

Reaping and Sowing:

A Newsletter of Ashley and Kilbourne

April and May 2019



Claiming ~ Creating ~ Celebrating

In April and May we will be continuing on our stewardship series, *Abundance: Pass It On*. Starting in March, we have been already looking at how we are supposed to steward what God gives us. This is not just our finances, but also our presence, gifts, witness, service, and prayers.

For April and May, I ask you to consider how you personally, and how we as a community can be better stewards of the many blessings we have. Spring is upon us which is a time of new growth, warmer weather and joy. I am hopeful that spring will also come to Ashley and Kilbourne UMCs. A season of new growth, warmer hearts and so much joy.

I want all of us to start claiming what God has given us, cultivating it and to truly celebrate all that we have in abundance. Our churches and our people have so much, and have so much to give. Let us rejoice in the Lord!

Finally, I am asking each of us to pray this spring for our churches. Pray not for full pews, or the ministries we like. Rather pray that we may hear God's voice, pray that we may listen to God's voice, and pray that we obey God's voice. It is planting season! Pray for us all!

Pastor Beth

A close-up photograph of pink cherry blossoms with green leaves, set against a soft, out-of-focus background of more blossoms and greenery.

Joint Worship

Sunday April 28th 10:00AM at Kilbourne

Join together for Sunday worship as one large community on Sunday April 28th. Worship will be held at 10:00AM at the Kilbourne Church. We will together celebrate the joy of Christ's resurrection.

Traditionally a Sunday with lower attendance, we hope that you attend this service. There will be a meal following. Pastor Beth and Felix hope you will all come out as a full community as we baptize Amanda! There will be a dinner following (read below article for details).

Beans for Benevolence

Beans for Benevolence is an annual ministry of Ashley UMC. The church raises money to purchase the supplies to plant a field of beans. After the harvest (the labor is graciously donated), the proceeds fund the benevolence fund. The fund has been used to sponsor honor flights (sending veterans to DC), send children to a science competition, provide turkeys to Buckeye Valley Food pantry and so much more.

Following joint worship on April 28th, there will be a meal to help support this ministry. A love offering will be taken. Come for worship and stay for the food and fellowship all while supporting a great ministry and indirectly helping our neighbors in the community!

Pub Theology

We are piloting a new ministry and could not be more excited! Join us on May 8th, at the Kilbourne Market at 8:30PM for Pub Theology. It's Preston's birthday the night before, so come out to buy him some pizza, and make him sweat the difficult questions! This is a space that all questions and conversation is welcome, in a safe and relaxed atmosphere.

You do not have to consume alcohol but you can. We do ask you purchase something from the Market whether it's food or a soda.

Pub theology is a growing ministry across the county. People have gathered in pubs and public spaces for ages, talking about life, philosophy, faith, and deep questions of meaning. Increasingly, people all over are rediscovering the pub as a safe, open space, where they can explore and express their own doubts and questions, learn from others, and engage people of varying religious traditions.

Blessing Bags

Blessing bags are a ministry out of Kilbourne UMC. These are bags put together to help those experiencing homelessness or otherwise in need. Despite that we are an affluent county, there are many people in need around us. They are gallon size bags full of items that may be needed.

The ministry started when the team lead Jean Hightower saw this idea on the internet several years ago and started investigating who in the area might need these. We are going into our fourth year and have given out about 100 bags a year (summer bags and winter bags, 50 each time). That is a total to date of 300 bags!

We disperse the bags to the jail, Family Promise and New Hope Church and they pass them out to the greater community. What is in the bags varies based on the season, but we like to have food and personal care items always. When we receive items too large for the bags or not suitable for the bags, we pass those items onto ministries that can use them. All of these facilities are very appreciative of the Blessing Bags and thank us profusely when we deliver them.

We are collecting items for bags to be assembled this spring. Any questions can be directed to team lead Jean Hightower or Pastor Beth. Cash donations are also welcome.

Items most needed:	Socks (ladies, men's, and children's)	Wash clothes
Toothbrushes	Small packs of Tissues	Deodorant
Razors	Small packets of Wet Wipes	Breakfast Bars
Cheese crackers	Pop Tarts/Trail Mix	Band-Aids
Feminine products	Nail file/emery boards	Small Sewing Kits.

A Note on Health: Health through Service

"I'm bored, I don't have anything to do". These were fighting words to my mother's ears. She would tell us, "If you don't have anything to do, then I'll find you something to do". And it most likely was not to our liking.

So, I grew up feeling there were no good reasons to be bored and there was always SOMETHING to do. I feel my best serving other people.....hence I became a nurse. I felt this was my God's calling from a very early age. This service has nurtured my soul.

There are countless opportunities to help others; right here in our own church or thru Connections Volunteer Center at HelpLine 740-363-5000. Proverbs 3:27. "Do not withhold good from those to whom it is due, when it is in your power to act." It will keep you healthy, happy, and connected to God..

Ann Sanderson, RN



April 18th

Join us as we worship God and recognize the great sacrifice that Jesus Christ made for each of us and for all. This service helps remind us that a lot happened between Palm Sunday and Easter. Service will be at 7:00PM on April 18th at Ashley UMC.

Sarah Moore Ministry

We had such a great time caroling at Sarah Moore this last December and we know the residents enjoyed it as well. Our joint Outreach committee believes this could be a great opportunity for us to build relationships and to spend time with the residents of Sarah Moore. We believe that giving our time will be an even greater gift than giving our finances, because so many in care facilities long for company.

On Sunday May 19th, we invite members of both congregations to join us at Sarah Moore in the afternoon for an activity. We are working with Sarah Moore to finalize the details, but please save the date!

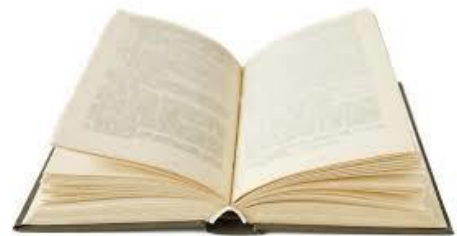
Book Club

Join us at Kilbourne at 6:30PM for book club. All are welcome (even if you didn't read the book!)

April 29 (5th Monday): *Gentleman in Moscow* by Amor Towles

May 20 (3rd Monday): *Sold on a Monday* by Kristina McMorris

June 24: *Before We Were Yours* by Lisa Wingate



Memorial Day Worship

On May 26th, both Ashley and Kilbourne UMCs will be worshipping together at Oxford Township park. Worship will be at 10AM followed by a potluck. Bring a dish to share and your own table service.

Oxford Twp Park is located at 5125 Shoemaker Road, Ashley, OH 43003. Weather provided. worship will be outside. but tables will be set up inside for the meal and in case of bad weather.

Special General Conference of the UMC



The United Methodist Church held its special general conference this past February in St Louis. In a vote of 438 to 384, the Traditional Plan was passed.

The Traditional Plan upholds the current language in the Book of Discipline around sexuality and continues the prohibition of clergy who identify as LGBTQ as well as the prohibition of same sex marriages performed in UMC churches or by UMC clergy. It also adds more strict structure around the repercussions for clergy or churches who decide to violate the Book of Discipline particularly around the areas of sexuality. It adds criteria for individuals seeking to become ordained clergy. The plan also encourages annual conferences or churches who do not agree with the Traditional Plan on matters of same-sex marriage to leave The United Methodist Church to create new denomination.

While General Conference adopted the Traditional Plan, that is not the end of the process. The Judicial Council will meet from April 23-26th and will rule on the constitutionality of the Traditional Plan. This does not mean unconstitutional by US standards, but rather by the UMC standards. We have a constitution which oversees how we operate and all plans, rules, and policies must be in compliance with our constitution. It is expected that the Council will rule parts of the Traditional Plan as unconstitutional and other parts as constitutional.

It is clear by the speeches at the General Conference, by the vote which was separated by only 54 votes, and by the conversations following that this issue remains divisive within our denomination. There have been angry words, thoughtless actions, and painful results by and for many. Like many, my heart breaks for all who have been deeply wounded by this decision and even the process itself.

In these days of turmoil and remaining uncertainty though, our Bishop continues to guide us. You can find a video of her speaking to all on the East Ohio Conference website. She counsels us to breathe and to remain connected as the body of Christ. She also counsels us to remain focused on our mission.

And our mission as the United Methodist Church remains the same- to make and mature disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world. I do not believe that God is done with us as a denomination and I pray that we all hear God's call for us and choose the path that God desires. I remind all of us that all are welcome in our churches and in our ministries, we welcome all to come and be baptized as believers, and all are welcome at God's table of Holy Communion.

In the coming weeks, I invite all of us to pray. Pray for those who have been hurt. Pray for those who feel abandoned. Pray for those we do not understand- not that they may change but that we may know them better. Pray for the Judicial Council and all the leaders of the church. And pray above all that we will hear and follow God as the United Methodist Church- a church of love, grace, passion and compassion.