

The Mustard Seed

Volume 2021, Issue 1

January/February/March 2021



A Note from the Pastor

Well, here we are a brand-new year!!! 2021!! 2020 has now officially come to an end as we now usher in a brand, New Year, 2021! Now, it is common this time of year for all of us to make some sort of resolution. For example, many people, including me, make the pledge each year to be a better person and to disregard are old bad habits and begin some new, good ones. Many people, make the pledge each year that this will be the year that I will lose weight, drink more water, eat healthier and get fit. I make this pledge, every year! It has been said that 75 percent of Americans make a pledge each New Year to lose weight! You will notice that most gyms in the surrounding areas will be full this time of year because people are trying to honor their New Year's resolution. However, when February comes around most people will forget about the resolution they made in January and go back to their old habits.

Do not get me wrong I think getting fit and keeping our bodies in shape is a good thing! It is good that you and I take care of our bodies because the Bible says our body is the temple of God. I believe the Apostle Paul said it best when he told his young protégé, Timothy the following in 1 Timothy 4:8, "For physical training is of some value but godliness has value for all things, holding promise of both the present life and the life to come." In short, Paul is saying becoming more like Christ is more important than us getting fit.

YES! Physical training has some value, temporal value, but godliness has eternal value. I will take the eternal value, every time!!

Our country has been through alot last year, a world-wide pandemic (COVID-19), civil unrests, churches, and businesses being closed, and not being able to see our love ones, etc. Sadly, as I am writing this letter to you, I am watching on TV civil unrest is happening at our, Nation's Capital over the recent Presidential Election! I weep over all these events that is happening in our nation, but I also rejoice because this can be our time to shine for Jesus! I believe we can use this opportunity to bring Glory to God.

How can we do this? Be a peacemaker, pray for our leaders and nation, speak truth, speak gentle words, do not stir up trouble, love thy neighbor, do not slander your neighbor, etc. In all humility, we must remember as a Christian our true home and citizenship is in Heaven, not of this world. The Lord expects us to act like a citizen of Heaven and not a citizen of this world and if we do it will bring God Glory!

Starting on January 10th I will be beginning a ten-week sermon series, entitled, "Committed... to the things of God." Now more than ever we need to be more committed to God and the things of God. So often you and I are influenced by the world and more committed to things of this world then God. I am sure that hurts the heart of God. I hope and pray this ten-week sermon series will help us be committed to the right things, the things of God and not of this world. I am truly looking forward to the new year and serving the Lord with you.

Blessings, RJ

Would you like to get the newsletter via email? Please send your email address to the church email address and we will work on that for the next issue. The church email address is hcongch@windstream.net. Church website is www.faithwalk.com.

The Newsletter will now come out quarterly - January, April, July and October. Please put your articles, your committee events and reports in the "Newsletter" mailbox. The deadline for items to be included in the newsletter is the third Sunday of March, June, September and December. Don't forget to pass on your birthday and anniversary dates to be included in the **CELEBRATIONS** section. You can email any address changes or articles to mlou6382@yahoo.com. ***Please contact me if you would prefer not to be included on the mailing list for the newsletter.*** Make sure to let me know if your email address changes. Sometime I get messages that the newsletter is undeliverable so you may miss an issue.

Your Editor - Merry Lou Knuckles



Children's Corner
By Little Miss Church Mouse

Hi - It's me, Little Miss Church Mouse.

Well this year Christmas was a bit different than we are used to. We did not have a big family get together at my mom and dad's this year. We visited them in small groups to keep them healthy so they could drive to Arizona for the winter. I miss our big family get-togethers. My sisters and our families did get together the

week before Christmas but it was not the same without my parents there. But we treasurer each time we get together, they are the gifts you cannot return, exchange or give away.

In my family, as we open our gifts we also have the annual indoor snowball fight with wrapping paper. We laugh a lot and just enjoy being together. This year was the same but on a much smaller scale. Days after the presents were opened and everyone went home I found a crumpled up ball of wrapping paper and it got me thinking.

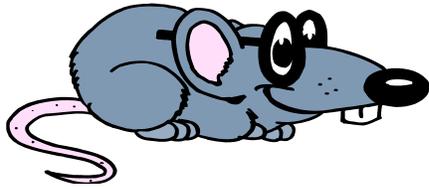
After the gifts are open, is it all over until next year?? The Christmas presents are opened, the Christmas cookies are eaten and the Christmas songs and services are over. So, do we just set the gift of Christmas aside until next year??

Luke 2:1-20 tells of the birth of Jesus. We are told how Joseph took Mary to Bethlehem to register for the census as decreed by Caesar Augustus. While they were there Mary gave birth to a baby in the manger just as the shepherds were told by the angels while out in the fields with their flocks. When they saw the baby as they were told they went and shared the good news with others. This baby came to forgive our sins and give us the chance to live with God if we just believe.

The story could have ended there but it did not. Jesus grew up to be strong and do amazing things in the name of the Lord. He talked with many people and showed them that a life with God is the best gift ever. So as we go through the year leading up to the next Christmas celebration, we need to make sure we keep the gift of Jesus' love alive in our lives.

What can we do to keep honoring this gift? Talk with your parents, grandparents and other family members to see what you can do to keep honoring this gift.

*I can't wait to - - -
See you in Church!*



.....
COMMITTEES AND BOARDS

Committee Reports

Annual Reports for all Committees and Boards are needed to be turned into the Clerk by January 17th, so they can be included in the annual report package for the Annual Meeting.

.....

Woman's Fellowship

President Debbie Walker 632-3000; V.P. Marilyn Holderman 636-6262; Treasurer Anne Johnson 537-4986; Secretary Colleen Lockhart 636-3052.

Women's Fellowship meets at the church in the room downstairs and follows guidelines for social distancing. All women of the church are invited to attend our meetings which are ordinarily held on the 2nd Tuesday of the month with Bible Study at 6:30 p.m. and the meeting at 7 p.m.

Ladies Night out was planned for Dec. 12 during the day at 3 p.m. catered at the church so we could meet in daylight to avoid night driving. However, because the church building was closed for two weeks with no worship services, we cancelled the Dec. 12 meeting.

December would have been our election of officers meeting so we voted to keep the same officers for 2021. All officers agreed to do serve another year.

Charlotte will continue as the Sunshine Fund contact so if anyone has birthdays,

anniversaries, illnesses, births, please let her know at 440-636-5307.

As far as the Pastor's office remodel goes, the glass top for the work desk in the Pastor's office has been installed which should complete the remodel. We are continuing to discuss ideas for the remodel of the Visser Room and copy room and are making a list of what we want to accomplish: cleaning, painting, remodel, furniture, etc. This may be a topic of discussion at the annual meeting.

We made donations again this year to local non-profit organizations in the amount of \$600, have approved \$75 to purchase the remaining hand towels for the personal hygiene kits to donate to Department on Aging. Lynnette had tote bags and insulated bags to donate to church as well as packets of honey for tea at our coffee hours and other events when we are able to hold those again.

A message went out to the congregation to please remember John and Billie's wedding anniversary with cards to their home. John is 98 and Billie is 97.

No meeting was held in December. We will submit an annual report to the Clerk for the annual meeting with as a summary of what we have accomplished in 2020 - a very unusual year!

Hope to be able to hold the Valentines Dinner at the church on Feb. 13. More details will follow. Hope to be able to hold a drive thru pancake breakfast during March Madness.

As everyone else, we are in a wait and see mode for the status of future fundraisers in 2021. Our next meeting is January 11 at 6:30 p.m. Ladies, please join us if you are able.

Submitted by Colleen Lockhart
WF Secretary

.....

GEMS (Girls Everywhere Meeting the Savior)

GEMS is a mentoring and discipling program for girls 1st thru 8th grade. The group meets every other Friday. Talk to Lynn Holmes or Deb Walker for details.



**Christian Service Brigade Unit 8049 at
Huntsburg Congregational Church**

2020 was a good year for the CSB Unit 8049 at Huntsburg Congregational Church. We met together on multiple occasions during the year where we played games, memorized scripture, mentored each other and learned about God's word. We had the opportunity to participate in the Battalion Klondike early in the year where the young men competed in several physical, mental and spiritual competitions with other CSB Battalions from around the region. Our battalion came in third place out of five teams in a hard fought effort which included a first place finish in fire building, bible quiz and knot tying. Some of the young men of battalion 8049 also attended summer camp in 2020 and participated in Outdoor Challenge which was the only activity that was offered in 2020 at Stony Glen Camp. The boys who attended camp learned many outdoor survival skills and were mentored in God's word during the week.

We resumed our battalion meetings in October and are currently meeting every other Wednesday night with an average attendance of 12-15 people. The goal for this year is to continue helping the young men grow in Christ through one-on-one mentoring, bible study, and group activities. Talk to Andrew Smith.

Pictures included on separate sheet.



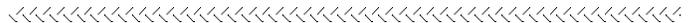
The Annual Congregational Meeting

Huntsburg Congregational Church calls you to our Annual Congregational Meeting, to be held on

Sunday, January 24, 2021. After our worship service, please stay for a potluck dinner. Following the Dinner, at 1 pm our Annual Meeting will begin. We will pray for and discuss the possibilities for HCC, including ministries, officers, committees and the budget.

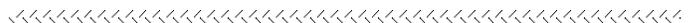


Community Corner



Coming soon.. A New Church Website

Pastor RJ and council are working on setting up a new Church Website. It will include many items like sermon notes, activities and even the Newsletter. Keep watching for more information and the launch date.



Found on Facebook:

Each of us is an innkeeper who decides if there is room for Jesus.

Do you have room for Jesus in your life? How can you be a good innkeeper?



Huntsburg Congregational Church
12435 Madison Road
P.O. Box 307
Huntsburg, Ohio 44046



*Call us any time for any need.....
at Church: 440-636-5504*

Practical real life worship on Sundays!

Church Services - 10:30 am Sundays
Adult Sunday School - 9:30 am Sundays
Children's Church during the service.
Bible Study - 11 am Mondays

A growing church with a lot of Spirit!

Where:

People are growing. Families are welcome.
The Bible is true, Jesus is Lord.
And Christianity makes sense.

*Mark your calendars and enjoy the many
different activities with your family and
friends.*

Celebrations

*Take time out during the busy week to brighten
someone's day by sending a card for their
birthday, anniversary or other special event.*

***Happy Birthday –
God Bless all of you.***

January

6th - Bunnie Myers
12th - Bill Fisher
13th - Deborah Gallagher
31st - Colleen Lockhart

February

17th - Melody Barber
19th - Dennis Judd



March

9th - Elaine Nelisse
11th - Mike Holmes
11th - Karen Smith
13th - Danielle Sweet
15th - Terri Fisher
22nd - Will Fisher & Ally Fisher
23rd - Francis Colburn
Anastasia Fisher
24th - Debbie Walker
30th - Chris Sweet
31st - Hannah Barber



***Happy Anniversary –
and many more years together...***

March

26th - Don and Fran Harr