



Stow Alliance
Fellowship

NEWS

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

June 2019



Vacation Bible School

June 10th-14th

9:00am-12:00pm (Monday-Friday)

Who: Kids ages 3 years old (and potty trained) through 5th grade (completed)

Where: Stow Alliance Fellowship
4460 Stow Rd. Stow, Ohio 44224

Registration: is available online at www.stowalliance.org
For more information call Darlene Risjan - 330-688-7433

WE NEED YOUR HELP!

If you would be interested in helping out in any way (crafts, games, snacks, group leaders, Bible lessons, etc.) please contact Darlene Risjan!

Donations for VBS - Grab a sticky note off the board in the lobby and help out with VBS by donating needed items for snacks! Please return items by Sunday, June 9th.

VBS Training Meeting - All volunteers involved with VBS, please mark your calendars for a **mandatory** training meeting! You may attend either Sunday, June 2nd immediately following 2nd service in Room 230 (lunch will be provided) or Wednesday, June 5th 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.

A Message from the Sparrows...

"Thank you SAF family for your generosity with support this month! We really appreciate it! You helped us close the gap we have in our support for this month. We are short by about \$500 a month. Maria is still waiting for her documents to arrive. She was able to get her tooth fixed after someone hit her in the face to steal her phone. Please continue to pray for her and her children's safety while they wait, as well as for the documents she needs to arrive quickly so they can return to Ecuador. If you would like to be a part of our newsletter please contact us at: sparrowsinquito@gmail.com."

Matt and Melissa and their children will be in the U.S. visiting supporters of their ministry in Ecuador June 26-July 30. During that time they are seeking to borrow a vehicle that fits six people. If you are able to help them out or have questions, please contact them directly at the email given above.

John Kitchen, Senior Pastor

Summer Disciplines for Spiritual Growth

Summer is here! And I am *so* glad. It is a great time of year—and it seems to be so brief. So let's enjoy it and let's do it in knowing, intentional, conscious communion with the Lord of all seasons. To do that, let me offer a few ideas regarding how you can harness the unique opportunities of summer to your desire to love God more.

First, make a point to **get outside**. And when you do take some time to be still, quiet and observant. Talk to God about what you see, smell, hear and find around you – big and small.

Read a book. I know this seems like a wintertime, sit by-the-fire, snug-in-the-house kind of thing, but don't let your brains rot just because it's nice outside. Change things up; read something different. But read! Grab the lawn chair and move your reading outside. Here are a few of the books on my personal (just for fun) reading list for this summer: *Forever and Ever, Amen* (Randy Travis), *Palau: A Life on Fire* (Luis Palau) and *Midnight in Chernobyl* (Adam Higginbotham).

Select a special portion of **Scripture** to memorize and meditate upon this summer – asking God to speak to you very specifically from it. Work on memorizing it, reviewing it, praying it back to God as you take your evening walk or as you sit in your lawn chair. This year Julie and I are doing this with Isaiah 43:16-19.

Choose a **hymn** to be your spiritual tune this summer. Sing it regularly. Commit it to memory. Journal about why it is significant to you right now. Observe how God uses it in the events and happenings of your life this summer. I've been doing this recently with the great hymn "Fill Me Now" (#252 in our hymnal). I took a picture of the page in the hymnal so I can have it with me anywhere and anytime. I've sung this (sometimes very quietly!) in some interesting places!

Walk over and **say "Hi!"** Talk to your neighbors. Pray for them; ask God to open conversations with them. Invite them over for some time around the fire pit or for a cookout. Offer to help them with some outside project you see them working on.

Eat at a genuine **drive-in restaurant** (i.e., Swensons or A&W) and then really bless your waitperson. Pray for whoever it will be ahead of time. Be kind and friendly. When they bring your food tell them, "We're about to pray and give thanks for this meal *and for you*. Is there anything we can pray about for you?" And, don't forget—leave a generous tip!

Grow something. You don't have to plant a big garden. Put even just one plant in a pot—then nurture it, water, feed, groom, weed around it and protect it. Care for it. Take the time to notice the changes as the weeks roll by and the sun grows warm. Reflect on how watching your plant(s) help you better understand these passages of Scripture: Mark 4:1-20; 1 Corinthians 3:6-8; 2 Timothy 2:6-7; James 5:7-8. See what other Scriptures you can find along these themes.

Take a **prayer walk**. Go it alone with just God. Take your spouse or a friend. Keep your eyes open as you walk and pray! But talk to God about the people you meet or see. Pray for the people in the homes along your street. Pray for the law enforcement officers who watch over your neighborhood and the fire fighters and first responders who stand ready to come to your aid. Ask God to move among the people of your immediate neighborhood.

The possibilities are endless! Spend this summer with God; have fun enjoying Him and the world He has made. I'd love to hear from you about unique ways you've found to love God during these summer months.

For Adults

Prime Timers - All senior adults are invited to join us on Thursday, June 20th at 6:00pm for a catered dinner in the Seasons Room, and a time of toe-tapping music with the Root-a-Nannies! Dinner cost is \$6 per person. Please contact Donna Malm at: 330-688-9427 by Sunday, June 16th if you will be attending.



Stow Independence Day Parade - On Thursday, July 4th, the Love Float will make its 37th appearance in the Stow Independence Day Parade. We are currently looking for people to help set up and tear down the float as well as for teens and adults to walk in the parade and help collect donations. We will be collecting non-perishable food items and monetary donations to benefit our local food bank, Good Neighbors. If you are interested in helping in any way, please contact Nancy Cervone at: 330-678-1158. If you can not walk in the parade, please be sure to bring your donations to the parade!

Remember Nhu Kenya Land - We are currently at 26% of our goal of \$60,000 to purchase land for our Remember Nhu Girl's homes in Kenya. If you would like to give to this fund, either by check or via on-line giving, be sure to designate your gift for REMEMBER NHU KENYA LAND.



LIFE Groups - Thank you to all who participated during this past season of LIFE Groups. We particularly want to extend a special thanks to those who selflessly opened their homes and hosted our groups; along with a thank you to our leaders who diligently shepherded their flocks this year. I ask that you prayerfully consider how God is calling you to participate in the coming year. If you feel God calling you to host or lead a LIFE Group please contact Pastor Don at 330-688-7433.

A Night at the Ball Park - Our Alliance Men are hosting an outing to the Rubber Ducks game on Friday, July 12th. Everyone is invited—bring the family and invite some friends! Sign-ups for tickets will be available in the church lobby beginning Sunday, June 2nd thru June 23rd. Cost will be determined by the number of sign-ups.

A Message from our Deacons - The Deacons are a ministry of SAF to provide support to those who find themselves in difficult circumstances by managing the benevolence fund. Thank you so much for those who have contributed to the benevolence fund through the baskets stationed at the back of the sanctuary on the first Sunday of the month as well as those who have made a donation through the giving envelopes. Your giving is greatly appreciated! We desire to be good stewards of God's resources and to bless those in need who are in our congregation and community. If you are aware of any existing urgent needs, please contact the church office.

Summer Travel - Summer is a great time to get away and travel, and on-line giving is a great way to make sure your monthly donations are still being made. You can even schedule your donation ahead of time! Setting up an account is done thru the church website: stowalliance.org. Click on the "Giving" tab, and use your email address that is on file at SAF to set up your account. You can also make sure you don't miss any sermons while you're away by listening on line at stowalliance.org/sermon-archive.

Volunteers Needed - We have once-a-month openings for help in both our Welcome Center (beginning in August) and the church office on Sunday mornings. No special skills are necessary, just a willingness to smile, say "hi" and answer the occasional phone call. Please call (330.688.7433) or email (office@stowalliance.org) Marlynn if you are interested in helping.

Stewardship Update Through May 22, 2019:

	<u>Month</u>	<u>Year-to-Date</u>
TITHES & OFFERINGS		
Actual	\$ 39,694	\$248,688
Budget	<u>41,376</u>	<u>275,840</u>
Amount Over/(Under) Budget	(1,682)	(27,152)
GREAT COMMISSION FUND		
Actual	\$ 10,388	\$ 63,182
Promises	<u>2,778</u>	<u>18,520</u>
Amount Over/(Under) Promises	7,610	44,662

PRAISE Plan

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

Especially for Men

Men's Basketball - Come and join us as we play on Saturdays from 9:00 - 11:00am in the gym. All men 18 and older are welcome to play!

Especially for Women

NAOMI Women - All women are invited to join us for a time of fellowship and friends at Handel's Ice Cream (3048 Graham Rd.) on Thursday, June 13th at 7:00pm. If it rains, we will head across the parking lot to Sweet Frog.

Youth Ministries

Senior Night - All Sr. High students and leaders are invited to join us Tuesday, June 4th at 6:00pm in the Youth Room for our senior banquet night. If you are not a graduating senior, please plan on bringing \$5.00 to pay for your dinner.

 **Jr. High Rec Night** - All current Jr. High students are invited to our end of the year bash at the Kent State Rec. Center on Wednesday, June 5th from 5-8pm. We will meet here at the church promptly at 4:30pm. Cost is \$6 and includes food, games, the pool, and tons of fun. Sign up in the Jr. High room by Sunday, June 2nd.

Summer Youth Group - There will be NO regular youth group on Wednesday, June 5th and June 12th. We will kick off our combined, Jr. High, Sr. High, and 4:12 (Young Adults and College Students) summer youth group on Wednesday, June 19th at Silver Springs Park from 6:30-8:30pm. Bring your friends! Be sure to pick up a youth group summer schedule in the youth rooms for further details on the rest of our summer events.



Summer Youth Group Schedule:

June 2nd - Jr. High Medieval Night 5:30-7:00 pm @ SAF	July 10th - Youth Game Night 7:00-8:30@ SAF
June 4th - Senior Banquet 6:00pm @ SAF Youth Room	July 17th - Combined Summer Youth Group 6:30-8:30pm @ Silver Springs Park (SAF if bad weather)
June 5th - Jr. High Rec Night 5:00 - 8:00pm @ Kent State Rec Center (No Youth Group Meeting)	July 24th - Combined Summer Youth Group 6:30-8:30pm @ Silver Springs Park (SAF if bad weather)
June 12th - No Youth Group	July 31st - Pool Party! 7:30-10:00pm @ Maplewood Pool
June 19th - Summer Kick-Off 6:30-8:30pm @ Silver Springs Park (SAF if bad weather)	August 7th - No Youth Group
June 26th - Daniel Amp Concert (Details to be announced)	August 14th - No Youth Group
July 3rd - No Youth Group	August 21st - Fall Kick-Off Bonfire @ SAF (time to be announced)
July 9th-13th - LIFE Conference	

Children's Ministry

Promotion Sunday - Promotion Sunday will take place on June 23rd. Students 5 years old 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. A welcome luncheon will be held for the incoming 6th graders following the 2nd service that day.

Volunteer Opportunities - The Children's Ministry currently has 2 openings: a caregiver for our Toddler class during the 2nd service once a month, and a lead teacher for our preschool class during 2nd service throughout the summer. Contact Darlene Risjan for more information.

Wet & Wacky Wednesday - All kids 2nd grade completed through 5th grade are invited to Wet & Wacky Wednesday, July 17th from 8:30am - 7:00pm. Come for a day of fun at Beulah Beach with cool water games, swimming, canoeing, big blow-up toys, paddle boating, a way fun service, the huge big giant Yuck! slides, and much, much more! Cost is \$25 a person (lunch and dinner are provided). Please RSVP with Darlene if your child is able to attend by Sunday, July 14th. Please bring your swimsuits and towels!

Stow Alliance Preschool

 **SAP Registration** - Our preschool offers fun and learning in a Christian environment including Bible time, snack time, story hour, craft time, and field trips! Registration is going on now for the 2019-2020 school year! We have openings in our 3, 4, and 5 year old classes. To register, pick up a registration packet on the lobby table, visit our website, or contact Jeanne Crowe at 330-688-7433.



God called us to go into the world and make disciples of all nations, and He also is bringing these people to our own backyards and neighborhoods. IFC is a great way to reach into the lives of an international student with the Gospel of Jesus Christ. IFC is a group of local, evangelical churches who work together to serve international students at KSU. Our shared vision is to make Christ known among the nations by befriending international students at KSU. Three great ways to get involved with IFC are: become a Friendship Partner, an English Conversation Partner, or help with welcome events.

Please contact Rob and Marlene Osborn at 330-618-5742 or robert5osborn@yahoo.com if you are interested in becoming an IFC volunteer or to learn more about IFC.

Haven of Rest

June Needs List:

Coffee—regular & decaf	Instant Oatmeal
Beverage Mixes (punch, iced tea)	Canned Cream Soups (mushroom, celery, tomato)
Twin Bed Sheets (fitted & flat)	Men's Shirts (XL & larger)
Girls' Socks	Women's & Girls' Undergarments
Full-sized Toiletry Items	Metro Bus Tickets—daily & monthly

Our SAF Family



June Birthdays...

RoseMarie Clunk	6/1	Benjamin Hall	6/10	Bob Upham	6/22
Barb Webb	6/2	Diane Rapp		Landon Trowbridge	6/23
Stephen Falbo	6/3	Michael Ray		Chuck Whittington	
Rob Osborn		Andrew Stoner		Brianne Coop	6/24
Sue Rice		Doug Crowe	6/11	Terese Gavin	
Diana Warner		Sarah Parker	6/12	Susan Kupchella	
Patty Adams	6/6	Jim Coleman	6/13	Reuben Simmons	6/27
Jeanette Hall	6/7	Don Lichi	6/17	Kim Williams	
Andrew Williams		Cheryl Parker	6/19	Lydia Crowe	6/28
Jan Sparrow	6/9	David Brooks	6/21	Lisa Donze	6/30
		Ken Erwin		Isaiah Smith	
		Maude Williams			

June Anniversaries...

		Gary & Janet Tipton	6/9	Joel & Diane Rapp	6/21
Leo & Jennifer Maxfield	6/1	Jack & Darlene Risjan	6/10	Mark & Carol Sumner	
Mark & Cathy McInturff	6/2	Dave & Becky Caplinger	6/12	Dale & Sue Williams	
Mitchell & Doreen Sias	6/4	Carl & Elaine Sears		Bill & Barb Azzarello	6/23
Gary & Susan Rice	6/7	Jeff & Toni Kuno	6/16	Bob & Lois Upham	6/24
Steve & Jennifer Brooks	6/8	Perry & Lisa Gopp	6/19	Craig & Jeanine Steele	6/27
		Steve & Val Trowbridge	6/20	Jim & Lois Webb	6/29

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...

Nancy Martin and family on the death of her husband, Bill Martin, on May 2nd.

Congratulations To...

Lucas and Amanda (Gopp) Whittington, who were joined in marriage on Sunday, May 19th.