

The Parish Portrait

Volume 1, Issue 39

September 2014

From the Pastor's Desk

Dear brothers and sisters in Christ,

Lamentations 3:22-23

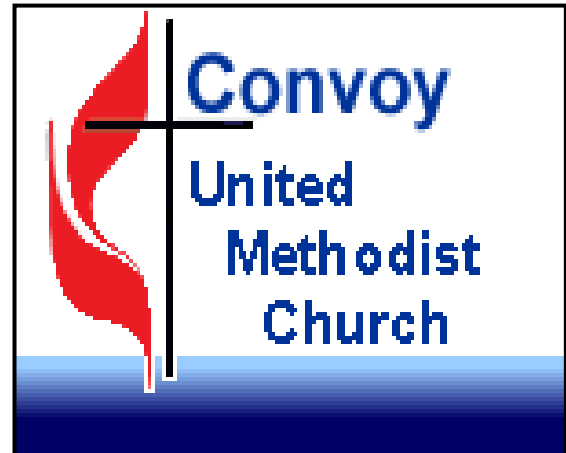
The steadfast love of the LORD never ceases, his mercies never come to an end; they are new every morning; great is your faithfulness.

Dear brothers and sisters in Christ,

September is a month in the Church in which we can experience spiritual renewal on many levels. As our schools reconvene, families also return to regular church and church school activities.

On September 14th, we celebrate Rally Days with our featured special guest: Christian Comedian "Daniel Matthew". Daniel Matthew has appeared on channel 44 Christian broadcasts and has opened for several major comedians of stage and screen. Invite family and friends for this year's Rally Days special 9:30 a.m. service with Daniel Matthew.

An exceptional mission event comes to us on September 28th, at the 9:30 service with West Ohio Conference guest speaker: Rev. Dave Boling. Rev. Boling is the *Associate Director, Council on Development West Ohio Conference Field Coordinator for Imagine No Malaria!* We will have a pickle-jar offering that morning designated for this life saving mission. Rev. Boling will remain with us for a question and answer period during the 10:30 church school hour. A carry-in potluck dinner will follow the question and answer venue with Rev.



Boling.

The afternoon of Rev. Boling's visit culminates with our second annual bike-a-thon under the leadership of our Coach Dave Bowen. Few events received more accolades than this one last year! Plan now to bring your family to participate in this great afternoon of Christian fellowship and mission ministry.

Last, but not least, we will begin our Deeper Connections Bible Study on the evening of September, 18th, 6:30 to 8:00, in the fellowship hall. This is a remarkable spiritual renewal journey entitled: *The Prayers of Jesus*.

May this coming month bring you great spiritual renewal,

Yours in Christ, Greg Leigh

Calendar of Events

Adult Choir Practice	Wednesdays 6:30pm
Lions Club Meeting	2 nd Monday monthly
UMW Meeting	Wednesday September 3 rd at 7pm in social room
Trustees Meeting	Wednesday September 17 th at 7:00pm
Administrative Board	Thursday September 25 th 7:00pm
Stitched Together	3 rd Monday of each month @ the VMC
Bike-a-thon Rally	Sunday September 28 th

CUMC Website

Don't forget to check us out on the web at www.convoyumc.org for service streaming and more content about what's going on at Convoy United Methodist.

Check us out on Facebook.
ConvoyUnitedMethodistChurch



Stop & Drop

Stop & Drop your aluminum pop tabs in the collection jars in the vestibules. The tabs will be given to Cyler Miller for his donation to the Ronald McDonald House. Another way we can support local missions. We have one full jar and will be starting another.

Pregnancy Life Center Walk

Pregnancy Life Center Walk for Life will be held on Sunday September 14, 2014 at 2pm at Fountain Park in Van Wert. "Do Something" will be the theme for this year's walk. Live music and refreshments will be available. There will be a 2 mile easy walk around the park. Pick up your registration form/sponsor sheet at church and if you get \$200. in pledges you will receive a free t-shirt. Complete the registration form and give it to Vicki Saylor, mail or drop off at the PLC at 215 N Market St. If you cannot walk that day, you may walk at your convenience. Taking part in the Pregnancy Life Center Walk for Life is one way for you to be a Disciple for Christ. It offers the opportunity to use your time, money and even your gift of gab. Please consider taking a walk form and seeking out sponsors. Come out and help make 1 Corinthians 11:1 "Follow my example, as I follow the example of Christ" a reality in your life.

Convoy Community Days

Convoy Community Days will be a one day event for 2014. Lots of downtown activities such as a craft & vendor show, kids games, churches will be having booths selling food items, kiddy tractor pull, Convoy's Got Talent, Dead Sprint and movie will be going on, as well as park activities: Fire Department Pancake & Sausage Breakfast, Basket Bingo, 2014 Convoy Days Parade with parade marshals the 2014 State Championship Crestview Knights Basketball Team, parade theme: "Winning State of Mine", Mexican Dinner & Sandwiches and Lions Club Bingo. Donations of pies, cakes & cookies are needed. The sign-up sheet on the bulletin board.

Sunday School News

RALLY DAY – September 7th! Join us downstairs after church for some fun and games. Rally day sheets may be picked up and turned in downstairs for a chance to win movie passes! All are welcome; it's for the young, and young at heart!

I'm excited to announce the changes that will be taking place in the youth Sunday school program this year. We have adopted a "One room Sunday School" approach. This will give some of our teachers a well-deserved break. The curriculum is intended for ages 3-12. We would like to welcome our junior high and high school students as helpers! We are lucky to have some great role models in our older children and I hope this will help foster their leadership skills. If they would rather participate in class, we would be pleased to welcome them!

ITEMS NEEDED:

Empty cereal boxes (may be broken down so easier to handle) you may drop them off in the Preschool Sunday School room.

THANK YOU

Helping Hands

Our community is so blessed to have a local food pantry to help those in our community. Thanks for the many donations that you have offered to the pantry. More and more families are seeking to provide food for their household. Thank you to West Central Ohio Chapter of Thrivent Financial for their donation of over \$1600 of donated items. Girl Scouts for their donation of \$250 of items. Was able to purchase a half of beef in July, thank you to all the Beef Sponsors. Planning on purchasing a beef at the 4-H auction in September. Thank you to the many monetary donations that continue to come in. Donations of food, cereal, paper products, health care items and laundry & dish soap are always accepted.

Helping Hands Food Pantry

Our community is so blessed to have a local food pantry to help those in our community. Thank you Pat Marsee for making her dream come true. I think of her often when spending time in the pantry and realizing what a blessing it has become to many people. Thank you Convoy area Boy Scouts for holding a food drive and donating around 50 sacks of items for the pantry.

Prayer Concerns

Heather (Feasby) Cramer, Gary Hale, Jasmine Coleman, Dean McOmer, Dick Burden, Greg & Madalyn Emerick, Annabelle Clevenger, June Burns, Rosalee Burns, Dale & Dorothy Gleckler, Shelly Klinker, Jodi Horn, Stella Stevens, Sharon Hyitt, Carry Profit, bob Thomas, Carolyn McCollister, Harold Roberts and the family of Nina Dealy, Fritz Stewart, Unspoken Requests

Vancrest/Convoy: Romaine Feasby

Hearth & Home: Jean McClure

Elmcrest of Lima: Nell Rice

Laurels of Rockford: Jim and Jean Thomas

"For the eyes of the Lord search back and forth across the while earth, looking for people whose hearts are perfect toward Him, so that He can show His great power in helping them."

II Chronicles 16:9 TLB



Mission Field

Dear Congregation,

You have been our friends for many years, standing by us as we went to far-off Africa for missions. As you know, being out there took a toll on us and we needed some time to regroup. In the last 4 years, we have profited from the help of friends and counselors, spent more time in God's Word, and come to see the bigger picture of ourselves and our relationship as a couple.

The time has finally come to return to Chad. Actually, we don't know the exact date when the Lord will take us there, but He gave Rick the inclination to move toward returning, aiming for the end of this year. In faith, we told our employers that we would not be returning to work in the school system this next year. In a church service, God also confirmed to us that our calling is still to bring the Kanembu to Him.

In our last few terms, we saw that with us, the openness of the K'bu people in Bol has been diminishing. Currently, there are 2 other couples working in Bol, so they will be able to continue to reach out there. Rick and I will be living in the capital city, and continuing the OneStory project that we had begun last term – but with an exciting new twist. *The goal of OneStory is to take written Bible stories and turn them into oral Bible stories that people can easily understand and tell to their friends. In this way, people who don't have a Bible, can begin to change their minds about God and learn to worship Him in small groups.* Cru (Campus Crusade) who trained us has come up with a *more efficient and effective way* to get the job done. We have spoken with them about the new methods and they will be partnering

with us as we facilitate a School of Storying workshop with K'bu contacts.

By facilitating a workshop, we would like to get a story set done in a short time and get K'bu people discussing God's Word in Story Groups all around the city of Ndjamena.

We'd like to be able to tell you about the new approach we intend to implement. It's going to be a big undertaking and we will need a good back-up team to "pray in" a whole set of Story Crafters and to give to make the workshop a possibility. We will probably be visiting your church in November and we hope to tell you more about how you can be a part of this ministry through prayer and giving.

Sincerely in Christ,

Rick and Monica Haberkamp

Chad: in the heart of Africa, in the heart of God

508 1/2 S. Harrison St. Van Wert, OH 45891

Phone: R:567-259-9840 or M:419-605-5062

email: haber.k2@gmail.com

College Care Packages

We will be starting our college care package outreach to our college students from our church in September. Please give names to Shelly Holden or email to sholden1981@gmail.com by September 14th.

The students can either live away from home or commute, be in a technical school, undergraduate or graduate school. Any questions, please contact Shelly Holden, Patty Kiehl or Marilyn Reed.

In Memorium



In loving memory of our angel Susie Baska. We miss her smile and her love for her church family. Thank you to Linda & Donna for the beautiful special music. Love it!!!!

The parish portrait is a loving tribute to Susie Baska. I could always count on Susie to send a little something every month that made putting the portrait together special. The following story is one such example. You spirit will live on in these pages and our hearts.

A member of the church, who previously had been attending services regularly, stopped going. After a few weeks, the pastor decided to visit him. It was a chilly evening. The pastor found the man at home alone, sitting before a blazing fire. Guessing the reason for his pastor's visit, the man welcomed him, led him to a comfortable chair near the fireplace and waited. The pastor made himself at home but said nothing. In the grave silence, he contemplated the dance of the flames around the burning logs. After some minutes, the pastor took the fire tongs, carefully picked up a brightly burning ember and placed it to one side of the hearth all alone then he sat back in his chair, still silent. The host watched all this in quiet contemplation. As the one lone ember's flame flickered and diminished, there was a

momentary glow and then its fire was no more. Soon it was cold and dead. Not a word had been spoken since the initial greeting. The pastor glanced at his watch and realized it was time to leave. He slowly stood up, picked up the cold, dead ember and placed it back in the middle of the fire. Immediately it began to glow, once more with the light and warmth of the burning coals around it.

As the pastor reached the door to leave, his host said with a tear running down his cheek, "Thank you so much for your visit and especially for the fiery sermon. I will be back in church next Sunday. "We live in a world today, which tries to say too much with too little. Consequently, few listen. Sometimes the best sermons are the ones left unspoken.

United Methodist Women

United Methodist Women will meet on Wed Sept 3, 2014 at 7pm in the church social room. Leta Feasby will be program leader and the program will be Grandma's Garden by Holly Colten Mishler. Greeters will be Anne Bowen & Eileen Rice and Hostesses Linda Baer & Linda Holden. All ladies of the church family and friends are welcome to share in a night with the girls. You may get your 2014 pledges to Vicki Saylor, Treasurer. The Lions Club Zone Meeting will be held on Thurs. Sept. 11th and the UMW will be serving the meal. Will need 7 fruit a pie, a sign up sheet is on the bulletin board. Pies & Cakes for Convoy Community Sept. 27th.

Timeless Jewelry Sale

Timeless Treasurers Jewelry Sale was held May 16th & 17th in the church social room during the Convoy Community Garage Sales. Thank you so much for all the jewelry and misc. donations. The Jewelry Sale proceeds were over \$1000. The Church Café serving sandwiches, homemade pie, and drinks proceeds exceed \$1000. Thank you to all who helped collect, clean, prepare for the sale, worked the sale, donated food, worked the Café' and to Lynn Johnson for the idea and leadership

Contemporary Service

A Contemporary Service is offered every Sunday morning at 11:11 a.m. This is held at the former Hall Lumber office downtown, located along the railroad tracks east of Main Street. It's a service filled with songs and praise. It is a casual and more relaxed service than 9:30 service. We still offer all the same sacraments.

The Service is hosted by our praise band called "Crossroads". Members include:

Guitarist Pastor Leigh Lead Vocal Jeff Gleckler, Keyboard Laura Leigh, Drums Fred Fegley, Bass Guitar Jordan Leigh. Casual dress such as jeans, T-Shirts, and ball caps are acceptable at this service. Refreshments are offered to be enjoyed throughout the service. Not on time for the beginning, not a problem. You're welcome to come in and join us whenever you get there. It's very informal. You're always welcome to come join us.



*Convoy United Methodist Church
Sycamore and Main
P.O. Box 128
Convoy, Ohio 45832*

Comic Relief



Enter to Worship...Depart to Serve

