



United Methodist Church

110 Gateway Ave. Conneaut, OH 44030

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www.newleafumc.com

The Leaflet

July 2020



Bishop Tracy Malone and her cabinet have decided that we may enter the facility for worship starting July 1st. I have checked with other pastors as well as our District Superintendent and we have his blessing.

Precautions have been taken for our safety. These include having liquid hand sanitizer at the door and everyone wearing a mask. I **strongly urge** the wearing of masks. (If you do not have a mask, one will be provided).

Social distancing (6 feet in all directions) will be practiced as the chairs will be set up accordingly. Of course, families/couples may sit together. We will have greeters at the door with gloves and masks on who will open the doors so that we don't have too many hands touching the door handles, before and after the service.

Finally we will be worshipping together in our facility on July 12th. This will give us time to get everything in place so that we will have a good experience in worship. We will be returning to worship with contemporary style at 9 am and traditional style at 11 am.

There will be 5 different ways that we can worship together: Live in-person attendance; live streaming via Facebook; live streaming via You Tube Live; cable television airing Sundays & Wednesdays at 5 pm; and FM transmission for those who wish to come to worship but are not ready to re-enter the building (similar to a drive in experience with no screen).

I think it would be awesome to see **ALL** of you. May the Lord richly bless you with joy. We will see one another **July 12th**.

See you then. Rev. Scott T. Walsh

How God Evaluates Worship

In my experience, theological discussions about worship tend to focus on the cerebral, not the visceral—on the mind, not the heart. True worship, we are often taught, is more about the mind thinking right about God (using theologically correct language and liturgy), rather than the heart's hunger for Him. But the words of our Savior resound the undeniable call to worship that transcends the intellect: “God is spirit, and those who worship him must worship in spirit and truth” (John 4:24). We've been inclined to conclude that heart is the proper synonym for Spirit here. “In truth” certainly suggests participation of the intellect in worship, but it is inescapably second—and dependent upon the heart's fullest release first.

This priority is usually held suspect. The heart is said to be governed by affections and thus is more vulnerable to deception than is the intellect. But to base worship on the intellect is to entertain a dual delusion: First, that the mind is less subject to deception than is the heart; Second, that the mind is the main means to “contact” God in worship (think of verses like Job 11:7: “Can you fathom the mysteries of God?”). Yes, human intelligence contributes to worship, but God's Word indicates that He is not looking for something brilliant but something broken: “The sacrifices of God are a broken spirit; a broken and contrite heart, O God, you will not despise” (Psalm 51:17). The exercises of our enlightened minds may deduce God, but only our ignited hearts can delight Him—and in turn experience His desire to delight us!

To be more specific, I believe that the Word of God tells us how to please God. To truly worship we must do at least four things:

1. True worship treasures God's presence. God welcomes those into His presence who want to have a true relationship with Him. The quest may be one of desperation or of delight, of frantic need or of a loving hunger for fellowship, but the motivation is clear—and so is His pleasure with it.

In Exodus 33 and 34, a tender and powerful exchange takes place between God and Moses, spanning the range from an intimate face-to-face encounter to a dramatic declaration by the Almighty. Central is the cry of Moses: “Now therefore, I pray, if I have found grace in your sight, show me now your way, that I may know you and that I may find grace in your sight.” To which God replies, “My presence will go with you, and I will give you rest” (Ex. 33:13–15). Shortly following this, God displays his glory to Moses—as sure a sign of His pleasure and presence as He ever gives (Ex. 40:33–38; 1 Kings 1:8–11).

I had been in pastoral leadership for years when my thinking about corporate worship was transformed by coming to Conneaut. Rather than tightly regimented gatherings, concerned over aesthetics, mechanics, and academic theology, the Lord showed me a new way (through all of you) to provide an unpressured portion of the service for free-flowing songs of praise and adoration. I believe our church is experiencing God's glory and grace in new and more profound ways because we are so open and flexible. We've been vigilant in seeking constant renewal in our worship

because we know that even the finest spiritual habits are vulnerable to the arthritis of ritualism—when form loses its focus. And with gentleness, the Holy Spirit has a way of drawing us back to our “first love”—to a renewed hunger and thirst for the Living God. Even throughout the pandemic we have discovered new ways from our homes to worship! The Worship Team prays and works hard to create a worship environment that encourages people to “fall in love” with God.

2. True worship humbles the heart. In Isaiah 6:1–8, the abject cry of a sinful man, “Woe is me, for I am undone,” was not an achievement of intellectual analysis, but of self-discovery made upon entering God’s presence. Isaiah says “I saw the Lord” with neither apology nor arrogance; it was a breakthrough of grace that produced a breakup of pride. Isaiah, a member of the cultural, educated elite of Judah, demonstrates a childlike humility and teachability. His cry reveals an unreserved availability to God. This is the very thing to which Jesus calls us all: “Assuredly I say to you, unless you are converted and become as little children, you will by no means enter the kingdom of heaven. ... Take heed that you do not despise one of these little ones, for I say to you that in heaven their angels always see the face of my Father who is in heaven” (Matthew 18:3, 10).

Because of the importance of humility, we are encouraging people to become more expressive, both vocally and physically, in worship. Few things challenge our pride more than the simplest summons to expressiveness. I have learned that careful teaching and modeling can help people move beyond self-consciousness (and challenge the adult preoccupation with self-importance) so they can experience a childlike liberty in expressing themselves in worship. That’s why it is ALWAYS OK to clap while we sing, lift holy hands to heaven, and express yourself in worship at New Leaf Church. One of the members of my last church, with the best of motives, once suggested, “Pastor, if you didn’t teach and invite people to lift their hands in worship, I think our church would grow faster,” and then added, “I think you might injure some people’s pride.” “Injure pride?” I said gently. “Why, I was hoping to kill it altogether.”

We want to respect human dignity, but there is a disposition, ensconced in the church as surely as in the world, that equates dignity and pride—and it’s a false equation. It is because we value each individual in our congregation that we teach and model a way for us to “come as children before the Father.” Because pride tends to insist on finding a way to justify and preserve itself (even in church), we try to help people learn the humility of Isaiah. Only this will help us view God afresh and pave the way to deeply felt confession and purification.

3. True worship sacrifices and then expects something from God. Hebrews 11:6 puts it clearly: “one that comes to God must believe that He is, and that He is a rewarder of those who humbly seek Him.” The text presupposes that worship always brings a sacrifice to God, that “whosoever comes,” whether with praise, an offering, or by “laying down” something instructed by the Holy Spirit, is presenting something of themselves to God. Simultaneously we are told that the worshiper is to believe something will be given in return by God himself—something rewarding, benevolent, and good. Some try to defend God against human selfishness and refuse all talk

of reward. But the truth is, God freely offers the reward of His blessing—and delights to do so. He doesn't grouse, "Don't you dare give me something and suppose you're manipulating me to give back!" Instead, his Word simply says, in effect, "Since you come to me, I would expect you to believe I will reward your quest."

Of course, tithes or offerings (which are, indeed, appropriate and biblical "sacrifices") aren't to be a tit-for-tat bargain with God. But God's call to worship is attended by his own commitment to bless us. The promise of God in Malachi 3:10 "Try me now in this ... see if I will not open for you the windows of heaven and pour out for you such blessing that there will not be room enough to receive it") reveals a largess in the heart of God toward human giving—and the justice of our expecting a blessing in return.

Worship is God's gift to us, intended for our blessing and benefit. He doesn't need it, we do.

4. True worship extends God's love. If God-pleasing worship addresses human need, it also will extend God's love to others. It is, thus, unsurprising that the "greatest commandment" issues into "the second, which is like (in importance) unto it." The vertical mandate, to love and worship God, is also horizontal, to love our neighbor. This means such things as:

Forgiving others, seeking peace and reconciliation day-by-day.

Gracious, lifestyle evangelism in both conduct and communication, living out a believable, winsome witness.

Unselfish, servant-minded attitude in assisting others in need, including a heart to care for victims of neglect and injustice.

This need for us to reach out must be met... and is essential to our effectiveness as a congregation.

We must: (1) in a pragmatic way express God's love evoked during worship, (2) help people use their ministry gifts in the assembly, (3) allow people to express themselves personally and to care and pray for one another, and (4) lay the foundation for the invitation—it is infinitely easier to invite people to receive the love of God in Jesus Christ after they have had a personal encounter with some people who have shown it! What is birthed in the heart, then, finds expression in the hands—hands that rise in humble praise, give in simple expectancy, and serve with gentle grace.

With such sacrifices, God is well pleased. Let us then continue in our purpose:

To love the Lord, love one another, and make disciples of Jesus Christ!

Pastor Scott

Financial Snapshot

General Fund Total Income - May:	\$ 30,614.89
All sources, including Online Giving	
General Fund Online Giving:	\$ 6,080.70
General Fund April Expenses:	\$ 26,992.52
[only 30% of Conference monthly apportionment payment paid; 100% of District monthly apportionment payment paid]	
Capital Campaign Funds [Building Fund] received in May:	\$ 2,872.00
Monthly Mortgage Payment:	\$ 6,852.57
Building Fund Balance [pays the mortgage payment] as of 5/31 .	\$ 43,508.28
Avg. Weekly Attendance in May [this includes Live Streaming through Facebook and YouTube]	148
Special Food Pantry Collection [received April & May]	\$ 994.00

AmazonSmile customers can now support New Leaf United Methodist Church in the Amazon shopping app on iOS and Android mobile phones! Simply follow these instructions to turn on AmazonSmile and start generating donations.

1. *Open the Amazon Shopping app on your device*
2. *Go into the main menu of the Amazon Shopping app and tap into 'Settings'*
Tap 'AmazonSmile' and follow the on-screen instructions to complete the process

If you do not have the latest version of the Amazon Shopping app, update your app. Click [here](#) for instructions.

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To see the impact of your marketing, visit the AmazonSmile Metrics Dashboard for New Leaf United Methodist Church. Simply log in at org.amazon.com and click the "View metrics" button.

Prayer Concerns

Alfred Wright, Kerri, Jenny and her family, Lou, Kurt, Meghan and family, Debi Milano, Karen Dawson, Mary Lou Lawwill, Corring, Joyce Turner, Paul Wheeler, Paul Vargo, Prayers for Our Country, Kori Marey Campbell

Prayers of Joy

- ♦ Cystoscopy was all clear and can now go to every six months for treatment instead of every three months ~ Dave Onion
- ♦ Feeling much better and back to work ~ Jim Cunningham
- ♦ Larry McKay has returned home after 45 days of being first in the hospital and then at the County Home for rehab following a broken hip
 - ♦ Jade Ballard is home from UH in Cleveland following a car accident and weeks in UH ~ God is Good!



Entered into Glory

Ruth Taylor, Scott Thomas, Wilma Naglor,
David Gillespie, Bailey Morris,



Editor's Note

Good news, New Leaf Members! Our doors are open! The decision has been made to return to open worship services starting July 12th with both the 9:00 and 11:00 services being held. We invite everyone to join us as we come together to worship but come at your own discretion. We are also offering you the option of coming to the church parking area and if you prefer, you will be able to 'turn your radio on' and listen to it live that way. I can't tell you just now where to tune to get the broadcast but that info will be made available soon. Still available will be the live streaming on Facebook and YouTube plus the bi-weekly airing on television. I understand how hard on everyone this separation has been and it will be wonderful to be able to see each other once again. I hope you will prayerfully consider joining 'Our Lord's flock' as we answer 'His call' to worship.

Penny, Editor

July Birthdays

- 1 Tami Adams, Sally Kennedy, Lisa Raygoza
- 2 Cathy Stevenson, Gavin Dubinsky
- 5 Benjamin Heinonen
- 6 Linda Heinonen, Christy Tuttle
- 7 CJ Welty, Bill Kennedy, Mia Grace Zappitelli,
Larry Kane
- 8 Cassandra Thayer
- 9 Tom Church, Tim Baldwin
- 12 Pete Furman, Gary Ghiz, Dave Hamelin,
Rus Welch, Evelyn Mosgrove,
- 13 JoAnn Hogle, Timothy Starkey
- 14 Scott Walsh, Laura Blood, Sylvia Atkinson,
Zachary Hutchens, Zachary Onion
- 15 Gretchen Nine Bunnell
- 16 Jean Fields
- 18 Becky Church, Wayne Eaton, Tracie Heinonen
- 19 Matt Kaupila, Beth Simpson, Cale Heinonen
- 20 Bev Ashman, Pam Simpson
- 21 Heidi Barnes, Alexandria Hall
- 22 Sarah Heinonen
- 23 Sidney Griffith, Judy Shiley
- 24 Novellee Campbell, Marion J. Patten
- 25 Terri Dixon, Dana Quinn, Sally Ladner,
Alexander Kennedy, Albertine Markijohn,
Barbara L. Wagner
- 26 Christian Strader, Jason Thayer, Lisa Heinonen,
Cherie Russell, Mike McGraw IV
- 28 Jeff Lebzelter, Andrew Conley, Jeff Root,
Tim Starkey II
- 29 Shirley Gerren
- 30 Cinch Brooks
- 31 Kathy Miller, Jae Tyler



July Anniversaries

- 1 Ernie & Sheila Hall, Ash & Peg Welch
- 3 Brett & Jennifer Pifer
- 7 Dan & Cindy Blank
- 10 Tim & Becky Church, Joseph & Edith Rodgers
- 14 Terry & Sylvia Atkinson
- 19 Bill & Ann Wiley



Birthday & Anniversary List:

If you would like your name on our list, please call the church office between 9:00 a.m. & 3:00 p.m. @ 593-2525



Don't forget that our live stream service will start at 10 am on Sundays on our Facebook page & YouTube.

You can also catch it on your TV on the following schedule.

Great Wave [6] Wed. & Sun. @ 5:00 pm
Spectrum [1024] Wed. & Sun. @ 5:00 pm

ELECTRONIC GIVING:

New Leaf offers electronic giving, it's available at <https://newleafumc.com/donate>, click the Donate button where you can set up both recurring and one-time contributions. Or, if you prefer, see Melinda in the office for an authorization form.

GIVING BY TEXT:

Giving by text is an easy and powerful way to give in a matter of seconds. Send a text message to 833-361-3682. It's simple and secure.

Our Missions At Work

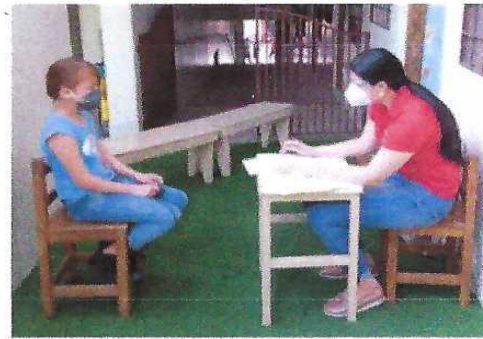
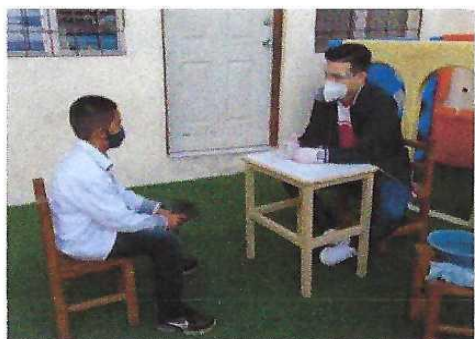
We continue to be living through difficult times here in Tegucigalpa, Honduras as the number of confirmed cases and deaths from COVID-19 increase. At the same time, the government is trying to reopen businesses to ease the unemployment and imminent situation. The health care system is not able to handle this emergency and sick people are being turned away from hospitals while being told that there is no more room. Also, medical facilities are lacking needed equipment and medical supplies to treat people.



This crisis we are living through has started hitting close to home as several of Nueva Esperanza's staff and families we serve are dealing with COVID-19. We are thankful for our healthy staff members for being willing to work and serve as we continue to make sure that our families have food to eat in their homes during this time.

Although Nueva Esperanza's children ministry feels empty without the children there on a daily basis playing, eating, and learning, we are using the facility as a center for ministry. Taking all the needed measures of biosecurity that we can, we continue to bag food for distributions, prepare homework sheets for the preschool children to do at home, and take opportunities that we are given to continue to share the love of Jesus with our families, children, and youth.

This past Monday, we were able to give out another round of food distributions to the families we serve. Since Honduras has required everyone who leaves their home to wear a face mask, we were able to purchase 200 reusable face masks from a local ministry to include in the food bags as well. Ana, who is in charge of Nueva Esperanza's Mothers' ministry, had the opportunity to open the gate and greet family members who came to pick up their food bags. She took every opportunity she could to encourage the mothers to keep looking to Christ during the hardships they are facing. We also took advantage of having all of our youth come in at separate times on Monday as we gave them their families' food bags so that our youth leaders could take some time to ask how they and their families are doing. We hope to begin doing some private counseling and tutoring with them as needed in the next few weeks.





Welcome Back!
July 12th
9:00am or 11:00am
Worship Services Only

- Social distance seating.
- Nursery Care & Children's Church will not be provided.
- Members are asked to wear face masks and refrain from physical contact.
- Those at high-risk for COVID-19 are asked to use personal discretion concerning attendance.



Welcome Back!
July 12th 9am & 11am



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*Our Doors are Open for Worship
starting July 12th*