



Owl Creek Baptist Church

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OUR VISION: *To be a continuing light in the world's darkness, inspiring people to love God and to love others.*

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News and Announcements...

❖ **Happy Trinity Sunday!** In the traditional liturgical calendar, this day is marked across the world as the historic recognition of God's full revelation following Pentecost. God is one (Deuteronomy 6:4), but has manifested himself in the personal work of the Father (creator), the Son (redeemer) and the Holy Spirit (sustainer) (Ephesians 4:4-6).

❖ **We will continue our outdoor worship** on Sunday, June 7th, at 10:30 a.m. (Sneak preview announcement: we are considering moving our time back to 10:00 a.m., pending approval of the congregation.) Last Sunday, our first such outdoor venture, there were 26 souls who came out to brave the fresh air and sunshine! Once again, we ask our members to sit together in household groups and observe social distancing. We also ask that you bring lawn chairs, and encourage folks to wear face masks. You will notice that the pastor's "Sermonettes" will no longer be published in this newsletter, but will be mailed separately to our retirement home and home-bound members.

❖ **We joyously announce** the graduation of two more High Schoolers related to our Owl Creek Baptist family. **Alice Meadows'** grandchildren, **Charles** and **Hallie Meadows** (twins!), both graduated from Newark High School with the distinction of having 4.0 grade point averages. God's blessings upon you, young people!

❖ **Update on Bruce and Nancy Hissong.** Pastor Bruce and his wife, formerly of the Northside Church of Christ and beloved servants of the community, are both resting at home, and Bruce is receiving hospice care. OCBC has sent a card with a \$100 check to help with their multiple needs, stating:

"Because you have sown so many seeds of love and kindness, Owl Creek Baptist Church wants to honor and thank you. Thank you for your kindness and your unselfish service to God and his people. We are praying for your safety, comfort and joy. Love & prayers, The Owl Creek Baptist Church"

❖ **Pastor Chapman was invited** to provide the invocation for the Mount Vernon City Council on Tuesday, May 26th. The meeting was held via the ZOOM online video conference program. The pastor was joyously greeted by our own **Samantha Scoles**, a member of the city council.

❖ **Send us your news items!** Phone or send an email to Bonnie Kohl or Pastor Chapman, telling us about the news events of your lives...birthdays, anniversaries graduations, vacations, new jobs, or whatever is newsworthy to you!

Let us lift up in prayer...



Our own beloved nation, rocked by the multiple crises of a viral pandemic, growing unemployment, and massive protests in response to violent racism. If this moment is not a call to prayer, perhaps no time is!

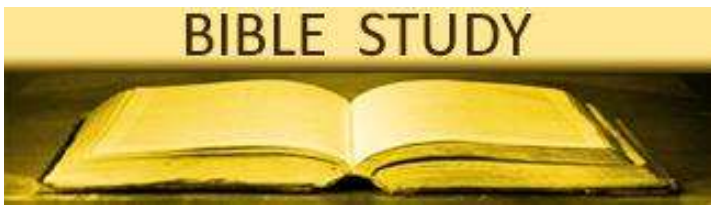
Faye Boggs, the aunt of **Greg Hall** (Susan Debolt's husband), who is receiving hospice care at home due to pneumonia.

Martha Robey, who has returned to The Living Center in Mount Vernon following hospitalization and subsequent recuperation.

Jerry Skeen, still waiting for news on the go-ahead for an operation to relieve his chronic back pain.

Aileen Hiltner, in rehabilitation following surgery for a broken hip suffered at home. Her address:
Arlington Care Center
98 S. 30th Street
Newark, OH 43055

Kim and Brad Kohl, and the baby whose arrival they are patiently (or anxiously?) awaiting any day now!!



TEXT: John 12 (Jesus concludes his public ministry)

This chapter is one of the longer chapters in John's gospel, and the material is quite dense. The chapter contains five discreet scenes or episodes:

- 12:1-11 – Dinner with Mary, Martha and Lazarus, where Judas protests Mary's anointing of Jesus' feet.
- 12:11-19 – Triumphal entry to Jerusalem, carefully monitored by menacing Pharisees.
- 12:20-26 – Conversation with Andrew and Philip, when Jesus announces his impending death.
- 12:27-43 – Answering questions from the crowd, who question and disbelieve his identity as the Messiah.
- 12:44-50 – Final proclamation as the "light" against the world's "darkness," warning about judgment to come.

Baptist NT scholar, G.R. Beasley-Murray, wrote: "The great subject of chapter 12 is the meaning (Pastor Chapman's emphasis) of the death and resurrection of Jesus. The binding of these two events as an indissoluble action of God in Christ...enables [John] to portray the redemptive act in terms of the glory of the Father and the Son." He notes that this theme of "glory" begins with Mary's anointing of Jesus with an embalming perfume. It continues with Jesus' triumphal entry into Jerusalem, crowds shouting their acclamations of "Hosanna." Jesus then tells Andrew and Philip that he is about to be "glorified." John next includes a rare (for him) quote of the OT prophet, Isaiah, whom John said "saw Jesus' glory." Finally, John recorded Jesus last public proclamation that he came as a "light to the world," which John foreshadowed in his introduction (1:7-9), stating that the incarnate Jesus allowed us to "see the glory...as of a Father's only Son" (1:14).

"Glory" is a difficult word to define. The Greek word (*doxa*, from which we get the praise term, *doxology*) suggests "brightness, splendor, radiance." The Hebrew term for glory (*kabod*) is a bit more dramatic, probably derived from ancient observations of lightning flashes followed by thunder during a storm. "The heavens are telling the glory of God" (Psalm 19:1).

While we wrestle with definitions, most of us have a gut-feeling about the concept of glory. Glory captures our attention, and fills us with awe. Glory elicits natural praise, causing us to say "ooh" and "ahh" and "wow," words in English which are called "interjections," and which are intriguingly defined as inarticulate speech that is provoked from the depth of emotion. Jesus, at the end of his ministry, was prefiguring his glory. Many could not see this glory (12:37,43), including his own disciples, who only began to understand following his resurrection (12:16).

John seems to be suggesting that our goal as disciples of Jesus is to recognize and proclaim his glory. We can easily point to the glory of God's creation. We can also point to the power in God's word. But we can further share how God has made us say "ooh" and "ahh" when we have encountered a bit of his glory, as we join in the evangelistic efforts of those who bear witness to our glorious God.

There are several items to report regarding OCBC's ongoing mission activities and commitments...

❖ **Racetrack Ministry donations** will be ending this Sunday, June 7th. Those still wanting to donate may bring non-perishable foods (canned meats, soups, peanut butter, crackers, and non-refrigerated items), as well as non-prescription medications (Theraflu, Robitussin and aspirin). Ongoing needs include general household items, clothing and toys for various ages of children. Money, checks or gift cards to Walmart or grocery stores are also appreciated. All items may be given to Alice Meadows for delivery.

❖ **Utica Food Pantry** matching donation opportunity also ends this Sunday, June 7th. An anonymous donor has pledged to match up to \$500 in gifts. Checks may still be made out to OCBC, earmarked by memo for the food pantry. Bonnie Kohl will deliver our donations.

❖ **One Great Hour of Sharing** is a 71-year-old tradition dating back March of 1949, when churches were asked to take up collections to help with relief following the devastations of World War II. Incredibly, over 75,000 churches responded on short notice, and this offering has become an annual ecumenical effort ever since. The American Baptist Churches-USA has made the month of June our OGHS collection emphasis. We trust that OCBC members will once again consider generous contributions to this most impactful mission offering!

❖ **Free Lunches at Miller Park Program** has had to abide by necessary changes in the face of the pandemic. Children are not able to come and eat together this summer, but coordinator Rev. Scott Schieber says kids can still pick up meals to take home with them. The Salvation Army is providing personal protective equipment for all those distributing the meals. OCBC's designated week is July 13-17. Your Executive Board is still discussing how the church might effectively participate. Books that have been typically collected to give to the children locally, it was determined, should be donated to Neighborhood Ministries in Youngstown, Ohio, at this time.

❖ **Our own International Ministries** of the ABC-USA continues to seek funds to make up for this year's current shortfall. The good news is that IM is also blessed to have a matching funds program that has been applied to the "Personalized Support Goals" effort that allows churches to target their giving to specific missionaries. Discussing our congregation's response to this challenge, your Executive Board approved the monthly pledge of \$100 to IM, to be specifically directed for the support of **Tim and Stacie Reese**. This delightful couple is well-known to our congregation as past pulpit supply and special missionary speakers. Tim and Stacie hope to go to the Dominican Republic to serve in community development in that very impoverished nation. We trust that God will bless them with the full support they need in order to answer God's call upon their lives.