



Stow Alliance  
Fellowship

NEWS

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

October 2018



## 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 21st:

- **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 4th**.
- **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.

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## John Kitchen, Senior Pastor

### The Lord Reigns!

We live in troubled and troubling times. That's why we need to mine a vein of gold in the 90's-Psalms.

No, not songs from the 1990's. The Psalms in your Bible between 93 and 99.

The sovereign rule of God is a theme running through these Psalms. Four times in that span we find the declaration: "The LORD reigns!" (Psalm 93:1; 96:10; 97:1; 99:1). The expression is found only one other time, in David's song of thanksgiving after bringing the ark of the covenant to Jerusalem (1 Chronicles 16:31).

The declaration gives rise to a variety of exhortations and prayers that immediately follow it:

"he is robed in majesty" (93:1)

"let the earth rejoice" (97:1)

"let the peoples tremble" (99:1).

Twice the declaration is introduced by: "let them say among the nations" (1 Chronicles 16:31) and "Say among the nations" (96:10).

What's so valuable about all this?

The verb "reigns" means "to be king" or "to rule." It is a Kingdom term. It denotes *active sovereignty*. Not just potentiality, but active, actual, current sovereignty.

"The LORD reigns." Is there *better* news to be found anywhere?

"The LORD reigns." Is there *more frightening* news to be found anywhere?

"The LORD reigns"! This calls for *rejoicing* (Psalm 97:1).

"The LORD reigns"! This calls for *trembling* (Psalm 99:1).

This is to be our testimony *among* the nations so that it can become the testimony *of* the nations.

As we turn our attention to the nations—and all the *trouble* that is brewing there—this is our great *hope*: The LORD is—right now—actively ruling all that transpires.

As we turn our attention to the nations—and all the *need* represented there—this is our great *message*: The LORD is—right now—calling the peoples of the earth to submit to His rule, to enter and live within His Kingdom.

If we aren't ruled by the Lord our message will be muted.

Take a few moments to pause in His presence ...

- submit yourself afresh to His rule ...
  - rehearse in prayer again the peace His rule brings ...
  - pledge to Him that you'll tell someone today of the peace that comes from living under His active rule.
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## For Adults




**Pray for Russia Team 2018** - Pray for Pastor John, Julie, Jordan Foraker, Sarah Parker, and Michael Ray as they serve the Lord by serving His servants in Russia and Ukraine from October 12-28. 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. Praise God the financial goal for the team has been met. Thank you for your sacrificial giving!

**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, October 5th and Sunday, October 7th. 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.

 **Bottles for Babies Project** - Grab a baby bottle from the table in the lobby beginning Sunday, October 7th 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 **NO LATER THAN** Sunday, October 28th.

**LifeWay Church Week** - From October 8–13th, 2018, Copley LifeWay Christian Store will be having a "Stow Alliance Fellowship Week" to help lead you to resources for every step of your faith journey. This week is a great opportunity to invest in:

- Your personal journey of faith
- Your family through resources for your marriage, your kids, and your teens
- Your friends and community with meaningful gifts
- Your church involvement with group Bible studies and kids ministry resources

LifeWay will be offering an additional 20% off your purchase storewide, including sale and clearance (VBS, Willow Tree, and textbook purchases are excluded)! Just mention Stow Alliance Fellowship at checkout to receive your discount. Stop by the Copley LifeWay Christian Store (143 Rothrock Road, Suite A. Copley, OH 44321) for Stow Alliance Fellowship Week at LifeWay. Bring your family and friends along!

**Prime Timers** - All senior adults 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 18th. Please bring a sandwich. Desserts and beverages will be provided. Pastor Jeff Schofield will be sharing with us.

**Spiritual Gifts Class** - Have you ever wondered what are spiritual gifts? How many are there? Do they all exist today? How should we seek and use our spiritual gifts? Pastors Phil and Pastor Don will be teaching a Spiritual Gifts class that will answer these questions plus have an inventory that will help you discover your spiritual gifts. The class will run Sunday, November 4<sup>th</sup> – 25<sup>th</sup> at 9:00am in room 217. Contact Pastor Phil or Pastor Don at the church office if you have any questions.

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### Stewardship Update Through September 23, 2018:

	<u>Month</u>	<u>Year-to-Date</u>
<b>TITHES &amp; OFFERINGS</b>		
Actual	\$ 49,188	\$496,008
Budget	<u>54,020</u>	<u>513,190</u>
Amount Over/(Under) Budget	(4,832)	(17,182)
<b>GREAT COMMISSION FUND</b>		
Actual	\$ 11,053	\$122,495
Promises	<u>5,248</u>	<u>49,856</u>
Amount Over/(Under) Promises	5,805	72,639

#### PRAISE Plan

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

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## ***Adults Cont.***



**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 musical is called Night of the Father's Love. 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 3rd from 9:30-11:30 am in the music room. We also rehearse on Wednesday nights. We have the opportunity to perform at the John S. Knight Center on Saturday, November 17th at 1:00. We will also perform on December 9th during both worship services. Please contact Julie Kitchen at 330-688-7433 or jubalkitch@gmail.com if you are interested!

**Office Volunteers Needed** - We are currently looking for 1 person to volunteer in the office on Sunday mornings, 2nd service, on the 3rd Sunday of the month. We also are looking for 1 volunteer to serve at the welcome center on the 5th Sunday during 1st service. If you are interested in helping out our office ministry, please contact Karie Gilley at 330-668-7433 or office@stowalliance.org.

**Nominating Committee** - Our Nominating Committee is ready to begin their work in preparation for our Annual Meeting in February. Please pray for Pastor Kitchen, Tom Horsfall, Larry Parker, Marlynn Soliwoda, and Lois Webb as they prayerfully seek candidates for positions of elected service within our church. Feel free to contact any one of them with your questions or thoughts.

**Akron Pregnancy Services Volunteer Training** - APS will begin volunteer training on Tuesday, October 16th from 5:00-8:00pm. If you are interested in becoming a volunteer, please contact Cathryn Jackson at 330-434-2221. APS is also in need of Gerber Gentle Formula and diapers sizes 5 and 6. If you would like to donate either of these items, please place them in the bin under the lobby table by the handicap entrance.

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## ***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 9th. Childcare will be provided.

**NAOMI Women** - All women are invited to join us from 6:00-9:00pm on Thursday, October 25th in the Seasons Room as we work with *Dress a Girl Around the World*. We will be cutting, piecing, and sewing dresses for young girls around the world. If you are able to bring a sewing machine and pinking shears that evening, please bring them with you. 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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## ***Children's Ministries***

**Children's Ministry Needs YOU!** - We are currently looking for 2 full time teachers for the preschool class during 1st service. Please contact Darlene Risjan at drisjan@stowalliance.org or 330-688-7433 if you are able and willing to help invest in the lives of our children!

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## ***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, 2018. Thank you for your support of SAP!

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## ***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 13th and 27th from 7:00-9:00pm. Come and join us!

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## ***Youth Ministries***

**Drop-in At Pastor Chris' Home:** All youth and their families are invited to a drop-in at our Pastor Chris and Amy's new home (4046 Stow Rd. Stow, Oh. 44224) on Saturday October 13<sup>th</sup> from 6-9pm. Weather permitting we will have a small campfire with S'mores and other treats. We look forward to seeing you all.



**Drive in Movie night:** All youth are invited to join us for a drive in movie night at the church (movie to be determined later), Saturday October 20<sup>th</sup>. More details to come.



**LIFE 2019:** Registration is open! If you didn't make it to the LIFE meeting in August, the information packet is available in the lobby or in the Sr. High Room. A \$150 non-refundable deposit is due by October 21st for the early bird pricing of \$475. All monies are to be turned in to Lisa Gopp. A Scholarship is available to families in need. If you would like to give towards sponsoring a teen's LIFE 2019 registration fee, LIFE scholarship donations can be made online by choosing the "LIFE 2019 Scholarship Donation" fund or by check clearly made out to Stow Alliance Fellowship with "LIFE 2019 Scholarship Donation" on the memo line. Please note, all other donations made to the LIFE 2019 General Donations fund go towards other expenses of the trip. Questions? Please contact Pastor Chris or Lisa Gopp.

**Ways for the Youth to Serve:** Parents, as a church family we are looking for ways to include your teens in serving the body here at SAF. There are many ways for them to get involved, from helping in the coffee ministry, the welcome center, partnering with the ushers, to helping in Sunday school for the children. There are many opportunities to have the youth invest in the body. Talk with your teens and see where they might feel most comfortable to use their gifting from God. 1 Peter 4:10a "As each has received a gift, use it to serve one another, as good stewards of God's varied grace..."

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## ***Remember Nhu***



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](http://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](mailto:SAF.RNhu.FHC@gmail.com) or 330-650-0978 with any questions

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## ***Haven of Rest***

### **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

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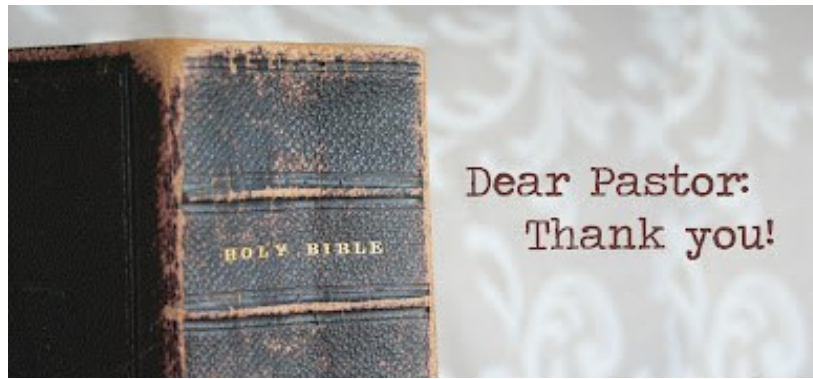
## ***International Friendship Connection***



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](mailto:robert5osborn@yahoo.com).

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## 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 7th, 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.
- **Baskets Full of Thanks:** As a way to say thank you, help us fill our pastor's basket with a few fun things for each pastor and his family to enjoy. 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 21st.***

## *Our SAF Family*



### *October Birthdays...*

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

### *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 Jason & Terese Gavin	10/15



John & Cindi Swinehart	10/18
Jim & Anna Harry	10/19
Nate & Karie Gilley	10/20
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!