

“Yet those who wait for the Lord will gain new strength; they will mount up with wings like eagles, they will walk and not get tired, they will run and not become weary.”

- Isaiah 40 : 31 (NASB)

Postponed.
Again.

Earlier this week, we received word that the United Methodist Church’s General Conference, that was supposed to have taken place in April of 2020, and was postponed to August of this year, has now been rescheduled to August 29 – September 9, 2022. And, yes ... it’s all been due to the COVID-19 pandemic. For those who are unaware, the UMC General Conference (GC) takes place every four years, just as it has since the “Uniting Conference,” held back in 1968. Delegates, who have been elected from all of the annual and central conferences, gather from all over the world. They discuss our doctrine and polity, they make decisions which define and guide our denomination, and they perfect our *Book of Discipline*. It is always a huge undertaking, and grand spectacle. The GC is a grueling ten-day work and worship experience, and is the only body which can speak *officially* for the denomination.



What makes this especially frustrating is that this particular GC, being held in Minneapolis, MN, is to consider some proposed legislation that would essentially allow the denomination to split amicably. For years, our GCs have labored, debated and discerned certain issues which deeply divide us. Our current understanding of, and theological positions on, Church Administration and Human Sexuality are hardly adequate, nor are they widely accepted by some of the faithful. This has thereby made it difficult to maintain an effective witness and mission, and has led to a very sharp decline in clergy morale. The commendations to be considered by the GC would allow for congregations, pastors, and individuals to leave the current structure, and join together under a new banner.



To that end, a group of folks known as the *Wesleyan Covenant Association* (WCA) have put measures in place to kick start a “new and faithful expres-



sion of traditional, orthodox Methodism,” which would become a totally separate denomination. The WCA has organized itself by writing its own *Book of Discipline*, elected strong and capable leadership, and has streamlined an administrative structure that would guide and direct the new church. They are now simply waiting for the GC to meet and approve the aforementioned legislation, which would give them the green light to begin.

Unfortunately, all of this waiting is becoming monotonous. The pandemic has made it extremely difficult for many, and even impossible for some, of the elected delegates to travel to Minneapolis. Travel restrictions by different countries, and even our own, are all designed to assist us in overcoming the COVID-19 virus. The bottom line is that we must wait ... wait until the “all clear” is given so that all those who are supposed to attend GC can do so safely and efficiently.



I must admit, and those of you who know me fairly well can attest to this ... I am NOT a patient person. I have been conditioned by the world with a “fast food” mentality. I want it, and I should get it – NOW! Waiting has never been my strong suit. But this is an opportunity for God to work in me, and as I look to the outcome, I am encouraged. I know that God is in control, and that He has a good and perfect will. The Church is His; not yours, not mine, not ours. Jesus promised that the “gates of Hades would not prevail” against His Church. Jesus will accomplish everything He wants to in and through His Church, in spite of General Conferences and new or existing denominations. I will trust Him with the future, and I will continue to seek His will in order to accomplish our mission together. I humbly ask that you will prayerfully join with me in this endeavor.



Pastor Pete





Church Committee Meetings

It's important that all committee members be present at scheduled meetings. Be sure to contact the Chairperson if you are unable to attend.

Staff/Parish Relations Committee

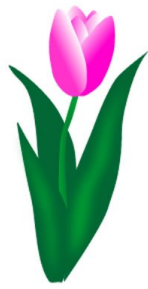
Monday, March 1 @ 7:00 PM
CHAIR:

Administrative Board

Monday, March 8 @ 6:30 PM
CHAIR: Tim Renn

Trustees

Monday, March 29 @ 6:00 PM
CHAIR: Roger Cunningham



Easter Flower Orders Now Being Accepted.



In order to make our Sanctuary look more like a garden this Easter, we have ordered a mixture of Easter flowers. An order form is available at the church or you can send a check to the church at:

Nauvoo UMC
1403 5th Street
West Portsmouth, OH 45663

The cost is \$12.00 per flower and don't forget to include your in honor or in memory of requests. If you have any questions contact Pam Lester at 740-858-2890.



Happy Easter!



Set your clocks
AHEAD
1 hour
before going
to bed on
Saturday,
March 13th!!

DONATIONS NEEDED

Donations of candy or toys to fill the eggs are needed. Also small prizes to give all the children would be greatly appreciated.

We have an ample supply of Easter eggs. Please contact Leichia Davis at 740-858-6455 for more information. Thanks!



Would you like to learn how to run the Audio/Visual Equipment?

Then now is the time!

Donnie Richards would like to train others to use the A/V Equipment so that someone is available when there is a conflict with his work schedule, sickness, or when he is out of town.

If interested, please contact Donnie by phone or text at 740-716-8839.



It's Time to Save Seeds!
JACKSON AREA MINISTRIES
GARDENING PROJECT
 HELPS PEOPLE TO HELP THEMSELVES

DESIRED SEEDS:
Corn and Bush Beans in bulk
 would be greatly appreciated

WE HELP
Persons who have lost jobs,
Senior Citizens
Families on Low Incomes
Families on Fixed Incomes

LAST YEAR'S REPORT
 Donations from 14 states
 23,904 tomato plants
 30,000 lbs. Seed Potatoes
 15,000 Baking potatoes
 2,175 gardens

19 southeast counties
 in Ohio were helped to
 grow gardens in 2020

DEADLINE:
April 4th



- | | |
|-------------------------|------------------------|
| Beets | Herbs |
| Broccoli | Lettuce |
| Cabbage | Melons |
| Carrots | Peppers |
| Cauliflower | Radishes |
| Corn | Spinach/Greens |
| Cucumbers | Squash/Pumpkins |
| Green/Bush Beans | Turnips |

Easter Egg Hunt

Palm Sunday, March 28th
after Morning Worship Service
at the Fire Station





PLEASE JOIN US FOR A
Baby Shower

FOR: Lee & Morgan Wartluft

WHEN: March 13th 2021 @ 3:00 o'clock

WHERE: Nauvoo United Methodist Church
1410 5th St, West Portsmouth, OH 45663

Baby *Amelia* is due on

Apr | 21 | 2021

Registered at Amazon under Morgan Wartluft



Congratulations...

***Tyler & Christa (Castle)
Benson***

***on the birth of baby
Grayson David Benson***

***Grayson was born on
February 7, 2021***

***Grandparents are Tammi
& Craig Castle***





- 3—Nancy Casey
- 4—Kristen Bernard, Christopher Lyon
- 7—Dan Maple, Serenity Richards
- 8—Tim Wellington
- 9—Chuck Horner, Ken Irwin,
Mike Payne
- 12—Michelle Stahler
- 15—Bob Hall
- 16—McKenzie Lester
- 19—Angel Hammond, Rainey Johnson
- 20—Leichia Davis
- 26—Emily Hammond, Mark Hammond,
Ron Browning
- 27—Brooklyn Johnson
- 31—Pam Lester, Sharon Wessel

- 7—Dan & Carol Peebles
- 10—Roger & Misti Cunningham
- 12—Mike & Lori Payne
- 21—Paul & Sondi Conley



**Haiti Mission Society update
January 1, 2021**

Greetings in the name of Jesus to our many faithful sponsors. We appreciate all of you who have stood by us, by God’s help, in a successful year for the House of Faith Orphanage and our mountain ministries. We did not get to visit Haiti because of the pandemic. I really missed seeing all of my boys this past year.

This year has flown by so quickly, but we did make some progress, with the help of the Lord. Our biggest needs again this year were education and food. We did have some medical needs, but all has been paid.

One bad incident was when Director Pastor Jn. Wilso AKA Bato, was shot in the back while looking for food. It took him many months the hear, since he is diabetic. There seems to be a new wave of kidnappings in Haiti, and violence is high in our area. We had to replace the windshield and one side window of our truck because of the shooting.

Seven of our older boys moved into our “Half Way House” for one year while seeking employment. We will provide them food, medical help, and a place to live until October 2021, when they will be independent of House of Faith Orphanage.

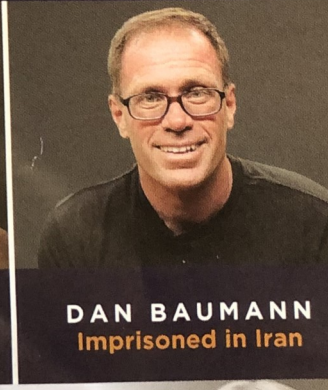
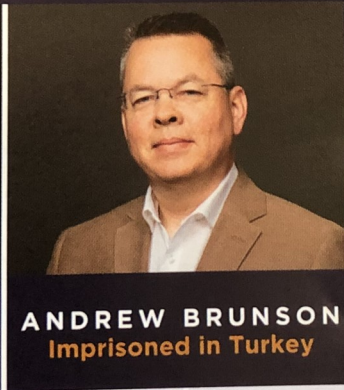
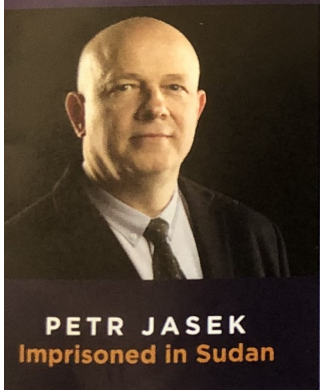
We renewed our government certificate for HMS. Also, we bought two bigger solar panels to charge batteries for electric throughout the night. We put security bars on one of the upper porches that lead to Bato and Gina’s living quarters. We were able to provide dental cleaning for all the boys and Bato’s family. We gave guitar lessons for the boys that wanted to. Each boy received a new pair of shoes. We had some repairs on our truck, including a water pump and a new battery, and a repair of a roof leak. We purchased 9 Bibles for evangelism and 7 new foam rubber mattresses. All school fess were paid for the year.

God helped us in all things, and we give Him the glory. We practice “praying-in” our needs since God gets all the Glory that way. Thanks to all who stood by us.

Love, Jim, Barb, Bato, Gina, and the boys of House of Faith Orphanage

Join us for the
IMPRISONED
for **CHRIST**
VIRTUAL EVENT

Be inspired by the stories of three men who were
ARRESTED. INTERROGATED. IMPRISONED.
But God remained faithful.



LEARN HOW YOU CAN GET INVOLVED AT VOM.ORG/OFFER.

Friday, March 5th
6:30 PM

For more information, contact the church at 740-858-2621.

Administrative Board Minutes
Monday, February 8, 2021
via Zoom

Attendance: (6), Pastor Pete Shaffer, Paul & Sondi Conley, Linda Horner, Sharon Wessel and Rhonda Hammond.

Pete opened with prayer. Paul made a motion to accept the minutes from the January meeting, Linda seconded. All approved.

TREASURER REPORT:

January 2021	Ending Balance	\$13,702.49
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- \$2,411.44 average per week.
- Budget per week is \$3,316.92
- Offerings were short \$905.48 per week in January.
- We still owe \$5,000 in apportionments.
- Jennie paid utilities, Otis Elevator quarterly payment, Discover, Mission money was sent to Red Bird Mission, Oldtown Food Pantry, Haiti Mission Society and Hands of Grace.
- \$125 was paid for our elevator license.
- Budget for 2020 was \$172,480—we spent \$161,960. However, we did not pay \$5,000 in apportionments and our utilities at the church were significantly lower because we did not use the church very much in 2020. District apportionments, health insurance and pension were paid in full in 2020.
- Budget for 2021 is \$171,817. Linda made a motion to pass the budget for 2021, Sharon seconded. All approved.
- Paperwork was straightened up at the state by Otis Elevator, so we can now schedule to come and inspect our elevator. Then we will be good for the rest of the year.


NEW BUSINESS

- No Ash Wednesday Service due to Covid-19.
- No Community Lenten Services this year due to Covid-19.
- Our Zoom membership expires in April—Do we want to renew it? If so we have to pay for the renewal. Pete is going to check into the cost and we will discuss it again next month.
- We are going to participate in a virtual event with the Voice of the Martyrs on March 5th at 6:30 PM. The 3 speakers have all been prisoners in the Sudan, Turkey or Iran because of their beliefs. More information will be forthcoming in the newsletter and bulletin.
- Pastor Pete will be teaching the 1st session of the Laity class in Waverly on Saturday, March 13th at 9 AM.
- How do you feel things have gone for the 1st two Sunday In Church services of 2021? Everyone thinks things are going fine—no issue.
- Paul will spray the church tomorrow and again on Friday or Saturday
- Pete will be doing a funeral for the Jordan family later this week.
- Encourage folks to get those vaccines. Paul signed up for the vaccine, but they told him that it would probably be 1½ months before he was able to get the shots.

Pastor Pete closed the meeting with prayer

Next meeting will be March 8th at 6:30 PM via Zoom.

Minutes submitted by Rhonda Hammond

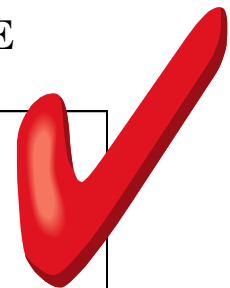


OFFERINGS

January 31	\$3,931.00
February 7	\$4,996.00
February 14	\$3,082.25
February 21	\$1,643.00

ATTENDANCE

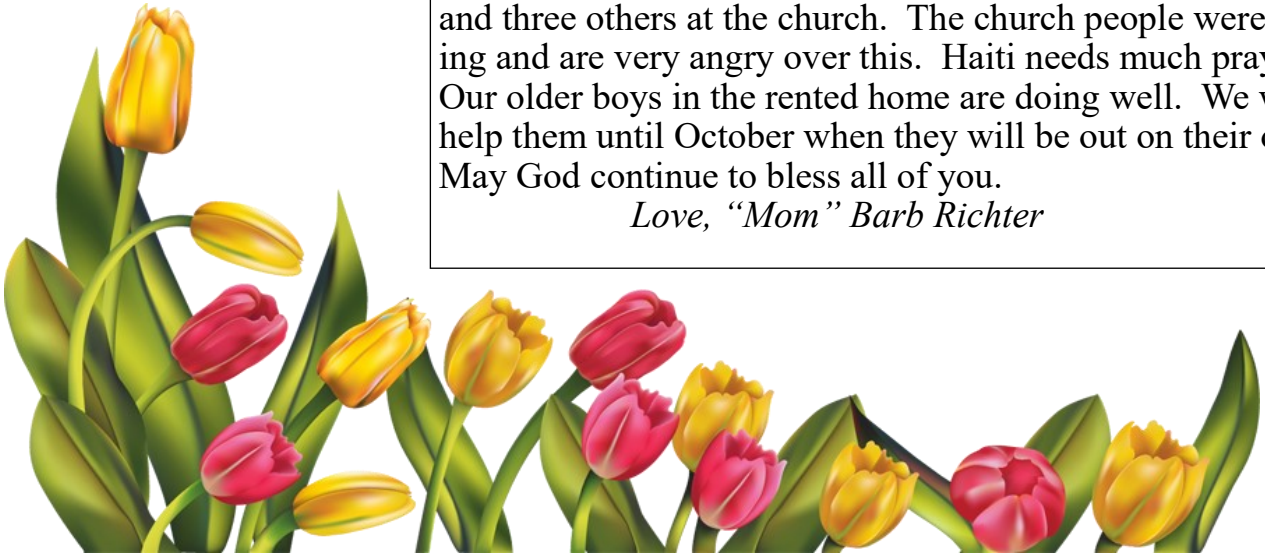
January 31	24
February 7	44
February 14	29
February 21	30



With Thanks


I am so blessed to have you all in my life. Thank you for the wonderful food and sweet cards. Your kindness meant so much to our family at this sad time.
Love, Janet Weghorst

Thanks for your January donation for House of Faith Orphanage. We would appreciate your prayers. Haiti is in a bad situation right now. Kidnappings taking place all over. Just got the word today that a church near Port-au-Prince had a kidnapping at a church there. They kidnapped the pastor and three others at the church. The church people were rioting and are very angry over this. Haiti needs much prayer. Our older boys in the rented home are doing well. We will help them until October when they will be out on their own. May God continue to bless all of you.
Love, "Mom" Barb Richter



Our Sympathy To The Friends and Family of

Howard Weghorst, husband of Janet
Kathy Litz, wife of Dennis Litz and daughter-in-law of the late Lovella Litz
Lily Harris, sister-in-law of Nancy Casey
Don Reynolds, brother of Barb Warner



Administrative Board Highlights for Monday, January 11, 2021 (via Zoom)

Attendance: (7), Pastor Pete Shaffer, Paul & Sonni Conley, Linda Horner, Jennie Entler, Karen Ciraso and Rhonda Hammond. Pete opened with prayer.

TREASURER REPORT: Jennie Entler

December 2020	Beginning Balance	\$17,531.07
	Offerings	\$ 4,311.00
	Expenses	<u>\$10,733.49</u>
	Ending Balance	<u>\$11,108.58</u>

- Offerings were short \$788 per week in November
- Offerings were short \$2,270 per week in December
- We still owe \$5,000 in apportionments; Jennie has not paid them yet.
- No Christmas bonuses because we did not have a meeting to discuss them.
- Notice from the Upper Room that there will be an increase in price when we renew.
- The Conference is sending us \$1,300.
- Haven't received November/December contribution from Valley UMC—Pete got it today \$3,300.
- Jennie posted checks received January 2 totaling \$3,000.14 and January 11 totaling \$3,600.
- Apportionments will be \$900 less next year because they are combining Conference and General Church Apportionments into one category.
- Pete's Health Insurance for 2021 is \$25,056 with the church owing \$22,080 and Pete owing \$2,976.
- Total Revenue for 2020 was \$165,420.78 and expenses were \$161,960.00
- Jennie will have a rough draft Budget ready for our next meeting, so we can discuss and approve the budget at the February meeting.

NEW BUSINESS

- Pete is looking at the COVID numbers for the county and hoping that if the numbers keep declining we could resume Indoor Services. He would like to see us returning by January 31st. Jennie asked about cleaning the church, Pete said that Paul has already sprayed the church once and plans to do so again before we resume Indoor Services. We just got in some new masks and there is plenty of sanitizer.
- During a group text, we had talked about doing a Christmas Service upon our return to Indoor Services and leaving the Christmas decorations up until then. It was decided to just go ahead and put them away since it is so far past Christmas and just about Lenten season.
- In September or October, we talked about what we could do to help the kids in our community, so Pete called Tony Bazler and asked him if there was anything we could do. Pete didn't hear anything back until last week, when Tony called him and asked about putting up an antenna for kids to come to our parking lot and connect to our internet. The tech guy came last week and installed it. This will only work on the chrome books or iPads that the school issued to the students. It will only be available from 6:00 AM to Midnight and will only use 50% of our internet at one time, so we are still able to access it, too.
- No Pastor's Cluster meeting in January. They are hoping to meet in February. One question Pete knows they will ask is if we are going to participate in the Combined Lenten Services. The first Sunday of Lent is February 21st. It was decided to see what the COVID numbers are at the time.
- Sate Elevator Inspector showed up with no notice and no one was here, so he turned us in for non-compliance. Pete called Columbus and they said we hadn't had our 2020 Safety Test done. So, then Pete called OTIS and he said he turned it in. So, OTIS is going to call Columbus and try to get it straightened out. Pete can then call Columbus to schedule an appointment with the State Elevator Inspector to check it again.

Some prayer concerns in our Congregation include:

Barb Warner & her family for the loss of her brother, Don Reynolds

Jackie Blanton is still at her daughters and recovering

Bill Wetzig is back to work with oxygen

Rest of the folks in the congregation who had COVID are all healed up and didn't have it as bad as Pastor

Pete, Jackie Blanton and Bill Wetzig

Paul waiting for information on his surgery.

Pastor Pete closed the meeting. Jennie said the closing prayer

Next meeting will be February 8th at 6:30 PM via Zoom.

Minutes submitted by Rhonda Hammond

Nauvoo United Methodist Church
1403 Fifth Street
West Portsmouth, OH 45663-6109

Rev. Pete Shaffer, Pastor

*E-mail: **pastor@nauvooumc.org***

(740) 858-2621 Church

(740) 370-5490 Cell Phone

Website: www.nauvooumc.org



ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

HAVE A HAPPY SPRING

This is the day the
Lord has made;
We will rejoice and
be glad in it.

PSALM 118:24 NKJV

