



# Crossroads News February 2011

Monthly News From Church of the Savior

On-line at [www.Mysaviorrocks.Org](http://www.Mysaviorrocks.Org)

Sunday Worship Times: 9:45am "The Journey" Service and 11:30am "AWAKE!" Contemporary AT St. Paul's UMC

## Spiritual Warfare: Taking Our Stand Against Evil (continues)

Since the middle of January we have been taking a close look at Paul's description of God's Armor as found in Ephesians Chapter 6:10-18. Using this as the foundational scripture for our series we have been learning these points about the spiritual battle...

1. That the enemy, the devil, is alive and well on planet earth. You may not believe in the devil, but the devil believes in you and is 100% committed to pulling you away from God, and pulling down the Church of Jesus Christ.
2. That Jesus has called us to take our stand against the darkness and evil in this world.
3. That God has empowered and equipped us for this stand by giving us spiritual armor to wear.
4. That the belt of truth asks us about our priorities...as Christians are we standing with Jesus as dependable and trustworthy disciples?
5. That the breastplate of righteousness protects us when our heart belongs to God.

Too many Christians are living defeated lives because they have failed to take a stand in the full armor of God. Too many churches are fading away because they have yet to take a stand together, as one body, for the cause of Christ. Jesus does not want us to live defeated lives as his followers, and certainly does not want the church to lose ground against the forces of darkness. Over the next several weeks we will continue this series as we seek to learn how God is calling us into a battle that brings wholeness to our lives and light into the darkness of this world.



"Put on all of God's armor so that you will be able to stand firm against all strategies of the devil." Eph. 6:11

This series will give you guidance in how to live as victorious Christians; how to stand in the face of temptation; how to recognize the attacks of the enemy; and how to live for Jesus in all circumstances. Through this series we will also learn how to move our church from simply trying to survive to being a church that is thriving for the cause of Jesus Christ. Our church is called to be a staging ground from which we go into the world to bring light into darkness, and to bring healing to broken lives. Don't miss the rest of this series.

Date	Scripture	Title
Feb 13	Eph 6:10-18 Isaiah 52:7-10	Spiritual Warfare: Shoes of Peace
Feb 20	Eph 6:10-18 Hebrews 11:1 2 Cor 5:7 2 Cor 13:5	Spiritual Warfare: Shield of Faith
Feb 27	Eph 6:10-18 John 3:16-17 Rom 6:23 I John 5:11-13	Spiritual Warfare: Helmet of Salvation
March 6	Eph 6:10-18 Hebrews 4:12-13 Matthew 4:1-11	Spiritual Warfare: Sword of the Spirit

## Apportionment Dollars Impact Lives!

*(Part of a monthly series to help us understand the importance of supporting our apportionments in full).*

If you have been in the United Methodist Church for a few years, you have probably heard the term “Apportionments” thrown around. Maybe you have wondered what it meant. So, here is some information about what Apportionments are and what they mean to us as United Methodists.

The United Methodist Church is a connectional church, which means that each congregation is **not** independent but **connected** to each other. Whether they are down the street, across the state, or across the country, we are connected. We share many things, including the ability to fund ministries and missions. Together, we can make a greater impact to relieve suffering, feed the hungry, and proclaim the Gospel of Jesus Christ at home and around the world more than we ever could on our own.

### Missions



**Through our apportionments,** we support 903 missionaries around the world, serving 57 countries. Some are pastors and evangelists, who teach about the Good News and win converts to Jesus Christ and translate the scriptures into the language of the people they serve. Some are physicians, nurses, and caregivers. They are treating those with health problems, establishing hospitals and clinics, and training

natives as health care-givers; they restore the body and witness to the “Great Physician” at the same time. Other missionaries are agricultural experts, spending their time teaching the people how to grow crops in greater abundance in regions with so much starvation and malnutrition. In more than 50 countries around the world, our missionary outreach provides meals for 3 million people every year, or over 8,200 people every day. Other missionaries are educators, teaching children, youth, and adults to read and improve their opportunities.

### Local



Overseas missions get a lot of attention, but our apportionments also benefit ministries not only in our East Ohio Conference, but right here in our own Tuscarawas District, and right here in Canton, Ohio. The Calvary Mission and City Hope Church located on Gibbs Avenue off 12th Street is able to reach out to a community in need because of the support they receive through apportionment giving. More than 10% of our apportionments stay right here in our district impacting the lives of our neighbors.

### How Are Apportionments Determined

Every United Methodist congregation in the United States receives an Apportionment amount based on the financial needs of the global church, our own Annual Conference, and our own district. These three

budgets are equitably divided among all the churches, so that each local church shares its part.

Different Annual Conferences calculate the local church apportionment differently. In East Ohio the apportionments are divided based on how much a church spends on programming, building operations and salaries (membership is not part of the calculation). That bottom line becomes the baseline by which our church is compared to all the other churches in East Ohio. Every church pays an equal percentage of the overall apportionment; however, churches that have a larger budget will have a larger dollar amount for their percentage.

Our Conference has been using this formula now for many years, and I believe it is a fair and equitable way to divide the needs among the many.

Our 2011 Apportionment is \$73,758. This represents 11.58% of our church budget. Together we can make a difference, together we can pull our resources together to ensure we are able to pay our fair share.

I hope you are proud to be part of a “connectional church” which has outreach ministries literally in every corner of the world meeting the needs of children, youth, and adults who are precious in the sight of God. It’s all part of our mission to Serve Our Community for the cause of Jesus Christ. Help us be faithful to our connection by being faithful to invest in God’s ministry each and every week.

## The Season of Lent

### What is it?

#### Theme:

*Retreating Into the Wilderness with Jesus*

#### Dates:

Lent is a forty-day period before Easter. It begins on Ash Wednesday. We skip Sundays when we count the forty days, because Sundays commemorate the Resurrection.

Lent begins on 9 March 2011 and ends on 23 April 2011, which is the day before Easter.

#### Color:

In most churches, the decorations are purple, the royal color, to prepare for the King. In ancient times, purple dye was very difficult to make and therefore very expensive, so purple came to signify wealth, power, and royalty. Therefore purple is the color for the season of Lent, which celebrates God's coming Kingdom. Since as Christians we prepare for our King through reflection and repentance, purple has also become the color of repentance.

#### What we do during Lent:

Lent is a season of soul-searching and repentance. It is a season for reflection and taking stock in our relationship with Jesus. Lent originated in the very earliest days of the Church as a preparatory time for Easter, when the faithful rededicated themselves and when converts were instructed in the faith and prepared for baptism. By observing the forty days of Lent, the individual Christian imitates Jesus' withdrawal into the wilderness for forty days.

During Lent, the church calls us to repentance, a change of mind and heart. It involves taking a look at where we are and trying to see where we ought to be. How do our values compare to the values that Jesus offers his followers? Where are we lacking, and where is God still calling us to be faithful in committing our entire life to His care? In order to tune our hearts to these purposes, Lent involves fasting, more intentional prayer, meditation, scripture reading and worship.

#### Ash Wednesday

Ash Wednesday begins the Lenten season (or journey as some say) and involves receiving the mark of the cross in ashes on one's forehead or hand. This tangible ritual is a stark reminder that we do not have a lasting place on this earth. We are disciples on a journey that ends with death.

Lent is about participating in the death and resurrection of Jesus, about dying to an old identity and being born into a new identity.

To prepare, we must die now to sin and rise to new life in Christ. Being marked with ashes at the beginning of our Lenten journey is a reminder of our need for deeper conversion. In many countries, the last day before Ash Wednesday is called Mardi Gras, Shrove Tuesday, or Carnival. It has become a sort of last fling before the solemnity of Lent. For centuries, it was customary to fast by abstaining from meat during Lent, which is why some people call this festival "*Carnival*", which is Latin for *farewell to meat*.

#### Giving Up Something for Lent:

Often people "give up something" for Lent. Too often they treat this period as a new year's resolution by saying they'll give up chocolate or fast food or desserts. Giving up something for Lent is to be a spiritual discipline. By giving something up we are, in a way, agreeing to a fast. The question is...in what way will your spiritually benefit by giving up your item? By giving something up during Lent it is done in order to get closer to God.

If giving up chocolate will help you get closer to God, then do it!

However, you may want to consider giving up 1/2 an hour of TV in order to read your bible, or giving up 1/2 an hour of sleep to rise up early and spend quality time in prayer, or giving up one lunch a week to spend in prayer. These may have a greater impact on your Lenten journey than simply giving up desserts. Whatever one gives up it should come as a daily reminder that calls one to a deeper experience of God's presence in their life.

**Be sure to begin Lent with us at our Ash Wednesday Service March 9th at 7:00pm!**



# CHURCH OF THE SAVIOR WEEKLY SCHEDULE

Office Closed on Mondays

Open 8:30am-4:00pm Tuesday thru Friday

## Sundays:

- 6:30am Oatmeal Breakfast
- 8:45am Small Group Study in Library
- 9:45am "The Journey" Worship Service
- 10:50am 15 Minute Prayer Service in the Chapel
- 11:15am Choir Rehearsal
- 11:30am "AWAKE!" Service at St. Paul's UMC
- 1:15pm Mayfield Faith Community Service

**Mondays:** Office Closed

## Tuesdays:

- 6:45pm Volleyball in the gym
- 7:00pm Men's Prayer Group in Library

## Wednesdays:

- 8:00pm Alcoholics Anonymous Meeting
- 6:30pm Alpha Class in Wesley Hall

## Thursdays:

- 6:30pm Companions in Christ Class
- 6:45pm Volleyball in the gym
- 7:00pm Handbell Rehearsal

**Fridays:** 1:30-3:30pm Food Ministry

## FEBRUARY 2011 SCHEDULE

### Saturday, February 12:

8:30am United Methodist Men Meeting in the Library

### Monday, February 14: **Happy Valentine's Day**

### Tuesday, February 15:

7:00pm Eve Mary Circle Meeting at Zotta's Home

### Wednesday, February 16:

7:00pm Finance/Endowment Meeting in the Library

### Thursday, February 24:

6:30pm Shake a Leaf Meeting in the Lounge

**Note:** Patricia Kirk, a member of Church of the Savior, is president of the Shake-a-Leaf group that meets at the church. The speaker for this month's meeting is Jim Nero who will be doing a presentation on tree identification. Anyone interested is welcome to attend.



## UNITED METHODIST WOMEN



**FAITH + HOPE  
LOVE IN ACTION**



### Circle Meeting in February:

Eve Mary Circle Meeting-Tuesday, Feb. 15th  
At Karen Zotta's Home: 4220 2nd St. NW



**IT'S A BABY SHOWER  
AND EVERYONE  
IS INVITED!**

Saturday, March 19, 2011

at 11:30am in Wesley Hall



The United Methodist Women

are sponsoring a baby shower for a young mother who needs absolutely everything: diapers, gowns, blankets, towels, utensils, baby powder, baby oil, etc. etc. This baby shower will be unique in many ways - and lots of fun! There will be food and fellowship.

*There will be an opportunity to hear Amanda Marshall, a trained facilitator and dynamic speaker, tell us about the terrible crime of Human Trafficking in Ohio.*

Thousands of children and youth fall victim to this crime each day. It is the second largest and fastest growing criminal industry in the world, and the only way to eradicate it is for more people to become aware and involved. The program after lunch will begin about 12:30pm, if you wish to come only for that part of the day. We ask everyone (women, men, youth, children) to put it on your calendar NOW and be ready to have fun while doing missions! Please wrap your gift and bring it to Wesley Hall on March 19 at 11:30am. *There will be no charge for lunch, but please call the church office to reserve a place so we can prepare enough food.*



**United Methodist Men  
Meeting Reminder**

Saturday, Feb. 12, 2011

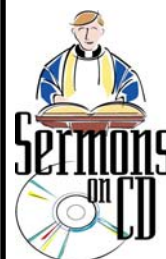
at 8:30am

in the Church Library

Program to be announced.

Continental Breakfast

**All Men are welcome! Come and Bring a Friend!**



**Did you know that The Journey Worship Service is recorded every Sunday on a CD?** If you are homebound or miss a Sunday because of illness we will gladly mail you a CD. Just call the church office: 330-455-0153



## V.I.P. MEMBERS

(Eighty Years and Older!)

February 1 - Esther Baker  
 February 11 - Doris Garster  
 February 12 - Jane Best  
 February 14 - Walter Schneider  
 February 14 - June Hallawell  
 February 23 - Betty Odar  
 March 2 - Helen Shelton  
 March 10 - Royal Odell  
 March 20 - Kathleen Gerber  
 March 24 - Stanley Ewing  
 March 25 - Mary Mooney  
 March 26 - Vernon Neiss  
 March 27 - Mary Esther Myers



## FEBRUARY ALTAR FLOWERS

The Altar Flowers are given...

**Feb. 6....**in memory of June and Charles Homer's Wedding Anniversary by Susan and Paul White.  
**Feb. 13....**in memory of Robert L. Carnahan on their Valentine's Day Wedding Anniversary by Ruth Ann Carnahan.  
**Feb. 20....**in memory of his sisters, Effie and Mareva and other loved ones by Leonard Kerns.  
**Feb. 27....**in memory of Kenneth B. Cope by his Family.



Memorial Flowers

## 9:45am Worship Service Usher Teams

February 13 - Trent Smith Team  
 February 20 - Jim Groves Team  
 February 27 - Ted Slates A Team

March 6 - Ted Slates B Team  
 March 13 - Trent Smith Team  
 March 20 - Jim Groves Team  
 March 27 - Ted Slates A Team



## **OUTREACH TO THE COMMUNITY:**



Church of the Savior continues to serve the community through the weekly food distribution on Friday afternoons. We add personal hygiene items to the bags when we have them available.

You may help us by donating toothbrushes, toothpaste, deodorant, shampoo, soap, razors, shaving cream, etc.

A collection box is located in the coat room behind the sanctuary. All donations will be greatly appreciated!!

## **Daily Bible Reading Challenge**

Many of our members have picked up this challenge to read through the Bible in one year! We pray daily for each person as they seek to stay faithful to this important task.

Every Sunday at 8:45am persons who are taking the challenge are meeting in the library to discuss how the journey is going. You can start this challenge anytime.

So if you still are feeling God wants you to do this, then come to the library on Sunday morning BEFORE worship and get started!



## **Attention: Men Needed to Pray**

Jesus Christ calls us all to pray continually. . . .

We are asking men to come together on Tuesday evenings at 7:00pm. We will be meeting in the church library for a time of meditation, formation, and prayer. It is critical that we are engaged to battle the darkness of this world.

### **1 Thessalonians 5:16-18**

*<sup>16</sup>Be joyful always; <sup>17</sup>pray continually; <sup>18</sup>give thanks in all circumstances, for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus.*

## **PROMOTED TO ETERNAL LIFE**

*Omar Perez - January 19, 2011*

*Marie Keener - January 28, 2011*



**Church of the Savior UM**  
**120 Cleveland Avenue SW**  
**Canton, Ohio 44702**

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**CHANGE SERVICE REQUESTED**



**CHURCH OFFICE HOURS: 8:30am-4:00pm Tuesday thru Friday. Closed on Monday.**  
**Phone: 330-455-0153 E-Mail: cotsum\_office@sbcglobal.net Website: www.mysaviorrocks.org**



## Tech Team is Forming!

We need HELP on Sunday morning! If you a have any technical experience or interest we could sure use your support/help in running our audio/visual equipment.

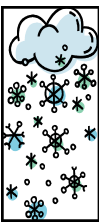
Not only do we want support in running the equipment we would love to have people who would like to create worship slides and images to be used on Sunday.

We have state of the art equipment but very few people who have the know how to run it. The truth is this equipment is not hard to run once you get a little experience with it.

So, if you have know how, or would like to know how, to run the lights, the sound, the cameras, the computer or any combinations of these, please let Pastor Ed, Jane, or our Sound Engineer, Bob, know and we will get you involved.

If you would like to provide your creative gifts in developing worship slides please let us know and we will also work to get you involved and up to speed with the software we use.

We look forward to having you on our team!!!



During the winter we expect to meet for worship EVERY Sunday unless the Stark County Sheriff declares an emergency asking people to stay off the highways. We do not want anyone to travel if it is unsafe... use your own judgment and be careful.

