



# MAY—AUGUST NEWSLETTER

## 2018

# *Foothills United Methodist Church*

· PASTOR'S CORNER  
May-August 2018

Many years ago, a young midwestern lawyer suffered such deep depression that his friends thought it wise to keep all knives and razors from him. During this time he wrote "I am now the most miserable man living. Whether I shall ever be better. I cannot tell. I awfully forebode I shall not." He was wrong. He did recover and went up to become one of America's most loved president, Abraham Lincoln.

Almost every day mass media and communication make a tragic sound and bring us miserable stories one after another. I myself also feel frustrated by the sad stories I hear of our parishioners who are living through challenging circumstances like the miserable mother in the movie. The longer I do my parish ministry the more stories of frustration I do hear. Then how can I help them as a pastor? I come to always the same answer - there is no other way but encouraging them.

For many people of this day no longer can afford to listen to the words of criticism or frustration mentally and emotionally even from their immediate family, no matter how true they are. It merely crushes their soul to abandoning their life. So, I'm determined to encourage those who live every day hearing the sound of frustration in the battle of life. For life is getting more tough and difficult to live these days than ever before. And, no one travels the road of life without being frustrated and discouraged at one time or another.

But, the worst thing is that people keep carrying their miserable feelings and nursing the hurts all the time. This mind-attitude only produces a whole new batch of emotional demons to torment our soul. That's the reason why anger, disappointment, self-pity, and even vengeance become a mixed-up recipe for many people living in today's world.

Yet, you and I have faith. Without faith we cannot go through all such hardship and perplexities of life. We have hope that our loving God will settle the score in a way that will be helpful, not hurtful to all who come near to him for help. And, we believe that God knows ins and outs of our entire upsetting situation a lot better than us. He understands our adversaries better than we do.

Especially, when it looks as if your dreams are turning to ashes in your hands, remember this - Keep on believing just as young Joseph did amidst unending hardship! His dream may have been totally shattered when sold to the Egyptians as a slave and also, when imprisoned by the false accusation of the lustful wife of his master, Potiphar. Nevertheless, Joseph kept standing on his strong feel of faith.

Dr. Robert Schuller said, "faith doesn't immunize us from difficulty. But, it does radically alter our attitude." How true he is! Our church people notice me use often the words of wisdom written in Ecclesiastes. Let me share with you one more wisdom - "It is better to go to a home where there is mourning than to one where there is a party... Sorrow is better than laughter, it may sadden your face, but it sharpens your understanding."(Ecclesiastes 7:2-3) What a wonderful word of wisdom and deep insight!

Sorrow is not merely bad when we use it to sharpen our spiritual insight and help ourselves grow more ripen. Failure is not to be interpreted only in negative way. God speaks to us through his prophet, Isaiah: "Do not remember the former things, nor consider the things of old. Behold, I will do a new thing... I will even make a road in the wilderness." (Isaiah 43:18-19)

Yes, dear beloved, when our God promised to make a road even in the wilderness where nothing hopeful and productive is seen, isn't it possible that the same God is able to produce something marvelous out of failures and ruins we're suffering now? Even after the defeat in the battlefield, the ultimate winner speaks of "regrouping." And, Jim Rohn, philosopher and business expert said, "Defeat is nothing but education; it is the first step towards something better." The apostle Paul had the same invincible spirit as he encouraged the early Christians constantly living in the circumstance of depression - "We are pressed on every side by troubles, but not crushed and broken. We are perplexed because we don't know why things happen as they do, but we don't give up and quit. We are hunted down, but God never abandons us. We get knocked down, but we get up again and keep going" (2 Corinthians 4:8,9)

Yes, dear friends, that is an act of dynamic faith for us to take based on the truth God has proved through the triumph of the risen Christ on Easter. So, do not stay or stuck with your old memories of failure or mistake. Instead, regroup your mind, analyzing its causes and re-searching new ideas. Concentrating the focus of your life on God, try again but not alone this time but with Him who will give you wisdom and power. Jesus said, that is faith and it moves mountains! You and I desperately need it today!

*Rev. Moon Ho Kim*

## **Newsletter**

This newsletter will contain articles for May-June plus much of our summer news. If there is news that needs to go out during the summer we will send it to the e-mails we have as well as an insert to our bulletin. Our summer news is very limited. Our next full newsletter will go out the first of September.

There will be some changes again to the newsletter. We are trying very hard to be good stewards of our finances and therefore will be mailing only a limited number of newsletters. If you have an e-mail, we will send you the newsletter that way. If you do not have e-mail, we will have a few copies at church to pick up. We will deliver newsletters to our shut-ins and nursing homes when we do our monthly visitations. Please see Isabelle or Cindy VanAllen for the preferred method of delivery.

## **Finance Report**

We were able to pay all our bills March 31st with the exception of Ministry Shares. We need to work harder to become self- sustaining in the coming year. Please continue to pay your pledges and participate in our various fund raisers.

## **YOUTH GROUP NEWS**

By the time you read this, the youth will probably have completed this year's 30-hour famine. In the twelve years we have participated, we have raised over \$11,000 to feed starving children in the world. The number of children dying each day from hunger related illnesses has dropped from 28,000 to 8,000! All because of youth groups like ours who decide to go without so others can live. I couldn't be prouder of these kids!!

Had to believe but the year is drawing to a close! We have not been as busy this year as prior years, mostly because I am getting tired! For that reason, I need to announce that I will be stepping down as youth group leader at the end of this year. I have done youth ministry since 1995 and just do not have the energy it takes to be an effective leader in this very important ministry. Nominations will be looking for a replacement and I pray someone will step forth and guide these awesome young people in service to God and the world! It's not nearly as scary as it sounds! The group is small but their hearts are huge!

I have a greed to stay on and mentor the new leader, if they would like me to. I would like to be finished by December of this year.

Youth group is open to all youth, churchd and unchurchd, from the ages of 10 to high school graduation. We are a small but active group who strives to be God's hands and feet in the world.

Please search your hearts and, if you are feeling called to this ministry, contact Pastor Kim or the nominations committee. I'll be happy to talk to anyone who wants to know more. No arm-twisting, I promise!!!

Respectfully submitted,  
Sharon Diefendorf

## **Nurture Team**

We continue to do our visitations to our shut-ins. It seems to be going well. Anyone interested in joining us please contact me. Janet Findlay continues to do a great job sending out cards. I have been making cards (one of my favorite crafts to do) for different holidays and we take the when we do our visitations. We are more than happy to try and help other committees with their missions.

Andrea White

## Why Build a New Worship and Ministry Center?

As we've publicized our recent crowd funding effort through GoFundMe.com some folks have raised the question about, "*why build a new facility at all?*"

Interestingly enough, these questions were addressed years ago before entering the original project phase, but enough time has elapsed that what was once old is new again and so, the old questions are being recycled. The answers to the question, "*Why should we build?*" are myriad. For ease of reading we'll present the answers in "bullet" form.

Q.: *Why should we build a new worship and ministry center?*

A.: *Because...*

When our congregations merged we established a covenant that we would relocate to a new worship and ministry center that would be "ours together" rather than "*their* church just re-named."

Our current 33,000 square foot facility is both too large and poorly laid out to serve today's ministry needs.

Spending a million dollars on the current building would leave us with a very old building that still did not meet current building safety codes, would still be too large and poorly laid out for today's ministry *and* we'd be broke.

Our current worship center is nowhere near bathroom facilities and those with some medical issues are excluded from our worship by that fact.

What bathroom facilities we do have are not handicapped accessible which manages to exclude people.

The rest of our current building is not at all handicapped accessible and that manages to exclude some people.

Our elevator is so old and rickety, that while we have it serviced monthly at great cost, a number of people are afraid to use it and so stay away from worship.

Upkeep and energy costs are astronomical for this ancient 33,000 square foot facility. AND, the money we spend on energy serves to inflate what we owe to the Annual Conference in our Ministry Shares assessment.

There is no adequate or safe place for Sunday School children or youth group members to recreate. The new location would allow for numerous family picnic, and outdoor activities to take place as well as provide great outdoor space for community wide events.

While these answers are not exhaustive, you can begin to see a pretty compelling argument for building on the new site.

The next comment we want to address is the following:

Q.: *If we're having trouble meeting our annual budget, how can we justify trying to build a new worship and ministry center?*

A.: First of, we manage to close out every year with all of our bills and ministry shares paid. We sometimes use a portion of the investment income from our building fund to manage this but we end every year even. Secondly, and more to the point, if you consider that the proposed new facility is just 1/3 the size of our current 33,000 sq. ft. facility and simply reduce our current energy expenditures by 2/3 you can see that the energy costs alone would essentially balance our annual budget.

THEN, add the savings effect of proper insulation, high efficiency furnaces and LED lighting along with the addition of solar panels and the energy savings alone are more than impressive. In addition to that, a new center will require very little in annual maintenance costs, so you can easily see how that facility will not only more than balance the budget but also allow a greater focus upon mission and ministry rather than maintenance and where to scrape up the next dollar for the fuel bill.

The Next question we've heard of late is:

Q.: *What about those who walk to church?*

A.: Precious few walk to our church building but some do live in the area and are offered a lift to church by one of the brothers or sisters of our congregation. There is no reason to think that would stop. Additionally, the new worship center will be on a major bus line making it easily accessible for those who rely upon public transportation.

And finally, the last question we've had posed is:

Q.: *This is a very tough area of the inner city. Isn't this where we should be in ministry?*

A.: Yes and No. A significant number of our folks are leery of coming out at night for church meetings and programs. This makes it difficult to be in ministry with the faithful. Relocation would help with that. And yes, this portion of the city needs the presence of Christ to minister here. With so many store fronts empty at this end of town, it would be very economical to rent up to 1,000 square feet of mission space for a well-defined specific inner city mission and at once *NOT BE REQUIRED TO MAINTAIN 33,000 EXPENSIVE SQUARE FEET*. We can still be in ministry in the inner city and be more focused and effective.

There you have it, many of the major reasons to move ahead with our building project. To put in Biblical perspective consider this: when Moses led the Israelites out of Egypt and they began to encounter hardships, they grumbled at Moses sarcastically asking if there were not graves enough for them in Egypt. The truth was, there were more than enough graves for them in Egypt. But God was calling them to new life in a new land. Our old building is indeed, large enough for our collective grave. But, just as the Israelites would surely have died in Egypt had they stayed, so we will die if we choose to stay in our old building. By its location, extraordinary maintenance costs and incredible energy costs, it will, in short order, eat us alive.

We believe God calls us to NEW LIFE!

Faithfully Submitted by the Rev. Terrence O'Neill, Retired.

Adopted by the Building, Vision and Mission Team 04/11/2018

## **Worship and Music Team**

We will be welcoming new members to our church on Sunday, May 20th at our second service.

Children's Day will be celebrated on June 10th during our second service. Third grade students will receive Bibles as well as our graduating seniors. Please let Cindy VanAllen, Sandy Harrington or the office know if you have someone who should receive a Bible.

Our summer service time will be at 10:00 am and will begin on June 24th.

We will also be introducing some praise and contemporary music at all services.

## **Brooks BBQ**

Thank you to all the workers—set-up, clean-up, line workers, cookie bakers and UMW pie bakers—that helped out and participated. Your help was greatly appreciated. Thanks also to everyone who bought tickets and enjoyed the meal. We made a profit of \$1375.00 for our church expenses.

God Bless each of you,  
Linda & Steve String and Linda Flint

## **Ham and Scalloped Potato Dinner**

There will be a ham and scalloped potato dinner prepared by Sandy Harrington . It will be on Sunday, May 20th at noon. The cost will be adults \$8.00 and children under 12 \$5.00.

## **Hot Diggity Dog Luncheon**

On June 10th following church we will have a hot dog, salads, chips and cake. The cost be will be \$6.00 for two hot dogs and all the extras. If you have a special meat sauce you would like to donate we would greatly appreciate it.



## May Birthdays

Margaret Wemple	5/8	Annette Achzet-Ltaif	5/12
John Frederick	5/13	Linda Suits	5/13
Archer Harrington	5/18	Pat Green	5/22
Marty Andrews	5/26	Marion Loux	5/22
Marlene Walker	5/27	Michael Harrington	5/30
Matt Harrington	5/30	Nila Edwards	5/31

## June Birthdays

Aiden Sacerio	6/2	Leo VanAllen	6/4
Jim Baxter	6/6	Cookie Eaton	6/9
Tom Green	6/11	Dick Diefendorf	6/12
Audrey Fischer	6/15	Cameron Roten	6/15
Linda Bronk	6/16	Chuck Norvell	6/19
Fran Lyons	6/22	Chelsea Cirillo	6/24
Bette Vincent	6/25	Betty Twardy	6/26

## July Birthdays

Jan Sears	7/6	Edie Thompson	7/6
Taylor Gifford	7/7	Robert Marsh	7/8
Sally Brenner	7/11	Ed Goodemote	7/11
Tim Johnson	7/14	Pat Bender	7/19
Ron Blowers	7/20	Claudia Burlett	7/20
Lucille Blunck	7/23	Elsie Floyd	7/23
Jewel Ernst	7/24	Linda String	7/24
Roger Edwards	7/26	Addison Gifford	7/28
Myrna Longhenry	7/29	Colleen Hofmann	7/31

# **Our Church Activities**

## **Bible Study**

Pastor Kim has a Bible study held on Wednesday mornings at 10:30. They are presently studying the Book of Acts.

Cindy VanAllen is offering the Disciple I Bible Study at 1:00 on Mondays.

## **UMW**

Our Annual Mother-Daughter Banquet will be held on Monday, May 14 at 6:00 pm. Adult tickets are \$8.00 and children under 12 \$5.00. The program will be "Pretty in Pink" so please wear something pink that evening.

Our last meeting until September will be a picnic on June 25 at 6:00 pm at Sandy Harrington's home. Please bring a dish to pass. Hot Dogs and beverages will be provided.

## **MOPS**

Mothers of Pre-Schoolers meets on the first and third Thursdays of from Sept. to June at 9:30-11:30 am. There is child care provided as the leaders meet with the mothers to promote and understand motherhood. We also do a craft activity. We provide adult conversation for the moms. If you know anyone with pre-schoolers and could use some time with other moms, please contact the church office.

## **Painting**

Painting will meet on the third Thursday of each month at 2:30. We will also meet on May 3rd. If you have any questions please speak to Sandy Harrington.



## **Missions & Outreach**

Our team recently met at my home for lunch. Those attending were Pastor Garry Campbell, Kathy Blanchard, Patricia Bender, Greg Crouse, Jan Havlick, Dixie Gifford, Lucy Ostrander, Marie Buyce, Sharon Diefendorf, Pastor Kim, Insouk Kim, Patti Roten and myself. Patti Roten and Betty Myers (absent) are new to our team. We welcome them. It is a great team, and I enjoy working with them.

Each member brought along a devotional or Bible verse and we took turns reading them. Pastor Garry offered the invocation and Pastor Kim closed our get-together with a benediction. Lucy was surprised with a birthday cake to celebrate her upcoming birthday..

Our team is still filling the Bright Red Bookshelf at the Family Counseling Center. Children's books and stuffed animals are always needed. Collection boxes are on the pew in the Adirondack Room for the animal shelter, for school kits and for hygiene items and socks for local needy teens.

Alex Rhodes, a member of our knitting team, is going to help Patti and Betty to sew school kit bags for our project. We are looking for light weight canvas or a sturdy fabric to make them.

A special thank you to Sally Brenner and Lorraine Smith who helped us out throughout the Winter months on our Foothills Team at the Captain's Table at the Congregational Church. Thank you to Alex Rhodes, Cecile Zajaceskowski, Lisa Zajaceshowski, Garry Campbell and Rosemary Langley for representing our church.

Til next time, may God watch over you,  
Joyce Ashe

## **Knitting and Crocheting Group**

We continue to meet most Wednesday's at 1 pm in the lounge. Two of our snowbirds (Rosemary Langley and Pastor Cindy VanAllan) have returned from Florida with 2 more (Mary Chase and Marlene Walker) to be coming back soon. We always miss them during the winter months and are happy when they return to us.

One of our group, Louise Kowsakowski, will become a member of Foothills. We will be happy to have her as a member. May God bless you, Louise!

We are a missions group. It is a fun group. Come and get to know us.

Blessings,  
Joyce



## **Our Ministry Of Prayer**

*If you know of someone hospitalized or needing prayer care, please call the church office.)*

Wells House: Audrey Baird, Tinker Baird, Joan Gifford

Nathan Littauer Nursing Home: Marie Fisher, Marion Loux, Dorothy Coons

Fulton Care Center:

Pine View Commons: Iona Farrar, Shirley Davenpeck , Betty Kested

River Ridge Living Center:

Wilkinson Residential Facility:

Capstone Nursing Home: Ron Blowers

St. Johnsville Nursing Home:

### **Church Families to Pray For:**

Here are ten families to lift up for each month. Please pray for these families throughout your prayer time. Thank you in advance from the Nurture team

#### **May**

Pat & Tom Green

Sandy & Norm Harrington

Mike & Melinda, Archer &

Sawyer Harrington

Richard & Jan Havlick

Colleen & Mike Gage

#### **June**

Jim & Sharon Handy

Bob Hohenforst &

Marylou Warnick

Jan Intelisano

Tom & Joyce Hodge

Don & Connie Jeffers

#### **July**

Tim & Deb Johnson

Chris & Deb Johnson

Dorothy & Dick Johnson

Betty Kested

Bernie Landrio

#### **August**

Doug Lathrop

Jill Lathrop

John & Myrna Longhenry

Donna Loux

Marion Loux

## August Birthdays

Chris Johnson	8/5	Donald Fremont	8/7
Iona Farrar	8/10	Lauren Silvera	8/22
Courtney Cirillo	8/26	Shirley St. Andrews	8/29
Cindy VanAllen	8/31		

## Anniversaries

Jewel & Clayt Ernst	5/1	Tom & Pat Green	7/25
Art & Maggie Schrum	6/2	Mike & Melinda Harrington	8/6
Sandy & Gus Sacerio	6/5	Sandy & Norm Harrington	8/16
Pat & John Bender	6/6	Ernie & Joan Clapper	8/20
Myrna & John Longhenry	6/14	Pete & Vivienne Cirillo	8/30
Cindy & Leo VanAllen	6/22	Darlene and Charles Vogt	8/31
Jan & Dick Sears	6/23		
Glenna & Don Fremont	7/5		
Jack & Jan Wilson	7/11		

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**MINISTRY STAFF**

Rev. Dr. Moon Ho Kim

The Rev. Dick Sears, Pastor Emeritus

Administrative Assistant: Isabelle Connor

Music Ministry: Vivienne Cirillo and Ed Goodemote

Maintenance Engineer: Garfield Burlett

Please call the office for prayer requests or if you are homebound and would like to receive a visit and/or communion from our Pastoral Ministry Team

**Praise Service—9:00 in the Chapel**  
**Traditional Service—10:30 in the Sanctuary**

**10:00 Summer Service In the Sanctuary starting June 24th.**

**Vision Statement**

"Foothills is a community committed to worshipping God and sharing his love." Adopted April 6, 2011

**Mission Statement**

"Our mission is to promote spiritual growth and to provide multi-generational ministries in Christ's name." Adopted September 7, 2011