

CHUM NEWS

October 2025 Newsletter



A Message from the Pastor...

Pastor Samuel Mohn

Dear Church Family,

As the crisp air of October settles in and the leaves begin their beautiful transformation, I'm reminded that change is one of God's most consistent gifts to us. Just as the seasons shift in His perfect timing, so too do the seasons of our lives. Some bring joy and growth, others bring challenge and reflection—but in all of them, God is faithful.

I also want to share that I will be away from October 13–21, traveling to England as part of the Bishop's Wesley Heritage Tour. This is a meaningful opportunity to walk in the footsteps of John and Charles Wesley, the founders of the Methodist movement. I look forward to learning more about our rich spiritual heritage and bringing back insights, stories, and inspiration to share with all of you. Please keep our group in your prayers for safe travels and a spirit-filled experience.

This month, many of us will slow down to enjoy fall festivals, bonfires, and the beauty of creation in full color. I encourage you to

also take time to reflect on your spiritual season. What is God doing in your heart right now? Is He calling you to rest, to grow, to forgive, or perhaps to step out in faith?

October also brings us closer to the holiday season—a time when community, generosity, and gratitude take center stage. As a church, let's be intentional about reaching out. Whether it's through a kind word, a helping hand, or a prayer offered for someone in need, we are called to be the hands and feet of Jesus in this world.

Let's also not forget to pray for those who are hurting, both in our own community and around the world. There is so much unrest and need—but there is also great hope in Christ. We have the privilege of being bearers of that hope.

“Let us not grow weary in doing good, for at the proper time we will reap a harvest if we do not give up.” — Galatians 6:9 (NIV)

May this month be one where you see God's fingerprints in both the quiet moments and the bold displays of His glory.

With love and gratitude,
Pastor Sam

Celebrating Hymn History: Wonderful Words of Life

Every so often, a hymn comes along that not only lodges itself in our memory but also stirs our hearts with simple, profound truth. “*Wonderful Words of Life*,” written in 1874 by Philip P. Bliss, is one of those timeless treasures. Bliss was a prolific hymnwriter of the nineteenth century, known for penning songs that were clear, heartfelt, and deeply rooted in the gospel message. This hymn has endured because it does something remarkable: it takes the message of Christ and frames it as both an invitation and a gift.

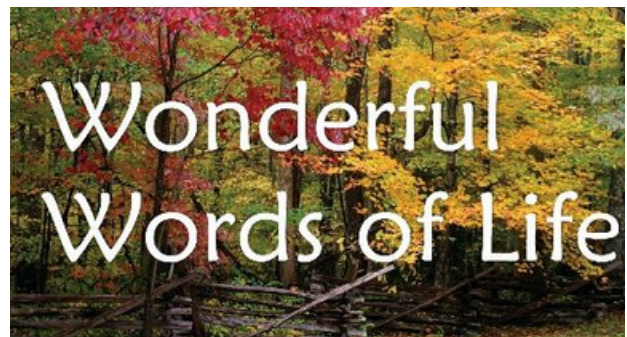
At its core, the hymn is a call to listen. “Sing them over again to me, wonderful words of life,” the opening line begins. It captures that hunger many of us feel—to hear God’s Word again, to let it be repeated and rehearsed until it becomes part of us. The words of Christ, the promises of Scripture, the good news of the gospel—these are not stale or outdated. They are living words, words that breathe hope into our weary souls, words that speak light into the shadows of our lives.

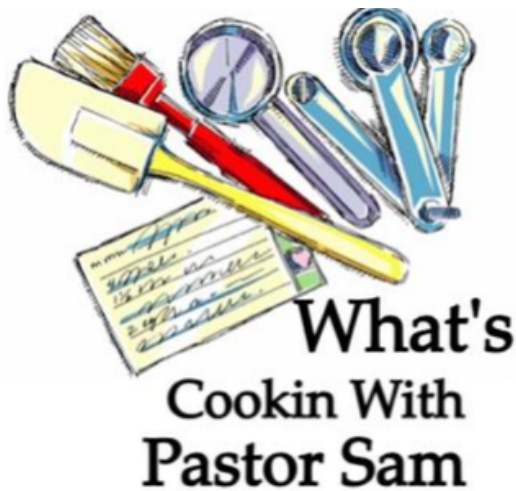
Bliss wrote this hymn during a time when revival meetings swept across towns and cities in America. The church longed for songs that expressed the joy and clarity of the gospel in ways people could carry with them after the revival tents were taken down. The steady rhythm and joyful melody of “*Wonderful Words of Life*” made it easy for both children and adults to learn, sing, and remember. It became a hymn not only of worship but also of teaching and encouragement.

What makes this hymn so enduring is its layered message. The words of Jesus are not only to be admired but embraced. They are words that teach us faith and duty, words that woo us to heaven, words that bring both joy for today and hope for eternity. Bliss reminds us that when we cling to these words, we are holding on to life itself.

For us, singing this hymn is more than revisiting a piece of church history. Each time we sing it, we are reminded that the Bible is not just an ancient book, but a living testimony to God’s love. Scripture continues to speak into our modern struggles and questions, offering guidance, comfort, and joy. The refrain, “*Beautiful words, wonderful words, wonderful words of life*,” becomes more than a lyric—it becomes a prayer of gratitude for the gift of God’s living Word.

As we sing this hymn in worship, may it be more than melody and memory. May it remind us that God’s Word is alive and active, still shaping us, still calling us, still offering us life. These wonderful words are indeed worth hearing again and again, until they echo not only in our ears but in our hearts and in the way we live each day.





Grandgirl's Fresh Apple Cake from Georgia

Ingredients

- 3 cups divided sugar
- 3 eggs
- 1 1/2 cups Vegetable oil
- 1/4 cup orange juice
- 3 cups all purpose flour
- 1 1/2 teaspoons divided baking soda
- 1/4 teaspoon salt
- 1 tablespoon ground cinnamon
- 1 tablespoon vanilla extract
- 3 cups peeled and finely chopped Apples
- 1 cup shredded coconut
- 1 cup chopped pecans
- 1/2 cup (1 stick) Butter
- 1/2 cup buttermilk

Directions

1. Preheat the oven to 325 °F. Generously grease a tube pan.
2. For the cake: in a large bowl, combine 2 cups sugar, eggs, oil, orange juice, flour, 1 teaspoon baking soda, salt, cinnamon and vanilla extract; and mix well. Fold apples, coconut and pecans into batter.
3. Pour the batter into the prepared pan and bake until a tester comes out clean, about 1 1/2 hours.
4. Shortly before the cake is done, make the sauce: Melt the butter in a large saucepan, stir in 1 cup sugar, buttermilk and 1/2 teaspoon baking soda, and bring to a good rolling boil, stirring constantly. Boil for 1 minute. Pour the sauce over the hot cake in the pan as soon as you remove it from the oven. Let stand 1 hour, then turn out onto a rack to cool completely.



October Birthdays

10/3 Larry Asay

10/7 Amelia Seifert

10/11 Eliana Slifka,

Jade Sweitzer

10/13 Priscilla Hecker

10/18 Nikolai Ptichkin

10/20 Ethan Murphy

10/24 Betty Drennen,

William Kepko

10/27 Valerie Harvey

10/29 George Marsh

10/30 Thayne Albrecht,

Charity Washington

10/31 Dorothy Shea



October Updates

A Wesley Heritage Journey — Oct 13-21

From **October 13-21**, I'll travel to **London** for a Wesley heritage experience. I'm excited to walk in the steps of John and Charles Wesley—visiting places like **Wesley's Chapel and House on City Road, Bunhill Fields**, and the **Aldersgate Flame** site where John's heart was "strangely warmed." These places aren't museum pieces; they're reminders that the Holy Spirit still kindles hearts today—ours included.

I'll be carrying you with me in prayer as I go. My hope is to return with fresh stories of courage, accountability, and grace—practices that shaped the early Methodist movement and can re-shape us now: small groups where people are truly known, a bias toward the poor and the overlooked, and worship that sends us to love our neighbors in concrete ways. While I'm away, our services will be led by our capable worship leaders and guest preachers; please keep showing up, singing strong, and welcoming newcomers.

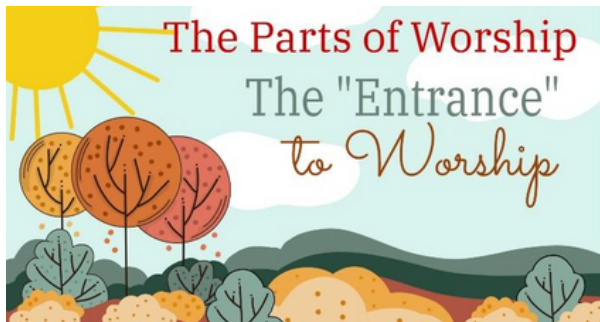
If you're on Facebook, I'll share brief reflections and photos along the way. Consider these posts a little "traveling classroom"—a way for us to learn together how Wesley's legacy can strengthen our witness right here in the Mahoning Valley.

Pastor Appreciation Month — A Shared Calling

October is also known as Pastor Appreciation Month, and rather than centering it on one person, I think of it as a time to remember how much we belong to one another. A pastor's calling only makes sense in the life of a community. You remind me daily that ministry is not a solo act but a shared journey: your prayers, your laughter, your patience, and your willingness to be the body of Christ alongside me are what make the work of pastoring possible and joyful.

For me, this season is less about appreciation in the sense of thanks and more about appreciation in the sense of seeing clearly. To "appreciate" is to notice and value what God is doing in our midst. So this month, I want to say how deeply I appreciate you—for your faith, for your love of Christ, and for your commitment to being church together in this corner of God's world.

Worship 101: Understanding the Flow of Our Service



When we gather for worship, everything we do has a purpose. Each part of the service is designed to draw us closer to God and to one another. Worship isn't random—it's a sacred rhythm that helps us move from scattered individuals into a united body, ready to be sent out in love.

Our worship service is built around four main movements: The Entrance, The Proclamation, The Response, and The Sending Forth. Let's take a look at what each part means and why it matters.

Every Sunday, as we gather for worship, there's a gentle rhythm that begins to unfold. Before we hear the Scripture read or the sermon preached, we enter into something called *The Entrance*. It might seem like just the opening moments of the service, but it's really so much more. These first steps help us shift from the busy pace of life into the sacred space of worship.

The Prelude

When the music begins, it's not just "background noise." The prelude is a gift—a time to settle our hearts and let go of the distractions we carried in with us. It invites us to breathe, to pray quietly, and to remember that we've come here to meet with God.

The Call to Worship

Next comes the call to worship. Think of it as God's invitation: "Come, my people, and worship me together." Whether we're speaking words back and forth, or lifting our voices all together, this moment reminds us that worship isn't about us—it's about God. And we don't do it alone; we do it as a community, united in praise.

The Opening Hymns

Singing together is one of the most joyful ways we step into God's presence. The opening hymns give us a chance to lift our voices as one family of faith. These songs aren't just warm-ups—they set the theme for the day, remind us of God's promises, and allow our spirits to join in praise before we hear the Word. Whether you sing loudly, softly, or simply let the words wash over you, the hymns help move us deeper into worship together.

The Opening Prayer

Finally, we pray. This prayer welcomes God into our midst, though we know God is already here. It's like opening the door wide and saying, "Lord, have your way among us." In this prayer, we ask for open hearts, clear minds, and the Spirit's guidance as we move deeper into worship. So the next time you hear the prelude begin, don't just think of it as the "start of church." Let it be your cue to quiet your soul. When we speak the call to worship, hear God calling you by name. When the hymns rise up, join your voice with others in joy. And when the prayer is offered, make it your prayer too. Together, these moments draw us closer—not only to God, but to each other.

NOVEMBER PANTRY

FUDGE *Needed*

The fudge is needed on
Wednesday, November 5
or Thursday November 6.
Let Sharon Wathen know
if you can make fudge
for this.



SOUP SALE



\$5
PER
QUART

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 1ST FROM 2 TO 3PM
NOVEMBER 2 AFTER CHURCH
VARIOUS KINDS
BENEFITS
KING'S KIDS/YOUTH GROUP

Connect with us!

Website:

www.churchhillumc.com

Facebook: facebook.com/ChurchHillUMC

Worship with us Sundays at 10am!

**Church Hill United
Methodist Church**

189 Churchill-Hubbard Rd.
Youngstown, OH 44505

Livestream available at:

www.youtube.com/@churchhillumc6144



SCAN HERE

Our Team

Sam Mohn, Pastor

Jane Page, Director of
Worship

Carla Jenkins, Pianist

Terri West, Children's
Director

Deanna Slifka, Youth
Director

Joe Seifert, Sound Room
Tech

Charity Washington,
Custodian

Prayer Requests

Lee Elmo, Dora Baker, Ron Baker, Elaine (friend of Gay M.), Nancy Smith, Helen Hess, David Moyers, Eileen Hawkins, Jeff Hawkins, Darlene Capitola, Andre Williams and Dianne, his mother, Jimmy Quinlan, Joette Sondheimer (Viv Seifert's sister), Jane Doughton, Kevin Vara, Carol Smith, Ron Miller (Ken Miller's cousin), Burce MacLellan (Ken Miller's friend), Alma Knupp, Jimmy Weller, DeeAnn (Carla Jenkins' sister), Samuel M, Margie Ryan, John Baksa, Bella, Mike (Nancy Smith's brother), Jerry (Jan Ferry's nephew), Tiffany Orwig, Lori Furlong, Carla Jenkins, Mrs. Pirlozzi (Felicia Brown's mother), Jean Dutko, John (Clara Jones' nephew) Sandy (Terri West's sister), Hope Warner, Natalie D'orzio – (friend of the Ahlswede family), Roger Bartlett – (Helen Hess's son – in-law), Frank Zedek – (Kathy Zedek's son, from Bible study), Family of Larry Neal, Ed (Jane Page's Brother-in-law), Prayers for teachers and military members and their families

Contact Linda Toepfer at 330-718-2361 for the current prayer list and to request prayers.





OCTOBER

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1 4:45-7 KK/YG 7:30 Choir	2 9:30 Pantry Set Up 10:30 Bible Study 6pm Pantry Set Up and Grief Share	3 10-Noon Liberty Com- munity Food Pantry	4 10a Blessing of the Pets <i>Blessing of Pets</i> 
5 World Communion 9:30 Bible Brew 10:00 Wor- ship	6	7	8 4:45-7 KK/YG 7:30 Choir	9 10:30 Bible Study 6pm Grief Share	10	11
12 9:30 Bible Brew 10:00 Worship	13  Columbus DAY Pastor Sam in London 10/13-10/21	14	15 4:45-7 KK/YG 7:30 Choir	16 10:30 Bible Study 6pm Grief Share	17 	18
19 9:30 Bible Brew 10:00 Worship Pastor Sam in London 10/13-10/21	20	21	22 4:45-7 KK/YG 7:30 Choir	23 10:30 Bible Study 6pm Grief Share	24	25
26 All Saints 9:30 Bible Brew 10:00 Worship	27	28	29 Fall Fest 4:45-7 KK/YG 7:30 Choir	30 10:30 Bible Study 6pm Grief Share	31 	

COME, LET'S
SING FOR JOY
TO THE

LORD,

LET'S SHOUT
JOYFULLY TO
THE

ROCK
OF OUR
SALVATION.

PSALM 95:1, NASB



Church Hill United Methodist Church

189 Church Hill Hubbard Road

Youngstown, Ohio 44505