



Facing a Mountain of Change

Few of us really like change. Most of us crave stability, and church has been an institution of stability through life's ups and downs. Being a part of community that returns to the same practices week in and week out gives our lives continuity. But what are we to do during seasons of profound change? This year we are walking through Matthew's Gospel, and Matthew is all about facing change. Written in the years just after the destruction of the Temple in Jerusalem in 70AD, Matthew's audience survived Rome's onslaught and fled to the city of Antioch. The Temple Mount had been a sacred site of worship for the Jews for 2000 years. Now it was utterly destroyed. Matthew invites us to ask the question, "What do we do now?"

The answer is, it's time to climb a new mountain, not one built by stone and human hands but by the Holy Spirit. Matthew tells us that the promised Messiah has come in Jesus Christ, and he is the new Temple. He will lead us to the mountain of God, give us a new law, be the new sacrifice, and allow us to touch the very face of God. Then he will send us out to the world, that we might teach others that the way is open to everyone. All are welcome on this mountain journey, for God is present not just to an exclusive few but is for everyone. This is the message of Matthew.

Our world is undergoing a period of great change and disruption. New technologies threaten to displace jobs like never before. The stability of our climate is under duress endangering ecosystems all across the globe. Loneliness and depression are spiking particularly among our young people, and polarization is as high as it has been since the Civil War. How are we to handle this amount of change?

The answer we learn from Matthew is, we climb the mountain of God together, trusting that Jesus will be with us always, through every peak and valley, "And remember, I am with you always, to the end of the age" (Matthew 28:20b). It is good to know that we are not the first generation to face a mountain of change. But it is even better to know that Christ is with us through it all. The church has endured periods of disruption before and will do so again. Times like these call for courage, wisdom and trust of God and each other. Are you ready to climb the mountain?

Pastor Joel

**CHRISTMAS PAST AGAIN
SEPTEMBER 12, 2020**

Over the years most of us have accumulated Christmas decorations and ornaments that we no longer use. Though not needed by us, they could become another family's treasure. This fall, Congregational Care Team will again sponsor a Christmas Past Sale where we will sell these gently used Christmas items.

Consider contacting relatives, friends, and neighbors to see if they have items that they would like to donate. And of course, encourage them to shop the sale September 12!

Please take your donations to room 104 in the lower level of the church so that we can begin sorting and pricing. Let Congregational Care know if you have large items to donate such as trees or wreaths, but keep them at home due to limited storage space at church.

Thank you for your donations and support. The profits from this sale will be put back into the work of the church.

COOKIE WALK 2019

We had another successful Cookie Walk. Thank you to all of you who baked at home, baked at church and especially to all who bought the cookies. It is a blessing to work with all of you.

Jan and Meg

**ALTAR FLOWERS ARE
NEEDED
2020 FLOWER/COFFEE HOUR
CALENDARS ARE UP AND READY**

Sign-up sheets are available on the bulletin board in the office for 2020. DON'T WAIT FOR THAT SPECIAL DATE. Please stop by or call the office (474-4791) to reserve your special day to honor loved ones with fresh flowers for Sunday worship service, and/or to volunteer as host or hostess for Coffee Hour (1st Sunday, Shepherds; 2nd Sunday, Session; 3rd Sunday, Deacons; 4th Sunday, other members; and 5th Sunday, Shepherds).

NEW ARRIVALS

11/29/19 Alacia Kay McDonough, great granddaughter of Bill and Kay Fisher. Granddaughter of Lori and Joe McDonough.

12/3/19 Elliot Michael Loconti, son of Kolin and Jesseca Loconti. Great grandson of Martha Wolfe and Becky Myers. Grandson of John and Kim Williams and Mark Allen.

12/17/19 Madelyn Marie, daughter of Ashley Thacker.

Faith Rebecca Bowman, daughter of Eric and Greta (Johnson) Bowman. Great granddaughter of Sylvia Johnson. Granddaughter of Steve Johnson.



We offer our condolences to the family and friends.....

...of Larry McKelvey, brother of Bob McKelvey who died 12/24/19.

...of Alton Zach Hallum, who died 12/31.19.

...of Rebecca Larson, cousin of Martha Wolfe, who died 1/2/20.

...of Jean Wert, aunt of Libby Rushley who died 1/20/20.

EMAIL CHANGES

Steve Thomerson—Wdytir@gmail.com

Paula Thomerson—sthomers@comumbus.rr.com

Speaking of changes, it will be that time again to do a new in house church directory. Some have already told me of landlines that have been cancelled, but if there are any other changes for this directory, please call the office.

THANK YOU

Many thanks to our music groups: Erin, Rita, Jack, Pat, Chancel Choir, the Bell Choir and our very talented congregational members. We are very blessed.

Lyda Cook

Focus on..... Martha Wolfe

Martha Wolfe has been surrounded by history her entire life, beginning on the day she was born, November 7, 1944- the same day FDR was elected to his fourth presidential term. She grew up on her family farm in St. Louisville, in a house that was built in 1850 by her great-great grandfather and whose granary was turned into a Pullman kitchen and bathroom by her parents. As a child, she helped gather eggs on the farm and, as she grew older, began washing, grading, and packing the eggs to be sold to local groceries. Martha spent seven years as a member of 4-H, focusing on home economics and animal projects, while gaining more experience on the family farm. While her brother was busy playing high school football, Martha started helping her father milk the cows using the automatic milking machines they upgraded to in 1950, allowing them to have up to 40 head on the farm. Today, the family farm operates as a grain farm, run by Martha's brother, Charles.

At age five, Martha sang her first solo at the Disciples of Christ church where she was a member. In fifth grade she joined her school choir and continued singing in the Women's Glee Club, the Mixed Choir, and also sang several solos. She most enjoyed her music and history classes and graduated from Utica in 1962. After graduation, Martha went on to attend Otterbein University where she initially majored in Music Education before changing her major to Social Studies.

Despite changing her major, Martha was still active in music while at Otterbein as a member of the Glee Club and Acapella Choir. Being part of these choirs allowed her to travel the United States to perform and, in 1966, the Acapella Choir toured several European countries, including France, Italy, Austria, and Germany. This three-week tour included sightseeing and performances, including in communist Czechoslovakia, which Martha remembers as a dingy, dirty, and depressing place. She does recall a performance in a steel town, which reminded her of Pittsburgh, where a town official was so impressed with the choir's performance that he treated the members to beer at the local pub and commented that he should have scheduled them to sing in Prague.

After graduating from Otterbein, Martha worked as a substitute, teaching in Licking and Muskingum Counties, before moving to Circleville in the fall of 1968. Her first job in Circleville was teaching American History to junior high students. For most of her teaching career, though, she taught Civics and World History to 9th and 10th graders. While teaching one of her favorite subjects, Martha didn't forget her other love of singing either. For five years she attended a Methodist church where she sang in the choir and in 1978 she joined Circleville Presbyterian Church. After a year of singing in the church choir here, became choir director in 1979.

It was also at Circleville Presbyterian where Martha met Art Wolfe. They shared an instant connection thanks to their similar backgrounds, both having been raised on farms, and due to Art's kindness. In 1983, Martha married Art and his five children: Kim, Lane, Lance, Patrick, and Polly. Kim was married in 1984 and Art and Martha welcomed their first grandchild, Jesseca, the next year.

Throughout her life, Martha has lived in homes that have provided her many unique experiences, starting with her family farmhouse home in St Louisville. Her first apartment in Circleville was on West Main and, during the 1968 Pumpkin Show, the pumpkin burger booth was at the bottom of the stairs leading out of her apartment and she was enticed to try this new food that year. That first pumpkin burger started a tradition and not a Pumpkin Show has gone by since without Martha having her pumpkin burger.

Martha and Art bought a home on what is now the church parking lot and, more than once, the church custodian had to toss the Wolfe kids' football from the roof of the education building. When they sold the land to the church, Art and Martha salvaged the kitchen cabinets to use in their new home on Winchester Southern Road. After Art suffered a work injury, he and Martha began visiting Tucson, Arizona, to aid in his recovery. They eventually bought a house in Tucson where they would spend the winter. After Art's death in 2016, Martha moved to an apartment at Sylvan. She enjoys the quiet and peaceful rural-like setting of her newest home.

Despite Art's passing and her own health struggles, Martha considers herself lucky to be living a good and fulfilling life, having already overcome many setbacks. She attends sporting events and school events of her grandchildren and, now, her great grandchildren. Once a month, she drives to Utica to have lunch with some of her high school classmates. In addition to all of the family things that keep Martha busy, she also serves as vice-moderator or Presbyterian Women. Martha Wolfe is a beloved and treasured member of our Circleville Presbyterian Church family.

Alison Davis

Annual Meeting Scheduled

The Session of The Presbyterian Church of Circleville calls for an annual meeting to be held on Sunday, February 9, 2020, immediately following the worship service in Campbell Hall, for the following purposes:

1. *To acknowledge those members who entered the Church Triumphant during 2019.*
2. *To receive the annual reports of the various boards, teams, and organizations of the church, including financial reports.*
3. *To present the church budget for 2020 as adopted by Session.*
4. *To elect four members from the congregation to the church Nominating Committee. (Those being proposed should be contacted ahead of time regarding their willingness to serve, and may not currently be serving on Session, Deaconate, or Board of Trustees.)*

Prior to the meeting a homemade soup and salad lunch will be provided by the Christian Education Team.

Church Cookbook Pre-Orders

Our church cookbook is nearing the publication date. The books will be sold by Presbyterian Women to our members, friends and the community, as well as being given as gifts to new members. In a conscious effort to order enough cookbooks, without overdoing it, **we are asking that members and friends place a cookbook pre-order by completing the attached form and placing it in Box 47 or by calling /texting Margaret Parker 740-601-0003 by January 31.** (Some contributors have already placed their pre-orders on the Recipe Collection Form. If you did so, there is no need to respond again)

The number of pre-orders will help determine our projected sales and the base cost of each book. No money is due with your pre-order. The final price of each cookbook copy will be announced in the coming weeks.

Many thanks,

Nancy Baldinger
Peggy Leasure

Marilyn Herel
Margaret Parker

Madeleine Hosterman
Marcia Smith

Your Name _____

of Cookbooks Requested _____ Phone Number _____

In Our Thoughts and Prayers

Caring Touch

Linda Stevenson

Chapel Hill

Anne Shilling (Paula Thomerson's mother)

Chillicothe VA

Jim Hartley

Glendora

Woody Jones

Logan Elm Health Care

Donald Maxson

Pickaway Manor

Eloise Beers (Kathy Studebaker's mother)

Doris Luna

Sharon Ryan

The Inn at Olentangy Trail

Doris Gruebel

Wyngate

Sharon Sanders (Todd Tomlinson's mother)

Convalescing

Bill Campbell

Carol Campbell

John Chumley

Judy Corbett

Lou Ann Clark

Scot Clydesdale

Eugene Dowler

Mary Embrey

Martha Gearhart

Shirley Hall

Wally Higgins

Sylvia Johnson

Diana Jones

Kay Martin

Mitch McAlister

Jimmie McKelvey

Bruce Stevenson

Ron Studebaker

Martha Wolfe

Al York

Martha York

Also Convalescing

Charley Edgar & Corrine Edgar

Tina Galloway

Nate Mofield

Becky Myers (Kim Williams' mother)

Betty Topliff (LibbyRushley's mother)

**We are sorry if we have missed anyone!
If you want someone added or removed,
PLEASE call the church office.**



CIRCLEVILLE Presbyterian Church

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Non-Profit
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Permit Number 195

Please remember to contact the church office with your new address. As bulk mail, the Pres-Line is not forwarded and is returned to the church for a fee.

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED



Looking ahead to..... April and May

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| APRIL | 5 | Palm Sunday |
| | 8 | Lenten Lunch #5 |
| | 9 | Maundy Thursday—Communion |
| | 10 | Good Friday |
| | 12 | Easter—Communion |
| MAY | 3 | Cradle Roll Recognition |
| | 20 | June/July Pres-line Deadline |
| | 24 | Graduation Recognition |
| | 31 | Confirmation Class Received |