



# PERRY CHRISTIAN CHURCH

## FEBRUARY NEWSLETTER

### 2021



## Pastor's Ponderings

I ran across this story from a colleague, and it seems to me a great teaching for today about how we believe.

**“For centuries people believed that Aristotle was right when he said that the heavier an object, the faster it would fall to earth. Aristotle was regarded as the greatest thinker of all time, and surely he would not be wrong. Anyone, of course, could have taken two objects, one heavy and one light, and dropped them from a great height to see whether or not the heavier object landed first. But no one did until nearly 2,000 years after Aristotle's death. Legend has it that in 1589 Galileo summoned learned professors to the base of the Leaning Tower of Pisa. Then he went to the top and pushed off a ten-pound and a one-pound weight. Both landed at the same instant. The power of belief was so strong, however, that the professors denied their eyesight. They continued to say Aristotle was right.**

I believe that this illustrates perfectly what is going on in the world today. You could show the terrible ravaging effects of AIDS and people will have promiscuous sex anyway. You can show someone a diseased liver and cancerous lungs and people are going to abuse alcohol and smoke regardless of **the facts.”**

During our current COVID pandemic, we have needed to make drastic changes in how we do things. In the name of freedom, there are many who will not adhere to the medical guidelines. Businesses, schools, churches and home life has changed. But we have a hard time believing what is before us, **just like Galileo had a hard time demonstrating that Aristotle's statement about which item gets to the ground, my colleague stated about this the following: “Most people are going to believe what they have always believed regardless of the facts.”**

As a Christian, I believe there are facts to support our faith, but facts do not sustain our faith. It is a relationship! Something different occurred in the life of Jesus. Something persuasive. Mark records that when Jesus came to Capernaum, on the Sabbath day, and entered the synagogue and taught, the crowds were astounded. Why? One word: Authority. He taught, not as the scribes taught, but as one having authority.

What was it that convinced them? What did they hear and see in the life of Christ that made him stand above all other teachers. Why were they so drawn to him

1. His teaching was refreshing and real.
2. He taught with authority/confidence.

Let us perfect such qualities in our Christian community/church!

Pastor Norman

## Elder's Spotlight



As we move into the second month of this year, we move into what many describe as the love month. Valentine's Day, also called Saint Valentine's Day or the Feast of Saint Valentine, is celebrated annually on February 14. It originated as a Western Christian feast day honoring one or two early Christian martyrs named Saint Valentine and is recognized as a significant cultural, religious, and commercial celebration of romance and love in many regions of the world. The greeting card, candy, and floral companies will entice us. While there is nothing wrong with giving love gifts, as Christians, it is a perfect time for us to remind ourselves of the unconditional, without measure love God has for each of us. His love was demonstrated when He sent his only begotten Son to die for us. **Christ's love for us is written in blood. One way to do this is to focus on the many scripture verses that tell us about Christ's love for us. Below are a few for us to read and perhaps memorize again during this month.**

**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.

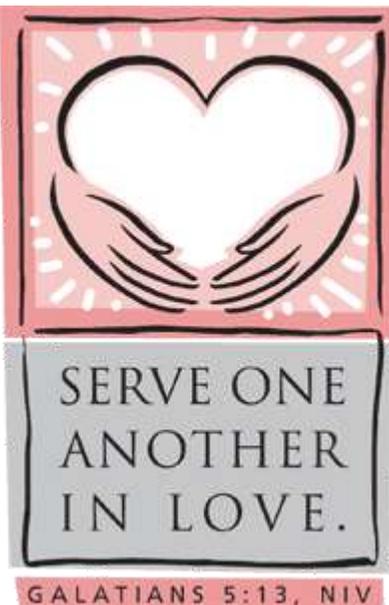
**1 Corinthians 16:14** - Let all that you do be done in love.

**John 15:13** - Greater love has no one than this, that someone lay down his life for his friends.

**1 Corinthians 13:13** - So now faith, hope, and love abide, these three; but the greatest of these is love.

**1 John 4:19** - We love because he first loved us

**John 13:34-35** - A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another: just as I have loved you, you also are to love one another. By this all people will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another.



**1 Corinthians 13:4-8** - Love is patient, love is kind. It does not envy, it does not boast, it is not proud. It does not dishonor others, it is not self-seeking, it is not easily angered, it keeps no record of wrongs. Love does not delight in evil but rejoices with the truth. It always protects, always trusts, always hopes, always perseveres. Love never fails.

In Christ's Love,  
Penny Harrison

## Mission Matters

Week of Compassion is the relief, refugee, and development mission fund of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ). Our compassion is at work through this ministry of our wider church. Coin boxes were distributed at the January Board meeting to use for

**our individual offerings. Let me know if you'd like one or you could use any box that you have at home. I'm writing my blessings on slips of paper to put in the box rather than coins. At the end of the month, I'll count my blessings and send a check to the church for Week of Compassion. When we give generously to this fund, we let love flow. We empower families and communities around the world to live healthier, safer, more hope-filled lives. Ultimately, we build a world that honors the interconnectedness of all God's people.**

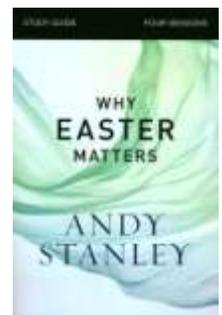


*Nobody hungry, nobody thirsty,  
shade from the sun, shelter from the wind.  
For the Compassionate One guides them,  
takes them to the best springs.*

Isaiah 49:10

## Women's Bible Study

The CWM will hold a hybrid Bible study starting Saturday, February 20th from 9 -10:30 am. You can participate in person or by Zoom. It will wrap up on March 13th. The name of the 4 session DVD study is "Why Easter Matters" by Andy Stanley. For more information contact Penny Harrison at [pennyspad@sbcglobal.net](mailto:pennyspad@sbcglobal.net) or Brenda Carr at [blcarr2pierpont@gmail.com](mailto:blcarr2pierpont@gmail.com) or 440-487-8218. Contact Brenda to get your book.



## Project Hope for the Homeless

On Thursday, February 18th 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, but the list **won't be posted. (Gee, I wonder why?) Instead, please give Frankie a call to tell her how you can help. (440) 413-4635.** Of course we gather in the safest possible way to prepare these meals.



Frankie Blanchard & Brenda Carr

## February 2021

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7 9:30a Worship Online	8	9	10	11	12	13
14 9:30a Worship Online	15	16	17	18 6p Project Hope Food Prep	19	20 9-10:30 <b>Women's Bible</b> Study in Person or online 6:45p Project Hope Food De- livery
21 9:30a Worship Online	22	23	24	25	26	27 9-10:30 <b>Women's Bible</b> Study in Person or online
28 9:30a Worship Online						

## February Service Schedules

	Elders	Worship Leaders
7	Diane Lett Gayle Salsberry	Penny Harrison
14	Rick Bartlett Earl Johnson	Penny Harrison
21	Joann Rombough Donna Van Boxel	
28	Donna Van Boxel Vicki Wakelee	





## Enrichment Team

It's been a couple of months since I have provided an update on our activities. Although plans for the Meditation and Prayer Garden have been placed on a back burner over the Winter season, you will see more on this in the spring. We provided boxed lunches in December for all the second and third shift COVID-19 workers at Tri-Point Hospital, a total of 80 meals. The Manhattan Deli made the boxed lunches and we delivered them. Our efforts were deeply appreciated by the staff.

In an effort to include more of the community in providing meals to COVID staff, we sent emails to several local churches to see if they would be interested in helping with this endeavor. To date we have received responses from Immaculate Conception Church and Lake Erie Church. Immaculate Conception is collecting funds from their parishioners and will forward a check to the church for all monies collected. Lake Erie Church is considering the various opportunities and I expect to hear back from them. The team would like to be able to help the hospital workers at least once a month if possible, however, the box lunches in December cost us about \$650.00.

In addition to our efforts for hospital staff, we are working to provide another appreciation gift to Perry and Madison school employees, this time we will be trying to reach all staff, with either a bag of chips, a package of mini muffins, or a bottle of water with a packet of tea flavoring and a note of appreciation.

If you haven't had a chance to investigate the church website recently, please do. The Enrichment team has a new feature available on the home page – Inspiration Station. Consider sharing an inspirational story with us. Sometimes people get so caught up in their life circumstances, they can't see the little blessings God provides each day. We hope, that by sharing inspirational/personal stories, to lift spirits within the community. We anticipate this feature will be available on our Facebook page also.

Finally, we would like to ask for your help during Lent, which begins on Wednesday 2/17/2021. Historically individuals or families give something up during Lent as a way to sacrifice and re-enforce their self-discipline. We hope that you will use this opportunity to give something up – your morning donut, a Starbucks coffee, a dinner out during the week – something unique to you, and contribute the savings from that sacrificial act to the Enrichment Team. All monies received will be used to further our efforts in the Community as outlined above. Your contributions and support are what enable us to do this work. YOU ALL ARE SO SPECIAL! Our next meeting will be Monday 2/15 at 5:30 p.m. Please join us.

The Enrichment Team

## Online Worship/In-Person Worship

Online worship continues during the month of February and beyond. At the January Church Board Meeting, it was agreed to revisit this topic at the March 10, 2021 Board meeting.

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## CWM

Meetings of CWM are on hold until we begin meeting in person for church services. We will be in touch when that occurs.

Carole Martin, Team Leader

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## Annual Reports

Thanks to everyone for getting your annual reports in on time. It is greatly appreciated. The annual report will be complete in February. The Annual Report PDF file will be emailed to those who have computer access. The others will be printed and made available at church.

Carole Martin  
General Board Vice-Chair

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## Thank You!

Dear Church Family,

THANK YOU for the generous Christmas gift. I really appreciate your thoughtfulness, and wish each of you will have a blessed 2021.

Sincerely,  
Jeray

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Dear Church Family,

On behalf of the Ecumenical Shelter Network of Lake County, Inc. d.b.a. Project Hope for the Homeless and Families Moving Forward, I would like to thank you for investing your gift to empower our guests with hope and helping them to have the opportunity to achieve an abundant life.

Your contribution of sides and lunches, donated 11/21/2020 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.

We pray that you are blessed by your gift to the community. We look forward to a long-lasting partnership with you as together, we continue to have a great impact on our community.

Happy New Year,  
Judy Burr  
Executive Director



*We extend our sympathy to the family and friends of Rae Peattie who passed away on January 2, 2021. May you find comfort in the love and compassion of Jesus.*

## The Herb & Spice Trail:

contributed by: Linda Warfield

### FRANKINCENSE

Matthew 2:11 On coming to the house, they saw the child with his mother Mary, and they bowed down and worshiped him. Then they opened their treasures and presented him with gifts of gold, frankincense and myrrh.

Mary and Joseph would have appreciated this gift as the anointing oil for newborn sons of kings. They would have rubbed it on his body, knowing that this healing oil was good for almost anything from cuts and bruises to the common cold. This gift would help protect him and keep him strong and healthy.

Frankincense was considered a rare and valuable gift. It is the hardened gum-like material (resin) that comes from cuts made in the trunk of the *Boswellia sacra* tree which typically grows in the dry, mountainous regions of India, Africa and the Middle East. Steam distillation is used to extract the oil. It has a woody, spicy smell and can be inhaled, absorbed through the skin, steeped into a tea or taken as a supplement. Used for hundreds of years, frankincense is a holy oil described in several passages in the Bible. As an ingredient in the holy incense, it was used anciently during sacrificial ceremonies to help improve communication with the creator. There are over 52 references to frankincense in the Bible (considering that "incense" is translated from the Hebrew/Greek "frankincense" and either refers to the same oil or to a mixture, of which frankincense was one of the ingredients.)

Egyptian tradition mentions that frankincense is considered to be a universal cure-all. Frankincense has anti-inflammatory effects that may help reduce joint inflammation. The strong anti-bacterial properties may help prevent and treat oral infections. The ancient practice of burning frankincense activated ion channels in the brain and created a state of calm that relieved anxiety and depression. Frankincense oil can help maintain radiant skin when applied topically.

From birth to death, frankincense was prized. In Genesis the story of creation reveals that in the garden, man and woman would live and breathe the oils of plants gently floating in the atmosphere continuously night and day. The end of Genesis refers to essential oils in the context of use following the death of Joseph, the Egyptian ruler. He was treated as royalty and was embalmed using several oils as well as the oils being directly applied to the body.

Frankincense has been diffused or burned in Catholic churches for centuries and still is. It is also in many perfumes and colognes, including the men's fragrance, Old Spice.



## Water Jugs Needed

Jeray is in need of 2 of these water jugs as pictured to the left. If you have access to a couple she could borrow; please contact her.

Perry Christian Church  
3270 Call Rd.  
P.O. Box 177  
Perry, OH 44081

# “THE CRIER”

February 2021  
Newsletter

Interim Pastor	Rev. Dr. Norman Witthuhn
Pastor's Email	<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>

