

# THE ZION HERALD

Proclaiming Good News

June 2020

## Happy Father's Day



May Our Heavenly Father Bless Each Of  
You Abundantly On This Your Special Day

## Resumption of In-person Worship Services

We will resume live in-person worship services on Sunday June 7, 2020. See a separate article about Wednesday Evening Casual Outdoor Services. Before we identify what to expect, there are two important points to emphasize:

**First – Our primary objective is to protect the physical, emotional and spiritual health of everyone.**

**Second – It is perfectly acceptable to stay home and continue participating through our continuing recorded services for those who are most at risk, those uncomfortable venturing outside their homes, those who have been exposed to the virus, and those not feeling well.**

Your Congregational Council and Worship Ministry Team put together the following precautionary measures:

- **One Sunday worship service at 9:00 am**  
Sanitizing, music accompanist, and practicality issues deem it necessary to do only one service on Sunday. 9:00 is a time that allows for no particular group to be largely inconvenienced; everyone can adapt a little bit, can't we?
- **Two open entrance doors** – Front (Lindy Lane) and Rear (Portage). All other doors will be locked.
- **Limited access to inside areas** – All Offices, Education Wing, Gymnasium, and Kitchen will be blocked off since they will not be used. Deacons will utilize the Resource Room for counting.
- **Hand sanitizing stations** – Each entrance will have a sanitizing station, please show your love for others by using the sanitizing solution as you enter and leave.
- **Masks** – Everyone is asked to bring and wear a mask while in the building. Clean masks available, if needed.
- **Child Care** – The child care room will be closed and unavailable for use.
- **Seating space adjusted** – To allow for proper distancing, every other pew will be open for seating.
- **Giving of Tithes and Offerings** – A collection plate will be on a stand at the entrance to the worship space.  
Please do not seal your envelopes by licking.
- **Hymnals and Registration Folder removed** – All hymns will be printed in the worship folder.
- **Worship Bulletins** – These will be placed in the pews.
- **Sharing of the Peace of Christ** – This practice will be suspended for now.
- **Holy Communion** – a new method will be used for distribution of communion to accommodate physical distancing guidelines and safe handling practices.
- **Singing** – Recommendations are to suspend singing.
- **Post service reception** – Please move directly to Luther Hall or outside for any gathering when you leave the worship space – please do not pause or gather immediately outside the worship space (Narthex).

We will continue to make our time together safe for everyone. This plan will be revised and adapted as appropriate. May the peace of Christ be with you always. God's blessings to you.

### Message from the President:

Hello everyone, we were changing before the Covid-19 hit and we are still changing our focus from us to our community showing Christ's love. We are working on loving everyone the way Christ does. We also have a lot of changes in order to keep everyone safe during this time of opening back up from our stay at home. I know it is hard to do change but this a time when we have to. We are working on coming up with safe ways of worshiping together. We know there are a lot of you who have concerns about coming for in-person service and that is alright. We totally understand. We will still have the online recorded service or live stream for you to watch. You will read more about our in-person service as you read on in the Herald.

The congregation council deals with the finances of the church, maintaining and protecting the property, accepting of new members and transfers in and out of the congregation etc. We are here to support the pastor and staff in their work for Zion. We are here to serve the Lord and you, the members of Zion. We are working on defining and setting goals to continue our mission to **“grow in love and service by grace”**. We will have had a Vision Retreat on May 30<sup>th</sup> as a start, but we as a council can't do this alone. We need your help. So please help us by keeping the lines of communications open. You can always call me or any council member or Pastor with any concerns, comments or ideas. We need to hear from you on many different subjects. We would like to hear how you feel about coming back to in-person service, and what would help you feel safe. Another subject would be, what do you want to see Zion doing and you doing in the future.

We have completed the Pastor's and the Sunday school office with new paint and carpet. We are finishing up the entrance way which leads into Luther Hall from the parking lot. The gym has been repainted and new baseboard put on. Dick has completed the cleaning of the carpet area in the church. The roof will be repaired this summer and the parking lot patched and resealed. The retirees are working on the grounds. If anyone is able to help with this, please contact Dave Palumbo. We will be giving a shout out when we set a time for mulching around the church. We need all available hands for that. The more we have the easier and faster it goes. The church looks so nice once the mulching is done.

I am going to end with a prayer that I like and have used before.

**“Lord, open my eyes to the needs of others. Show me how to live more like Your Son, who always put others' interest first. And especially show me that attitude as I serve in my church. Amen.”**

God's Peace and Blessings be with you all.

Darlene

## MINISTRY REPORTS

### CARING MINISTRY



Please pray the following prayer:

*O Lord, help us in the battle against the coronavirus. Give us strength and grace that we may persevere until the combat has ended in victory Amen.*

The Zion Food Pantry client numbers have increased by 12 households in April. This reflects an increase of 20 adults, with and without children over March. The number of children doubled from 15 to 30. Therefore, it appears we are servicing new families with children. However, the total number of people served indicates some of our regulars are not coming. During April we served 159 people from 89 households. The April client breakdown was as follows: 30 children (0-17), 69 adults (18-59), and 60 seniors (age 60+).

Thank You to the younger members and teens who have stepped up to cover for us older volunteers who cannot attend because of medical conditions.

**FOOD PANTRY** needs cereal, spaghetti sauce, crunchy peanut butter, jelly (any flavor except grape), canned fruit, variety pack of flavored instant oatmeal, and soups of all kinds (except tomato).



## Clothes Closet

*"I needed clothes and you clothed me."*

Matthew 25:38

**CLOTHING CLOSET** is in need of household items such as; bath towels, hand towels, tea towels, dishes, pots, pans, etc. Also, men, women, and children's spring jackets and coats.

## PRAYER CHAIN

Remember to contact Kay Davis, stitchandsewk810@sbcglobal.net, if you have any prayer requests.



## THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT.

G. Scott Gross

## LEARNING MINISTRY



Pastor will be scheduling Zoom meetings with the children to keep in communication with them. The children really enjoy Pastor's Sermon time with them in the church service

and this will be a wonderful way to give them their own special time with Pastor. We are still hoping to have Vacation Bible School the week of July 13, keeping in mind that this is subject to change. The theme will be Hero Headquarters.

Pastor has scheduled Zoom Bible study meetings for Thursdays at 9:00 a.m. and has added Wednesday evening Bible study at 7:00 p.m. If you are interested in joining one of these Bible studies, please let Pastor or Vicki know so they can invite you to the Zoom meetings. These Bible studies are especially meaningful during this time that we are not having Sunday school during the summer months.

This Bible verse comes from Jeff Hissong. We appreciate him passing this along for comfort and meditation.

Isaiah 41:10

*Do not fear, for I am with you,  
Do not be afraid, for I am your God;  
I will strengthen you, I will help you,  
I will uphold you with my victorious right hand.*  
God's Peace Be with You,

Janet Slease, Learning Ministry

## RESOURCE MINISTRY

God's peace and love be with you, today and always. In these trying times, we continue to pray and act fiscally responsibly to help Zion address and weather this health crisis while continuing to adequately support our ministries.

**Thank you one and all!** In the face of the current climate, your support enabled our financial results to improve significantly in April. Our monthly giving rate increased 61% compared to 2019, and our YTD giving rate has improved by 28% vs 2019. April's rate was 8.4% greater than March, with both being substantial improvements over our January-February results and more consistent with our results from Fall 2019.

Considering this rate of giving and budget expenses, our April results produced a budget deficit of \$6,676.78; the majority being produced by payment of our \$5,000 commitment to Habitat for Humanity. Our YTD budget deficit of \$26,279.11 is offset by 2019 surplus of \$7,646.18 to produce 2020 YTD Net Income of -\$18,632.93 (deficit). This result is not unexpected and is alignment with our approved 2020 budget projections.

Our current plans call for a resumption of in-person worship for June 7, but we want to assure you that Zion will also continue to function in a virtual manner and we will continue to support our planned ministry functions. We encourage your continued financial support to accomplish these objectives and count our blessings that you are able assist to the extent that you can manage. We realize this is a troubling time and that significant impacts to your personal finances may be occurring.

**Update:** Our newly established electronic giving options have been working very well. A significant number of Zion members are now utilizing this option, accounting for 20% of total April giving. If you are not currently using this option but would like to try it, you may get started using the

following links based on your desired electronic connection. There is also a link on the Zion-NC.com website for On-Line giving

For giving using a PC <https://abundant.co/zionlutheranchurch/give>

For mobile giving from a smartphone <https://abundant.co/zionlutheranchurch/mobilegiving>

*Or you can use the QR code attached.*



We know that we can get through this crisis by trusting to God's blessings and exercising appropriate personal responsibility. The pandemic has forced us to improve Zion's infrastructure and enhance our capability for virtual worship when "face-to-face" contact has been restricted. We will continue to refine and improve our capabilities; they will continue to be utilized.

Please stay connected and supportive! We have enjoyed our weekly calls with you, and pray for God's blessings and support as we experience the coming days.

God's peace and blessings for you all!

**Faithfully yours,  
John Rhodes  
Resource Ministry**

## **SOCIAL MINISTRY**

Hooray! We can start to be a little more Social now! The key is to be a "little more" Social but to do it safely. Everyone's situation is different so people need to do whatever they need to do right now to protect themselves and others from the COVID-19 virus. And what that looks like may be different for some of us (masks/no masks, staying in/going out), and that is ok. We are so thankful to be back to being able to be in church again. And of course it will be different than before - I may need to park somewhere different or sit somewhere different - but does that even matter in the scheme of things? I will sit on a stool in the corner if that is what I need to do to be back in our church - back in front of the wooden cross. Sounds like a good trade-off to me. For those of you needing to stay in, we are so lucky to have the recorded

service available for you. Stay in and stay safe and we will be with you in spirit!



We are continuing to plan for the Cruise In Car night here at Zion on July 24th. Cars, games, food.....Admission is free. Proceeds from the 50/50 raffle will go to benefit Domestic Violence Project Serving Stark County. More details to come!

The Social Ministry continues to plan for September 13, 2020 the ELCA's dedicated day of service for God's Work Our Hands day. It's likely that our day of service will include "Earth Day - Caring for Creation". What a great way to take care of God's creation, sharing the love of Christ through service to our neighbors using Our Hands. More details to come. We will be ordering plenty of yellow ELCA T-shirts and of all sizes. Everyone is welcome!

**God's work.  
Our hands.**



Please pray for patience as our congregation moves into a new phase of worshipping. Help us Lord to remember to focus on what we have - and not to bother with how things used to be. Give us a sense of humor as we work out a new way of doing things. Let us feel the joy of being safely back together at Zion.

Laura Thompson  
Social Ministry

## **WITNESS MINISTRY**

I am new to the witness committee but I am looking forward to bringing Mark's visions to light. I have been working on continuing some of the projects he had started.

## **WEBPAGE**



The webpage is in progress. The committee designed a layout of what we felt the page should look like and forwarded it to the Web Designer. He

is in the process of setting the page up for our review. We hope to have our webpage up and running by the end of summer at the latest.



## FACEBOOK



Our Facebook page is up. Refer to zionnorthcanton for updates, Sunday Services and fun videos and posts. Let us know what you think.

## GREETERS



I am working on scheduling greeters. If you or someone you know is interested in becoming a greeter, please let me know at (330) 705-4696.

## COMMUNITY GARDEN

I will be meeting with the committee for the community garden. I would like to hopefully get this up and running by this summer. If you have a green thumb and would like to help out, let me know.



I am excited to see what the future of this committee will bring. I know we have some challenges right now, but things are starting to look up. I am looking forward to when we can all be together again and celebrate our faith.

Susan Whalen

## WORSHIP MINISTRY



I am excited to invite you to join us to worship outside in the pavilion or in your cars. We have created two different worship services. One service for

those who feel more comfortable gathering outside and a traditional service in the sanctuary. Please rest assured that we are taking every practical precaution to follow the state's guidelines and those suggested by the Northeastern Ohio Synod to keep everyone safe.

Our first service will be held on Sunday, June 7<sup>th</sup> in the sanctuary at 9:00 am. New protocols for worship that will keep everyone aware of proper social distancing are listed in the newsletter. I am happy to say that we will be offering communion

at all services. We will be honoring our high school graduates on this day, so we hope to see you there.

Our second service will be offered on Wednesday evenings every week at 7:00 pm, come rain or shine. We are suggesting that you bring your own chairs and place them at least six feet apart. Most of the picnic tables will be removed to allow for more space.

For those who wish to sit in their cars, we are providing a way for you to listen to the service on your FM radio. More information to come. Communion will also be offered without leaving your car. The map shows the approximate location of where you should park if you decide to join the service from your car. Anyone who wishes to sit in the pavilion should park where it is indicated as additional parking. **See map on Page 19.**

It will be great to see each other at church once again. For those who feel they do not want to join in the live service yet, we will still be offering a video recording on our website each week shortly after each Sunday service.

Brian Walters  
Worship Ministry Elder

## COMFORT GIVERS



As we reflect on the past three months with all that has happened in our lives with the virus, we pause to give God our thanks and praise for keeping us healthy, steadfast in Faith and Hope for a cure.

The video for Sunday worship services has been a great blessing. Hearing Pastor's voice emphasizing the "Gospel News", his compassion to all has been very comforting.

We cannot forget council members who called to let us know of updates, encouragement, and care for our health and well being. It was so appreciated.

There has been a committed and dedicated group working tirelessly, making new renovations within the church. I understand we will see many changes. The drapes, from Luther Hall, have been recycled by Darlene, Debbie, and Dave to make comfort backs for missions.

In a few weeks the Comfort Givers will continue their work. We hope to **start on the 4th Thursday, June 25th at 9:30 am.** God willing, we will see you then. We must get off our “britches and back to stitches”.

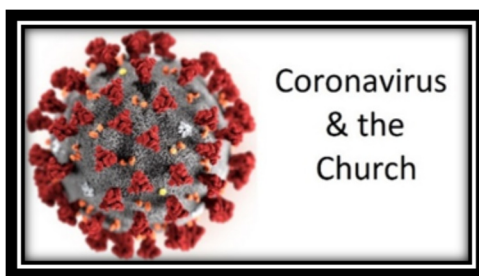
Love to All,  
Betty Tracy

### ZION'S FINANCIAL FACTS IN APRIL 2020

April Income	\$25,675.79
Income through April	\$81,992.23
April Expenses	\$32,351.95
Expenses through April	\$108,271.34
<b>April Deficit</b>	<b>-\$ 6,676.16</b>
<b>2020 YTD Deficit</b>	<b>-\$26,279.11</b>

*We thank you for your generous support!*

Pastor's Ponderings  
June, 2020



Wow! Did anybody think we would be shut down this long? As I write this, we do not have any clear direction for when Ohio will start gathering in groups larger than ten. How much longer will we be shut down? What can we do in the meantime? What can we do differently?

A church that is only concerned with what happens for an hour on Sunday morning is a church that does not heed Christ's command to go and serve others. At the end of every worship service we hear the

words: Go in peace, share the Good News. Our response is always; Thanks be to God. A true feeling of thanks is expressed in our action, not our words. So, are we living that command? Is our distancing from one another only physical or is it also an emotional and supporting distance too? So I'm pondering:

- During this pandemic we lost a loved member of our congregation and could not come together to mourn and offer comforting compassion. Others in our congregation are mourning their own family issues and are anxious about job situations. How are each of us doing in caring for our siblings in Christ?
- Many of our older congregants are longing to re-engage with a live person. Many are stimulated and enjoying the weekly phone calls from Council and Pastor, but they still feel isolated and need more. What are the rest of us doing to show love for our siblings in Christ?
- We have several high school graduates this year who are having to navigate an upside down graduation. We planned to have a rite of recognition and quilt gifting the first week of June, but will we be able to? How are each of us making this time special for our siblings in Christ?
- Prior to the pandemic we had many people who came to church much less than weekly. Will people get so comfortable not coming to church that they might not be anxious to return?

Hmm, what will we ponder next time?

Graciously, Pr. William



## News from Zion's Youth

### Happy Birthday to:



### Upcoming Events – Mark your calendars!

**Sunday, June 7<sup>th</sup>: Recognition of Graduates at 9:00 an Service**

**Week of July 13-17<sup>th</sup>: Vacation Bible School - M thru Th 9am – 12:30pm & F 9am – 1pm**

**Sunday, September 13<sup>th</sup>: Start of 2020-21 Sunday School Classes**

### Sunday School – Pre-K thru High School

As a reminder, we will be taking a break this summer from Sunday School. There will be no Sunday School classes this summer. We will start up again in September when classes resume on Sunday, September 13, 2020.



We will honor our High School graduates during the 9:00 am service on Sunday, June 7<sup>th</sup>. Please join us to congratulate and wish the best of luck and God's blessings to Justin Dague, Jeremy Fox, Cassie Frank, Chrissy Nicholson, Emma Parkomaki, Jacob Parkomaki, Marcus Rhodes, and Casey Walters.

### VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL: JULY 13 -17<sup>TH</sup> HHQ

Please note, the week's planned activities may change or be cancelled due to the current pandemic. any & all activities will be done with everyone's health & safety being our first priority.

Join us July 15<sup>th</sup> – 19<sup>th</sup> at HERO HEADQUARTERS for Vacation Bible School this year. VBS will be from 9 am – 12:30 pm Monday through Thursday and 9 am – 1 pm Friday. Registration and sign in will begin each day at 8:45 am so we can get our morning started right at 9 am!



It is going to be a week-long mission full of fun, fellowship and learning with super lessons, music, games, snacks, crafts and service projects. This year's lessons will introduce the kids to people in the Bible who were everyday, ordinary people that God chose to use as heroes. They will join forces with God and see that He uses all of us as his heroes to do his work. As God's heroes, our daily missions will be: **Do the Unexpected, Take Action, Step Out on Faith, Save the Day and Stand for Truth.**

Our VBS program is designed for children age 4 through those who have completed 5<sup>th</sup> grade. Our youth who have completed 6<sup>th</sup> grade and higher are invited to help during the week. We have many volunteer & service opportunities that will be planned for these youth! Registration packets are available in the Church Office. Please turn in your completed forms by **Friday, July 10<sup>th</sup>** in order to help us order sufficient supplies. We will still accept registrations during the week of VBS if space is available. We will have a short music program on Friday, July 19<sup>th</sup> at 12:00 pm which will be followed by pizza and ice cream in the gym. Everyone is invited to join us for this Hero Celebration that will mark the end of a great week



## SERVICE at VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL



Service will be a main focus again this year which is a great tradition at Zion's VBS. We have planned many service projects, some familiar and some different. The children will experience how important serving others and God is in their lives! We hope they will see that no matter how old you are, you can truly make a difference in showing others how to be one of **God's heroes** through their helpful and loving actions! The following is a summary of this year's projects:

**OFFERING** – There will be a friendly contest each day between the boys and girls to collect change. Each team will have a jar and the jar with the most money “wins”! This money will be donated to a charity chosen by the children during the week of VBS. Please join in and help!

**FOOD PANTRY** – We ask that each child bring in a food item each day if possible. This food will help stock Zion's food pantry, helping so many families in the community. **Items most needed are Pasta Sauce, Canned Fruit (especially pineapple), Instant Oatmeal, Strawberry Jelly, and crunchy peanut butter.**

**SCHOOL SUPPLIES** - The children will be collecting school supplies for children in our community and the Wernle Youth & Family Treatment Center. Please bring donated items by Friday, July 17<sup>th</sup>. Here is a list of needed items if you would like to donate to this project:

<b>Crayons &amp; Markers</b>	<b>Colored Pencils</b>	<b>Glue – bottles &amp; sticks</b>
<b>Note Book Paper</b>	<b>Pencils &amp; Erasers</b>	<b>Scissors</b>
<b>Composition Notebooks</b>	<b>Folders &amp; Binders</b>	<b>Backpacks</b>

**QUILT SQUARES** - The children will once again create quilt squares for Zion's Quilters to sew quilts for Lutheran World Relief. We will raffle 1 quilt to be chosen Friday. Tickets will be available during the week - 1 for \$1 or 6 tickets for \$5.

**STARK COUNTY HUMANE SOCIETY** - We will be collecting items to help the Humane Society all week. **Items most needed in the summer are Dry Puppy & Kitten Food, Cat litter, Bleach, Blue Dawn Dish Soap, toys for the cats and dogs.** You can find more information about the Stark County Humane Society on their website at [www.starkhumane.org](http://www.starkhumane.org) where there is a complete list of items they need, volunteer opportunities and how you can adopt a pet. Please bring in all donations by Friday, July 17<sup>th</sup>.

**DAILY PROJECTS** - The children will work on several service projects throughout the week at Zion and at home.

We are looking forward to a great week and hope you will join us! We will need volunteers for the week! Please consider joining us one, two or all five days. It truly is a rewarding and enjoyable experience with a great group of kids! Sign-up sheets are located in Luther Hall for volunteers and items needed for the week, along with donation cans for those who are interested in helping. If you have any questions, or would like to volunteer, please call Debbie Fox at (330)966-2433 or email at [dfox521@sbcglobal.net](mailto:dfox521@sbcglobal.net).

**As always thank you for your great support!**

## Youth Spotlight – Father's Day!





***Senior Spotlight – Justin Dague***  
**Graduating from Hoover High School**

High School Activities: Football (4 years)

College: undecided

Plans after graduation: Right now I have a landscaping job. I've always loved wearing shorts and a tee shirt and I love being outside.

Highlight of senior year: Graduating!

One thing I will remember: Playing football

Favorite memory: Winning the Federal League Championship in football my junior year

Favorite year: My senior year

Most challenging year: My sophomore year

Favorite class during senior year: American Sign Language because it gave a better understanding how deaf people can communicate.

Favorite class all of high school: American Sign Language (ASL)

Favorite trend or fad: none

Favorite church related memory: The Easter egg hunts

Favorite thing to do in my spare time: Playing basketball

Favorite or most used emoji: Face with sunglasses

Favorite social media platform: Instagram

3 words that best describe me: Ornery, Ornery, and Ornery

I am always happy to see my parents because I love them.

I am most grateful for my parents.

I am inspired by my parents because they are good role models for me.

I will never forget the time we pulled into a rest area and got to talk to the driver of Jeff Gordon's race car hauler. He gave us a hat and a poster.

I could not live without camping and boating with my family.

In 20 years I'm going to be 38.

I always listen to funky music.



## ***Senior Spotlight – Jeremy Fox*** **Graduating from Hoover High School**

High School Activities: Track, Cross Country & ASL Club – 1 year; National Honor Society – 2 years

I am going to Ohio University.

I plan to study electrical engineering.

The highlight of my senior year has been going crazy at the football games and leading the student section.

I will forever remember my calculus and statistics teacher.

My favorite high school memory would have to be my calculus class because we learned everything we were supposed to and then just messed around, listening to music and making the best of our senior year.

My favorite year of high school had to be my senior year.

Junior year was most likely the most difficult year because it was one of the so close yet so far moments.

My favorite class would be Calculus because of the teacher and my friends that were in it.

I'd say the latest trend I remember would be the TikTok app trend.

My favorite church related memories are all those related to helping out with VBS and getting to play with the kids.

My favorite thing to do in my spare time is going fishing or riding off-road vehicles.

I do not have a favorite emoji.

Snapchat would most likely be my favorite social media platform.

Three words that best describe me: Young, wild and free

I am always happy to see both my mom and dad because they are the most loving and caring people who I will always appreciate.

I am most grateful for my family because I could not have asked for a better one.

I am inspired by my dad because he always works insanely hard but never loses sight of what really matters and always makes time for his family and puts us first.

I will never forget my grandfather because he was my best friend and an amazing role model whom I always looked up to.

I could not live without my dog, Maggie.

In 20 years, I plan to be a successful engineer with an amazing wife and a great life.

I always listen to country music.

I enjoy volunteering at the church food pantry because the feeling of helping people in need is the best feeling, and the people there are awesome.





***Senior Spotlight – Cassie Frank***  
**Graduating from Hoover High School**

List High School Activities: Lacrosse

Where are you going to college? Kent State University

What do you plan to study in college? Biology

Highlight of your senior year: Being friends with more people

One thing you will remember forever about your time in High School: All the fun times I had with my friends

Favorite High School memory: Going to football games with friends

Favorite year of High School: Senior year

Most challenging year of High School: Sophomore year

Favorite class and why during senior year & all of High School: Medical Interventions/Biomedical Innovations (MI/BI) - it was an interesting class, and I liked my teacher

Trend or fad do you remember most from High School: Fidget spinners

Favorite church related memory: Vacation Bible School

Favorite thing to do in you spare time: Hang out with friends

Favorite or most used emoji this year: Laughing face emoji

Favorite social media platform: Snapchat

Three words that best describe me: Caring, Funny, Good friend

I am always happy to see my friends because they make me laugh.

I am most grateful for family and friends.

I am inspired by my grandpa.

I will never forget the memories I made with all of my friends.

I could not live without my phone.

In 20 years, I'm going to be successful.

I always listen to pop/rap music.



***Senior Spotlight – Chrissy Nicholson***  
**Graduating from Hoover High School**

High School Activities: Link Crew (1 year), Student Social Justice (3 years), Speech & Debate (1 ½ years)

I am going to The University of Akron.

I plan on studying business.

The highlight of my senior year has been being in charge of all the staff and holiday sales in culinary.

One thing I will remember forever about my time in high school are my two years of culinary class and all of the life, business, and cooking skills I learned.

My favorite high school memories were the late night hangouts with my friends going to Steak n' Shake, Target, bowling, etc.

My favorite year of high school was my senior year.

My most challenging year of high school was my sophomore year.

My favorite class overall in high school was culinary which was my junior and senior year and my favorite subject throughout high school was math (not including geometry)

The trend I remember most about high school was when chokers were a huge fashion trend.

My favorite church related memory was catechism class and the donut parties before the Easter/Christmas plays.

My favorite thing to do in my spare time is hangout with my friends, do makeup, shop, and paint.

My most used emoji this year was the laughing-crying emoji and the pink heart with gold sparkles.

My favorite social media platform is TikTok.

Three words that best describe me: Strong, Beautiful, and Kind

I am always happy to see my best friend because they are always there for me through the good and bad times and they make everything better.

I am most grateful for my friends and family.

I am inspired by people who stand up for others and what they believe in because they are the ones that I believe make the biggest impact in the world.

I will never forget the time when I got part of my speech for the Student Social Justice Showcase in the paper my freshman year because it was a moment where I realized that I am truly powerful enough to make a change in the world. It was especially empowering having that happen being the first year the group was established and being the only freshman.

I could not live without my friends and family.

In 20 years, I'm going to be happy.

I always listen to a wide variety of music.

I enjoy volunteering at food pantries.



***Senior Spotlight – Marcus Rhodes***  
**Graduating from Hoover High School**

High School activities: Robotics

Where are you going to college? University of Cincinnati

What do you plan to study in college? Mechanical Engineering

Highlight of your senior year? My time in my privilege period with my friends and the monitors.

One thing you will remember forever about your time in High School: The coronavirus pandemic.

Favorite High School memory: When a squirrel bit a power line and we got to go home.

Favorite year of High School: Freshman Year

Most challenging year of High School: This one (senior year)

Favorite class and why during senior year: It's not technically a class but my privilege period was really fun since I had so many friends in it.

Trend or fad do you remember most from High School: Fidget Spinners, it's really the only one I remember

Favorite church related memory: Helping Jeremy do science experiments for the kids at VBS.

Favorite thing to do in your spare time: Watch movies with my family or hangout with my friends.

Favorite or most used emoji this year: The crown

Favorite social media platform: My favorite is Snapchat since I text and send photos or videos to my friends so we can still talk even when we aren't together.

Three words that best describe you: Cool, calm, collected

I am always happy to see my parents because they have always been supportive and given me a helping hand when I need it.

I am most grateful for my friends and family.

I am inspired by my mom as she continues chugging along even when the going gets tough.

I will never forget winning a state championship in Little League because I got to play baseball, win, and travel with many of my closest friends.

I could not live without food and water.

In 20 years, I'm going to be living my best life.

I always listen to some rap but I don't listen to music much.

I enjoy volunteering at the Food Bank to help those who need food get it.



## ***Senior Spotlight – Casey Walters*** **Graduating from Jackson High School**

High School Activities: Polar Bear Mascot, JSA, Jacks & Jills, Band, Chorale, Musical

I am going into the United States Navy serving as a Boatswain's Mate.

The highlight of my senior year was the band trip to Philadelphia and New York City. It was that good!

One thing I will remember forever about my time in high school is my social circle. There were eight of us.

My favorite high school memories were sophomore year Science and sophomore lunch.

My favorite year of high school was my sophomore year.

My most challenging year of high school was my junior year.

My favorite class senior year was Theater, and my favorite class through all of High School was 10th grade Science.

The trend I remember most about high school was memes.

My favorite church related memory was Confirmation Class.

My favorite thing to do in my spare time is hangout with my friends.

My most used emoji this year was the laughing emoji, hands down.

My favorite social media platform is Instagram.

Three words that best describe me: Positive, Energetic and Comic relief

I am always happy to see my mom and dad. They were the biggest influence on how I came to be.

Other than my family, I am most grateful for God.

Other than my family members, I am inspired by Mark Votaw. He was one of the most spiritual, humble, loving and hilarious people I knew. He was a lot like another father to me. May he rest in peace. I miss him every day.

I will never forget High School because that was basically my prime. There were so many memories and relationships made that will last for so long.

I could not live without God and music.

In 20 years, I'm going to be living in Florida and starting a family.

I always listen to any kind of music.

I haven't done much volunteering, but I enjoy choosing to go to Pastor's Bible studies.





Thank You to Pastor for the prayers and cards and Kay Davis and the prayer chain for their support during Tom Malicki, my brother-in-law's short time in hospice.

G. Scott Gross and Family

### More Pastor's Ponderings June 2020

We posted comic to the left to our Facebook page with the comment: *"Yes, Mrs. Jones is encouraged to come to our church looking like this. Some of our bolder congregants are even talking about installing cup holders in the pews."*

There were some re-posts of the comic; one in particular commented; *"Things we need to consider when we re-open."*



Hmm, are there things we should be considering? Like, maybe...

- ...the coming warm weather might give us an opportunity to try something new and exciting? How can we capitalize on the good weather and people's need to get out of the house by offering outside and safe-practice worship and/or activities?
- ...the congregation could be strengthened through the use of small group activities? Our recently enacted Zoom Bible Discussion had an initial interest of twelve people, and is growing weekly. What other types of small groups can we start to gather by: Zoom, phone, or around the picnic table (less than ten people per group, of course), or...?
- ...there is more need for church out there than we realize? In times of despair, people turn to church (remember what happened after September 11, 2001.) But people can't come to church now. In what ways can we go to them?

Hmm, what will we ponder next time?

Graciously, Pr. William



## Recommended

## Reading

**Part 2**

Did you read last month's article? Was your curiosity piqued?  
 Did you do anything in response?  
 Did you do anything to be part of the solution?

Let us begin this month in prayer, using the Prayerful Commitment from Chapter One

*God, open my eyes that I might see my church as You see it. Let me see where change needs to take place, even if it is painful to me. And use me, I pray, to be an instrument of that change whatever the cost. Amen. p8*

Can I really commit to being open to whatever God wants; even if it isn't what I want, or it costs me my comfort, time, or resources? Will I be like some, who drop and run at the first sign of challenge or different way of doing things? God, give all of us the strength and courage to listen and then trust.

Our author, president of one of the largest Christian resource companies in the world, was called in to help a church that had seen their weekly attendance drop to 83. He notes that the reality was that most of the members did not want him there. They didn't want someone telling them something they didn't want to hear – that they were no longer a healthy church. Our authors asks us:

*If your church was given a “physical exam” today, what do you think the doctor’s diagnosis would be: healthy, slightly sick, very sick, or dying? Why? P9*

Our author states that it is rare for long-term members to see the slow erosion in their church. Growth comes quickly, but usually decline is slow. This gradual erosion is the worst kind of decline because they don't see it taking place before their eyes and there is no sense of urgency to change things to reverse the decline. The picture below is from a gathering of the Sunday School class of 2006. Take a look, reminisce, then answer the question below the picture.



*What was your church like twenty years ago versus today? Do you see any signs of gradual erosion? P15*

Our author says the most pervasive and common thread of declining churches is that they live with the past as something to be restored. They cling to the way things used to be. They long for the good old days. They are not clinging to biblical truths. They are not clinging to serving others as God commands.

Instead, they are fighting for the past to return. They hear others telling them times are different and things need to change, but they are resisting and wearing down the visionaries. They want what they want – after all, they are the ones who still come to church. They are focusing on their own needs instead of the needs of others.

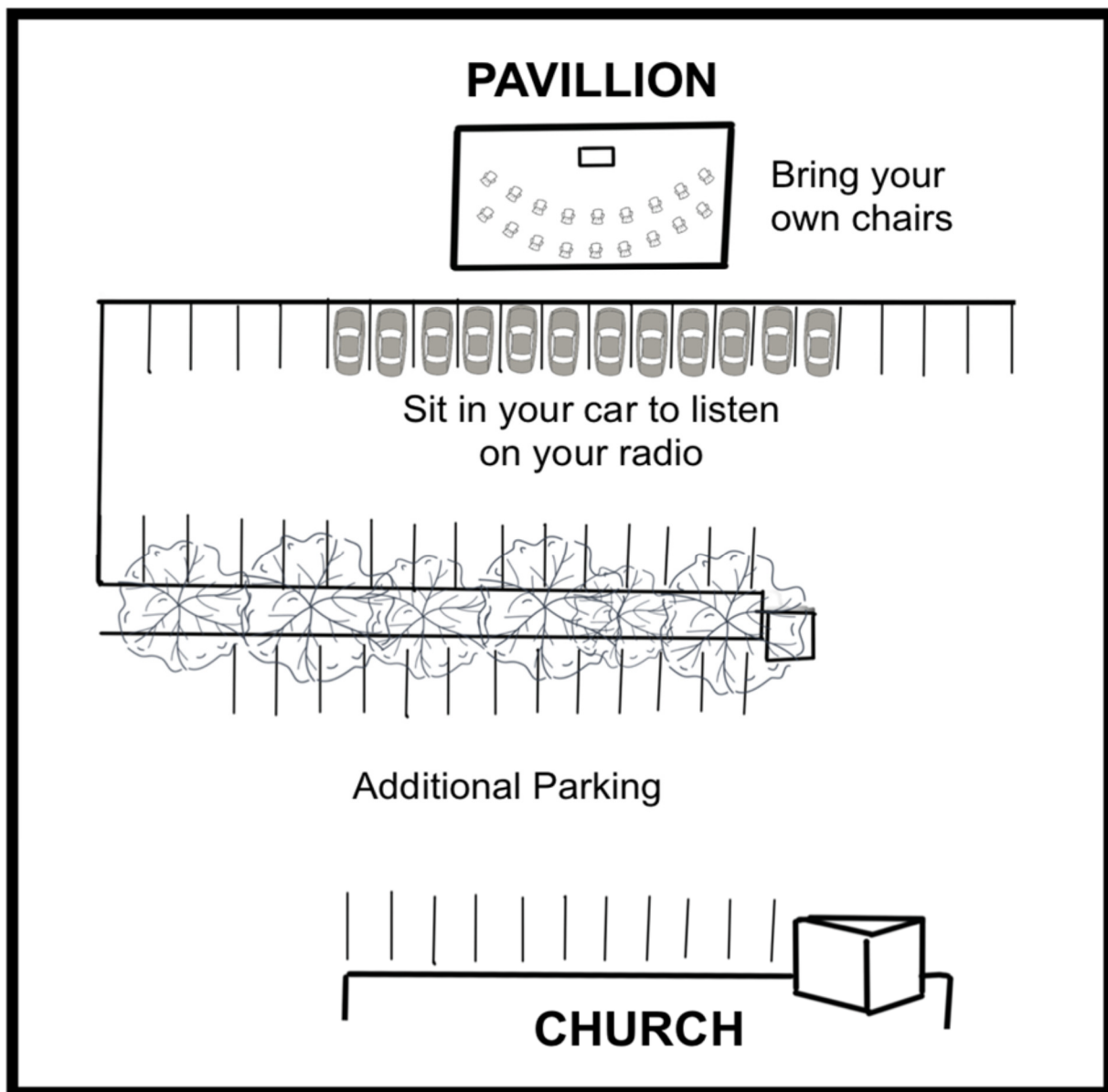
*Are there any areas in your church where you are resisting change simply because of your own preference? P24*

At the end of each chapter, the author, offers a Prayerful Commitment. Perhaps we are willing to start there – prayer. Please join your Council and Pastor with this Prayerful Commitment from Chapter 3:

**PRAY,  
LISTEN,  
OBEY.**  
REPEAT  
AS NEEDED

*God, teach me to not hold onto those things in my church that are my personal preferences and styles. Show me not only how to let go, but where to let go, so that I may heed Your commands more closely. Amen. P23*

Continued from Worship Ministry Report on Page 6



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# READ PAGES 2, 6, & 19 FOR IMPORTANT HEALTH CRISIS CHANGES AT ZION

## Worship Services

Sunday Morning: 9:00 a.m. Traditional Worship

## Church Office Hours

Monday through Friday, 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.

Pastor: The Rev. William Weidenbach, Jr.	1-850-766-5853
Church Council President: Darlene Milavickas	330-412-4336
Church Office Secretary: Vicki Givler	330-499-3909
Church Office Secretary E-Mail:	Office@zion-nc.com
Organist: Jack Brannen	
Christian Ed. Director: Debbie Fox	330-966-2433
Chancel Flowers: Vicki Givler	330-499-3909
Church Office Fax Number	330-499-0801
Prayer Chain: Kay Davis	330-494-6267
Prayer Chain: Email	stitchandsewk810@sbcglobal.net
<a href="http://www.zion-nc.com">www.zion-nc.com</a>	

