



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

Stow Alliance
Fellowship

NEWS

February 2018

Church Potluck and Annual Meeting

Sunday, February 4, 2018

Come and join us as we gather in the gym for a time of fellowship over a pot luck lunch after morning services. Meat and beverages will be provided. **Please bring a side dish, salad, or dessert to share!** We will then transition to the sanctuary for our annual meeting. All members will want to be present for the election of servant-leaders and approval of the 2018 budget. LIFE Groups will not meet this evening or the following Friday, February 9th.

Naomi Women

Thursday, February 8th: 7:00pm

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. All women are invited to join us for a time of fellowship, friends, and games on Thursday, February 8th at 7:00pm! Bring your favorite board game, group game, etc. We will have a popcorn and hot chocolate station with all the fixin's in the Seasons Room.

15th Annual Sportsman's Dinner Outreach

Saturday, February 24th: 5:00pm

On Saturday, February 24, 2018 we will host our 15th annual Sportsman's Night Dinner here at Stow Alliance Fellowship. Andy Kaminski and Tom Dubois from "Rugged Cross Outdoors" will be our guest speakers. Tickets are available in the lobby on Sunday mornings or throughout the week in the church office on a first come first served basis until sold out.

Volunteers Needed: Volunteers are needed to assist in a variety of ways from set up, to serving, to clean up. Sign up sheets for volunteers and cookie bakers are available in the lobby. Please pray about whom you can invite and how you can be involved!

Donations Needed: We are also in need of donations of wild game including deer, moose, elk, caribou, duck, pheasant, rabbit, and squirrel. If you have questions or something to contribute, please contact Bill Crowe at 330-697-9187 or Bill Azzarello at 330-688-7433.

Children's Ministry Volunteer Opportunities

Children are an important part of God's Kingdom and an important part of SAF. We are currently looking for volunteers to fill open positions in the Waddlers & Toddlers class once a month during 2nd service. We have openings on the 1st and 3rd Sundays. We are also in need of a Kindergarten and 1st Grade teacher who can serve each Sunday morning during 1st service. If you are able and willing to help invest in the lives of our children, please contact Darlene Risjan at drisjan@stowalliance.org or 330-688-7433.

John Kitchen, Senior Pastor

Living in Active Faith

“Without faith it is impossible to please” God. (Hebrews 11:6a)

That’s pretty straightforward.

But what does a life of active faith look like?

I think Peter helps us here. His answer is not more complex than the simple statement of Hebrews 11:6, but it is a bit wordier. Here it is:

“His divine power has granted to us all things that pertain to life and godliness, through the knowledge of him who called us to his own glory and excellence, by which he has granted to us his precious and very great promises, so that through them you may become partakers of the divine nature, having escaped from the corruption that is in the world because of sinful desire.” (2 Peter 1:3-4)

Now here’s a paraphrase I’ve written. I admit, it is even more words. But I hope it breaks things down a bit more for you. Read it. Then read it again. And one more time after that. Think about it. Take it apart in your mind. Follow the line of Peter’s (God’s!) logic.

“Our Savior of infinite, divine power has graced us with everything with regard to possessing and living out eternal life even now in this present world.

This grace has come and continues to flow to us through the channel of a growing, deeply personal and experiential knowledge of our Father, who issued His call to relationship with Himself by the display of His most magnificent glory in this salvation in Christ.

It was in the exercise of this most magnificent glory in Christ that our Father graced us with promises of value beyond compare, so that as we take them up and act upon them in faith we might become partners with Him in the display of this glory in this world and that we might escape the process of dissolution that is at work in the world through the strong desires that operate in everyone.”

Focus on that third sentence. God gave us His promises “so that as we take them up and act upon them in faith we might become partners with Him.”

Think of that! Partners with God! Joining God “in the display of this glory in this world”!

So we’re back to our question: ***How can we get in on that?***

The answer really is simple, though it is never simplistic in a world of such complex issues. It is by ***finding a promise and acting as if we truly believe God will show up and keep it.***

So, what’s your promise for today? What does it require of you as you step out into the flow of this day’s events to trust God to show up and keep it in your life?

For Adults

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.

Nominating Committee Report - The 2017 Nominating Committee report has been posted on the bulletin board in the lobby. Please prayerfully consider those nominated for election at our Annual Meeting to positions of service.

Proposed Bylaw Addition - Please check the bulletin board near the main office regarding a proposed bylaw addition.

Severe Weather - In the event a service is cancelled, Stow Alliance Fellowship will use the iAlert system to inform the congregation of the cancellation. This is the same service used to notify the public of school closings. The closing will be broadcast on WKYC Channel 3, wkyc.com, and WCRF 103.3 FM.

Prime Timers - All senior adults are invited to join us for fun, fellowship, and faith-building on Thursday, February 15th at 12:30pm in the Seasons Room. Bring a sandwich; drinks and dessert will be provided. Pastor Steve Nelson will be sharing with us that day.

Deeper Life Retreat - All senior adults are invited to the Central District's annual deeper life retreat on March 14-16th at the Carlisle Inn in Sugarcreek, Ohio. Rev. Jeff Miller and Don Dillavou will be the guest speakers. Come for three days of spiritual refreshment, Bible teaching, hymn singing, fellowship, Amish shopping, and much more. Brochures and registration forms are available on the lobby information table. Registration with full payment is due by February 2nd. See brochure for more details.

Office Volunteers Needed - We are currently looking for 1 volunteer to serve in the office on Sunday mornings on the 3rd Sunday of the month during 2nd service. We also are looking for 1 volunteer to serve at the welcome center on the 4th Sunday of the month during 2nd service. If you are interested in helping out our office ministry, please contact Karie Gilley at 330-688-7433.

Online Giving & Directory - CDM+ Engage is a secure, mobile-friendly resource that allows those who wish to access our church's online directory and give and contribute online at any time. Through Engage, you are able to create a secure online account, access the online directory, give via bank account or credit card, create reoccurring gifts and contributions, and have access to your giving history. Be sure to check it out by clicking on the Giving Tab on our website: www.stowalliance.org.

Especially For Men

Men's Gathering - Men of all ages are invited to join us for breakfast and fellowship on Saturday, February 3rd at 7:30 am in the Seasons Room. Come and bring a friend!

Men's Basketball - Plays on Saturdays from 9:00—11:00am. Come and join us! Please note that there will be no basketball on Saturday, February 24th.

Stewardship Update Through January 21, 2018:

	<u>Month</u>	<u>Year-to-Date</u>
TITHES & OFFERINGS		
Actual	\$ 36,744	\$36,744
Budget	<u>40,515</u>	<u>40,515</u>
Amount Over/(Under) Budget	(3,771)	(3,771)
GREAT COMMISSION FUND		
Actual	\$ 10,269	\$ 10,269
Promises	<u>3,936</u>	<u>3,936</u>
Amount Over/(Under) Promises	6,333	6,333

PRAISE Plan

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

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 - 11:30 am. Our next meeting will be on Tuesday, February 13th. Childcare will be provided.

Youth Ministry

Super Bowl Bash - Just a reminder that there will be NO Super Bowl bash this year.

Youth Group Girls Night - All Jr. & Sr. High girls are invited to a girls night here at SAF on Friday, February 2nd starting at 6:30 pm in the Youth Wing. Jr. High girls are invited to stay until 10 pm and Sr. High girls are staying over until 8 am Saturday. We will be making Valentine cookies, playing games and having fun. Food will be provided. This event is free! Bring a friend!

Youth Group Guys Night - There will be a guys night for all Jr. & Sr. High guys on Friday, March 2nd. More details to come.

Sports Ministry

Co-Ed Volleyball - Come join us every other Saturday of the month at 7:00pm in the gym for volleyball! We will play on February 3rd & 17th.

Haven of Rest

February Needs List:

Canned & Fresh Fruits	New Socks & Undergarments - all ages
Regular & Decaf Ground Coffee	Men's Pants (28"-34")
Coffee Creamer	Boys & Girls Pants (2T - 20)
Hot Chocolate Mixes, Tea Bags	Twin & Queen Sheet Sets
Juices - Orange, Grape, Apple	Personal Care Items - Tissues, Lotion, Soap
Canned Soup	Brushes, Combs, Shampoo, Conditioners
Snack Items (Chips, Popcorn, Nuts)	Deodorant, Toothpaste, Toothbrushes
Peanut Butter, Jellies	Disposable Razors, Shaving Cream

Our SAF Family



May God Bless You on Your Birthday

February Birthdays...

Lara Ward	2/1	Harold Rowland	2/11	Jim Russell	2/19
Lottie Masl	2/2	Tucker Trowbridge		Nate Gilley	2/22
Kenny Steedly		Jerry Hurd	2/13	Kaitlyn H.	
Carl Valenti		Jeanne Crowe	2/14	Ann Smith	
Kim Moore	2/3	Lisa Gopp		Gregg Henderson	2/23
Madison Davis	2/5	Ross Gunther		David Robinson	
Rhonda Graham		Andy Angell	2/16	Martha Schneider	
Joe Dias	2/6	Ashlee Miller		Corinne Teare	
Ken Hall		Val Trowbridge		James Falbo	2/25
Dave Kupchella		Marlene Osborn	2/17	Daniel Masl	
Terry Osman	2/7	Rae Jean Wilson		Dwight Husk	2/26
Charles Bennett	2/10	Logan Henderson	2/18	Dick Donze	2/27
Drexal McAmis		Peyton Soliwoda			
John Scheftic		Megan Trowbridge			

February Anniversaries...



John & Sharon Feskanin 2/7
Richard & Lisa Sprague

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...

Dick Donze, Rick & Lisa Donze and family on the death of Dick's wife and Rick's mother, Janet Donze, on January 17th.

Walt & Wava Robison and family on the death of Walt's aunt, Becky Starcher, on January 23rd.