



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

# NEWS

May 2018

## National Day of Prayer Thursday, May 3rd



Prayer brings people together. Prayer builds bridges between opposing persons and even political parties. Prayer reminds us that we are created in God's image and He desires for us to represent Him everywhere we go. Prayer brings UNITY. In 2018, our theme will be **Pray for America - UNITY**, based upon Ephesians 4:3 which challenges us to mobilize unified public prayer for America, *Making every effort to keep the unity of the Spirit through the bond of peace.*"

Our hope is that individuals, churches, and spiritual leaders in America, will humble ourselves and unify in prevailing prayer for the next great move of God in America. We can come together in clear agreement that this is our greatest need. We can become a visible union, standing together in prayer. We can pray more than ever before, and practice extraordinary prayer for the next great move of God in America that will catapult the message of the gospel nationally and internationally.

Pray with us, Thursday May 3rd.

*"There is no great movement of God that has ever occurred that does not begin with the extraordinary prayer of God's people." Dr. Ronnie Floyd*



## Celebration of Life Sunday, May 6th

Everyone is invited to a special celebration on Sunday, May 6th, starting at 6:00pm in the sanctuary. Come celebrate with us the baptisms of some of our youth and the end of this season of **LIFE Groups**. Please come join the celebration and invite a friend. Everyone is welcome whether you participated in a LIFE Group or not. There will be refreshments in the Seasons Room following the service.

## Vacation Bible School June 12th-16th



VBS is coming! Kids ages 3 years old (and potty trained) through 5th grade completed are invited to fly with us on the *Lion of Judah Airlines* Tuesday, June 12th - Friday, June 15th with VBS Family Fun Day on Saturday, June 16th! Registration is available online now at: [www.stowalliance.org](http://www.stowalliance.org) (click the *Lion of Judah Airlines* banner or the link on the Resource Page).

If you are interested in helping out with anything (crafts, games, group leaders, snacks, Bible, etc.), please contact Darlene Risjan or sign up in the lobby. If you are in 6<sup>th</sup> grade or above, and you would like to help with VBS but are not yet an approved worker, please see Darlene Risjan so you can be approved **before** June 1st.

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## John Kitchen, Senior Pastor

### Praying for our Nation

“First of all, then, I urge that supplications, prayers, intercessions, and thanksgivings be made for all people, for kings and all who are in high positions, that we may lead a peaceful and quiet life, godly and dignified in every way. This is good, and it is pleasing in the sight of God our Savior, who desires all people to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth.” (1 Timothy 2:1-4)

As we commemorate the National Day of Prayer on May 3, I offer you these prompters to prayer:

#### Pray for our President and Vice-President

*“The king’s heart is a stream of water in the hand of the LORD; he turns it wherever he will.”* (Proverbs 21:1)

Pray that they would acknowledge that God has placed them in their offices.

Pray that they would acknowledge God as the source of all wisdom.

Pray that they would have true salvation from God through Jesus.

Pray that they would turn to the Lord for direction.

Pray for godly counselors about them.

Pray they would be men of integrity.

Pray that the Lord would direct their thoughts.

#### Pray for our Senators and Representatives

*“For the LORD gives wisdom; from his mouth come knowledge and understanding.”* (Proverbs 2:6)

Pray they would pass laws in accordance with God’s will and Law.

Pray God would give them wisdom and understanding.

Pray for their families and faithfulness to them.

#### Pray for our Supreme Court Justices

*“... look for able men from all the people, men who fear God, who are trustworthy and hate a bribe, and place such men over the people as chiefs ... let them judge the people at all times.”* (Exodus 18:21-22)

Pray they will be God-fearing, honest people.

Pray they will render righteous and impartial judgment under God’s direction.

#### Pray for our Nation

*“Blessed is the nation whose God is the LORD.”* (Psalm 33:12a)

Pray we would maintain and uphold our national motto: “In God we trust.”

Pray our nation would be restored to right relationship with God and other nations.

Pray our believers would turn and seek God.

Pray we would experience spiritual revival from God.

#### Pray for our City

*“Unless the LORD builds the house, those who build it labor in vain.”* (Psalm 127:1)

Pray for those in positions of leadership and authority, such as: mayor, city council, police and fire chiefs, school board, etc.

Pray for God to bless our city.

Pray for the welfare and prosperity of our city.

Pray for our citizens to turn to God.

Pray for peace and security within our city.

Pray for our city to support righteousness and goodness.

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## For Adults

**Child Dedications** - A child dedication service will be held on Sunday, May 13th. If you would like to dedicate your child(ren) to the Lord, please call the church office (330-688-7433) by Monday, May 7th to make arrangements.

**Prime Timers** - All senior adults are invited to join us on Thursday, May 17th at 6:00pm in the Seasons Room for a time of food, fellowship, and faith-building. Dinner will be catered and the cost is \$6. Please RSVP to Donna Malm by Sunday, May 13th if you will be attending. Ryan and Amanda Gopp will be sharing with us this month.

**Active Threat Preparedness** - We all hear and read the sad news of increasing incidents of violence wherever people gather. Our Elders at Stow Alliance Fellowship have made our church family's safety a matter of regular prayer. They have also been discussing for some time additional steps we might take to be well prepared should an active threat become a reality here in our church. To that end we are holding an **Active Threat Preparedness** event **Saturday, May 19<sup>th</sup> from 9:00 a.m. to noon** here at SAF. Leaders at every level within our church will attend and we want to invite you as well! Our own Lara Ward will be leading the session (her credentials can be found on the bulletin board in the lobby). We need to know how many will be participating so we are asking you to **RSVP** by emailing ([office@stowalliance.org](mailto:office@stowalliance.org)) or registering by phone or in person at the church office (330-688-7433) by **Wednesday, May 16**.

**Living Intentionally (Evangelism Training Class)** - Are you looking for a way to share your faith? Do you have friends and family that you would like to see come to know Christ that currently do not have a relationship with Him? Join us on a 6 week journey Sunday, June 3<sup>rd</sup> - Sunday, July 8<sup>th</sup> from 9:00-10:15am in room 216 as we explore *Living Intentionally: A Lifestyle of Evangelism*. As a part of *Living Intentionally*, we will discuss various steps to help us think about how we can share our faith, not as something that we do, but as a way to integrate it into who we genuinely are as a follower of Christ. Some topics will include: the role of prayer in evangelism, living life on purpose, developing and keeping non-Christian friends, and so much more! Please sign up in the lobby by Sunday, May 27th. Questions? Contact Pastor Phil at: [pchapman@stowalliance.org](mailto:pchapman@stowalliance.org) or 330-688-7433.



**Gardeners & Mowers Needed** - Spring is here! Our church flower beds and lawns are in need of some tender loving care. If you would like to help beautify our flower beds or help mow the grass around the church building, please contact Bill Azzarello. A rotating schedule will be put in place for May - September for those who volunteer to mow the grass.

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## Especially for Men

**Men's Breakfast** - Men of all ages are invited to join us for breakfast on Saturday, May 5th at 7:30am in the Seasons Room for a great time of food, fellowship, and encouragement in your walk with God.

**Men's Basketball** - Come and join us as we play on Saturdays from 9:00 - 11:00am in the gym.

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### Stewardship Update Through April 22, 2018:

	<u>Month</u>	<u>Year-to-Date</u>
<b>TITHES &amp; OFFERINGS</b>		
Actual	\$ 53,716	\$210,038
Budget	<u>54,020</u>	<u>216,080</u>
Amount Over/(Under) Budget	(304)	(6,042)
<b>GREAT COMMISSION FUND</b>		
Actual	\$ 10,190	\$ 51,632
Promises	<u>3,936</u>	<u>19,680</u>
Amount Over/(Under) Promises	6,254	31,952

### PRAISE Plan

Please prayerfully consider your participation in the PRAISE Plan. Information about the "PRAISE Plan" and how you can be involved is available in the church office.

Received to Date: \$66,621

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## Especially for Men Cont.



**Men's Softball League** - The 2018 softball season is beginning and we will be starting up our men's softball team! Games will be played at Water Works Park on Mondays with practices held here at the church field on Monday evenings and Saturday mornings. There is no fee to play, but a jersey is approximately \$25.00. Men must be 18 or older and attend at least 2 church services per month here at SAF to play. Please sign up in the lobby, if you are interested in playing. Call or text Jason Kallio at: 330-328-5353 with any questions.

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## Especially for Women



**MOPS (Mothers of Preschoolers)** - 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 Tuesday, May 8th for our last meeting of the summer from 9:30-11:30am here at SAF. Childcare will be provided.

**Naomi Women** - All women are invited to join us from 6:00–9:00pm on Thursday, May 10th as we work with *Dress a Girl Around the World*. We will be cutting, piecing, and sewing dresses for young girls around the world. Some of the dresses may be going with our Kenya Remember Nhu Team in August; they plan on taking 200 dresses with them when they go! If you are able to bring a sewing machine that evening, please contact Sarah Parker at: 330-607-1499. There are plenty of things for non-sewing women to do. Come and help with this awesome way we can show God's love!

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## Youth Ministry

**Youth Group Game Night** - Friday, May 4th from 7-10 pm. Open to Jr. & Sr. High students and friends. Come and hang out with your friends for a night of fun and games. Snacks will be provided.

**Jr. High Medieval Night** - All Junior high students are invited to Medieval Night on Saturday, May 19<sup>th</sup> from 4:00pm-8:00pm. Come dressed as your favorite character from that time period and be prepared to participate in events that will challenge your smarts, strength and skill. A full meal (including some authentic recipes) will be available for all. Cost is free.

**5<sup>th</sup> Grade Luncheon** - All current 5<sup>th</sup> graders who will be going into 6<sup>th</sup> grade are invited to join the Jr. High leaders for lunch after service on May 20<sup>th</sup> from 12-2pm for a time of orientation and fellowship over free food!



**2018 Graduates** - Congratulations to the 2018 graduates! We plan to have a time of recognition and prayer for you during our morning services on Sunday, May 27th. Please fill out the "graduation" section on the back of the Communication Card and plan to be present on May 27th.

**Scholarship Applications** - Seniors who are planning on attending a Christian University are encouraged to apply for the Allison McInturff Memorial scholarship. The Scholarship is open to all undergraduates, and graduate students who are attending Christian Universities. Applications are due by the end of May. If you are interested in applying, applications can be found on the lobby table. Please submit your completed application to Pastor Chris by May 27th, 2018.

**Senior Banquet** – Mark your calendar for Monday June 4th. All Sr. High students and leaders are invited to join us for our senior banquet. If you are not a graduating senior, please plan on bringing money to pay for your dinner. More details to come.

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## Children's Ministry

**Promotion Sunday** - Promotion Sunday will take place on Sunday, June 3rd. Students 5 years olds entering Kindergarten through 5th grade will move up to their next grade. Those entering 6th grade will join the Jr. High downstairs in room 31.


**VBS Training Meeting** - All volunteers involved with VBS, please mark your calendars for a **mandatory** training meeting! You may attend either Sunday, June 3rd immediately following 2nd service in Room 230 (lunch will be provided) or Wednesday, June 6th at 7:00pm in Room 230 (snacks will be provided). Please RSVP to Darlene Risjan at drisjan@stowalliance.org or 330-688-7433 as to which meeting you will be attending.

**Donations for VBS** - Grab a sticky note off the board in the lobby and help out with VBS by donating needed items for snacks! Items will be due by Sunday, June 10th.

**Volunteers Needed** - Our children's ministry needs your help! We are currently looking for volunteers to fill open positions in the Waddlers & Toddlers class: 1st or 3rd Sunday of the month during 2nd service. If you are willing to help invest in the lives of our children, please contact Darlene Risjan.

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## Stow Alliance Preschool

 Stow Alliance Preschool registration is going on now for the 2018-2019 school year! Our preschool offers fun and learning in a Christian environment including Bible time, snack time, story hour, craft time, and field trips! Registration forms can be found on our website ([www.stowalliance.org/preschool](http://www.stowalliance.org/preschool)) or picked up on the table in the lobby. Please contact Jeanne Crowe for more information.

**Acme Receipts** - Thank you so much for collecting Acme Receipts for us this year! We received \$231.53 from Acme's Community Cash Back program. The Community Cash Back Program will begin again on August 9th, 2018! Thanks again!

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## Sports Ministries

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

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## Haven of Rest

### Needed Items:

Canned Fruits & Vegetables

Fresh Fruit & Vegetables

Regular & Decaf Ground Coffee

Fruit Juices

Individually Packed Snack Food Items  
(fruit cups, pudding & jello cups, etc.)

New Socks & Undergarments - all ages

White twin-size bed sheets and pillowcases

Plastic twin-sized mattress covers

Small plastic buckets with  
household cleaning supplies

Diapers Sizes 4-6 & Baby Wipes

Boxes of Facial Tissues

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## *Our SAF Family*

### *May Birthdays...*



*Happy Birthday!*

*May God Bless You on Your Birthday*

Myron Koyle, Sr.	5/3	Irene Abbott	5/16	Theda Rowland	5/28
Dorothy Costen	5/4	Joe Grecco	5/21	Marlynn Soliwoda	
Gina Underwood	5/5	Dale Williams		Dean Jones	5/29
Ethan Wedo	5/6	Steve Stoner	5/22	Samuel Smith	
Carter Trowbridge	5/8	Jason Gavin	5/23	Melanie Warman	
Peggy Armentrout	5/9	Steve Brooks		Caleb Chapman	5/30
Keerstyn Ruppel		Homer Gibson	5/26	Paul Hetherington	
Don Abbott	5/15	Brent Trowbridge	5/27	Lisa MacAdam	
				Keaton Smith	
				Steve Trowbridge	
				Gwen Bauer	5/31

### *May Anniversaries...*

Walt & Gloria Thompson	5/22
Tom & Jan Sparrow	5/27
Jason & Sara Lohmier	5/30

Happy  
Anniversary



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...*

Steve & Stella Cupp and family on the death of Steve's mother, Marilyn, on April 10th.