

SAF NEWS

UNFINISHED

This year the theme for our Missions Weekend is *Unfinished Journeys, Stories and God's Unfinished Mission – the Great Commission*. We are excited to welcome Michael Hope who has served in the Ukraine and will join us the weekend of September 18-20.

When the GO team learned Michael Hope would be visiting our church, former Pastor John Kitchen suggested we watch a documentary on Netflix about recent events in Ukraine. The title of the documentary is “Winter on Fire”. Taking place in Kiev, this is the story of Ukraine’s 93-day Fight for Freedom that began in November 2013 and ended in February 2014. What began as peaceful student protests became a violent full-fledged civil rights movement that left the streets of Kiev resembling a war zone.

As we prepare for Missions Weekend activities, we ask you to consider how your own heart for missions may have left you with an unfinished story or an unfinished journey to a foreign land to preach, teach, build or serve in some capacity that would help further God’s Unfinished Mission.

Please keep the weekend of September 18-20 open so you can join us in welcoming Michael to our Stow Alliance Family.

Missions Weekend Events

Here are the events planned for our Missions Weekend
(All events will take place in the pavilion, or in the gym if there is inclement weather.)

Friday, 9/18 @7 PM—Hear from Michael about what God is doing in Ukraine. Includes games and prizes!

Saturday, 9/19 @Noon—Youth lunch with Michael

Saturday, 9/19 @7 PM—Hear from Michael about what God is doing in Ukraine (geared towards families). Includes games and prizes!

On Sunday, 9/20, Michael will share with us in the Sanctuary during our morning service.

Celebrating a Milestone

SAF staff recently visited with Helen Dietz to wish her a very blessed **100th birthday!** Known by many as “the Purple Lady” due to her love of the color, Helen has served our church both as a secretary and in Alliance Women. She loves doing puzzles and hand-making greeting cards. We are so blessed as her church family to be able to celebrate this milestone birthday with her!



Yard Sale

By Pastor Phil Chapman

One of the more exciting things for some people in our community in a normal summer (obviously it's a little different this year) is the idea of a yard sale. When you're getting ready to host a yard sale, it becomes an opportunity to see what you have, what you maybe should get rid of, and a chance to reset and reassess. Recently I was reading again about the story of the rich ruler who comes to Jesus in Matthew 19 to ask him what he needs to do to inherit eternal life.

The ruler asks Jesus what deeds he needs to do. Jesus provides him with a variety of truths including the idea of loving others as he loves himself. This prompts the man to ask Jesus a question about what he is still lacking in doing. Jesus responds to him in Matthew 19:21 in part by saying, "Go, sell what you possess..." As I read the words of Jesus, this began to prompt some questioning again in my own heart and soul:

- What do I care about too much that isn't really important?
- What do I need to "sell"?
- What do I consider to be treasures which are really just useless junk?

Then some more questions came into my mind:

- Are there more treasures in my soul to be surrendered?
- What would I grieve if Jesus physically took it away from me?
- What would I resist if the Lord asked me to give it up?

In this season for us individually, allow yourself the space to talk with Jesus about some of these questions. Maybe one or two jump off the page at you as you read through these questions. Maybe this could be a source of dialogue between us and the Savior. Just because these questions may seem difficult to ask, does not mean they're not worth exploring.

What if the Savior used a yard sale in the hearts of his people to draw him closer to himself? What if the Savior used a yard sale in the hearts of his people to reassess our purpose and mission? Imagine what that could look like in the lives of our families, our friends, and in our community? Go to the garage, the attic, the basement of your soul, and allow the Lord to see what you've got in there; take him on a tour. For many of us, the time is right for a yard sale.

Children's Ministry Re-Opening!

We are excited to announce that beginning on September 6th, we will reopen our Children's Ministry by having Jr. Church during the morning service. Jr. Church will be for Children in Pre-K thru grade 5. As with other ministries, we have developed the following guidelines in order to ensure everyone's health and safety as best we can:

Children must wear masks while in the building and will start in the service with their parents to participate in worship

An announcement will take place for dismissal from service. There will be a leader at each exit location to assist children.

All children will have their temperature taken upstairs before entering room 230.

Drinking fountains will not be in service. Children can bring a water bottle with their name on it. No outside food can be brought into the building for consumption.

Little and Big Gyms will not be available at this time.

If a parent needs to pick up a child before the end of service they can text Ms. Darlene at 330-814-4586.

At the end of service all children will be brought back down to the lobby. We ask that parents make sure the leaders know you are taking your children. (We ask that parents not go upstairs to get their children, but to wait in the lobby for children to be brought down by our volunteers.)

Stewardship Update Thru August 26, 2020:		
	<u>Month</u>	<u>YTD</u>
Tithes & Offerings		
Actual	\$41,565	\$448,739
Budget	<u>52,844</u>	<u>449,174</u>
Amount	\$(11,279)	\$ (435)
	<i>Over/(Under)</i>	
Great Commission Fund		
Actual	\$ 8,616	\$93,236
Promises	<u>5,056</u>	<u>42,958</u>
Amount Over/(Under)	\$ 3,560	\$50,278

Haven of Rest September Needs

- Canned Fruits & Vegetables*
- Disposable Soup/Cereal Bowls*
- Plastic Eating Utensils*
- Cold Cereals*
- Instant Oatmeal Packets*
- Girl's Socks*
- Boy's Underwear*
- Men's Lightweight Jackets*
- Men's Shirts – Small Sizes*
- Men's Pants – Sizes 28 – 34*
- Men's Boxer Shorts*
- Twin Sized Bed Sheets*

**Harvest Home
(Women's Division)
is asking for:**

- Dish Soap, Laundry Detergent,
Air Fresheners, and Pledge*

Youth & Young Adult Ministry

Pumpkin spice is back! That can only mean one thing. Fall ministry is here. School is back in session, whatever that looks like. The biggest question remains, what does “regular” youth ministry look like this year? I hope to answer that question for you in this newsletter.

The one thing we've learned during the last 6 months is that when it comes to plans, we must remain flexible. That can be frustrating when you are trying to plan out what a year looks like. However, with that in mind our Youth and Young adult ministry does plan to continue this school year.

Sunday school plans: Our goal is to have virtual Sunday school from 9-9:40a.m. every Sunday morning using Zoom, starting 9/13/20. Information and links will be available through our youth Band group.

Still not on Band? Band is the way to receive current updates on events, access to the calendar, and all other necessary information regarding youth ministry. All students and **Parents** are encouraged to sign-up; if you or your student are not receiving youth ministry information please contact me for an invite.

Young Adult Ministry

We are looking forward to seeing God move through our young adults this year. It is exciting to see how God is stirring their hearts to be on mission with Him. There are a couple of changes to our young adult ministry this year: Doug Crowe will be joining the leadership team alongside Lisa Gopp. The regularly scheduled meeting time is being moved from Wednesday night to Sunday night. This allows for those in this group to serve in other ministries on Wednesday nights.

*In Christ,
Pastor Chris Miletti
Ph. 234.901.0193 / Email: cmiletti@stowalliance.org*

Summer Youth means group time and games in the outdoors.



**Youth ministry plans for Wednesday nights, 7pm-8:30pm:
At this time due to policy, we will not be offering café.**

Location	Masks	Social distancing	Games	Snacks/ drinks
Outside	Only when walking around. Once seated socially distant, students may take off their mask.	6 foot social distance is required, with the exception of family units.	No/low contact games allowed. No mask required when playing games.	Pre-packaged snacks and drinks are allowed to be handed out.
Inside	Required at all times.	Same as outside	Same as outside, with the exception that masks are required at all times.	No food allowed while inside.

Please keep in mind that as our church leadership makes changes to our policies it may affect these plans. All updates will be communicated through the Band App.



Amanda Whittington	9/2	Peggy Gibson	9/13	John Ambrose	9/20
		Kristina Grecco		John Swinehart	
Velma Allen	9/3				
		Michelle Henderson	9/14	Alice Weber	9/24
Ryan Caplinger	9/5				
Noel H.		Chelsea Miller	9/15	Jennifer Brooks	9/25
Bill Marshall				Matthew Warner	
Jacinda Ruppel		Kevin Scheftic	9/16		
				Joey Ambrose	9/27
Lucas Whittington	9/6	Larry Parker	9/17		
				Ellen Milhoan	9/29
Tom Horsfall	9/8	Addy Masl	9/18	Ava Rapp	
Elyse Trowbridge	9/10	Barb Azzarello	9/19		
		Larry Eleo			
Elfride Rettke	9/12				

Zach & Bethany Oles	9/6
Jeremy & Sarah Parker	9/7
Fred & Darlene Thomason	
Bill & Cheryl Crowe	9/11
Kevin & Jacinda Ruppel	9/13



Jim & Patty Adams	9/17
Shane & Chelsea Miller	
Ron & Gina Underwood	
Gregg & Michelle Henderson	9/21
Dave & Marcia Junglen	9/25
Larry & Cheryl Parker	

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...

Jennifer Husk and Melanie Warman and their families on the loss of their father, Dick Warman, on August 18th.