



Stow Alliance
Fellowship

NEWS

Open Arms . . . Open Hearts . . . Open Hands

November 2017

Share The Harvest



Share the Harvest is a wonderful outreach opportunity designed to provide a Thanksgiving dinner to those in our church family and community without the means to purchase it. You can be a part of this outreach in several different ways:

- **Nominate** a family in need to receive a Thanksgiving dinner. Nomination forms can be obtained in the office and must be submitted by **Sunday, November 5th**.
- **Contribute** financially. Monetary contributions will be used to purchase gift certificates for the families in need. A special envelope will be included in the worship folder or can be picked up on the lobby table or in the office. Please put **your name** on the envelope to receive giving credit.
- **Deliver!** We need lots of help delivering items to families. Please consider volunteering! Check "Share the Harvest Delivery Team" on the Communication card in the worship folder, or contact Karie in the church office at 330-688-7433.

Ladies Christmas Craft Night Thursday, November 16th

All women are invited to join us for a night of fellowship and crafting at our annual Christmas Craft Night on Thursday, November 16th at 6:30pm. We'll begin the evening with homemade Christmas cookies and Christmas music. Samples of each craft will be on display in the lobby beginning October 29th. Registration and payment will be held on November 5th and the 12th in the lobby after both services. This is a great outreach event and opportunity to invite your family, friends, neighbors and coworkers! Please contact Lori Black at 330-688-5200 with any questions.

LIFE 2019 Soup and Salad Dinner Fundraiser Saturday, December 9th

On Saturday, December 9th from 5:00-6:15pm in the gym, the youth group will be serving a soup and salad dinner as a fundraiser for LIFE 2019. Suggested donation is \$10 per person with a \$30 max per family. All proceeds go to LIFE 2019. **Sign ups will begin on Sunday, November 19th.** Come for dinner and stay for the annual Christmas Choir dramatic musical *Shepherds and Kings* at 7:00pm.

John Kitchen, Senior Pastor

Revisiting BOLD Praying

Early in the year I encouraged you to pray with more boldness before the Lord. I encouraged you to listen to a message on prayer by Dr. Richard Belcher (*The Habit of Prayer*, if you haven't already done so, you can listen to it [here](#)). Two Scriptures especially stood out to me in this. The first is James 4:2b: “You do not have, because you do not ask.” The second is Hebrews 4:16: “Let us therefore come boldly unto the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy, and find grace to help in time of need” (KJV).

Such boldness before God is not because of something in us, the way we pray or even because of the acuteness of our need. Rather it is because of Jesus and all God's gracious favor toward us in Him. I developed this acronym to help me in my bold praying.

BIG (the answer to this prayer is beyond my doing)

OBVIOUS (the answer to this prayer will be clear and undeniable)

LOVING (the answer to this prayer will bring good to others and glory to God)

DIVINE (the answer to this prayer will be a “God-thing”)

I decided I would ask God for three things under this rubric and keep asking Him for them daily throughout 2017 or until He answers. I asked you to join me in praying this way. Remember, God may answer us with a “no.” He may answer in the affirmative. Or He could tell us to wait. That's up to Him. But our duty—in the light of the grace He's given us in Jesus—is to pray, confidently, persistently, even boldly. I've determined to ask and leave it up to His divine wisdom and rich grace to do as He knows is best.

So throughout this year I've been praying regularly for three **B.O.L.D.** requests. There is indication that one of my requests has been answered in the affirmative, but there is some other evidence that will be made known in the next couple of months that could confirm this for sure. The other two requests I am continuing to hold before the Lord and trusting Him for.

I'm wondering what your experience is in the requests you've chosen and prayed for? Have you continued to boldly hold them before the Lord? Have you seen Him answer? How has He transformed your heart in this prayer journey?

I'd love to hear the answers to these questions. Feel free to send me an email and let me know or stop me and share your experience with me.

Remember, this isn't like saying, “I'm asking God for \$1,000,000!” That would be selfish, not loving. This is not asking God to “show off” by displaying His power to satisfy my desire to see a miracle—that too would be selfish. The requests must meet all four criteria: 1) something only God can do, 2) that I can't manufacture, 3) that I won't be able to deny is from His hand, and 4) [and this is really important] that will bless others and glorify God.

May we not fall short of all the boldness to which God's grace invites! Pray and seek Him with great confidence through Jesus. And remember—the greatest answer might not be the thing God does with your request, but what He does in you as you pray consistently, steadfastly, boldly over time.

For Adults

Reformation Celebration! - Tuesday marks 500 years to the day that Martin Luther took a bold step that set in motion a restoration of the Christian faith as handed down by the Apostles of Christ. Whether we know it or not, the Reformation reset the substance and trajectory of the faith as we live it out today. Join us this Tuesday, October 31st at 7:00pm in the sanctuary for an evening of learning and thanksgiving. At the center of the evening will be a viewing of the acclaimed documentary film: *Luther: The Life and Legacy of the German Reformer*.

 **Don't Forget!** - Daylight savings time ends on Sunday, November 5th. Don't forget to set your clocks back one hour on Saturday, November 4th as Standard Time returns.

Child Dedication - A child dedication service will be held on Sunday, November 19th. If you would like to dedicate your child(ren) to the Lord, please call the church office at (330)688-7433 by Monday, November 13th.

Holiday Tree Festival - Come hear our Worship Choir, the Kids Choir and JuBELLation perform at the John S. Knight Center in Akron on Saturday, November 18th at 1:00PM.

 **Rake & Run** - The youth group will be raking leaves once again as a fundraiser for LIFE 2019! If you or someone you know would like to have your yard raked, please sign up in the lobby by Sunday, November 12th! They will be raking leaves on Saturday, November 18th and will try to accomplish as many yards as possible. If there are adults that would like to participate in this service project along side us, please contact Doug Crowe.

Prime Timers - All senior adults are invited to join us for fun, fellowship, and faith-building on Thursday, November 16th at 12:30pm in the Seasons Room with Pastor Kitchen and Julie. Please bring a sandwich. Desserts and beverages will be provided.

 **Office Holiday Hours** - The church office will be closed Thursday, November 23rd and Friday, November 24th to celebrate Thanksgiving.
Happy Thanksgiving

 **Share the Joy** - This outreach is a wonderful opportunity for you to help provide Christmas gifts for children in our church and community whose families are going through hardship. There are several ways you can be involved in this ministry: Nominate a family **by Sunday, December 3rd**, contribute financially, or help deliver Christmas cookies, cards, and gift cards to the nominated families!

 **Life Group Holiday Season Schedule** - LIFE Groups will be taking a break during the month of December to celebrate the holidays and participate in the many Christmas programs. Our last meeting will be Friday, December 1st for Friday evening groups and Sunday, December 3rd for Sunday evening groups. We will resume on Sunday, January 7th and Friday, January 12th.

Nominating Committee - Please pray for the 2017 Nominating Committee as they begin their work. They will welcome your questions or input as they seek to nominate those God would like in positions of elected service in Stow Alliance Fellowship. Feel free to contact Pastor Kitchen with your questions or thoughts.

Stewardship Update Through October 22, 2017:

	<u>Month</u>	<u>Year-to-Date</u>
TITHES & OFFERINGS		
Actual	\$ 51,008	\$568,927
Budget	<u>52,960</u>	<u>569,320</u>
Amount Over/(Under) Budget	(1,952)	(393)
GREAT COMMISSION FUND		
Actual	\$ 17,776	\$154,591
Promises	<u>5,316</u>	<u>57,147</u>
Amount Over/(Under) Promises	12,460	97,444

PRAISE Plan

Thank you for supporting the Praise Plan! Your continued gifts will help us with future projects.

Especially for Men

Men's Gathering- Men of all ages are invited to join us for breakfast and fellowship on the first Saturday of each month. We will meet on Saturday, November 4th at 7:30 am in the Seasons Room. Come and bring a friend!

Especially For Women

Deaconess Meeting - A deaconess meeting will take place on Thursday, November 2nd at 7:00pm. Please contact Jenni Davis or Cheryl Crowe with any questions.



MOPS - Mothers of Pre-Schoolers - MOPS is a group offering hope, encouragement, community, and mothering support to mothers of children from birth through 5 years old. Come join local moms from 9:30 - 11:30 am on Tuesday, November 14th. Childcare will be provided.

Youth Ministries

JH Fun Night – All JH Students are invited to a night of FUN, FOOD and GAMES (including tournaments) on Friday, November 17th from 6-10pm in the youth wing. Cost: \$6 per person. Bring a friend!



Rake & Run - Saturday November 18th. We need all hands on deck to serve our church family by raking leaves. This is a fundraiser for LIFE 2019: help yourself or someone else have the chance to experience it. Sign up to work in the junior and senior high rooms.

Youth Retreat - All junior and senior high students are invited to attend our winter retreat at Stony Glen Camp (January 19-21, 2018). Sign-ups for the retreat will begin on Wednesday, November 1st and conclude Sunday, December 17th. A \$25 non-refundable deposit is due upon sign-up. Total cost of the retreat is \$50 per person. Your balance, if there is one, will be due by Sunday, December 31st.

The Youth Group has a new permission slip for activities. Like the area schools, our permission slip is good for the entire school year's worth of events off of the church grounds. Included with the permission slip is our medical form so we have all pertinent information together. If you haven't taken the time to fill one out and turn it in, please make that a priority. Forms can be found in the youth rooms or you can download one from our website: <https://safeyouth.shutterfly.com/forms>.

For Children



Kid's Christmas Craft Day - Come make some Christmas gifts for mom, dad, grandma, and grandpa on Saturday, December 16th from 10:30am-12:00pm (right after Kid's Choir practice). Kids Kindergarten-5th grade are invited to a morning of crafts and fun. Please RSVP to Darlene Risjan by Wednesday, December 13th.

Children's Ministry Needs YOU! - There are several positions that are needing to be filled! We are looking for volunteers to help out on Sunday mornings in the Nursery and Waddler & Toddler rooms. Please contact Darlene Risjan if you are willing to help. Please consider volunteering your time and your energy to these children to help further God's Kingdom.

Stow Alliance Preschool



Acme Receipts - The preschool is now collecting Acme receipts again as a fundraiser. SAP will receive 5% cash back on all Acme brand purchases. You can turn your receipts into the designated box at the preschool or church office *through December 30th 2017*. Thank you for your support of SAP!

Sports Ministries

Men's Basketball – plays on Saturdays from 9:00—11:00am. Come and join us!

Co-Ed Volleyball - will play on Saturday, November 12th and 26th from 7:00-9:00pm. Come and join us!

Haven of Rest



Winter Coat Drive - Haven of Rest is in need of winter coats of all sizes. If you have any new or gently used coats that you would like to donate, please bring them to church and place them on the coat rack in the lobby designated "Haven of Rest Coat Drive." Coats will be collected through December 6th. Winter scarves, hats, mittens, gloves, and warm footwear are also needed. A bin will be placed under the coat rack to place these items in.

November Needs List: juices, coffee, hot chocolate mix, frozen turkeys, frozen dinner rolls, sweetened cold cereals, canned and fresh fruit and vegetables, men's shoes, men's pants sizes 28-34" waist, warm winter gloves and hats for men and women, undergarments and socks for men, women and children, children's clothing sizes 2T-10, twin size bed sheets, new white pillowcase and towels, and women's deodorant.

International Friendship Connection

Please prayerfully consider getting involved with IFC! Here is one volunteer's perspective:

"IFC has several aspects to the program, but the one that I am most involved with is American Culture and Conversation. I meet with Kent students (along with some other volunteers) on Fridays for an hour and a half to talk with students about various topics. It is an opportunity for the student to practice spoken English (which can be challenging to someone new to the US, if they are used to written English only).

It is new and different for me to hear students talk about their home area and families. We can help, not just with English, but with the student getting to know KSU and northeast Ohio, our holidays or customs, etc. (Things that are familiar to us but totally new to them!) Some of our ways are becoming quite global such as "Black Friday" after Thanksgiving, which is a major event in countries like China and Brazil!

Sometimes through conversation we get beyond surface topics and address what is really on their mind, such as their struggles in school, or the difficulties in coping with crowded conditions in their home city. Sometimes they ask about our faith and the Bible. Many students come from countries where they cannot ask these questions openly, so they take the opportunity while they are here in the U.S. These conversations are quite interesting and open, and stimulate us to consider how to translate Christianity to a person who may not have heard much about it before.

Sometimes through conversation I see their interest in a particular topic or location and we plan a local trip, such as a concert or sporting event. This creates further opportunities to know the student and we sometimes meet their family as well. I have spoken with parents by phone, with the student translating, and the parents are so thankful for us helping the student feel at home!

I would encourage anyone interested in assisting new students to try it out. The American Culture and Conversations project is interesting, helpful to the students, and is not time consuming. There are always other volunteers nearby to help "learn the ropes". It is always an interesting and worthwhile experience."

-Janet Tipton

Please contact Rob & Marlene Osborn at robert5osborn@yahoo.com if you are interested in getting involved in IFC!

Our SAF Family

November Birthdays...



Diane Valenti	11/1	Nancy Martin	11/16	Kevin Ruppel	11/25
Jacob Milette	11/2	Brennan Teare		Jim Warner	
Pastor John Cervone	11/3	Lori Black	11/17	Kay McAmis	11/26
Levi Smith		Chris Ganley		Katie Parker	
Andrew Falbo	11/7	Barbara Bennett	11/19	Sue Armentrout	11/27
Anna Falbo		Tera Trowbridge		Jonathan DeLucia	
Georgie Stoner	11/8	Raquel Teare	11/20	Marcie Lichi	
Kerry Collins	11/9	Sheryl Malm	11/21	Sarah Falbo	11/28
		Wava Robison		Wesley Sparrow	
Cindy Horsfall	11/10	Jack Risjan	11/22	Penny Erwin	11/29
		Cory Smith		Jen Alvarez	11/30
Nancy Cervone	11/14	Lois Upham	11/23	Victor Castros	
Sharon Feskanin					

November Anniversaries...

Roger & Kellie Smith 11/2
Steve & Stella Cupp 11/8
Bret & Kim Moore 11/12



Mark & Diana Loudermilk 11/13
Drexal & Kay McAmis 11/23

If you are not currently on our birthday and/or anniversary list and would like to be, please call the church office and let us know!

Our Christian Sympathies To...

Steve & Donna Towns and family on the death of Steve's mother, Flieda M. Towns, on October 11th.