

2022 Lenten Series

Each Sunday, March 6 - April 10 **Nashville United Methodist Church**

On the road to the cross

Experiencing Jesus[®] last days with those who were there

When you look at the world's great religions, they all promise some form of new life after death. But Christianity alone promises new life now – in this world and the next – for all who come to Jesus, the one who conquered death that first Easter morning. Resurrection life is for the *here and now*, not just for there and then. Romans 8:11 bears that out: "The Spirit of God, who raised Jesus from the dead, lives in you. And just as God raised



Christ Jesus from the dead, he will give life to your mortal bodies by this same Spirit living within you." The road to the cross is full of characters who reveal some real truths that speak to our lives, our hopes, and our fears. And, we're going to be exploring them in the weeks leading up to Easter. We hope you'll join us, kicking off with an Ash Wednesday service at Killbuck United Methodist Church, 7 p.m., March 2, and then at each Sunday worship during Lent at Nashville.

Ken's Korner



Discover how Jesus included and welcomed all who came to Him. See how Malchus the centurion faced a crisis at the foot of the cross – an inward struggle where the truth we know is at war with the lives we live. Cleopas and his companions encountered Christ on the road to Emmaus and discovered a truth that changed the direction of their lives. Nicodemus and Joseph of Arimathea pretended to be what they weren't and were forced to choose a path. Barabbas the insurrectionist deserved punishment but got a last-minute reprieve when Jesus took his place on the cross. Pilate, the one who released Barabbas and condemned Christ, was a prisoner to his fears and ambitions. Aren't we all, whether we recognize it or not?

We'll watch as Simon the Cyrene, a bystander along the way of the cross, found himself moving from spectator to participant in the Christ's last steps. Are we living life as spectators or do we join in Christ's journey? And Mary Magdalene stood at the foot of the cross and watched her dreams die - until three days later she witnessed the beginning of a new reality, a hope that we can all share in the resurrection of Jesus!

Worship: 9:30 a.m. | Sunday School: 10:45 a.m.

This newsletter is published monthly by the Nashville United Methodist Church, 302 W. Millersburg St., P.O. Box 399, Nashville OH 44661





Contact Information for Pastor Ken:

office phone: 330-378-2055 | home phone: 330-276-3871 | cell phone: 740-502-1913 email: pastorken@nashville-umc.org | mail: 180 Mark Ave., Killbuck, OH 44637



HOLY DISCONTENT

A 6-week study toward igniting the fuse for personal vision & revival

Study identifies steps to breakthrough faith

Vision is often produced through crisis. And as we look around the world – and perhaps, our own lives or communities for that matter, there is no shortage of tough times. But, have we become so tolerant of "the way things are" that comfort becomes a threat to change and vision?

Our small group study during Lent will be looking at how we can embrace and move from holy discontent to breakthrough faith. We'll explore what holy discontentment is through the lens of people like Moses, Nehemiah, David, Jesus, and Popeye the sailor man; how we can identify and feed our holy discontent; and why that's important to true revival and purpose. "Dissatisfaction is a powerful, disruptive – even needed – force that can awaken our soul to God's desires." - Authors, James Choung & Ryan Pfeiffer

n hunger

Two opportunities to participate are available, each for six weeks: daytimes, at Nashville United Methodist Church on Tuesdays from 10 to 11:30 a.m. beginning March 8; or evenings, at the Killbuck United Methodist Church on Wednesdays from 7 to 8:30 p.m., beginning March 9. Or if you'd like to join us virtually, a Zoom option for either session is available by contacting the church with your email address.



Church vitality focus of coaching

Leaders from eight churches, including Nashville and Killbuck, formed a cohort this winter that began working with consultant Rev. Paul Nickerson of Beverly, Mass. He specializes in helping forward-thinking congregations flourish in their communities and then coaches those churches through a sixmonth planning process.

Among the topics being explored: how to leverage the churches' strengths and resources; focusing on mission that affects the communities; maximizing existing connections in the communities; and partnering with others to have the most Kingdom impact.

Many of those attending the workshop found Nickerson's knowledge enlightening, and they look forward to the church being an even bigger force in the community. Did you know that 87% of churches in the United States are under 200 membership? Nashville, by the way, stands at 199.

The East Ohio Conference is sponsoring the training, tailored specifically to smaller congregations like Killbuck and Nashville.

Membership? Confirmation? Or, Baptism?

Are you looking to take that next faith step in your relationship with Christ and His church? Is God calling you to something more in life? Do you want to learn more about John Wesley and the people called Methodists?

We're having another "Stepping Stones" class this spring, designed for those wishing to join the Nashville or Killbuck United Methodist Churches as a member, for youth who are considering confirmation of their faith, for those exploring God's call into baptism, and for anyone who wants to reaffirm their faith and gain a better understanding of the Wesleyan tradition. The group sessions will be on six consecutive Sundays March 6 through April 10. Let Pastor Ken know if you're interested.

Wellness is 'TOPS' for group

Nashville chapter meets on Wednesdays

Eight weeks into 2022, how are you doing with your New Year's resolution? Did it include eating better, losing weight, learning new recipes or improving your health?

For some 40 years, TOPS 1573 has been helping people meet their goals. The group meets weekly on Wednesdays at the Nashville United Methodist Church ... and has been honored in the past as one of the top chapters in the country.

TOPS stands for "Take Off Pounds Sensibly." Anyone is invited to join, men or women. You can attend your first meeting free. Dues then help support programming, contests, a magazine subscription, and more.

You won't find fad diets or special foods or supplements to buy with TOPS. But what you will find is fellowship, support, and encouragement, as you learn about nutrition and healthy lifestyles. Members share recipes and occasionally host tastings. Contests help motivate and redirect one's focus.

"It's nice to be able to call each other and support



each other," says one member. "Everyone here is in the same boat."

Another incentive for club members is called KOPS (Keeping Off Pounds Sensibly), where members are recognized for simply maintaining their weight goal.

TOPS meets on Wednesdays, with weigh-in from 5-5:30 and the meeting beginning at 5:30 p.m. For more information, you can contact Janice Tope at 330-378-2723.



activities over the winter months. In December, we had a fun end-of-the-year celebration, and in January we created a Souper Bowl theme with soups and the football-themed movie "23 Blast," with life lessons about perseverance, leadership and living by faith not by sight. We have a game night planned and more heading into the summer.

Sunday School theme

The Spring Quarter for the Junior Discipleship group for grades K-5 will be looking at *"Family Life With God."* Students will learn who God is, what He is like, and what He does, including God's view of family, work, worship and community.

Nashville UMC also has Sunday School for preteens and teens, grades 6-12; and adults, beginning 10:45 a.m. Three Rivers District of The United Methodist Church 19h · O Here is the YouTube link of today's Current Conversation between Rev. Brown and Ken Willard regarding Discipleship. These monthly conversations are being offered in lieu of our traditional one-day leadership training events..https://youtu.be/yGmnKZMdvzA



Current Conversations begin

District Supt. Rev. Kelly Brown is hosting a monthly series on Facebook called "Current Conversations," featuring eight priorities for churches of the Three River District. February's conversation focused on *"Centered in Christ,"* with author Ken Willard.

For anyone who wants to join the conversations live on Facebook, they are held from 10:30 -11:15 the 4th Tuesday of every month on the Three Rivers District Facebook page. Or you can check them out there afterward.

Love INC explores transportation route



 Nashville UMC is collecting a special offering during February to support Love INC. You can give at the church.

Or, everyone enjoys a good supper. You can dine in or order carryout on March 8 at the Farmstead Restaurant from 4-7 p.m. and proceeds support Love INC. To help address a transportation need, Love INC of Greater Holmes County – in partnership with the ministerial association, area churches, and others – is planning a trial run in March to provide shuttle service in the Killbuck and Glenmont areas on

Mondays and Fridays. *"We know this pilot route will not meet the needs of families in all neighborhoods, but we thought we*

Killbuck, Glenmont are focus of trial run

would start with something," says Vicki Conn, director of Love INC. "We are hopeful the route ministry will continue to grow. As this trial run unfolds, our transportation team will be continually evaluating details. If it appears the route will benefit the community, plans will be made to continue the service."

A volunteer with a 16-passenger van will pick up people and make stops in the Millersburg area. The service is designed to assist those who need a ride to a store, the post office or bank, or the food pantries. If you know someone in the Killbuck or Glenmont areas in need of transportation, please pass along the information.

To schedule a ride, a seat can be reserved by calling <u>330-473-6017</u> the **Wednesday prior to the Friday/Monday trips.** Donations are accepted.

The Board of Stewards met Jan. 11. The complete minutes are available at the church office. Some highlights:

► Expenses exceeded income in 2021 by \$9,210.32, leaving a balance of \$48,529.76. Profit/loss reports indicate there was financial benefit of joining with Killbuck & Blissfield in ministry. From July 1 to Dec. 31, the church posted a \$301.79 net positive cash flow. While offerings had not gained, expenses were down.

Based upon previous board approval, 90% of the parsonage rental income is being put into capital improvements and 10% as a tithe to missions. The parsonage began to be rented in November through HER Property Management.
The board is reviewing its Vulnerable Persons Protection Guidelines and its Facilities Use Policy. All volunteers must submit a renewal form each year and participate in a Safe Sanctuaries training – to be completed by June.
Pastor Ken continues to refine the organization structure of ministry teams and key leadership positions. The guiding principles are intended to encourage people to 1) CONNECT with God, 2) BELONG to a community of faith; 3) GROW into faithful followers of Christ; and 4) SERVE the church, community, and world around us.

The next meeting of the Board of Stewards is scheduled for Tuesday, April 12th, 7 p.m. at the church.



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The East Ohio Conference operates three camps with wonderful summer experiences for kids of all ages: Aldersgate in Carrollton, Camp Asbury in Portage County, and Camp Wanake near Beach City. Activities like swimming, canoeing, arts and crafts, campfires, sports, singing, nature study, or hiking are only a part of what makes camp what it is. East Ohio Camps also provide an environment to explore God's creation, the freedom to discover one's self, a community of fun and faith in which to develop relationships with others, and the opportunity to cultivate a growing relationship with Jesus Christ.

Registration is underway!

Contact the church for a brochure and more information: 330-378-2055

Dice Martyrs

THE HEART OF THE GOSPEL IS FORGIVENESS



Great character is sometimes forged amid great turmoil. Sabina: Tortured for *Christ, the Nazi Years* is the story of how God's love transformed an ambitious, atheistic hedonist into one of the greatest Christian women of the 20th century. Sabina Wurmbrand and her husband Richard founded "Voice of the Martyrs," an inter-denominational nonprofit that serves persecuted Christians around the world. The film opens with Sabina risking her life to show Christ's love to a trio of Nazi soldiers. Why? Why would a Jewish Christian risk her life to help her enemies, members of the army that killed her entire family? Experience the amazing true story that has redefined the concepts of love and forgiveness for millions around the world.