



Heart Beat Newsletter

Zion United Methodist Church

In the heart of Whitehouse



February, 2021

Pastor Carol's Comments

"What's in a name? That which we call a rose, by any other name would smell as sweet," Juliet says of her love Romeo. In other words, you can call a rose anything you want, and it will still have the same beautiful aroma. This month, when we celebrate Valentine's Day, is a good time to think about love—in the Bible, not Shakespeare's plays.



In the Greek language of the New Testament, love has several different names, and their names do make a difference, unlike Juliet's rose. One is *eros*, which as you might guess is passionate, romantic love. Another is *philia*, which refers to friendship (and sometimes things we're fond of—like ice cream). There are others as well. But the one we find most often in the New Testament is *agape* (a-GAH-pay). This is love which is entirely focused on the well-being of another. There's no self-interest in it at all. It's the kind of love Jesus has for us and demonstrated on the cross.

Whether your Valentine's Day includes giving or receiving a bunch of sweet-smelling roses or not, remember that you are loved! We don't need candy or flowers or a Hallmark card to remind us of that. All we need to do is look at the cross to know that Jesus showers us with *agape* and invites us to offer it to others—every day.

Valentine's Day Cookies

Once again, we'll be preparing and delivering cookie platters to our public servants to express our appreciation for all that they do to care for us and our community. Pastor Carol will deliver trays to the Fire Dept., Library, Village offices, Police Dept., Post Office, and Blue Creek Health Care.

Pat Jones will be assembling the trays. Please let her know if you can contribute some cookies and how many you'll make. **Please have them in the church kitchen no later than 10:00 a.m. on Friday, 2/12.** (Pastor Carol will deliver them that afternoon.)

News Around Zion

Lenten Bible Study

Using the book, **Savior: What the Bible Says About the Cross** by Magrey deVega, we will discuss this important concept. This study will begin on 2/18 during our regular Bible Study time slot: Thursdays at 6:00 p.m. via Zoom. Purchasing the book is optional. The DVD teachings will be on Zoom.

As Christians, we're taught that Christ died on the cross to bring us salvation. We know this, but do we understand it? What exactly did Jesus do to save us from our sins? Was the cross really necessary? Could there have been another way? In *Savior: What the Bible Says about the Cross*, you'll be introduced to several biblically-based ways of understanding Jesus' death on the cross that may go beyond the explanations you've heard before. By exploring the mystery of salvation through the cross, you'll find a deeper love for God and others while strengthening your commitment to follow Jesus.

Health Care Prayer Square Update

We are half-way to our initial goal of 300 prayer squares. 148 squares have already been delivered to Saint Luke's, and our basket is filling up again. According to the hospital chaplain and one of its administrators, the squares and prayers have been gratefully received.

Instructions are simple:

- * Make your squares approx. 5" x 5".
- * Use yarn/fabric that can be machine washed and dried.
- * Use any color or pattern you like.
- * **Pray for the person who will receive your square.**
- * Drop off squares in the basket on Sun. morning or in the kitchen, or in the Food Pantry storage box.

Don't worry if you're not an expert at crocheting or knitting; your prayers are the most important part. We're inviting the community to be part of this effort, so invite your friends to participate, too!



**News Around Zion (continued)**Ham Loaf Dinner

Our delicious ham loaf dinner will be carry-out only! The date is Thurs., 2/11, from 4:30 to 7 p.m. (or until we sell out). The menu is: ham loaf, mashed potatoes, green beans, salad, and dessert. The price is \$10 for adults and \$5 for children. Please support this annual fundraiser.

Electronics Recycling Day a Huge Success!

We were overwhelmed when over 250 cars pulled up, filled with electronics to recycle. The actual weight of the e-waste that day was 14,600 lbs. (7.5 tons)!!! A big thanks to everyone who helped that day.

LoVe SaVes LiVes

Pastor Carol is participating in the VProject—an effort to get out information about the COVID vaccine and encourage Lucas County residents to get vaccinated. You can pre-register to get information about when you're eligible and schedule your appointment online at <https://lucascountyhealth.com/covidvaccine>. If you don't have internet access, please let Pastor Carol know and we'll work with you to get you signed up.

Church Information

Pastor Carol Williams-Young
10926 Maumee St. P.O. Box 2457
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Worship at 10:25 a.m.
Sunday School at 9:00 a.m.

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Find us on Facebook: whitehousezionumc

Website:
<http://www.zionumcwhitehouse.org>

Lent Begins 2/17

Ash Wednesday is on Wed., 2/17. We will observe this beginning to the Lenten season at 7:00 p.m. in the parking lot. The service will include the imposition of ashes and Communion. Although some churches don't include Communion during this service, we do because it offers us the spiritual nourishment we need as we begin "to observe a holy Lent: by self-examination and repentance; by prayer, fasting, and self-denial; by adopting positive life changes that affirm our value to our Creator; by committing ourselves to new ways of serving our neighbor; and by reading and meditating on God's Holy Word."

Leadership Development Day in a New Format

This year's Leadership Development Day will be held on Sat., 2/13, 8:30 a.m.-noon with the theme "Moving Forward: Creating a Nimble Church." The cost is \$10 and includes a copy of the book *The Adept Church* by keynote speaker Rev. Dr. F. Douglas Powe, Jr. Sign up by 5:00 p.m. on Wed., 2/3.

The event will feature some changes this year. This year's event will be conference-wide. It will be held online due to COVID. It will have separate "tracks" for small and medium/large churches. The "small church" track will include two workshops: "The Post-Pandemic Church: What's Working in Congregations That are Thriving" and "Three Ways a Small Church can be an Effective Church." Both workshops will be led by Rev. Karl Vaters, founder of NewSmallChurch.com. Rev Vaters believes that "being small is not a problem to fix, but a strategy God wants to use."

Sign up online:

<https://www.westohioumc.org/conference/news/moving-forward-creating-nimble-church>

Upcoming Events

Sundays, 10:25 a.m. - Parking Lot Service, 106.1 FM

Thursdays, 6 p.m. - Bible Study on Zoom.

Tues., 2/2, 4-6 p.m. - Food Pantry

Thurs., 2/11, 4:30 - 7 p.m. - Ham Loaf Dinner

Fri., 2/12, 10:00 a.m. - Valentine cookie deadline

Sat., 2/13, 8:30 a.m. - Noon - Leadership Development Day (online). Sign up by 5 p.m, 2/3.

Tues., 2/16, 4-6 p.m. - Food Pantry

Wed., 2/17, 7 p.m. - Ash Wednesday Service