



Stow Alliance
Fellowship

NEWS

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

November 2018

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 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.

Ladies Christmas Craft Night

Thursday, November 15th

All women are invited to join us for a night of fellowship and crafting at our annual Christmas Craft Night on Thursday, November 15th 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 28th. Registration and payment will be held on November 4th and the 11th 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.

Rake & Run

Saturday, November 17th

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 11th! They will be raking leaves on Saturday, November 17th 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 Pastor Chris.

Thanksgiving for the Sovereignty of God

Control and power are two words that are common in our society right now as words of contention. Those who have control and power will do anything to keep that in their hands. Those without it find themselves planning, strategizing, and examining how best they can gain a foothold for what they crave in such a strong way: the thirst for control and power. Whether it is a business, a government, a family, another type of social structure, there will be those who are unable to rest because control and power are always on their minds and they will seek to always have it within their grasp.

The Scriptures have something to say to us about this topic. In Psalm 2:1, the psalmist poses an interesting question when he says, *“Why do the nations rage and the people plot in vain?”* Raging nations? This sounds like a pretty pertinent topic for our day.

Anger is prevalent on a grand scale. People are angry about many things as we meet and interact with them. Protesting and violence is escalating. People feel their government is incompetent and that those in positions of authority over them are completely inept in what they do.

Anger doesn't just come on a grand scale against a government or a corporation. Anger comes in the hearts of individuals as well. Anger comes from the boss that someone works for whom the individual feels is completely incompetent. Anger comes from poor communication in a marriage where one spouse may feel powerless as the other would run roughshod over their emotions.

Decisions made in anger are **poor** decisions. In the New Testament, James told us in James 1:20, *“Know this, my beloved brothers: let every person be quick to hear, slow to speak, slow to anger”*. Anger feels good for a moment- anger feels good for a time. The repercussions of a decision made in anger can haunt individuals and nations for a lifetime or more.

Today, let us speak with a voice of thanksgiving. Do not let anger permeate your lips. Our words can convey just as much venom as that of a deadly snake. A little later after James' encouragement to be slow to anger, he spoke of what is inside our lips, which is our tongue; in James 3:8 he said, *“But no human being can tame the tongue. It is a restless evil, full of deadly poison.”* Let our voices speak in thanksgiving to one another and most importantly, unto the Lord. The choice is available to each of us: **we can speak poison or praise.**

The sovereignty of the Lord of which there is a great need, is something that we should stand in awe of as we contemplate the greatness of our God. He will use those as he wills. He can change circumstances and situations. He knows information of which you and I could never be aware.

We come back to our initial question: *“Why do the nations rage?”* (Ps. 2:1) The world is in to control and power. The life of the believer is to be marked by differences. Thanksgiving is part of God's plan for us: not just on the 4th Thursday in November sandwiched in between football and eating turkey. Thanksgiving should be part of our regular practice. Giving thanks should be part of the life and rhythm that we have as believers.

Paul told this to the church at Thessalonica when he said, *“Give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you.”* (1 Thess. 5:18) Society is not seeking to be in the will of God. The nations are raging, Scripture tells us this; they are into control and power. With the heart of thanksgiving, let's be into something different: let's be into contentment and peace. Today, let's give thanksgiving for the sovereignty of God.

For Adults

Pastor Appreciation Month - Thank you SAF for taking the time to show your support, encouragement, and appreciation to our pastors during the month of October!

 **Don't Forget!** - Daylight savings time ends on Sunday, November 4th. Don't forget to set your clocks back one hour on Saturday, November 3rd as Standard Time returns.

 **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 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!

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 4th – 25th at 9:00am in room 216. Contact Pastor Phil or Pastor Don at the church office if you have any questions.

Child Dedication - A child dedication service will be held on Sunday, November 11th. If you would like to dedicate your child(ren) to the Lord, please contact the church office at 330-688-7433 or office@stowalliance.org by Monday, November 5th.

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 17th at 1:00PM.

Prime Timers – All senior adults are invited to join us for fun, fellowship, and faith-building on Thursday, November 15th 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 22nd and Friday, November 23rd to celebrate Thanksgiving.
Happy Thanksgiving

 **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, November 30th for Friday evening groups and Sunday, December 2nd for Sunday evening groups. We will resume again in January.

 **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 2nd**, contribute financially, or help deliver Christmas cookies, cards, and gift cards to the nominated families!

Stewardship Update Through October 21, 2018:

	<u>Month</u>	<u>Year-to-Date</u>
TITHES & OFFERINGS		
Actual	\$ 38,370	\$546,604
Budget	<u>40,515</u>	<u>567,210</u>
Amount Over/(Under) Budget	(2,145)	(20,606)
GREAT COMMISSION FUND		
Actual	\$ 10,746	\$135,978
Promises	<u>3,936</u>	<u>55,104</u>
Amount Over/(Under) Promises	6,810	80,874

PRAISE Plan

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

For Adults Cont.

 **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 2nd. 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.

 **Christmas Giving Tree** - Take an ornament off the Haven of Rest Christmas Giving Tree located in the lobby and purchase a Christmas gift for a Haven of Rest/Harvest Home resident! Return the gifts, *unwrapped*, to the tree area no later than December 2nd.

Nominating Committee - Please pray for the 2018 Nominating Committee: Pastor Kitchen, Tom Horsfall, Larry Parker, Marlynn Soliwoda, and Lois Webb. They welcome your questions or input as they seek to nominate those God would like in positions of elected service in Stow Alliance Fellowship.

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 330-688-7433 or office@stowalliance.org.

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 3rd at 7:30 am in the Seasons Room. Come and bring a friend!

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 from 9:30 - 11:30 am on Tuesday, November 13th. Childcare will be provided.

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 10th and 24th from 7:00-9:00pm. Come and join us!

For Children

Children's Ministry Needs YOU! - There are several positions that are needing to be filled! We are looking for a volunteer to help out on Sunday mornings in the Preschool classroom during 1st service. We also are in need of volunteers for Awana on Wednesday evenings. Please contact Darlene Risjan at: 330-688-7433 or drisjan@stowalliance.org 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, 2018. Thank you for your support of SAP!

Youth Ministries

JH Fun Night – All Jr. High Students are invited to a night of FUN, FOOD and GAMES (including tournaments) on Friday, November 16th from 6-10pm in the youth wing. Cost: \$6 per person. Bring a friend!



Rake & Run - Saturday November 17th. 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.

Have you been following the Real Jesus?

Youth Ministries
Pastor Chris Miletti

Take 30 seconds and write some words you would use to describe Jesus to someone who has never heard of Him.

Were the words nice, friendly, friend, and or caring in your top 5 choices? According to research done by *Group Magazine*, teenagers in the top 5 metropolitan areas were asked this very question. The overwhelming response was, “Jesus is nice” or some similar variant. In his book, *Jesus Centered Youth Ministry*, author Rick Lawrence states “A merely nice Jesus is no Jesus at all; he’s like a declawed version of Narnia’s Aslan... A declawed Jesus isn’t strong and fierce and big enough to walk with students (or us) into the fiery furnaces of everyday life... Nice Jesus isn’t hard enough or tough enough or real enough to walk with teenagers into their own dark alleys of life.”

Have we been following a “nice Jesus”?

I have had some deep devotional times with God and He has led me to some thoughts: Can we accept who Jesus is and not be saved? Does the Bible tell us to accept Him or to follow Him? I think it’s totally possible to accept who Jesus is (God’s son, the Savior, the Healer etc.) and not be saved. Even the demons know and accept who Jesus is (Mark 1:23). Yes, we must “accept” the gift of Salvation that comes from God in the form of Jesus our Savior. But just to “accept” who Jesus is isn’t enough. Jesus says in John 14:12 “Truly, truly, I say to you, whoever believes in me will also do the works that I do”.

Have we been fooled into thinking that knowing facts about Jesus is enough?

How do we follow Jesus? In John 15:6 Jesus says “If anyone does not abide in me he is thrown away like a branch and withers; and the branches are gathered, thrown into the fire, and burned.” What does “Abide in me” mean? It means to continue in a daily, personal relationship with Jesus, characterized by trust, prayer, obedience, and joy. In other words we must have intimacy with Jesus. People who are caught up in a romantic relationship don’t have to be told to focus on their beloved, because it’s hard to stop thinking about the person. Our thoughts stray to the object of our passion. Do we Love Jesus this way? Maybe now is a good time to examine our hearts.

Do we long for Jesus like He’s our beloved?

In his book, Rick Lawrence references a French restaurant that gives out prized T-shirts to employees who go above and beyond with “Be the Pig” on the front of it. “Be the Pig” refers to the difference between pigs and chickens. Where a chicken might offer up an egg for the meal, the pig must sacrifice its life for it. All-in disciples of Jesus are pigs, not chickens. In order to be an all-in disciple of Jesus, one who follows Him, we must make sacrifices. We must be willing to place Him first in our life, and we need to be in love with Him. John 14:21 says “Whoever has my commandments and keeps them, he it is who loves me. And he who loves me will be loved by my Father, and I will love him, and manifest myself to him.” To keep with the metaphor: Jesus was the ultimate pig; He made the ultimate sacrifice for you because He loves you that much!

Have you been following the real Jesus?

Our SAF Family

November Birthdays...



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

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!