



# PERRY CHRISTIAN CHURCH APRIL NEWSLETTER 2021



## From the Pastor's Desk

### Who Loves A Parade?

A lot of my life has been spent with music, especially in my younger days in the band parade line. There were no instruments playing when Jesus entered Jerusalem, but it was just as exciting from the shouting and probably some singing. The big problem with parades is when they are over, reality does not continue with such excitement. That is what we face in our religious faith.

The reality of following in the footsteps of Jesus is not as exciting because Jesus is not physically with us, and the message becomes a burden. Taking responsibility is a burden. It is taking up a cross, as Jesus asked us to do. So we would rather have a parade than to really do any work. Parades make us feel like our efforts were worth it.

Jesus implores us to struggle with being worthy. The path is not easy. Once we try to cooperate and to do things together, there becomes too many differences in our approach it becomes a distraction. Therefore, our vision of what we are doing becomes repetitious and automatic, rather than personally inspiring.

Lent is our journey to discover and reclaim inspiration. That is the great motivator of faith and trust. Your church family stands with you in finding that inspiration. As we restart in person worship, and eventually pick up more of fellowship time and ministry activities, the excitement of our faith can be felt more sincerely. As it is said, hope springs eternal. Jesus leads the way.

See you at worship!

Pastor Norman



## Elder's Spotlight



### WHEN THE GOING GETS TOUGH

Well, this sure has been a challenging time. Though each of us have had different experiences, auto pilot has not been how we have navigated through 2020 and 2021.

What do you do when you get knocked flat? We have all been there sometime in our life.

*In the meantime:*

1. Confront practicalities first. As tempting as it is to curl up and hide, there are often practical steps to be taken in the immediate need of the big upset.
2. Mourn your fallen future and your former self. Don't be afraid to rewrite your story. Just know that it will take time, especially when you are creating a better ending. Spiritual beliefs are a critical source of comfort and meaning.
3. Set out in a new direction. Explore something new. Something unrelated to the problem at hand and something you will enjoy and look forward to. Helping someone else or exercise can be beneficial. Kindness for yourself and others.
4. Take small steps. Set small concrete goals for each day.

It takes time. Closure isn't a door you pass through and shut behind you, it's a long hallway without an end. If we see the challenges in our lives as a gift of training, trust in God and take hold of His hand through them. He will use them to accelerate our development. In turn, we will see beyond ourselves to the bigger picture and stop longing to be rescued from them.

**"For our light affliction, which is but for a moment, is working for us a far more exceeding and eternal weight of glory" 2 Corinthians 4:17**

So what else can we do? Relaxation therapies are often helpful. Meditation is a matter of sitting quietly and emptying your mind by focusing on your breathing or on a single word or phrase called a mantra, for up to 20 minutes a day. Massage works wonders on stress and muscle tension.

Use spiritual practices to increase positive energy.

Three minute meditation to open the heart: In a quiet place, sit in a comfortable position. Close your eyes and focus on your breath, each inhalation and each exhalation. Visualize thoughts as clouds drifting by; just let them pass. Gently place your palm over your heart and visualize what connects you to the spirit. Observe all sensations in the heart; heat, tingling, expansion, bliss. Let this positive energy flow through your body. Silence is filled with positive energy. Our spirits flourish in silence, have space to breathe. Begin with at least five minutes of silence daily. Make it sacred time, a break from all technology. Feel all the love of God. Prayer can promote healing. Formulate your own prayer or simply pray for the highest good in a situation. Have it come from your heart and let it energize you. Then feel those positive vibes lift off and travel toward your target. Flow is being aligned with that which propels our lives. Trusting

this spirit or energy and its flow means going as gracefully as possible with what is presented to us. Many times we must learn to let go and let God take over. As you are meditating ask, "How shall I proceed?" Then listen to your intuition, not just your head. See what insights you gain about the blocked issue. Play, a fun way to achieve inner silence and regain the ability to enjoy the world around us. Some examples: Wrestle with your pets, spontaneously singing to the radio, throwing snowballs at a tree, skipping stones across a lake, teasing a friend, telling a tall story to your children at bedtime, doodling.

I leave you with this quote from an Okinawan centenarian: "At age 70, you are but a child, at age 80, you are merely a youth; and at 90 if the ancestors invite you into heaven, ask them to wait until you are 100..and then you might consider."

Linda Warfield

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## Project Hope for the Homeless

On Thursday, April 15th at 6:00 p.m. we will gather to prepare the Saturday Night Side Dish for Project Hope. We need the usual items for our meal & sack lunches. The list will be posted on the church bulletin board. Please look it over to see how you can help. Of course we gather in the safest possible way to prepare these meals. We also need a couple people willing to deliver the meal to Project Hope on Saturday, April 17th at 6:45 p.m.



Frankie Blanchard & Brenda Carr

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## CWM

CWM board will meet after worship on Sunday, April 11, 2021. We will talk about what we want to do for the rest of the year and make the necessary plans.

We will meet in the sanctuary and social distance. Hope to see you there.

Carole

Save the Date!  
4-11

## Congratulations...It's a Boy!



On Saturday, March 13, 2021, Cindy Gilbert & James Ray welcomed Mason William Ray to their family at 11:04 a.m. He weighed 6 lbs. 7 oz. and was 19" long. Congratulations to Cindy & James along with Cameron, Keegan, and Logan. All our best wishes go out to this growing family!

## April 2021 Gatherings & Birthdays

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1	2	3  Bob Wright
4 9:30a Worship	5 7p Trustee Mtg		7	8  Graham Polzer		10
11 9:30a Worship		13  Audriana Polzer	14	15 6p Project Hope Food Prep		17 6:45p Project Hope Food Delivery
18 9:30a Worship   Pat Johnson		20	21	22 6:30p Women's Bible Study	23	24
25 9:30a Worship	26	27	28	29 6:30p Women's Bible Study	30	

## April Service Schedules

	Elders	Worship Leaders
7	Diane Lett Gayle Salsberry	Earl Johnson
14	Rick Bartlett Earl Johnson	Don Bartlett
21	Penny Harrison Joann Rombough	Judy Bartlett
28	Donna Van Boxel Penny Harrison	Laurie Martin

*SERVE  
The LORD with  
GLADNESS*



## Women's Bible Study

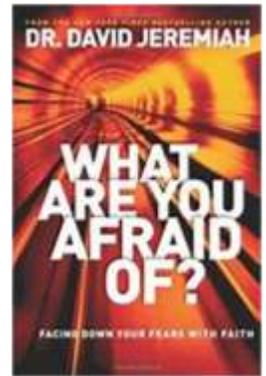
We finished our Lenten study and will be resuming our next Bible study on Thursday, April 22 at 6:30 pm. The study is titled "What Are You Afraid Of?" by Dr. David Jeremiah. In this study, Dr. Jeremiah explores the top ten fears that are holding so many of us back from the life God has called us to live and shares the supernatural secrets for facing down these fears with faith.

We will be meeting in person; however, we will also have a Zoom meeting for anyone who is uncomfortable, at this time, with in-person meetings.

For more information contact Penny Harrison or Brenda Carr.

Penny will be ordering books for those who want them. The cost of the book is \$15. She can be contacted by phone, text or email at one of the following. Cell phone: 440-463-2562.

Email: pennyspad@sbcglobal.net



## Thank You

To Perry Christian Church,

The staff at Perry Middle School would like to extend their delicious thanks for the tasty muffins that you provided for us on Tuesday, March 16, 2021. It has been an unusual year for all—however KINDNESS SHINES & WINS!! Thanks again. Stay healthy & keep smiling.

Sincerely, Perry Middle School Staff



Dear Members of Perry Christian Church,

**"Muffin" to do but express my gratitude and smile at your creativity and generosity.** Thank you for thinking of us (me).

Ann Rayner, Gr. 7 Perry Middle School



To the wonderful people of Perry Christian church,

Thank you so much for your kindness and generosity to the Perry School teachers. Thank you for thinking of us. You made my day!

Sincerely, Darlene Tyler, Perry Middle School



Hello!

Thank you so much for the treats you provided for teachers at Perry Elementary! What a thoughtful gesture!

Sincerely, Sara LeMond



Dear Church Family,

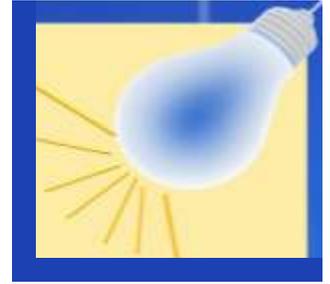
On behalf of Project Hope for the Homeless, I would like to thank you for choosing to partner with our mission. **We are focusing on "Breaking the Cycle" this year** so that our guests are empowered to achieve an abundant life. In giving, you are ensuring that they receive the shelter, care and guidance needed to reach that goal.

Your contribution of food donated on 2/23/21 is greatly appreciated. Every gift we receive is critical for our guests and in most cases, it is also lifesaving and life-changing to them.

May you be blessed for giving us the ability to shape these lives in our community. Thank you for helping to remove their stumbling blocks. (Read Isaiah 57:14)

Respectfully, Judy Burr, Executive Director

## Did You Know?



We, Perry Christian Church, have been very active during (or in spite of) the COVID-19 pandemic. The following are some of the mission, ministries and other service activities we have accomplished:

Church services have continued online, in the parking lot and/or inside the church/.

Thanks to Pastor Norman, organist Jeray, elders- Donna, Gayle, Earl, Vicki, Linda, Diane, Joann, Penny H. and Rick, Eric (for his technical skills) and Deb for EVERYTHING and all for serving the spiritual needs of the church family.

Many keep in touch with fellow church members with phone calls, cards and prayers.

Several volunteer for Project Hope, preparing sandwiches and lunches for the homeless. One person even volunteers at the site.

Many volunteer at the Perry Center, either by helping clients with food or picking up food and donations from Aldi and Target. Also, several serve on the Perry Center Board and help with Christmas, Easter and other projects.

**The Enrichment Team along with Perry United Methodist Church (PUMC) made 420 "goodie bags" for Perry and Madison school teachers. The team and PUMC also recently provided 560 small bags of "muffins" for all staff at Perry and Madison Schools.**

The Enrichment Team along with Immaculate Conception Church of Madison provided lunches for nurses at Tri-Point Hospital on two occasions.

Meals were provided twice a week during the month of March to the Wally Siegel family.

Food trays were provided for three funerals.

A couple of people provide meals for shut-ins.

Planning is being done for a spiritual garden at the church.

The trustees are keeping up with the church property needs.

Our treasurer and financial secretary are keeping all our finances straight.

The church board has managed the church administrative affairs.

Deb keeps us up to date with the monthly newsletter.

**There are probably others who have served and we aren't even aware. Thanks to all who have contributed to the energy and spirit of this year!**

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## Enrichment Team

**Spring is finally here and it's time to shake off the winter blahs and tackle 2021.** Most of us have had our vaccinations, we are back to worshipping together, and the Enrichment team is ready to move forward.

During March we prepared and distributed more educator appreciation bags. This time we purchased cases of Little Bites mini muffins (4 to a bag) and attached a little note saying "Muffin to do but appreciate you". Carole Martin delivered 260 packages to Perry School District and I delivered 300 to Madison School District. Each got an assortment of blueberry, chocolate chip or funfetti muffins for every employee in their district. We are not sure exactly when the districts will distribute due to Spring/Easter breaks but hopefully we'll see something on Facebook. Update, Perry distributed on 3/16 and we have some wonderful thank-you notes posted on the bulletin board.

Thanks to a \$500.00 donation from Immaculate Conception parish, we were able to provide another 80 box lunches

for the second and third shift COVID Front Line workers at Tri-Point again. Pictures will be posted. This time we purchased from Chick-Fil-A which everyone was excited about.

**Additionally, we are working with the New Fish Youth Group to "Egg Your House".** This promotion involves 35 plastic eggs filled with candy to be hidden outside participants' homes overnight so children may have an Easter Egg hunt the next morning. Since this is our first attempt with this endeavor, we have limited the participants to the first 20 responders. Members of New Fish Youth Group will be handling the deliveries and hiding the eggs. Hopefully, this will become an annual event.

**As we're coming into better weather, we will start working on our Community Prayer and Meditation Garden.** Please consider volunteering your time and talents. Some of the projects you can assist with are:

- 1) Painting Rocks. **We will plan an outside, socially distant rock painting "party" in the next few months.**
- 2) Wood Work. If you are talented in this area, we could use people to make Adirondack chairs (we can download patterns).
- 3) Sewing. **Calling all seamstresses, we need some flags made, assorted colors each with a different "fruit of the Spirit" - Love, Joy, Peace, Patience, Kindness, Goodness, Faithfulness, Gentleness and Self-control.**
- 4) **Someone to organize and supervise a "Buy a Paving Stone" fundraiser.**

And numerous other projects. Anyone and everyone is encouraged to help since this will be a COMMUNITY Prayer and Meditation Garden. **If you can't help physically, donations of plants, chairs, wind chimes, solar fountains and solar lights and of course cash are all needed.** We are considering a ribbon cutting ceremony over Memorial Day weekend, with a dedication later in the fall. **So please invite your friends and extended families and let's work together to build a prayerful, peaceful place to commune with God.**

The Enrichment Team

## THE HERB & SPICE TRAIL

As the seasons change, we think about the re-birth of the sleepy plants that have hibernated for the winter. As Easter approaches, we can contemplate a different garden.

### IT'S GARDENING TIME AGAIN

First plant five rows of peas:

Presence  
Preparation  
Promptness  
Purity  
Perseverance



Next plant three rows of squash:

Squash gossip  
Squash criticism  
Squash indifference

Then plant four rows of lettuce:

Let us be faithful to duty  
Let us be unselfish and loyal  
Let us be true to our obligations  
Let us love one another

No garden is complete without turnips:

Turn up for important meetings  
Turn up with a smile  
Turn up with new ideas  
Turn up with determination to make every thing count for something worthwhile.

*Reprinted from a Crier from years ago.*

*Contributed by Linda Warfield*

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# “THE CRIER”

April 2021  
Newsletter

Interim Pastor	Rev. Dr. Norman Witthuhn
<b>Pastor’s Email</b>	<a href="mailto:pastor@perrychristianchurch.org">pastor@perrychristianchurch.org</a>
Online Worship	<a href="https://www.facebook.com/perrychristianperryohio">https://www.facebook.com/perrychristianperryohio</a>
Worship	9:30 a.m. Sunday
Church Office Email	<a href="mailto:Sec@perrychristianchurch.org">Sec@perrychristianchurch.org</a>
Phone	440-259-4281
Website	<a href="http://www.perrychristianchurch.org">www.perrychristianchurch.org</a>

