



# *Reedurban Presbyterian Church*

*Our dwelling place has been with the Lord for 90 Years of  
Ministry*

## *Reedurban JUNE 2016 Newsletter*



Dear Friends,

I bought a pomegranate a couple of days ago at the little produce shop I frequent. I don't think it's the regular season for pomegranates, and I don't know where this one came from – not Ohio! - but I bought it because I LOVE pomegranates! I don't care that they're so hard to eat and I wind up with dark red hands and spots all over my shirt before I'm done. I love the bright sweet red juice and the crunchy seeds.

It wasn't always so. When Tim and I lived in Palestine I looked at them in disgust. I couldn't understand the people walking along the street digging out all those seeds with spoons. Yuk. How unappetizing. Never once in two years did I bother to try one.

I guess it was the marketing of pomegranate juice years later that gave me a first taste. Wow, delicious! Some years after that the actual fruit started to appear at the grocery. I finally bought one and tried it. Who knew? Not me. I judged them negatively with little knowledge and no experience. Ever since I look back to Jerusalem and shake my head at the snap judgment that kept me from enjoying a fantastic fruit right where it grew.

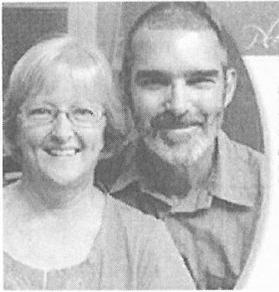
What is "too bad" about pomegranates becomes tragic about the way we often judge people. In a split second we can size someone up as good or bad. We can welcome or reject them without a good, informed reason or any attempt at understanding. Unfortunately there are stories like these in my experience, too. Jesus sure gives us a different example, doesn't he? He made a ministry of reaching out and welcoming any and all manner of persons deemed unworthy and untouchable.

Let's open our minds and hearts after our Savior's example. Let's treat people with respect, particularly people who for one reason or another appear "different" from us. Whatever our first impression, let's determine to stop and look one more time. For followers of Jesus, the second look is with the eyes of faith. We seek Jesus' perspective. And then we move to respond after his example of loving-kindness. Imagine the goodness we may experience as a result!

Grace and Peace,  
*Lynn*

## Missionaries to the South Sudan

Coming: **Sunday, June 12**



Lynn and Sharon Kandel, Presbyterian missionaries working with the Presbyterian Church of South Sudan will be with us on Sunday, June 12. They will speak with all who attend Java, Juice and Jesus at 9:00 am, and they will help lead worship at the service following at 10:30 am.

The Kandels serve our denomination doing logistical work to build and rebuild school buildings, help organize a teacher training project, and assist with reporting on a peace and reconciliation project for our South Sudanese partners. They also support other mission co-workers in South Sudan with logistical needs. "We are praying that the education aspect of our work will help improve the rate of women and young girls entering school. With education, there comes the possibility of better jobs and a better life, as well as a better community for all."

Sharon and Lynn are on furlough the month of June and will be living in Millersburg. What a great opportunity to hear from people serving on the front lines of a nation in peril. Political turmoil and famine are causing terrible suffering in this youngest nation on earth. Plan to come and hear from our friends in mission and offer your prayers for the people of South Sudan.



Stewardship through the end of April of \$38,103 is \$5,319 less than expenses of \$43,422. Total income for the same period of \$40,792 is \$2,630 less than expenses.

Submitted by: *Rick Lichtenwalter*



For the month of June we will be collecting school supplies (pencils, paper, notebooks, etc.) and toys (jump ropes, balls, games, etc.) for the **Giving Tree**. They may be placed in the basket in the **Welcome Center**.

## LIGHTS IN THE SANCTUARY

To keep the congregation informed: There has been a delay in securing the light sockets. The contractor has found the correct light sockets for the existing fixtures so work should be starting soon.



We invite all men to join us on Sunday, June 19 at 9:30 am for breakfast. The price is \$6.00 and tickets will be available in the Welcome Center before and after worship on June 5 and June 12. There is a sign-up sheet in the Welcome Center.

## ***“Holy Conversation” Report***

Seventeen people gathered in the sanctuary on Sunday evening, May 15 to engage in a prayer-led conversation about Human Sexuality. Most of those present expressed their thoughts and concerns, and there were a variety of viewpoints. There was disagreement. There was also respectful listening and questions raised to aid in our understanding each other. No statements or pronouncements resulted, but people were heard, and the Spirit of our Savior was welcomed into our midst.

Concerns about the topic of Human Sexuality that were raised included:

*Fear that is related to the topic*

*The conflicted way many feel about and respond to the topic*

*The need for more knowledge and understanding about Human Sexuality*

*People (lgbt) are suffering and dying*

*How do we interpret scripture in general and specific verses in particular?*

*How can we disagree on the topic and not divide?*

*The way our culture and media feature Human Sexuality that manipulates, exploits and creates controversy and conflict to “sell” their products and garner ratings*

We found much **common ground**. All participants agreed:

*God loves us all.*

*We are all God’s children.*

*We are one in the Lord.*

*God has created us all.*

*God doesn’t make mistakes.*

*The Bible is God’s Word.*

*Human Sexuality is a complex subject.*

*Healthy Relationships are characterized by:*

*Mutual respect*

*Understanding/Communication*

*Honesty*

*Love*

*Forgiveness*

*Commitment*

*Trust*

*We want to follow Jesus.*

*We need to keep praying.*

Deep, sincere thanks to every person who came and offered their concerns and energy and prayers. Deep sincere thanks to all wrestling with the subject and keeping your minds and hearts open to the Holy Spirit. The Lord is faithful. Let’s keep praying.

## **JAVA, JUICE AND JESUS**

Our summer Adult Education program is gearing up to begin on Sunday Morning, June 5. We will meet in the Fellowship Hall at 9:00 am for some breakfast munchies and begin our discussion/program in short order.

On June 5, Tim and Lynn Shetzer will share some experiences and insights gleaned from their two-year stint in Jerusalem. Tim worked for the YMCA and Lynn served under the Program Agency of our national Church. A number of people have asked them to present such a program, and though it was long ago, concerns about the situation in Palestine/Israel continue very current.

On June 12, we are fortunate to have Lynn and Sharon Kandel, missionaries to South Sudan, who are home on furlough, come to speak with us. See the larger article about their up-coming visit elsewhere in the newsletter.

For the following month or so we will be looking at a study for churches about Race Relations. Again the topic is very current and timely. Please come and participate whenever you can.



## PARISH HEALTH MINISTRY UPDATE

May is National Stroke Awareness month. This “brain attack” occurs when a clot blocks flow to the brain (ischemic stroke) or when a blood vessel in the brain bursts (hemorrhagic stroke). Stroke is the fifth leading cause of death in the USA. What is alarming is the rise in number, about (1 in 7) strokes, that occur in adolescents and young adults, ages 15-49. The increased incidents of stroke in younger people are occurring due to obesity, high blood pressure and diabetes. Stroke is no longer “a condition that happens to older people”.

Living a healthier lifestyle including physical activity and eating a healthy diet can help prevent a stroke. Strokes are *preventable and treatable*.

Review below the F-A-S-T chart. Learn to recognize the signs and symptoms of stroke and call 9-1-1 immediately to better the chance of recovery. Also the bulletin board in fellowship hall is currently being updated on more detailed information on strokes.

<b>F</b>	<b>FACE</b> Ask the person to smile. Does one side of the face droop?	
<b>A</b>	<b>ARMS</b> Ask the person to raise both arms. Does one arm drift downward?	
<b>S</b>	<b>SPEECH</b> Ask the person to repeat a simple phrase. Is their speech slurred or strange?	
<b>T</b>	<b>TIME</b> If you observe any of these signs, call 9-1-1 immediately.	

Have your blood pressure checked at the Blood Pressure screening session at the Community Dinners on Tuesday, May 31, 2016 and June 28, 2016 from 4 pm to 6:30 pm.

Submitted by: *Gwen Weston*



Picnics and ice cream go hand in hand. Please join us immediately after worship on Sunday, July 10 for our annual church picnic hosted by the Outreach Committee and ice cream social sponsored by the Deacons. **Bring along a potluck dish to share.** Desserts are not needed because Deacons will be serving up ice cream with a variety of toppings.



*Open to anyone who would like to grow in their faith in the company of loving Christians.*

**Belayers** – Sunday evenings 5:30 pm - conference room. Questions: Chuck Blackstone 330-936-3534.

**Sowers** – 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesdays 10:00 am - church. Information: Don and Jackie Peel at 330-877-8745.

**Friends Bible Study** – Women's group 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Tuesdays 9:30 am - Blue Fig Restaurant. Information: Mary Kay Cutlip 740-275-6962.

**Men's Breakfast Group** – 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesdays 8:30 am – Main Street Grill (inside Buehler's). Questions: Jack Robinson 330-837-8217.

**Seekers** – Every other Tuesday 1:00 pm - Woodlawn Village Club House. Questions: Carol Kaufmann 330-546-7316.

**Crafty Knitters** – 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Thursdays 10:00 am - church. Questions: Mary Kay Cutlip 740-275-6962.

**Pathfinders** – 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Tuesdays 6:30 pm - Conference Room. Information: Wendy Lichtenwalter 330-833-3564.



The Monthly Community Dinner sponsored by the Men's Breakfast Group is held on the last Tuesday of each month from 4:00-6:30 pm. The next dinner will be on **Tuesday, May 31<sup>st</sup>**. If you can spare some time the men would welcome any help as well as desserts. Blood pressure screenings are offered as well. Jack Robinson (330-837-8217) or Dave Weston (330-879-2504) can answer any questions.



Weather permitting we will have our outdoor service on Sunday, July 17. Dress is casual and you are invited to bring your own lawn chair if you would like.



In an effort to make sure everyone with e-mail is getting the newsletter sufficiently we are asking you to notify the office if you have had any trouble downloading or receiving it. There has seemed to be a problem this past month. Please be patient as we try and work out the current bugs.



Once all the flowers are planted around the church we need your help keeping them looking beautiful. If you would like to help out by watering, please sign up on the sheet located on the bulletin board in the Welcome Center for the week that best suits your schedule. The hoses are located towards the back of the building and a watering can is in the UPS box outside the front door. Any questions, please call the office.



We would like to thank everyone for your prayers, cards and kind words after the passing of my mother, Betty Oplinger. We are blessed to have such a wonderful church family.

*Dave & Sandy Oplinger*

## Sharing Ministry and Mission

The church is filled with inspiring stories of faith. Each of us has a story to tell of our individual faith journeys and how the Lord has blessed us along our way through caring people and the church community. You are invited to offer your story for publication through our monthly newsletter. It is an opportunity to glorify God and inspire the church. We are blessed by *Dorothy Bowen* to share her faith story this month.

Why I Believe” by Chip Ingram is the Sowers small group study experience recently. We meet the 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesday at 10:00 am in the Church Fellowship room. The series examines the truth of Christianity and be equipped to intelligently articulate our faith.

Why do you believe? Why do I believe? My answer is the Bible tells me so.

My journey with God the Father and the Lord Jesus Christ began as a young girl. Sunday School, Vacation Bible School, Camp Meetings were just part of my nurturing. My Father’s parents and his sister entertained Oriental Missionary Society missionaries in their home. Remembering a special lady playing a musical saw fascinated and aroused my curiosity by their stories.

Growing into pre-teen and high school, was a member of the Church Children’s Choir, in active Youth Group with various activities such as roller skating night and drama club.

Jesus wants a close relationship with Him and He was always a part of my life. “Footprints” a beautiful poem is a favorite of mine because I know He has carried me many times throughout my life. To have a close relationship, we must meditate on His Word which reveals the very words and mind of God.

I believe because God takes the initiative in extending His unconditional, unmerited love to each of us in an act of immeasurable grace and peace.

I can face tomorrow because I know He lives and loves me – The Bible tells me so.

*Dorothy Bowen*

### 2016 SESSION

**Moderator:** Rev. Lynn Shetzer

**Class of 2016:**

**Class of 2017:**

**Class of 2018:**

**Clerk:** Rob Townsend

Carol Mossor

Rob Townsend

Carol Kaufmann

Rick Lichtenwalter

Charles Blackstone

Dwight Newsom

Gary Steinbach

Jim VanEtten

Chuck Leeser

Gwen Weston

Paula Bracken

Jack Robinson

### 2016 DEACONS

**Moderator:** Linda Radsick

**Class of 2016**

**Class of 2017:**

**Class of 2018:**

**Vice-Moderator:** Darlene Mock

Katie Hinson

Lois Pinhard

Pam Baxter

Linda Radsick

Marge Merrin

Heike Townsend

Sue Larke

Margaret Whitacre

Mary Kay Cutlip

John Whitacre

Darlene Mock

Renate White

## Gratitude and Good News

Heartfelt thanks goes to Gwen Weston and her terrific Parish Health Ministry Team. Gwen did a wonderful job of pastoral care while Rev. Shetzer was on vacation, and she and her team continue to do follow up checks on members with particular health needs. God bless you!

Carol Kaufmann's talented grandson Jonah is a pianist with an award-winning jazz ensemble in Durham, North Carolina. His band was recently chosen as one of a handful of bands for a national competition of high-school-aged musicians at Radio City Music Hall in New York City. They won Second Place in the whole country! Congratulations to Jonah and his band! Maybe Carol will share the DVD with us.

Thanks to all who helped with the outside cleanup on April 30<sup>th</sup>. Everything looks so nice and fresh. You did a wonderful job! If anyone would like to plant a geranium or another favorite flower around the church for Memorial Day to honor or remember a loved one please feel free to do so. We are so fortunate to have such a beautiful piece of property and the flowers you add each year only makes it more beautiful.

Many thanks to Don Peel, Jim Bracken and Gary Nist, who are constructing a raised bed garden on the south side of the church building. This is an experiment and perhaps the beginning of a larger project to benefit the Community Dinner menu and those who participate on the last Tuesday of the month. Thanks, guys, for all your good efforts! Watch for green beans, tomatoes, perhaps some zucchini and herbs in weeks to come. You are welcome to take a turn weeding and watering.

The YMCA of Central Stark County celebrated 150 on April 17. The Y has been offering programs, advocating healthy lifestyles and promoting good character in Stark County since 1866! President McKinley served a time as chairman. Today there are 8 branches and a camp under the YMCA umbrella. Tim Shetzer serves as chief executive officer. Congratulations!

Congratulations also go to the AA chapter hosted by our congregation. They are celebrating a milestone anniversary together. We give thanks for the people who meet in the Fellowship Hall on Sunday evenings and for the wonderful program and the blessing it offers so many people.

Ruth Ann Robey's third great granddaughter was born April 10 to my granddaughter and husband, Mandii and Mike Cramer. Merida Elma Cramer weighed 7lb. 14 oz., is healthy and a delight to all her family.

Marge & Ron Merrin's oldest granddaughter, Caitlin Merrin Romeo, graduated on May 14 from the Kentucky College of Osteopathic Medicine in Pikeville, KY. She is now a DO (Doctor of Osteopathic Medicine) in internal medicine. She will be doing her internship in St. Petersburg, FL beginning in July.



### THE PRESCHOOL AROUND THE CORNER

The school year is coming to a close. It has been a wonderful year! Four students moving on to kindergarten.

The children have had a lot of fun raising ladybugs and butterflies. We learned so much by watching their metamorphosis. We recently released them to nature.

We will have two summer sessions of preschool this summer, meeting on Tuesday mornings. It will be open first to our current students. Depending on the number enrolled, we may open it to our incoming students.

Thank you for allowing us to use rooms in the church. We love being part of your church family!

Happy summer!

*Reta Hale & Tricia Conner*

If you would like to contact them for enrollment information, please contact the preschool at 234-348-0620 or [ThePreschoolAroundTheCorner@gmail.com](mailto:ThePreschoolAroundTheCorner@gmail.com)

# JUNE



- 1 Marjory Trimmer
- 7 Rob Townsend
- 8 Glenn Baxter  
Elliana Ramsey
- 10 Paula Bracken
- 18 Carol Kaufmann  
Jacob Koprivec
- 21 Connor Baxter
- 29 Jerry Larke



- June 5 Katie Hinson
- June 12 **VOLUNTEER NEEDED**
- June 19 Don & Jackie Peel
- June 26 Gary & Elaine Steinbach

We are looking for volunteers to be greeters. Please sign up for a Sunday or two. For more information on being a Greeter, please contact Pam Baxter at 330-477-3389.



The **JULY** newsletter deadline is **JUNE 15<sup>th</sup>**. Please have your articles to Cheryl Robinson (330-837-8217) (email: car929@aol.com) or to the church office by then.



- June 5 Bill & Dorothy Bowen in celebration of their 6<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary
- June 12 Jim & Paula Bracken in celebration of Paula's birthday
- June 19 Cal Simpson
- June 26 Dona Tumlin in memory of her husband, Thomas



The Christian Ed Team is in need of disposable medium to heavy weight aluminum pie plates. Any questions please call Paula Bracken 330-477-8029.



May 22	Pam Baxter
May 29	Paula Bracken
June 5	Darlene Mock
June 12	Debbie Anderson
June 19	Lois Pinhard
June 26	Paula Bracken

Phyllis Greene (Laurels of Massillon)  
 Marge Showers (Hanover House)  
 Patrick Bracken  
 Dorothy Carpenter  
 Paul Daniluk  
 Jerry Givens  
 Edna Harper  
 Jackson Kiger II  
 Marge Merrin  
 Gloria Perrin  
 Nadine Regula  
 Stephen Steiner  
 Jim Trimmer  
 Paul Waibel

The Crib Room is for children under age 4. Helpers, subs or even a regular are always needed in the Crib Room. If you are unable to serve as scheduled, please trade with someone on the list or call Darlene Mock at 330-809-0133.

**Anyone that could volunteer in the crib room during the church service would be greatly appreciated. Please call the church office or Darlene Mock.**

## LITURGIST SIGN-UP

The liturgist sign-up sheet is posted on the bulletin board outside the office for the months of June and July. If you are interested, please sign your name. If you have any questions, please contact Carol Kaufmann at 330-546-7316.



Summer office hours will begin **May 31<sup>st</sup>**.  
 They are:

**8:00 am – 12:30 pm Monday – Thursday**

If you call the office and we are not in, please leave a message on the machine and someone will get back to you as soon as possible. If it's an emergency, please call Rev. Shetzer at home 330-494-2288.



Our heartfelt sympathy is extended to:

Henry and Renate White and family on the passing of Henry's sister.

David and Sandra Oplinger on the passing of David's mother.

Our prayers are with each of you and may the Lord extend his comfort to all.