

news

Did You Know...

...that the terms “Torah” (also known as “the law”), “works”, and “works of the law” refer to three distinct things. Much confusion in understanding the Bible has resulted from treating these three distinct things as being the same, resulting in some people thinking that Jesus and Paul somehow were not proponents of the Jewish law. Nothing could be further from the truth. Let’s start by realizing that the law (or Torah) is instructions given to or developed by the Jewish people for a number of different circumstances. Traditionally there are 613 of these instructions, never meant to be followed by all Jews. Some of them were for rituals performed by priests, some of them were instructions for daily living, and some of them were identifiers to distinguish the Israelites from their mostly polytheistic neighbors. Again I stress, these 613 laws were not universal for all Jews.

Let’s go to the word “works”. Simply put, works is the acting out of the various instructions given. A modern example would be our traffic laws, which give us instructions. Those traffic laws work when we follow them.

Finally and most often misunderstood is the technical phrase “works of the law”. This phrase refers only to the identifiers which are circumcision, kosher food laws (kashrut), and keeping the Sabbath. If you understand this fact, then you will come to understand that Paul’s issue was not with the entirety of the law but with the identifiers. He did not believe that Gentiles needed to be identified or become Jesus-following Jews by being circumcised. That is what the book of Galatians is all about.

With all these things in mind I encourage you to carefully re-read sections of the Bible that may have confused you with the misunderstanding of these terms. Rick Polburn, polburn@sbcglobal.net •

Being a Good Steward of Creation

In Genesis God has called us to be good stewards of his creation. You may have noticed some changes we are making at WHUMC to help us all be better stewards of God’s creation. You have probably seen the porcelain cups replacing the Styrofoam cups in the time of fellowship between services on Sunday mornings. We are trying hard to replace single use disposable plastics, like plastic bags, plastic cutlery, Styrofoam plates, bowls and take-home containers.

Plastic, especially single use plastic, is becoming a worldwide global threat. These plastics are meant to be used only once before they are thrown away or recycled. Scientific estimates tell us that

between one to five trillion plastic bags are consumed in the world each year—almost 10 million bags a minute! These bags are convenient and inexpensive to produce, but are difficult to recycle, and may take thousands of years to decompose. They are often simply thrown out, adding to the landfills, woodlands or the oceans and pose great risk of ingestion or entanglement for fish and wildlife.

You may wonder how you can help. One good way is to take reusable bags with you to the grocery store. Some stores will even reward you for bringing your own bags now! Consider your use of disposable plastics! You can start by using a porcelain cup at church or bringing your own stainless coffee cup or water bottle!

1 Report of the United Nations Environmental Program, 2018, pg. 12 •

Small Group Opportunities

Online Bible Study led by Dr. Jacob and Lara Waldenmaier. One trait that

Celebrating Our Membership!

Congratulations to the following members of our congregation who will reach milestone years of membership this month!

Celebrating 61 years

Jeannette Schaefer
Mel Schaefer

Celebrating 45 years

Harold Snyder
Marty Snyder

Celebrating 28 years

Bob Studer

Celebrating 24 years

Alan Kopper

Joyce Kopper
Kim Ledenican

Celebrating 23 years

Pat Bowman
Jeff Bowman
Debbie Brothers
Gerald Roy
Becky Williams

Celebrating 15 years

Bill Hines & Meg Sondey

Nancy Jahnke
Lynn Kerkel
Kurt & Joan Schneider
Kurt Schneider Jr.
Dan & Sara Smith

Congratulations, and thanks for your continuing service to the Lord through WHUMC! •

unites WHUMC is a curiosity about the Bible. While we enjoy exploring scripture together in person, it's also helpful to discuss biblical themes online. Anyone in our congregation is very welcome to join the WHUMC Bible Group on Facebook. Please feel free also to invite friends and colleagues who might share this curiosity. We hope to see you there!

Sundays, 9:30am in the Library led by Patty Dorsey. Lectionary Bible Study: looking at the verses that Pastor Max will be preaching on each week. This is open format, meaning you do not need to attend each week to participate.

First Monday of Each Month 10:00 – 11:30am in the Library led by Anne Horvath. A time for women of all ages to meet for devotion, prayer, and support. Childcare available upon request. Come when you are able. Co-ed.

Mondays, 7pm in the Library led by Pastor Max. Men's Bible Study-The Gospel of Mark.

Tuesdays, 10:00 – 11:30am in the Library led by Patty Dorsey. Bible Study: "Making Sense of the Bible: Rediscovering the Power of Scripture Today. By Adam Hamilton. Childcare available upon request.

Wednesdays, 10:00-11:30am in the Library led by Patty Dorsey. Book Study: Social Principles of the United Methodist Church 2017-2020.

Wednesdays, 7:00 – 8:30pm in the Library led by Patty Dorsey. Bible Study: "Making Sense of the Bible: Rediscovering the Power of Scripture Today. By Adam Hamilton. Childcare available upon request.

Thursdays 10:00am – 12:00pm in the Library led by Dr. Laura. Tradowsky. Spiritual Formation / Bible Study: "Drawn into the Mystery of Jesus through the Gospel of John" by Jean Vanier. Childcare available upon request.

Saturdays 8 – 9:30am in the Library led by Dr. John Borgert. Men's Bible Study-The Gospel of John. •

From the Pastor's Desk

Dear Friends,

I hope this Christmas finds you and your family in good health and grace. It has been nearly six months since my appointment to WHUMC and this is our first Christmas together. My heart is full of gratitude to God for all of you.

Celebrating Christmas gives us the opportunity to once again return to the true spirit and joy of this season. The danger for us is to get too caught up into the commercialized holiday that we forget the heart of what we celebrate. The greatest sin today of our modern culture is the sin of complacency and indifference. Many are satisfied with stripping this holy season of Jesus Christ; we must fight that temptation and bring Christ to the center of our celebrations.

You and I must be witnesses of the Lord Jesus, reminding all our neighbors and friends to the great birthday celebration of the Lord. Today, Christmas has become the season of materialism and indulgence. We must make it a season of faith and giving, announcing to the world the great love and mercy of God. Only then can we rediscover the true spirit of Christmas.

As you gather with your family and friends, consider the lights of the Christmas tree and those outside your home the hidden symbol of Jesus Christ, the "Light of the World". Allow the light of Christ to penetrate deep into your hearts and minds so that rediscovering your faith, renewing your commitment to Him, and reliving the mysteries we celebrate, you will truly have a Blessed and Merry Christmas.

May the Christ Child grant you the joy and peace of this holy season and keep you and your loved ones safe. I wish for you and yours a Blessed Christmas!

Peace,
Pastor Max

KIDS 4CHRIST



KID'S QUEST 9:30 & 11am

Each Sunday, except the first Sunday of the month is Family Worship; Easter, Christmas Eve & Music Sunday

- The curriculum we use has an app, download the Superbook Bible app to let your kids play and learn!

- December: The Birth of Jesus

Kid's Choir 10:30am Fellowship Hall with Mrs. LeAnn

Not on the 1st anymore! 2nd, 3rd, 4th and 5th Sunday of the month. Kids should be practicing the Christmas songs on their cds's: Dewey, Cheatham & Howe, Out of Room at the Inn, Startrackers & Glory!

Upcoming Important Dates

Mission Opportunities: RFK Angel Tree coming soon! You can choose a tag off the tree and purchase a gift and/or buy food items for our own RFK Club kids to

help share the love of Jesus and make their Christmas bright!

- Dec 4th Dig Deeper 3rd & 4th graders at 6:45pm-RSVP
- Dec 7th Wrapping Party for RFK Angel Tree-RSVP
- Dec 8th Angel Breakfast 9:30-11am-RSVP
- Dec 9th Kid's Pageant 9:30am-Sign up
- Dec 24th 5 & 7pm Kid's Moment at both services.

Check out our Facebook page: WHUMC KIDS4Christ and WHUMC SPORTSCAMP page too! •

15th Annual Valentine Tea

Don your tea party finery, come in out of the cold, and join us for a fun-filled afternoon of tea, savories, entertainment and more at our 15th Annual Valentine Tea on Saturday, February 9, 2019 from 12:00-2:00pm. The entertainment this year is a sing along with Tim Lake and we will enjoy lunch consisting of a delectable selection of savories and pastries brought to you by Caraway Catering. Pat Dennison of Palmer Place Fine Teas will be offering a wide variety of exotic blends of tea to sample. Beginning at 11am, a large selection of baskets and auction items will be available in The Pickwick Shoppe. Auction Tickets are available to purchase for \$2.00/each or 6 for \$10.00. You do not need to be present at the tea to win.

Cost: \$35.00 for adults, \$15 for children 10 and under. For reservations contact Mike Horvath at llcboard@gmail.com or call the church office at 440-585-9462. Reservations can also be made by filling out a reservation card which can be found on the Welcome Table at WHUMC. Seating is limited so please reserve early. All proceeds benefit The Little Light Learning Center. •

The Hills Youth Ministry News



Youth in mission: On Sunday, November 11, a group of youth and adults from WHUMC joined with other youth and adults from the East Ohio Conference for a meal packing for the hungry event called Project Feed. Over the course of the 2-day project, there were over 600 participants that packed 80,000 meals and collected 1000 cans of food. The goal of the project is to end hunger by 2030. These youth and adults have accepted the challenge, let's all do our part! "For I was hungry and you gave me something to eat" Matthew 25:35a.

Upcoming Activities:

Sunday, December 9@6pm: Youth Group Christmas Party at the Szakal Residence

Sunday, December 16@10:30am: Youth Group Christmas Caroling at Governor's Village

We will be taking the rest of December to enjoy the holidays with our families. We return to regular programming on January 6 at 5pm with our Star Wars themed parent night. •

It's Tea Party Time!

Plans are well underway for the annual Valentine Tea Party that includes many wonderful themed baskets for the Ticket Auction on that day. The baskets are put together every year in January using donations from local businesses and generous individuals. Would you consider donating items to be put in baskets? Donations will be accepted all throughout the month of December. Here are some ideas:

Gift cards: (which can be purchased through our Care Card program to benefit the mission projects of WHUMC)

Game Night/Movie Night: Board games, cards, DVDs, popcorn, movie theater candy, puzzles, activity books

Pampering: nail polish, face scrub, adult coloring books/colored pencils, spa towel, lotion, candles, chapstick

Coffee Lovers: Keurig cups or coffee beans, coffee mugs, fancy creamers/syrups, cookies

Taco Night: taco seasoning, shells, chips, salsa, beans, rice

All about pets: food and water dishes, treats, toys, blanket, books about pet care (could go cat specific or dog specific)

Healthy living: exercise equipment, nutrition items, healthy cook books, water bottles

There are lots and lots of theme possibilities out there. A more complete list of themes and ideas can be found on the Welcome Table at WHUMC. No item is too small. You can donate enough items to create an entire basket or a few items that will become part of a basket. All proceeds from these donations benefit the Little Light Learning Center. Thank you! •

Thank You

The Mission Committee wants to thank everyone who donated to the Sockathon. Over 200 pairs of socks were delivered to Project Hope. The clients there will be thrilled to receive these especially with cold weather approaching. •

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BREAKFASTING WITH ANGELS

Did you ever attend the Angel Breakfast at Willoughby Hills UMC? Or perhaps you're attending this year! The Angel Breakfast was a WHUMC tradition begun by Nancy Quick and the Nurture and Care Committee and held annually since at least 1998, and even during 2001 when kitchen reconstruction plans caused concern! As Jeannette Schaefer noted in the committee minutes that year, "We met to discuss the possibility of having the Angel Breakfast this year on December 1 without the kitchen available, and our team decided we could do it with griddles and a lot of determination."

Although some aspects have been slightly modified through the years, the Angel Breakfast remains a beloved children's (and adults!) annual Advent season activity.

As families entered, they were greeted, sometimes by youth dressed as angels! Admission to the event was a donation of canned goods for the Willoughby Food Pantry. (And, of course, the sanctuary was decorated as well, with a large

Christmas tree full of Chrismon symbols and lights!)



The youth "angels" wore white choir robes and also carried candles at times, providing the program during some years. In later years, youth of the appropriate age were not available, so other program options were provided.

Youth also assisted the adults and children with crafts at times.

But one of the absolute highlights was the breakfast itself! Each table was carefully decorated. Notes from 2002 mentioned that besides the “Angel Centerpieces, [each table had] white plastic tablecloths, red napkins with angel stickers, [and] gold doilies.”



Orange juice, milk, and applesauce were provided, but the highlight was the pancakes! In the early years, the pancakes were made in the shape of angels!!

This was not an easy feat, as notes from January 2001 reveal: “Need six people – Three to cook, two to cut and one to count and put in pans; Make pancakes near the size of the angel cutter; Flip only once; Cut while WARM; Cool on racks; Put in large foil pans with small aluminum foil pieces between each one; COUNT them; Freeze; Remove from freezer the night before; Each bring cooling racks, electric grills and spatulas for turning; Need Pam [cooking spray]; Made 240 Angels in 2000, along with 30 or so round ones. Just a few left; Don’t dress too warm. Turn on fan over stove.”



But there was so much else to do! The craft activities were always popular. These were different each year, and also were adapted for the various age groups that attended the breakfast. Picture frames, Styrofoam snowmen, cookie dough bags, wind chimes, Christmas tree pins, angel candy, angel magnets, and bead and wood Christmas trees were some of the crafts made over the years.



Caroling, programs by the youth, and stories shared by the adults were some of the other activity options available during various years.

But a final highlight was having your family photo taken by Eric Hanson. Eric estimated that he took about thirty-five family groups each year – shooting about 300 photos! He would then print them out so each family could have a memento of their time at the Angel Breakfast.



And best of all ... the smiling faces!