

May 2022

Pathways

A monthly newsletter of Nashville UMC & Pastor Ken Smailes

CONNECT
BELONG
SERVE
GROW

A matter of the heart

Another year of 4-H is in full swing, and I was thinking about the youth organization's pledge that I recited in my younger days. It so reflects theology of John Wesley, the founder of the Methodist movement. *"I pledge my head to clearer thinking, my heart to greater loyalty, my hands to larger service, and my health for better living ... (for the glory of God, I imagine Wesley saying)."*

Wesley, I believe, understood the significance of all four H's nearly a century and a half before A.B. Graham started boys and girls clubs that became 4-H. Head – the theology of a Christian life founded upon the scriptures; Heart – the love, joy and hope that comes through the Holy Spirit dwelling within us; Hands – a life of service in response to God's grace; and even Health as Wesley believed that physical and spiritual health were closely connected. His book, *Primitive Physick*, included remedies for ailments and tips on wellness through exercise, diet, and sleep.

I'd suggest that if any one of the four H's is absent in one's faith journey, your spiritual life is incomplete. Do you find yourself weak in one area or another? At Nashville UMC, we are striving to build a faith community incorporating doctrine based upon the truth of God's Word, create an atmosphere for spiritual experience, encourage faithful service, and nurture a healthy lifestyle.

For John Wesley, the Christian life was about a transformative, living relationship with God – that we *know* Him and not just *about* Him. That's why he referred to the Christian faith as "a religion of the heart." He writes of such an experience on May 24, 1738: *"About a quarter before nine, while he was describing the change which God works in the heart through faith in Christ, I felt my heart strangely warmed. I felt I did trust in Christ, Christ alone, for salvation; and an assurance was given me that He had taken away my sins, even mine, and saved me from the law of sin and death."*

Only when our hearts are warmed are our minds able to understand that Jesus died for us and we are transformed. Our church leadership team and I have begun to focus on a four-point ministry that makes us available for God's Holy Spirit to move in us: that people would **CONNECT** with other believers; **BELONG** to a faith community; **SERVE** others; and **GROW** in discipleship.

**Come,
journey
with us.**

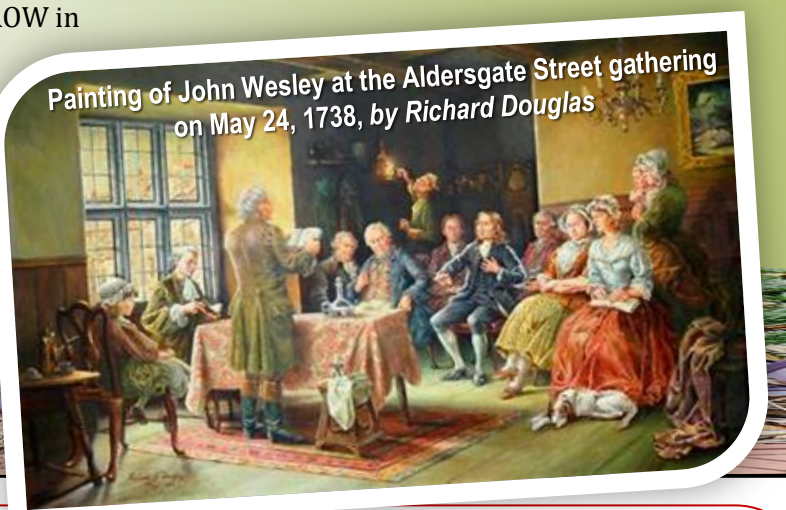


Ken's Korner

Pastor Ken



John Wesley statue on Reynold's Square in Savannah, GA.



Painting of John Wesley at the Aldersgate Street gathering on May 24, 1738, by Richard Douglas

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

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Follow us on the web: www.nashville-umc.org
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NASHVILLE
UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

HE IS Risen

Sunrise service rings in Easter

Lake Buckhorn was the setting for a joint sunrise service Easter morning, as members of the Killbuck & Nashville churches joined residents to hear a message from Pastor Ken, praise God in song and prayer, and enjoy fellowship and a great breakfast.

A big *Thank You* to Lake Buckhorn for hosting.

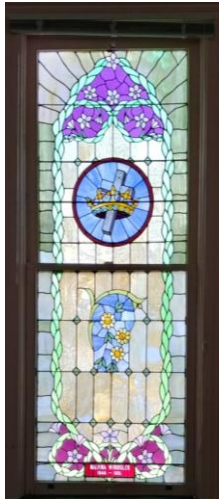


Heritage observed

Heritage Sunday is celebrated this year on May 22 (the Sunday closest to John Wesley’s conversion on Aldersgate Street), and Nashville UMC has something special planned.

Laurie Etzwiler has researched the families memorialized in our church’s stained glass windows, and she will be giving a presentation during worship on Sunday, May 22.

Come and hear the story of the G.A.R. memorial window and the brave union soldier it is named for, and learn about:



- The Union cavalry volunteer whose last words are inscribed on his tombstone
- The widower who outlived two wives named Sarah
- The abolitionist farmer
- The highly respected Sunday School teacher whose class carried her coffin through the streets
- The family whose name is misspelled regularly
- The young man who joined the Union Army at 18 and was taken prisoner by the Confederates

You won’t want to miss it: Sunday, May 22, 9:30 a.m.

Wheels of Love Route Ministry

Feel led to be a Volunteer Driver?



Love INC Volunteers are Needed to Offer Rides on Mondays & Fridays!

(Drop offs can include locations around Walmart, Post Office, Health Department, JFS, WIC, Courthouse, Library, Banks...)



To Volunteer to Drive,
Call Love INC of Greater Holmes County



330.473.6017

We have been piloting this Route Ministry since March. More and more riders are calling in to take part in this opportunity! We will continue to track the volume of requests for a ride, and discern if/when a purchase of a vehicle would be best to serve families in our community! Stay Tuned!



Quarterly Board of Stewards Update

Financial software being upgraded

The Board of Stewards met in April and discussed a variety of matters, including a recommendation to update the Quickbooks software used for budgeting and accounting. As a non-profit, we'll qualify for a substantial discount on the yearly subscription, expected to be about \$75 a year.

Business manager Sue Weimer submitted several recommendations regarding the General Fund to help balance expenses with income. The Board approved the following:

- Creating a working capital account to pay the taxes and electricity for the parsonage from rental income instead of the General Fund.
- Camp scholarships for 2022 will be paid from the Schrock Memorial Fund.

The audit report was received under advisement, which included a recommendation to explore online or automated giving to provide options for members and others to give faithfully and regularly – even when they are not able to attend.

Upcoming projects include trimming trees, burning brush, and reseeding around the wellhead at the parsonage; and grading and adding new stone to the church parking lots across State Route 39 and Church Street, fixing siding on the south side of the church, and general cleaning and maintenance.

The Board will work with the village to approach ODOT about installing a crosswalk and/or signage to the parking lot across the highway.

And we're exploring audio/visual options for the nursery and other areas of the church.



New study series starting

Our summer Bible Study on the Epistle of James will begin in May as we explore issues that measure our living faith and spiritual fruitfulness. Jesus says to his disciples and to future followers in John 15:16, *"I appointed you to go and produce lasting fruit, so that the Father will give you whatever you ask for, using my name."*

What does it mean to follow Christ 24/7? What does a day-to-day relationship with Jesus look like? How do we grow in our faith and Christian maturity? We'll explore those questions that motivate us to test the quality and consistency of our faith, and more.

Based upon feedback from our last small group study, we'll continue a similar format, offering a daytime session at Nashville UMC, from 10 to 11:30 a.m. on Tuesdays, beginning May 17, and from 6:30-8 p.m. on Thursdays at Killbuck UMC, beginning May 19. An online Zoom option will also be available. To join remotely, make sure we have your email address.

Summer VBS transitioning to “Wild Wednesdays”

Wednesdays
June 29-July 27



Children will be learning about God's Kingdom throughout the summer with our upcoming "Jungle Safari"-themed ministry each Wednesday evening June 29 to July 27, from 5:30 to 8 p.m.

Preschool through elementary kids will enjoy exploring God as Creator, Provider, Sustainer, Savior, and King. Our sessions will include stories, recreation, music, crafts, missions and more. A snack time will also be provided each night. And as a finale, we'll be hosting an "End of Summer" celebration on Wednesday, Aug. 3, before school restarts.

Watch for details as we get closer.

A volunteer signup sheet is available at the church. Your help is appreciated in any of the work areas, and most of all: prayer as we create this wonderful learning environment.

If you have any questions, contact the church at 330-378-2055.

Watch for us on Memorial Day!

Nashville UMC is hosting a bake sale from 10 a.m. through the parade on Monday, May 30.



Proceeds will support our summer youth ministry.

We'll also be passing out water along the parade route. Hope to see you in Nashville.



National Day of Prayer

Did you know the first National Day of Prayer was proclaimed by the Continental Congress in 1775, calling for a day of “public humiliation, fasting, and prayer?”

National Day of Prayer as we know it today was created jointly in 1952 by the U.S. Congress and President Harry S. Truman. In 1988, President Ronald Reagan then established the first Thursday of May as the regular observance.

This year’s service at the Holmes County Court Square will feature a dozen area pastors and faith leaders, music, prayer and praise. It will begin at 6 p.m. on Thursday, May 5. Come out and join us! The theme is “Exalt the Lord, who has established us,” based upon Colossians 2:6-7. The church sanctuary also will be open through 5 p.m. for anyone to stop by for prayer and reflection.

Killbuck United Methodist Church

410 N. Main St. Killbuck, OH (330) 276-3871

We’ll be set up inside the Fellowship Hall during the *Killbuck Community Yard Sales*, rain or shine. Be sure to stop in and check it out! There’ll be something for everyone.



LUNCH MENU

Sandwiches

Smoked Pulled Pork
Shredded Chicken

Sides


Chicken & Noodles
Assorted Chips
Pies & Desserts
Drinks

* Proceeds support church missions, outreach, and ministry.

Call the church for info:
330-276-3871

Plan now to stop by for **LUNCH** while you are bargain hunting.

Saturday, May 7, 2022



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