



Stow Alliance
Fellowship

NEWS

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

October 2017



Pastor Appreciation Month

How will you encourage your Pastors?

October is Pastor Appreciation Month! Rejoice and give thanks to God for our Pastors and their families with whom God has greatly blessed us! Please take some time this month to show your appreciation for them! Please see inside for ideas and ways in which you can show your appreciation for our pastors and their families.

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 beginning October 22nd:

- **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.

John Kitchen, Senior Pastor

Reformation Celebration

This month we celebrate the 500th anniversary of the beginning of the Protestant Reformation. On October 31, 1517 thirty-three year old Martin Luther (a monk/priest and university professor) nailed his protest tract of *95 Theses* to the Castle Church door in Wittenberg, Germany. The door functioned as a community bulletin board, so Luther was seeking dialogue, not intending to incite a movement that became the Reformation. But when someone began producing copies of his document on the relatively new technology of the printing press, word began to spread and soon the wind of the Spirit fanned his concerns about the established church into a flame that could not be extinguished. The heart of his concern was the practice of the Church of Rome in selling forgiveness for the price of a financial contribution.

By 1521 the sides had formed and Luther's insight into the Scriptures had sharpened even further. He had published widely his reforming views which held up the teaching of the Word of God against current Church dogma. Luther was called before The Diet of Worms. The word *Diet* refers not to a new meal plan, but to an officially called assembly. And *Worms* designates not the substance of one's dinner, but was the name of the town where this assembly took place. Luther was asked: 1) whether he acknowledged writing the books in question, and 2) if he would stand by what he had written or retract and renounce them.

His answer has become a classic expression of standing by one's conscience under the authority of God's Word: *"Unless I am convinced by the testimony of Scripture or by clear reason (for I trust neither pope nor council alone, since it is well known that they have often erred and contradicted themselves), I am bound by the Scriptures I have cited, for my conscience is captive to the Word of God. I cannot and will not recant anything, since to act against one's conscience is neither safe nor right. I cannot do otherwise. Here I stand, may God help me."*

Luther was officially condemned by the assembly, being convicted of high treason. He was in essence condemned to death, though friends had previously convinced Luther to escape to safer confines. In route he was "kidnapped" by powers friendly to his views and secretly kept at the Castle in Wartburg. Eventually he returned to Wittenberg.

Luther was not the first or only reformer. But he is, under God's providence, its central figure. The Reformation, it has often been said, centered around recalling and preserving five key truths of the Word of God. They are often called the *5 Solas*. *Sola*, in Latin, means "alone" or "only."

Sola Christus – Through Christ alone

Sola Gratia – By grace alone

Sola Fide – By faith alone


Sola Scriptura – By Scripture alone

Soli Deo Gloria –Glory to God alone

The Bible teaches us that salvation is found in Christ alone, by grace alone, through faith alone, as defined by the Word of God alone, and to the glory of God alone.


We will recognize this important anniversary by holding a Reformation Celebration on Tuesday, October 31st from 7:00-9:00 p.m. The centerpiece of our celebration will be viewing the acclaimed new documentary called *Luther: The Life and Legacy of the German Reformer*. Plan to join in this commemoration.

For Adults


 **Pray for Russia Team 2017** - Pray for Pastor John, Julie, Andrew T., John and Darla L., Joy H., and Sara P. as they serve the Lord by serving His servants in Russia and Ukraine from October 6-15. Pray for unity and effectiveness in ministry, good health and safe travel. Pray also for God to speak to and meet deeply with each individual gospel worker.

Youth Pastor Search - Please pray as we seek God's provision for our next Youth Pastor. If you have questions about the search process please see Pastor Kitchen.

Faith Promise Cards - Please prayerfully consider making a Faith Promise to the Great Commission Fund. Cards are available on the lobby table. You can place your completed card in the offering plate or in the offering box at the back of the sanctuary.

 **LIFE Groups** - LIFE Groups will begin meeting in the homes on Friday, September 29th and Sunday, October 1st. If you have not had the opportunity to sign up but would still like to join, please contact Pastor Don Miller or the church office at 330-688-7433. We have added another LIFE Group that will meet Friday evenings at 7:00pm. The location will be at SAF. Pastor Phil will lead the group and there will be accommodations for children. Sign up in the lobby, on the communication card or contact the church office.

Baptism Class - Have you followed the Lord in baptism? If you have trusted Jesus Christ as Savior and He is your Lord, then in obedience to His command, you should be baptized. If you are considering baptism or are interested in being baptized, please sign the back of the Communication Card or contact Pastor Miller at 330-688-7433 or dmiller@stowalliance.org. Baptisms will be held on Sunday, November 12th.

 **Bottles for Babies Project** - Grab a baby bottle from the table in the lobby beginning Sunday, October 8th and fill it with coins, cash, or checks to help support Pregnancy Solutions & Services ministry and mission to rescue the unborn from abortion and lead men and women to Christ. Please return your filled bottle to the office by Sunday, October 29th at the very latest.

Prime Timers - All senior adults, 50 years and older, are invited to join us for fun, fellowship, and faith-building on the 3rd Thursday of each month (September—April) at 12:30pm in the Seasons Room. Our next meeting will be on Thursday, October 19th. Please bring a sandwich. Desserts and beverages will be provided. Pastor John Wilson will be sharing with us.

Christmas Choir - The Christmas season is around the corner and it is almost time to begin rehearsing for our annual Christmas concert. This year's Christmas dramatic musical is called *Shepherds and Kings*. Any adult, 18 and older, is welcome to join the Christmas choir even if you are not regularly in the worship choir. Saturday Christmas choir rehearsals will begin on Saturday, November 4th from 9:30-11:30am in the music room. Please contact Julie Kitchen if you are interested!

Sound Desk Volunteer - Help is needed at the sound desk! If you are interested in assisting at the sound desk 1 Sunday a month (no previous experience needed) please contact Jim Adams at: safsounddesk@gmail.com.

Office Volunteers Needed - We are currently looking for 3 people to volunteer in the office on Sunday mornings, 1 service, 1 Sunday a month. We also are looking for 1 volunteer to serve at the welcome center on the 4th Sunday during 2nd service. If you are interested in helping out our office ministry, please contact Karie Gilley at 330-668-7433 or office@stowalliance.org.

Stewardship Update Through September 24, 2017:

	<u>Month</u>	<u>Year-to-Date</u>
TITHES & OFFERINGS		
Actual	\$ 46,005	\$517,919
Budget	<u>52,960</u>	<u>516,360</u>
Amount Over/(Under) Budget	(6,955)	1,559
GREAT COMMISSION FUND		
Actual	\$ 11,679	\$136,815
Promises	<u>5,316</u>	<u>51,831</u>
Amount Over/(Under) Promises	6,363	84,984

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 come fellowship over breakfast as we receive encouragement from God's Word the 1st Saturday of each month. Please join us for breakfast on Saturday, October 7th at 7:30am in the Seasons Room.

Especially For Women



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 on the 2nd Tuesday of every month from 9:30 - 11:30am. Our next meeting will be on Tuesday, October 10th. Childcare will be provided.

NAOMI Women - Nurturing, Advising, Organizing, Mentoring, Instructing. This Alliance Women's ministry is designed to develop and deepen our relationships with God and other women, and strengthen our skills for ministry and life. Join Wava Robison for a night of laughter, fellowship, and learning to hem, sew and fix clothing on Thursday, October 19th at 7:00pm. This is open to all women and girls – so moms if you think your daughters may like to learn to do this, feel free to bring them that evening! If you already know how to do this, come out and help the rest of us whom may be lacking in this department.

Ladies Christmas Craft Night - Come and 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 6th and the 13th 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.

Youth Ministries

Judgement House - Saturday, October 21st at 6:00pm. "Judgement House is a live, walk-through drama that tells the story of families and teens whose lives have been rocked by tragedy. The consequences of their choices are revealed as they enter their final destination." Sign up in the senior or junior high rooms by Wednesday, October 18th. We will go together as a group. (Plans are underway for something to do in the afternoon prior to attending judgement house, so watch for more details!)

Youth Retreat - Mark your calendars now for our winter retreat at Stony Glen Camp, January 19-21, 2018. The retreat is for senior and junior high students and will cost \$50 per person. Sign-ups will begin November 1st, and a \$25 deposit is required to sign up.

Questions about Youth Group? - Any questions about Junior High can be directed to Michael Ray. Questions regarding Senior High can go to Doug Crowe or Lisa Gopp. Thanks for praying for us during this transition time!

Children's Ministries



Awana Family Game Night - Our Fall Family Game Night for all Awana kids, leaders, and their families will take place on Saturday, October 7th from 7:00-8:30pm here in the gym at SAF. Come for a great time of games and getting to know people you don't already know and catching up with those you do! Please wear gym appropriate shoes!

Children's Ministry Needs YOU! - There are several positions that are needing to be filled immediately on Sunday mornings (both services) and Wednesday evenings in the nursery! We are looking for those who have a heart for children and are willing to volunteer their time. Please contact Darlene Risjan (330-688-7433 or drisjan@stowalliance.org) if you are willing to help out with any of these positions.

Sports Ministries

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

Co-Ed Volleyball - will play on Saturday, October 14th and 28th from 7:00-9:00pm. Come and join us!

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!

Haven of Rest



Haven of Rest Winter Coat Drive - Haven of Rest is in need of winter coats of all sizes for men, women, and children. 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 3rd. 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.

October Needs List:

Canned Fruits & Vegetables	New Socks & Undergarments - all ages
Regular & Decaf Ground Coffee	Men's Pants (28"-34")
Hot Beverage Mixes	Shoes for Winter Weather - all ages
Juices	Men's Tennis Shoes
Sweetened Dry Cereal	Bath Towels, Hand Towels, Wash Cloths (Preferably white)
Small Kitchen Appliances	Winter Coats - all ages
	Size 5 & 6 Diapers



Remember Nhu

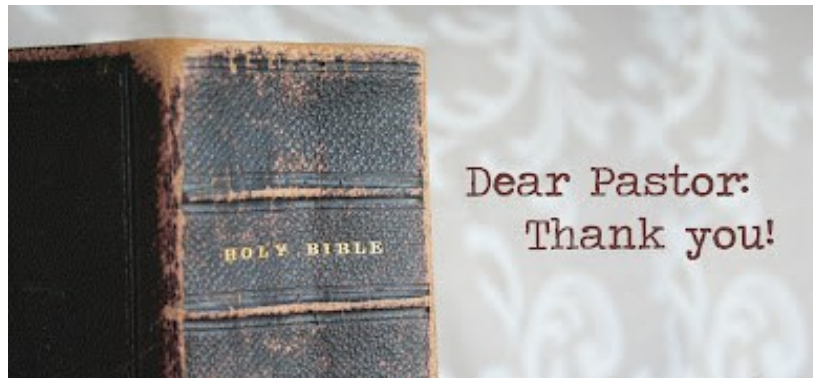
Destiny Church, a C&MA church in Twinsburg, will be doing a VBS for Remember Nhu kids in Kenya. As a way of thanking them for taking items to our Remember Nhu homes when they go to Kenya, we are partnering with them to provide things they need to have a successful VBS. Please see the post-it note board in the lobby for items you may purchase to help!

If you are interested in sponsoring a child through Remember Nhu, check out the sponsorship slideshow created just for SAF's two Remember Nhu homes in Kenya. The slideshow can be found on the church website at www.stowalliance.org by clicking on the banner on the front page or accessing the link on the "Resources" page. Please contact Kim Williams at: SAF.RNhu.FHC@gmail.com or 330-650-0978 with any questions.



International Friendship Connection

Please prayerfully consider getting involved in IFC! If you are interested in becoming a Friendship Partner with a KSU International Student or other opportunities available, please contact Rob & Marlene Osborn at robert5osborn@yahoo.com.



Pastor Appreciation Month

October is Pastor Appreciation Month. Rejoice and give thanks to God for our pastors and their families with whom God has greatly blessed us! Please take some time this month to show your appreciation for them!

Several ways you can show your appreciation to them this month:

- **Pray:** consistently throughout the month (and year) for our pastors and their families. Send them a card, e-mail, or phone call to let them know you are praying for them. Ask them how you can pray for them. Pastor Prayer Request Cards will be available in the bulletin and on the lobby table with several prayer requests each pastor has given. ***Be sure to pick one up and pray for them!***
- **Appreciation Service:** As a congregation, we will have a chance on Sunday, October 29th, in both services, to recognize and thank the pastors for their faithful service to us on a daily basis. On behalf of the congregation, the Pastoral and Employee Care Committee purchases a card and gift for each pastor and his family as a way of saying thank you. ***Please take the time to personally thank and appreciate each pastor after the service.***
- **Words of Appreciation:** Take a moment and write a word or two of appreciation or something you are thankful for about each of our pastors on the cards available in the bulletin and on the lobby table. Please place completed cards in the basket on the lobby table.
- **Crates Full of Thanks:** As a way to say thank you, help us fill our pastor's crates with a few fun things for each pastor and his family to enjoy. Though she is not a pastor, we will also be filling a crate for our children's ministry director as a way to say thank you to her and her family for their many hours of service to us and our children! Grab a sticky note with an item listed on it to purchase or bake. ***Please return the item to the designated bin by Sunday, October 22nd.***

Our SA7 Family



October Birthdays...

Don Berg	10/1	Janet Tipton	10/13	Patricia DeLucia	10/22
Sara Lohmier				Julian Miletti	
Deborah Ambrose	10/3	Shirley Koehler	10/15	Joy H.	10/25
Mark McInturff	10/4	Jeanne Linger			
Vicki Rhodes		Samuel H.		Karie Gilley	10/28
Julie Kitchen	10/6	Chris Miletti	10/16	Jim Adams	10/30
		Kaylee Smith		Becky Byler	
Dave Caplinger	10/12	Daniel Hall	10/21	Janet Donze	
Matt Sparrow					
		Patricia DeLucia	10/22	Stella Cupp	10/31
		Julian Miletti			

October Anniversaries...

Bob & Wanda Myers	10/2
Steve & Georgie Stoner	10/3
Don & Cindy Miller	10/8
Mike & Diana Meloy	10/11
Chuck & Debbie Ambrose	10/14
Charles & Barb Bennett	10/15
Jason & Terese Gavin	



John & Cindi Swinehart	10/18
Jim & Anna Harry	10/19
Nate & Karie Gilley	10/20
Kenny & Ryan Steedly	
Mike & Heather McAmis	10/23
Chuck & Nan Williams	10/24
Joe & Diane Dias	10/28

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 Sympathy To...

Pastor John & Julie Kitchen and family on the death of Julie's mother, Luanne Patterson, on September 20th. The Trowbridge and McAmis families on the death of Lee Caprez on September 6th.

Baby Congratulations To...

Peter & Erin (Rhodes) Shenk on the birth of their twin daughters, Aubrey Noelle and Joanna Claire, on September 8th. Grandparents are Rick & Vicki Rhodes.