differently.... Even within our own denominations.... I know that I do. But I do believe that within our ministerial we all believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that He died on the Cross for ALL those who call upon Him.

The story above is a somewhat humorous, and somewhat sad story,  
and I believe a very untrue story.

Humorous..... well... you decide

Sad, because, well some do believe that their brand of faith is all that there is.

Untrue, because I believe that when we get to where we are going, there is going to be only one big worship room.....

where we will all gather.... and it will be God who will be the orchestrator of all that takes place in that room.

This is just an open letter to say.... I truly love all of my ecumenical brothers and sisters of faith, and I love serving with them within this Ashtabula community.

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This is what I wrote to the Ministerial, but it is appropriate to so many settings....

Division happens in all kinds of faith communities. I have often said that I hate going into a town and seeing the church sign that reads "*SECOND WHATEVER CHURCH*" because you know that there must have been a fight somewhere over something..... Sometimes the split was necessary in order for new ministries to happen. Sometimes it just damages the church... locally and as a whole.... And the outsiders just see that "those crazy church people are at it again" (I have heard that said).

The other day I was doing some research for a message and came across an article titled "37 Best Verses About Judging", and I will be honest I was surprised at how many there were. Now there were some repeats... the Synoptics (Matthew, Mark, Luke) do repeat stories, but the Bible is clear, don't judge....

*"Do not judge, and you will not be judged. Do not condemn, and you will not be condemned. Forgive, and you will be forgiven. (Luke 6:37) <sup>1</sup>"Do not judge, or you too will be judged. <sup>2</sup>For in the same way you judge others, you will be judged, and with the measure you use, it will be measured to you. (Matthew 7:1-2)*

This does not mean that all behavior is OK.... Child Sacrifice is not OK..... Spousal abuse, of any kind, is not OK..... The list could go on.... But I hope you understand my point..... If not, come to me, and let's talk, my office is open.....

Finally, above all.....

My prayer is for the day, when we will all come together to worship, in the one room, worshipping the One God, The One Father, The One Creator, The One.....

Peace,

Jeff





We have a brochure here at the church and it explains the Endowment Fund, Memorial Fund, Growth Fund Children & Youth Ministry

The **Endowment Fund** is a fund where a member or a friend of the church may give a permanent financial gift with the assurance that only the interest earned, by the gift, would be spent. This fund enables the church to expand its help and God's help within the community.

Possible uses for the fund:

- 1- Grant temporary aid to families who are faced with large financial difficulties due to catastrophic conditions.
- 2- Grant scholarships to deserving undergraduate students who are active in the church.
- 3- Grant aid to nonprofit organizations involved in community social service activities.
- 4- Help with limited capital improvements.
- 5- Grant financial assistance to the UM Missions in the U.S. and throughout the world.

A gift to the endowment fund give long after the donor has been called to heaven. It can also be the satisfaction on honoring or remembering your loved ones with an ongoing gift. With a gift of \$50 or more, the honoree's name will be inscribed on the Endowment fund plaque.

#### Children's & Youth Ministry—Goals

Develop a meaningful Children and Youth Ministry for SUMC

Grow this ministry to include other UM Churches in the area.

Continue to grow this ministry to reach out to all Christian and unchurched children and youth in the community.

**Growth Fund**— The Growth Fund began as a “grow in giving” Challenge. The “extra amount” given above the pledge was applied to this fund. Over the years, this fund has enabled the Trustees to purchase items necessary to enhance worship and to maintain our facility.

**Memorial Fund**—The Memorial fund is a fund which allows you to designate how your gift will be used to best reflect your loved one's passion such as, Christian Education, Bible School, Missions, Choir etc. or for the purchase of a physical memory for the church or yards.



- 3 **Ron & Joyce Shelestak**
- 7 **Charles & Janette Davis**
- 7 Gabriel Bryner
- 7 Lenny Peterson
- 7 **Ed & Penny Vaughn**
- 8 Alan Dieffenbacher
- 9 Karen Capstick
- 9 Kent Lambert
- 9 **Lance & Laura Lorelli**
- 9 Mary Simmons
- 11 Joelle Martello
- 13 Jonah Sundquist

**Love is patient and kind. Love is not jealous or boastful or proud or rude. It does not demand its own way. It is not irritable, and it keeps no record of being wronged. It does not rejoice about injustice but rejoices whenever the truth wins out. Love never gives up, never loses faith, is always hopeful, and endures through every circumstance.**

**(1 Corinthians 13:4-7)**

- 14 Thomas Stern
- 16 Emery Colvin
- 18 Frank Root
- 19 Erica Bryner
- 20 Patty Moore
- 21 Marianne Solomon
- 22 Ashley Richmond
- 22 Donald Cluqh
- 22 Rev. Jeff Stoll
- 22 Kathy Beutler
- 23 Laura Lorelli
- 25 Owen Maxwell
- 29 Sandy Cobb

#### Altar Flowers

If you would like flowers on the Altar in Memory or in Honor of someone, for a certain day and you can't get to the church to write it on the Flower Chart located on the Bulletin Board in the hallway, please call the office at 440-969-1562 and I will be more than happy to relay the message to Karen Keesler.

*Also, I would like to thank Karen Keesler for all the work she puts into the Altar flowers here at the church. She is not only in charge of the choir and the Saybrook United Methodist Women but many other important functions though out the years. Thank you Karen for being who you are and for the dedication and love you have for your church family.*



### SAYBROOK BIBLE ADVENTURE

COME JOIN US FOR VBS 2.0 (Modified Version)  
on Wednesday's July 14th., 21st., 28th., August 4th.  
From 4:00pm—5:45pm.



### THE THEME IS UNDERWATER EXPEDITION

Volunteers, Materials & Snacks are  
Needed, so please see  
Laura Lorelli if you can help or call  
the church office at 440-969-1562



If you would like to go to the  
**CAPTAIN'S BASEBALL GAME**  
**Friday, July 23rd. At 7:00pm**

(Fireworks after the Game)  
Tickets are \$9.00 each and \$7.00/Food Voucher.  
Please call the church office or see Amy Kleps or  
Cheryl McLaren. Or you can sign up when you are at the

Lake Service. The signup sheet will be located at the Coffee & Donut Station  
at the Saybrook TWP on Sunday Mornings. We only have 30 tickets so sign  
up as soon as possible.....**BATTER UP!!!!!!!**

## Upcoming Events



**July 14th 21st 28th & Aug.4th VBS**

**July 23rd. Baseball—Captains Game**

**July 25th. Christmas in July**  
Bake Sale & Shoebox Kickoff

**August 28th. Drive In Movie Night**  
7:30pm Snacks. Movie at 8:00pm

**September 12th. Back at the church for**  
**Rally Day & Pot Luck Birthday Party**  
outside weather permitting

**Thank you...** To all that helped in anyway for supporting the pie auction.  
Through all the generosity we received Donations of \$1,492 at last count, for the  
Mission Committee to help the youth.. Locally, Nationally & Worldwide...

**Thank you** to those that:

- Baked pies
  - Donating pies
  - Cooked for breakfast and or supplying food or drinks...
  - Made coffee
  - The set up crew
  - The Servers
  - The Cleanup crew
  - Those that cheered eveything on.
  - The prayer warriors "no rain"
  - Those that helped gather & put away things at the church....
  - The fabulous runners ...
  - Those that bid on pies...
  - Our Lay Leader Cheryl McLaren for our morning prayer
  - The Auctioneer Lloyd
  - Pastor Jeff
- It was just so wonderful to meet, gather & to break bread together again..  
The human touch is a blessing.



Most of all we thank our Savior Jesus Christ  For being there for us. For hearing  
our prayers. In our daily walk of life.

**Numbers 6:24-26** - The Lord bless you and keep you; the Lord make his face  
shine on you and be gracious to you; the Lord turn his face toward you and  
give you peace.

*The Mission Committee*

What a terrific time we had at Saybrook Township Park this morning for church! First  
was the breakfast which was so tasty. There were so many pies of all kinds for the  
auction, including pizza pie made by our food service pizza guy - Pastor Jeff. It was  
especially fun having a husband and wife bid against each other. Lots of laughter and a  
little emotion remembering those no longer here that always loved the annual pie  
auction. The generosity for Missions was great and will be used in many ways to serve  
God.

Thank you, *Bobbi Heil*



## Our Service

Worship Service's are every  
Sunday morning at 8:30am  
At the Saybrook TWP

Donuts and Coffee are provided  
Bring your lawn chairs if you like and  
come Worship together and enjoy the  
Beauty of the park and the Lake that  
God has made.

You are also invited to stop at the  
church on Wednesday's from 9-5  
for Taize and Communion on the Rail  
& at 6:00 is the **WOW** Service



July 4th.- Eva Pfeifer & Brenda Colvin  
July 8th.- Schaade Girls  
July 11th.- Ken Niemi  
July 25th.- Emery Colvin & Brenda Colvin

EVEN THOUGH IT ISN'T  
LIVESTREAMED YOU CAN SEE  
OUR SERVICE ON U-TUBE, YOU  
CAN LINK IN THRU OUR  
FACEBOOK PAGE OR OUR  
WEBSITE  
www.saybrookumc.com

## Our Witness

By Betty Cochran

God molds us into his children  
**Isaiah 64:8**

**And yet, O Lord, you are our  
Father. We are the clay, and you are  
the potter. We all are formed by  
your hand.**

Surround yourself with those who are  
thirsty for God's word. Those who  
have faith in the scriptures of the all  
Mighty Father, our God.

Being around others that have that  
thirst for knowledge and truth sure  
does rub off on you!

I have seen this happen to the  
believers in Christ. For example, I've  
heard people say that the Bible is the  
Living word. I've heard it before, but  
never really thought about it to much,  
but then, I heard it again and I really  
thought about it this time and it meant  
everything to me. How blessed we  
are to have the Bible at our finger tips.  
Every time we read the Good book we  
gain knowledge, and relate it to our  
own lives, also it makes us stronger  
children of God. If you keep reading  
and surrounding yourself with  
believers you too can and will walk  
closer and believe it or not spread  
God's word to others.

You see...God word rings true. He is  
the potter and we are the clay and if  
you open your heart and your mind,  
God will take care of the rest.

*As a local United Methodist Congregation we promise to honor God with:*



## Our Prayers

Our Churches, Our Shut Ins, Our Military, Our College Students,  
Our Pastor & Family, Missionaries, Dee Ann Rich, Ethan & Ashley Batschelet,  
Ed & Linda Gray, Richard Clugh, Don & Mary Clugh Family, MaryLee Verdi, River,  
Betty Hansen, Richard & Grace Arnold, Jim & Phyllis Wright,  
Mary Simmons, Dean Moore, Howard Hewitt, Erik Pimentel, Kurt Brindley,  
Eva DeCamillo, Rev. Scott Walsh, Roy Stiltner II, Donna Juras, Linda Johnson,  
Larry & Dixie Liggett, Bruce & Sue DeRidder, Art & Debbie Scott, Chuck & Janette  
Davis, Caroline, Lori Leibbrandt, Betty Harting, Eddie & Linda Dana, Heather Long,  
Sherry & Ken Livingston, Marilyn Lundquist, Rona, Rev. Doug Lewis,  
Sandy Connley, Sarrah Brown, Ben, Mark & Family, Juli, Rita, Mary Lewis,  
Stoneman Family, Jim Wright, Judy, John & Laura Morgan, Edie Warren,  
Harold & Lou Buck, Janet Renard, Korey Stoneman, Cathy Morgan, Mat Sobolewski,  
Sandy Mead, Erik & Heather Peterson, Keith Davidson, Jackie McKee, Mark DiBell,  
Bradley, Alex Gonzalez, Joel, Nellie, Brent, Aiden, Alex & Family, Mary Ann Gage,  
Jud Palmer, Dave, Mel & Family, Jerri Shultz, Patrick Zoblefin,  
Jim McKee, Shawn & Gerry, David & Family, Maryilyn,  
Keith Youngberg, Landon, Scott & Colleen, Howard, Alex, Louise Ebetino, Michelle,  
Sue, Sheila, Ron & Joyce Shelestak & Family, Ruth Falcione, Larry & Laura,  
Becky Reese, John, John Dean, Karen Klimek, Virginia Harris, Nancy Garbo,  
Barb Swiger, Karen May, Ron & Charmaine Smith & Family,  
Ken Elliott, Kris, Kelly Forren, Debbie Johnson, Tom & Donna Orr, Sheila,  
Tim Berg, Sandra Wolff, Michele Verdi, Debby Hood, Monna O'Connor,  
Dillon Glick, Christa, Lexi Leavitt, Liz, Christa, , Ginny Ann & Family, Lindsey &  
Lynn Parker, Justin Nelson, Rick Arnold, Bob Josson, Randy Lambert, Tracy,  
Lisa Buck, Virgil Hammonds & Family, Lisa (Davis)

## Our Gifts

### Stewardship Update

Year to Date as of 05/31/2021

General Budget	\$56,449.39
Expenses	-\$70,837.10
<b>Deficit</b>	<b>-\$14,387.71</b>



Dear Saybrook Family,  
So many of you were  
checking in, sending cards  
& praying. God hears the  
prayers of the righteous &  
He Heard You! Justin Nelson  
continues to improve & has been  
given God's Grace. Thank you from  
the bottom of my heart!



Victoria Fumich