



Dear Church Family,

On a recent return trip from Pittsburgh earlier this month, it took quite a while before I was able to get out of the city and onto the Parkway West. It was a long day, and I was tired and wanted to get home! Upon leaving the Oakland section of Pittsburgh, the Blvd of the Allies was closed, and all the traffic was detoured to go into downtown Pittsburgh through an area that isn't that great. So, I thought I would cross the Birmingham Bridge to the South Side and try to get onto the Parkway by way of McKees Rocks. The streets were crowded, and it had been quite some time (like about 40 years) since I had gone through that area, and I was having second thoughts. So, I decided to turn around and head back to Oakland and go through Squirrel Hill to get onto the Parkway West. When I got to Squirrel Hill and attempted to get on the ramp, it was closed completely due to an accident on the ramp. Well, now I thought I would have to get on the Parkway East and go beyond Squirrel Hill to Edgewood/Swissvale to exit and turn around and get on the Parkway West. Finally, it worked; and well over an hour later of detours, I was heading home!

It made me think of all the detours in our lives. We may have the best laid plans only to find they get scrambled from time to time. Our lives can be detoured by a sudden illness, the loss of a loved one, a job loss, a broken marriage, a strained relationship, storm damage, financial hardship, an accident, and the list can go on and on. I'm sure each of us from time to time finds ourselves at a detour in life.

You see, detours can make us anxious or frustrated or both. However, God is working through the detours in our lives.

Ron Bennett offers these good insights into the detours in our lives.

1. ***The bridge or road we are about to cross is unsafe.*** Our God does not always tell us that the road ahead is unsafe. Instead He graciously puts up the roadblock (detour), and asks us to trust Him without explanation. I am convinced that many of the detours we experience in life will one day make perfect sense and produce a humble response of gratitude.
2. ***He wants us to see and experience a life scenic view we would not have seen or chosen on our own initiative.*** Detours cause us to slow down and look around. Detours, when we can get over our impatience, can open up vistas that we would never see from the freeway. We will often meet people who are lost, in pain, and lonely, people we would never encounter along our freeway. Along the detour we discover the hand of God in the beauty of nature's simplicity or experience the kindness of a friend that showed up unexpected and unannounced.
3. ***We are headed in the right direction, but we are not yet ready to get to our destination.*** We are not able to handle or appreciate it. We need more time to mature, more time to get equipped or developed. Sometimes the delay of the detour is for the sake of others—they are not yet ready for our presence or contribution. Detours can cause us to slow down and to wait for God's timing. God's clock doesn't seem to run as fast as ours. That may be why one of the most repeated phrases in the Psalms is "wait on the Lord." Isaiah's admonition was, "They that wait on the Lord will renew their strength" (Isaiah 40:31).

4. **We are not headed in the right direction.** We pick a destination that God knows is not in our best interest or His best plan, but He allows us to start moving and then re-directs us. It is easier to direct a moving car than one that is stalled. We can often become paralyzed with over-analysis and the fear of making a mistake. We may need to start moving. If we are not stubbornly rigid, refusing to listen, God can direct us with divine detours.
5. **He wants to test and prove our willingness to follow His leadership by developing our trust and faith in His goodness.** He knows that there is coming a time along our journey when it will be very important for us to respond and obey quickly, so He wants us to be ready. Faith in Christ puts us under new leadership: His. We are used to following our own desires and doing what we want when we want it. It can come as a shock when we discover that salvation has brought us under the lordship and leadership of the Savior of the cross.
6. **Our sin has altered our path.** Sin always has consequences, even after forgiveness. These consequences appear as roadblocks altering our course and creating a detour. Sin may even eliminate the original destination so that it is no longer an option. The minimum consequence is a detour for road repair and for healing to take place.

*Through divinely appointed detours we discover God is our faithful Guide. We also can learn to: Persevere, keep going, not quit or retreat. Wait on the Lord, not doubting His promises, learning to believe in the dark what God has shown in the light, learning to follow without explanation. Enjoy the new scenery that comes with the detour, trusting that God has a better picture than we can see at the moment.*

*When considering the detours in your spiritual journey, keep in mind this enduring promise: "For I know the plans I have for you, declares the Lord, plans for welfare and not for evil, to give you a future and a hope" (Jeremiah 29:11).*

Love being your pastor!

Love and Blessings in Jesus!

Alice

P.S. And about that Pittsburgh trip filled with detours...

I grew up in Pittsburgh and was familiar with those roads which helped navigate the detours. In a similar way, we may be familiar with past events in our lives and how we relied on our faith in the Lord that helps us through the current detour we may be experiencing. But more importantly, getting home was such a relief and joy! One day getting to our eternal home will be exhilarating...and those detours in life...well, then they may make a lot more sense!

**PRAYER TEAM** Looking for individuals to serve in the essential ministry!! Please see Judy Brady or Rev Alice for more information! You can join in any Wednesday at 7 pm.

Call 605-313-5657 access # 49430004# Hear a bell Announce yourself.



Keep these folks and their caregivers in your prayers for healing and recovery from hospitalization or recent illness including Covid.

Bob Merkle  
Bill Wilcox



**Board Meetings after worship:**

**Trustees—September 8**

**Deacons—September 15**

**Session—Sunday,  
September 29**



**September Greeters**

**9/1 Carol Burnhart**

**9/8 Karon Kaufman**

**9/15 Beth Rihl**

**9/22 Elaine Wilcox**

**9/29 Janell Wilcox Gordon**

**September  
Lay Liturgist**

**9/1 Michele Kopiec**

**9/8 Sharon Newell**

**9/15 Leanne Manring**

**9/22 Barb Holliday**

**9/29 Michele Kopiec**

**September Coffee Hour**

**9/1,9/8,9/15**

**Elaine and Janell Wilcox**

**9/22 , 9/29**

**Sharon Newell and**

**Richard/Willie Meeker**



Thank you to the Deacons for coordinating and serving the Free Hot Dog Lunch on August 2.

Thank you the entire Rihl family for hosting the Church Picnic at their cabin on August 18. Thank you to all who attended.



**The church shares its deepest condolences with:**

- **The Ingram family as they mourn the passing of Darryl Ingram on September 9th.**
- **Paul Gibson and the entire family as they mourn the passing of Donna Gibson on September 9.**
- **Teri Salyer in the sudden passing of her dear friend and partner, Neall Weber on August 24.**
- **Rob, Ethan & Evan Merkle and the entire Merkle family as they mourn the loss of Heather Merkle who courageously battled ALS until her passing on August 16.**
- **The Gibeauts on the passing of Bob McBeth , Carolyn's brother-in-law, on July 5.**

**MONDAY BIBLE STUDY** via Zoom at 6:00 pm beginning on September 9th. Second Mondays are at 6 pm and the rest at 6:30 pm. The 1 & 2 Peter study books are in and can be picked up by Rev Alice's office.

**MEN'S BIBLE STUDY**— will recommence on October 5 at 9 am at the church. Also meeting October 19. See Bill Pettibone with any questions.



Join us for next Women's Circle. It's a great time of fellowship  
**October 1 at 6:30 pm at the church.**

Carolyn Gibeaut moderating and Elaine Wilcox will be providing refreshments. Come join us in fellowship!

**REMEMBERING OUR SHUT-INS**



Being shut-in during the pandemic should have given us a better appreciation for those on our shut-in list. Please take a moment to remember our shut-ins. Drop them a card or give them a call!

- Bob and Suzanne Merkle— Dublin Retirement Village
- Chuck Stoker—Home
- Bryan Becker—Home
- Arlene Perkins, Paul Gibson— Walnut Crossing Assisted Living, Marysville
- Charlotte Lambka— Edgewater
- Jack Mercer and
- Dick and Kathy Wilson— Bluebird Marysville

**Church Treasurer Report for July 31, 2024**

The general fund balance for the end of July decreased due to lower donations being received than expenses being incurred this month. \* Session voted to move funds from the Library, Gentle Spirit Ministry and Pastor Discretionary funds to the General Fund. This enabled the General Fund to remain positive at the end of the month.

General Expenses Fund

Beginning Balance 07/01/2024	\$ 772.43
Income	10,086.07
Transfers	* 2,557.93
Expenses	<u>(12,297.34)</u>
Ending Balance 07/31/2024	\$ 1,119.09

**Church Treasurer Report for August 31, 2024**

The general fund balance for the end of August decreased due to lower donations being received than expenses being incurred this month. The general fund balance fell into negative territory which is temporarily covered by the other account fund.

General Expenses Fund

Beginning Balance 08/01/2024	\$ 1,119.09
Income	10,056.00
Expenses	<u>(12,498.93)</u>
Ending Balance 08/30/2024	\$ (1,323.84)

If there are any questions about the financial information of the church, please let me know.

Best Regards,

Gary Gibeaut, Treasurer

**UPDATE:** Bob Merkle has moved temporarily to Friendship Village Skilled Nursing for more rehab. 6000 Riverside Dr Dublin OH 43017. Cards welcomed!



**Schedule:**

3:00pm - Cornhole Tournament  
3:00pm-6:00pm - Silent Auction  
3:00pm-7:00pm - Kid Zone  
3:30pm - Dinner for a Donation  
(pulled pork, smoked mac n  
cheese, coleslaw, baked  
beans)  
5:00pm - Live Auction

**Hog Roast, Auction, Cornhole Tournament, and Children's Zone October 5th 3-7 PM at Sharon Mennonite Benefit for DNA, LifeWise, She Dreams Again and Let Love Farm**

OSU vs Iowa game, Desserts, and more!

Rev. Alice is on the planning committee for the Community Missions Festival.

**1. We are looking for auction items.** Gift certificates/filled baskets with items, crafts you have made, etc. for silent auction and big items for the big auction. If you are willing to help with any auction items, please let me know

**2. We are looking for corn hole teams to represent the various churches plus individual teams. Individuals \$25 to play Church teams \$80 to play.**

If you would like to be on a team representing our church, please let Rev Alice know.

**PLAIN CITY COMMUNITY**

*24/6 Prayer Room*

**SUNDAY OCT. 13TH - SATURDAY OCT. 19TH**  
**HOPE CHURCH // 9899 US-42, PLAIN CITY, OH 43064**



# HAPPY Anniversary

09/02	Steve	Patterson
09/02	Banwo	Longe
09/07	Elmer	Collier
09/08	Bob	Merkle
09/09	Carol	Burkhart
09/11	Sara	Gordon
09/11	Henry	Walker
09/12	Dick	Wilson
09/13	Brynn	Craney
09/22	Jerry	Smith
09/27	William L.	Wilcox
09/27	Trina	Stone
09/29	Nancy	McKelvey
09/29	Morgyn	Craney

09/05	Angie	& Keith	Lester
09/09	John	& Beth	Rihl
09/13	Richard	& Elaine	Meeker
09/17	Bill	& Vicky	Pettibone
09/23	Gary	& Carolyn	Gibeaut
09/24	Deidra	& Jerry	Hurley
09/25	Stewart	& Sonia	Walker

## CHRISTMAS CHOIR

Christmas will be here before we know it. Come raise your voice with the Christmas Choir. Practices are currently scheduled for:

- Sept 14 at 12:30 pm
- Sept 28 at 12:30 pm
- Oct 12 at 12:30 pm
- Oct 26 at 1 pm
- Nov 9 at 12:30 pm
- Nov 23 at 1 pm
- Dec 14 at 12:30 pm
- Dec 21 at 12:30 pm

More voices are always welcomed to sing for joy for the newborn king!

### Upper Room Devotionals for September/October

are available in the usual spots—Side Table, Parlor table and outside box. Please pick one up at your convenience.

**HOSPITAL VISITATIONS** -If you are in the hospital or a loved one is and want a visit...please call or text Rev. Alice