Pastor’s Pen by Nathan Custer

Our Gospel-Centered Church & Life

In the middle of a comedy show I was watching, the comedian said, “Choose your heroes wisely, or they will be chosen for you!” Wow. He’s a long way from being an official preacher, but that statement shook me to my core, and it’s coming to the front of my mind as we enter this important November season.

This is an amazing time of year where we can express our faith intentionally or allow our heroes to be chosen for us. We get to vote for who we want to rule us; we get to rename our church to give honor to our Lord in the midst of our disaffiliation from the United Methodist Church to join the Global Methodist Church; we get to decide how and how much we’ll support one another and worship our Savior via our wonderful church with our tithes and other financial giving; and at the end of the month, we get to remind each other to thank our ultimate hero Jesus for all our wonderful blessings! MY GOODNESS what a month this is!

With so many important decisions, it’s helpful to come back to the idea of living a Gospel-centered life as a part of a Gospel-centered Church. Lots of people and corporations want to be the center of our life. TV channels continually turn out new shows and episodes to grab our attention (because hey, how could we survive without ANOTHER hospital and cop show!?!?) Other channels repeat old episodes to keep our attention (don’t judge me for having seen every Golden Girls episode multiple times…it’s my wife’s fault!) Politicians constantly...
advertise and fund raise to keep them on our mind (and if all the commercials are correct, then every single politician will destroy us!) Companies spend billions of dollars to keep their products in mind (and from how often I sing the Liberty, Liberty, LIIBBERRRRRTYZZYZY insurance jingle to my eye-rolling family, it’s working!) But ultimately, the politicians, the companies, and the movie stars can’t save us from death and destruction: Only Jesus can do that, and Jesus HAS done that by overcoming death through His resurrection! HE is our hero and hope and assurance and joy no matter which show is canceled, which politician wins or loses, or which corporation is great or corrupt.

This year Jennifer and I are privileged and honored to commit to support our wonderful church sacrificially with our time and effort and money into 2023 because it is uncompromisingly focused on the full Gospel of Jesus: His virgin conception as 100% human and 100% God; His sinless life with its life-transforming teaching and love; His death on the cross followed by his bodily resurrection from the dead; His appearance to hundreds in Israel; His ascension into heaven from which he has begun his reign on earth in-part now and in-full at the end of our earth’s time; and the evidence of His reign through His pouring out of the Holy Spirit upon believers with power, miracles and supernatural abilities. As Christ’s church, you and I have chosen JESUS as our hero and no one and no thing will we allow to take His place. THANK YOU for your prayers, presence (in person and online), gifts, service, and witness to this Jesus and His Gospel message. You are Christ’s body to us. Thank you for embodying our Hero!

 Jahrm 3:16

For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life.
The Irwins married in 1985 at the Marysville First Presbyterian Church, where the Irwin family had attended all their lives. As a child Sue was confirmed at the Sulphur Grove Evangelical United Brethren Church in Dayton (1968) - the same year that EUB joined the Methodists to form the new United Methodist denomination. Also, as a child, Sue’s uncle was a Baptist minister and she spent one week every summer attending church camp under her aunt and uncle’s leadership. Sue accepted Christ at that church camp as an 11-year-old and remembers that awakening vividly to this day!

Dave was raised on a dairy farm just west of Marysville on Collins Road. His family sold the dairy cows in the early ‘80s, but the family farm is still producing corn, soy beans, pumpkins, flowers and Christmas trees! Dave and Sue built a home on former Irwin farmland in 1988 and enjoy living in the country on Boom Road.

The pair raised four children and have three grandsons. Daughters Amy and Allison and their families live in Powell and Westerville, respectively. Sons Jake and Josh and their families live in Marysville and attend Marysville FUMC. Jake likes to “drive the beat” as one of the Praise and Worship Band’s drummers.

The Irwins started attending Marysville FUMC in 2000 and soon after transferred their membership from the Middleburg UMC. They say that was a difficult decision, but one based primarily on the youth programs that were being offered at Marysville. They both still cherish their time at Middleburg, and describe it as “a small rural church with a big heart for missions and for serving the Lord!” They were thrilled that Marysville was growing a vibrant youth fellowship program under the leadership of Pastor Carrie. The boys took part in the annual SOS mission trips to Memphis and several other
mission trips and projects during their junior and senior high school years. Both Dave and Sue have been involved, off and on, in the Central Ohio Emmaus Community for over 25 years. Both have served in various roles over the years and consider their Emmaus experience to be pivotal in growing and strengthening their faith.

At Marysville FUMC, Dave is currently on the Facilities Management Team. Sue has been serving as a Lay Delegate to the West Ohio Annual Conference for the past three years. Prior to that she served on the Staff and Parish Relations Committee and served one term on the very first Leadership Team after the change in our church’s administrative structure. Sue also helped draft both the church’s Guiding Principles and the personnel policy handbook. She stepped into a temporary role as church administrator in 2020 for several months and worked to help bring a new financial accounting process on-line.

The Irwins are part of a Wednesday night small group led by Chris and Noreen Runyan. This group includes Mike and Teri Dunlap, Dave and Carol Weinlein, and Ron and Geneviève Cole. They have built lasting friendships
and consider their small group to be wonderful mentors and prayer warriors. When Sue and Dave decided to retire from their day jobs in 2019-- Dave from Honda Transmission and Sue from the Union County Engineer and URE-- they both knew they wanted to travel. The pandemic and family commitments delayed that dream for a few years but they just returned home from a family vacation to Glacier National Park in Montana. They coupled the trip west with their love of scenic train rides and took Amtrak from Chicago to Montana, then on west to San Francisco and back to Chicago. This was a bucket list adventure. They hope to see Great Britain and more of Europe via rail sometime in the future.

Other tidbits about Dave and Sue: Dave has been a basketball official for more than 27 years. He is a great cook and likes to use his mother Celia’s recipes. He is most famous for his homemade pizzas and ice cream! Sue enjoys knitting, studying the Bible, spending time with her best friend who suffers from dementia, and babysitting their 17-month-old grandson, Nate!

Both Dave and Sue are blessed to have parents, children, and grandchildren close by and are blessed to have four generations of family members worshipping and serving God together at our church.

**Happenings in the Church**

10/16 Outbreak was able to help pack 32 boxes of food, goodies, and agape to send off to our college students. Thank you church for donating and loving our college-aged students while they are off at college.
Dear Church Family,

Thank you! Our church shines the hope and light of Jesus throughout our community, thanks in part to your own faithfulness to Christ and our church. Thank you for your partnership in this ministry!

The Good News. The Gospel is the best news ever. It is the news that Jesus loved every one of us and left the glory of heaven to come and live with us. He loved us so much He gave up His life so that we could live with Him forever. John 3:16 For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life.

Thanks in advance for your financial pledge. God’s indescribable gift to us produces a desire to partner with Him in making disciples. As you are able, we invite you to prayerfully consider what you can pledge to the 2023 ministries of our church.

Pledge Sunday is November 20, 2022, at which time we will celebrate and consecrate pledges that have been submitted already and pledge cards that people bring to place in baskets in worship. God provides for ministry here through faithful givers like you. THANK YOU for your faithfulness!

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Ways to participate financially in the ministry of the Church

- **IN-PERSON:** worship services.
- **MAIL:** Mail checks to our church office at: 207 S. Court St., Marysville, OH 43040.
- **ELECTRONICALLY:** You can use a bank account, debit card, or credit card, to electronically give one-time gifts or to set up recurring gifts at your convenience. All electronic giving is securely processed directly by the Church Center banking software, Stripe
- **WEBSITE:** Go to
  - marysvillefumc.org
  - “Giving” tab (under “more”)
  - “Give Online” button; this will take you to the secure giving site.
- **PHONE APP:** Search in your App store for “Church Center,” download the app, set it to Marysville FUMC and follow the directions of the app’s GIVE button.

Bequests / Estate Gifts / Etc.: People bless the church in a variety of other ways, including end of life gifts via their will, tithing their estate, and current stock donations. Any of these are a wonderful blessing to our church. Simply reach out to our Financial Development Director, Greg Williams, and he will guide your next steps. For questions contact: Greg Williams, using greg@marysvillefumc.org, or 937-642-4712, ext. 111

Financial Director
Greg Williams

Senior Pastor
Nathan Custer
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Happenings in the Church

10/30 - Quake helped to pack over 70 boxes for Operation Christmas Child to send a gift of love, and for some to hear for the first time, about Jesus' birth. Outbreak will soon be headed to pick out items at the Dollar Tree and pack more boxes too!
Upcoming Church Events

**Wednesday mornings at the church**
- **7am** Men’s Bible Study (All welcome)
- **9am** Golden Girls (All welcome)
- **1030am** Faith Sisters (All welcome)

**Wednesday evenings at the church**
- **6pm or 630pm start times**
  Multiple ages welcome for spiritual growth and development classes and activities
  (please email Pastor Peggy for info peggy@marysvillefumc.org)

**Nov 6**
- Meet and Greet Dinner for those newly attending/members of the church

**Nov 6, 13, 20**
- New Member Classes @ 9am

**Nov 9**
- Ft. Myers Grace UMC Hurricane Ian Missions informational meeting

**Nov 11**
- Donations for Military Boxes due

**Nov 13**
- Operation Christmas Shoeboxes due

**Nov 16**
- Thanksgiving Food Bags due

**Nov 24**
- **NO Thanksgiving Eve Services**

**Nov 24 11am-1pm**
- Community Thanksgiving Meal

**Nov 26**
- Men’s Breakfast

Notify the church office, if you would like added to the Court Street Courier mailing.