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# THE GLEANER

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October 2023 Edition

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## October Calendar

10/1 Communion

Thursdays:  
Bible Study Men @  
9am  
Women @ 11am

10/10 Session  
Meets: at 6pm

10/12 Next work  
party for  
Shoebboxes.  
Additional dates  
TBA

10/15 Special Event  
Meet past recipient  
Schiméa Nguessan  
3:30 at TPC

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We discussed the  
significance of trees  
at Bible Study and  
this scripture  
reminds a student  
of one of the many  
connections.



The wisdom of the Bible is a tree of life.  
Proverbs 3:18



## Celebrations

### • Birthdays

Pauli W 10/1  
Corky 10/4  
Carol 10/11  
Texann 10/11  
Wanda 10/23  
Nancy 10/31

### • Anniversaries

Sal & Jen 10/13  
Art & Texann  
10/15



A good friend is a  
privilege and  
something to be  
thankful for.

Ecclesiastes 4:19

## From the Bible Project

### Shema: to listen

For thousands of years, every morning and evening, Jewish people have prayed these well-known words as a way of expressing their devotion to God, they're called the Shema.

"Hear O Israel, the LORD is our God, the LORD is one, and as for you, you shall love the LORD your God with all of your heart, with all your soul, and with all your strength." Now the first word of the Shema is "hear," or "listen," which in Hebrew is pronounced shema. That's where the prayer gets its name.

To Listen

Now shema is a really common word in the Hebrew Bible, and it's obvious why. Hearing is a very universal activity. It's usually connected with the ear, as in Proverbs 20:12. "Ears that shema and eyes that see, the LORD has made them both."

Now that seems basic enough, but if you look at the other ways that Hebrew authors can use the word shema, they use it to mean more than just let sound waves enter your ear.

In Hebrew, shema can also mean pay attention to or focus on. So when Leah, who wasn't loved by her husband Jacob, she has a son and she names him Simon, or in Hebrew, Shim'on. Because, she says, "The LORD has shema that I am unloved."

1. Deuteronomy 6:4-5
2. Proverbs 20:12
3. Genesis 29:33

## To Respond

So shema means to hear and to pay attention to. And even more, it can also mean responding to what you hear.

This is why so many of the cries for help in the book of Psalms begin with a call that God listen. Psalm 27:7: "Shema my voice, when I call O LORD, be merciful, answer me." So asking God to shema is at the same time asking God to act, to do something.

It's similar to when God asks people to listen. Like when the people of Israel come to Mount Sinai, God says, "If you shema me fully and keep my covenant, then out of all the nations you will be my treasured possession."

Now there's a couple interesting things about this verse in Exodus. In Hebrew the word shema is repeated twice in this sentence to give it emphasis, "if you shema shema," meaning listen closely.

But also notice that from God's point of view, listening is basically the same as keeping the covenant. So when God asks the people to shema, what he

means is that they listen and obey.

And that's the last fascinating thing about shema. In ancient Hebrew, there is no separate word for obey, meaning to carry out the wishes of someone who knows better than you or is an authority over you. So in the Bible, if you want to say, "I will listen and do what you say," you use the single word shema. In Hebrew, listening and doing are two sides of the same coin.

This is why, later in Israel's history when the people were breaking their covenant promises to God, the Hebrew prophets would say things like, "They have ears, but they're not listening." 5

The Israelites of course could hear just

fine, but they weren't actually listening, or else they would act differently. And so in the end, listening in the Bible is about giving respect to the one speaking to you and doing what they say. Real listening takes effort and action. And that's the Hebrew word shema.



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## *Treasurer Report September 2023*

Income for the month of September was \$7,694.82 Expenses for September were \$4,190.58

Net income for the month was **\$3,504.24**

Year to date income as of the end of September was \$62,591.76 YTD expenses were \$56,322.58

Net income for the year as of the end of September was **\$6,269.18**

If you're interested, there are both a financial report and a copy of the last *approved* minutes of the Session Meeting on the bulletin board near the elevator lobby.

Yours in Christ, Tom Hill

## **Andrew's Basket**

I noticed few days ago that the basket was full. Today it was empty, which I saw as a good thing. An empty basket is closer to getting to those that need help. Imagine being outside during the rain and wind of a few days ago. It's a long time until more pleasant weather arrives. I love our congregation. Chris

## **Social Media**



After a spring and summer of seemingly constant change I think things are on a more even keel for Social Media. Our followers and contacts remain at the same levels. I expected them to drop with all the snafus that come with constant change but we are holding on our own. Thanks to Kathy and Tana for their faithfulness and support. And another thing,

I so appreciate the love and support from our church family. God blessed me when he moved us to Toledo. Chris



## Shoebox Update October 2023

Since 1993, God has used Samaritan's Purse to deliver over 200 Million Operation Christmas Child Shoeboxes to children in need and disciple 50 million of these boys and girls.

When Franklin Graham agreed to fill shoeboxes with toys and other fun items for children in war-torn Bosnia in 1993, he had no idea what the project would grow to become. Now this project has hundreds of thousands of volunteers and churches around the world who participate in spreading the Good News.

In addition to bringing joy to millions of boys and girls in need, gifts are accompanied by the booklet [ translated into over 107 languages] called "The Greatest Gift". Many of these children have been invited to follow-up discipleship through The Mailbox Club [prior to 2009] and The Greatest Journey, the 12 week discipleship program designed especially for children. We praise God that over 50 million children have been discipled. In the past 14 years alone since The Greatest Journey was launched, over 17 million children have made decisions for Christ. You will be hearing more about this program and the goal the O.C.C. committee in our church has set for 2023.

### Marina in Egypt: One of Many

In the coastal city of Alexandria, Marina, 11, attended an Operation Christmas Child outreach event where she received a gift-filled shoebox. Brimming with toys, a stuffed cat dressed in purple called "Bundle" was her favorite. "I love it very much" Marina said. She still keeps all the items inside to remind her of God's great love for her. In addition to opening her heart to God, the shoebox gift taught Marina a significant lesson about giving. She also learned about God's free gift of salvation at the outreach

gift-filled shoebox. Brimming with toys, a stuffed cat dressed in purple called "Bundle" was her favorite. "I love it very much" Marina said. She still keeps all the items inside to remind her of God's great love for her. In addition to opening her heart to God, the shoebox gift taught Marina a significant lesson about giving. She also learned about God's free gift of salvation at the outreach event, she made a decision to give her heart to Jesus. "When I accepted Christ, it changed my whole life".



Marina went on to participate in follow-up discipleship lessons where she learned about how to follow her newfound Savior and share Him with others by studying 12 Bible stories including creation as well as Christ's crucifixion and resurrection. She said, "Each lesson I learned something new about God". Now seven years later, Marina teaches these same discipleship lessons to other shoebox recipients at her church. She does so because she desires others to have the same input in their lives as she received and called "Wonderful".

200 million plus shoeboxes delivered----50million plus boys and girls disciplined----17 million plus decisions for Christ. PRAISE THE LORD!! But we must be careful to not get caught up in numbers. When I first started with O.C.C. [don't know what year] we did 20 boxes. Our goal for 2023 is 84 physical boxes and 16 ONLINE BOES. You'll hear more about these later. We seek God's will in deciding on these numbers for all that we do is to bring honor and glory to His Name. Thank you for your loyal support and many prayers. Prayer is what makes this program work. Sandy

## Pumpkin dump cake!

*There's been a lot of demand for this recipe!*

1cup sugar. 3 whole eggs. 1 -13 oz can evaporated milk  
1/2 tsp. Salt. 1 heaping tsp cinnamon , 1/2 heaping tsp cloves, 1/4 tsp  
nutmeg  
2/3box yellow cake mix. 1 cup chopped pecans or walnuts 3/4 cup  
melted butter.

Mix together all ingredients except cake mix, melted butter and nuts.  
Pour into13x9 pan and cover with dry cake mix as smooth as you can.  
Sprinkle nuts over the top of the cake and drizzle melted butter on top.

Bake at 350 degrees for 55-60 minutes. Serve with whipping cream or  
just plain.

In place of spices you can use 3-tsp of pumpkin pie spices ( I have  
always used the measured spices)

Enjoy. Nancy



Great is the Lord and worthy of praise; His greatness  
no one can fathom. Psalm 145:3

## Allen Remembered 1939-2023

Many of you knew Allen well for years and have many memories of him and Sandra. There are sweet stories of how much he loved her; driving 100 miles to pick Sandra up after her classes so they could go on a date. They were married in 1961.

He was a talented man. Beginning in 1969 Allen built their house himself. He enjoyed painting and some of his art hangs in our church and Pastor Tony's home. I imagine some of you have his art too.

In 2012 Sandra and Allen were named the "Big Cheeses". They were active at the Senior Center. The Trafton's were married for 56 years and were faithful, long time members of our church.



Allen's life will be celebrated at TPC on November 4, 2023 at 11:00am, with Pastor Tony officiating. Allen is survived by daughter Linda, son Wayne and his wife Michelle, brother Gary, four grandsons, and three great grandchildren. We pray for comfort for Linda, Wayne and family. Allen was loved by many.

We know that Allen and Sandra are in the safe keeping of our Lord. We cherish their memories and time we were able to spend with them. They are missed.

*In His great mercy he has given us new birth into a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead. 1Peter 1:3-4 Amen.*



## Mission Report

### Toledo Neighbors Program (TNP)



September was a busy month at Neighbor's Hall. This summer there was an abundance of zucchini, onions, and fruit. Neighbors were sharing with Neighbors. Members of the Toledo Neighbor's Board and Volunteers have been busy in the Community partnering with Other groups to provide services.

### United Way of Lewis County (UWLC)



A number of us attended a Community Impact Luncheon organized by the United Way of Lewis County (UWLC). Their mission "To connect people and resources to improve the quality of Life in Lewis County" has a focus on children. They call this approach Cradle to Career and Beyond.

UWLC is supporting the Dolly Parton Imagination Library. Children from birth to age 5 that are enrolled in the program receive books mailed to their homes each month. The books are donated by Dolly Parton, who visited our County to kick off the program. UWCL is helping pay for the mailing. One of the publications made available by UWLC is a Calendar for Kindergarten Preparation. They are also sponsoring a reading program with Elementary School Children. In 2022-2023 6 Lewis County School Districts participated in the Reading Buddy program. There is also a mentorship program, including business attire. this partnership is between Women United and the Visiting Nurses Foundation. There is so much going on. The bold goal of UWLC is Lifting 30% out of Poverty by 2030.

Amber Buck of Toledo Neighbor's has put out a newsletter that I have copied and place on the bulletin board. There is an Apple Cider making party planned for Sunday October 1st. Please take a look at the Newsletter for more information.

## **Health and Wellness Fair**

Neighbor's Hall was the location for the Health and Wellness Fair held on September 9th. This Community event brought together many resources. I attended the Full plate Living "Nutrition Class" and found it informative. Beth Cumberland, the Nursing Director from Valley View Health Center reviewed the 6 components of Full Plate Living and shared 3 recipes which featured lentil. We sampled the lentil soup, it was yummy! Valley View donated a large number of shopping bags containing the recipes and the ingredients for the soup. There were Representatives from Earth Medicine, Hope Alliance, Nature Nurture Pharmacy, Assured Hospice, Amerigroup; just to name a few. It was a wonderful opportunity to meet those providing services in our community. I am hopeful that this will become an annual event.

## **What's New/ Coming Up at Neighbor's Hall?**

Amber Buck of Toledo Neighbor's has put out a newsletter that I have copied and place on the bulletin board. There is an Apple Cider making party planned for Sunday October 1st. Please take a look at the Newsletter for more information. Paulli B

## **Shoebox News!**

New information from Sandy and Paulli.

Many of the online shoeboxes go to hard-to-reach nations that have strict customs and/ or strict religious restrictions. These boxes also may go to unreached people groups (UPG's). There are over 3 BILLION people in the UPG. Paulli will be speaking to this issue later on. I am working on a step-by-step guide for ordering an online box (even though it's pretty simple). We do have a goal page set up-the address is Toledo Presbyterian Church, Toledo, Wa. More on this after the presentation by Schiméa Nguessan on Oct 15, right at TPC.

*Cookies are needed for after the event.*

Celebration of Life was held at TPC in loving memory of Mitchell Gee who was a member at one time. He was an avid fisherman as you can see from the photo. He and his wife, Vicki are remembered by members of our congregation. Vicki has attended our services bringing her Granddaughter Meadow. It is a blessing to hear a child in our sanctuary. Vicki has attended our services bringing her granddaughter Meadow. It is a blessing to hear a child in our sanctuary again. Besides Vicki and Meadow, Mitchell has a son, Cody and daughter Sara. Please pray for all of the family during their time of grief. TPC

### Order of Service

Piano Prelude by Kathy Hill

Opening Prayer by Pastor Jon Roberts.

Hymn #418 Softly and Tenderly, Jesus is Calling

Poem reading

Eulogy

Hymn # 649 Amazing Grace

Power Point Slide Show

Moments of Reflection & Shared Memories

Teaching by Pastor Jon Roberts

Hymn #840 When Peace Like a River (It is Well with My Soul)

Closing Prayer by Pastor Jon Roberts



— Those we love remain with us —

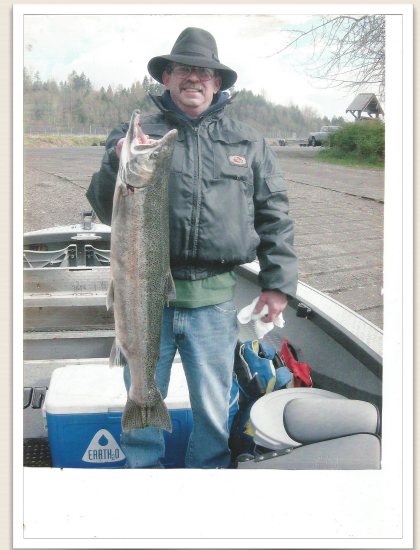
for love itself lives on,  
and cherished memories  
never fade because a  
loved ones gone.

Those we love can never be  
More than a thought apart,  
For as long as there is memory,  
They'll live on in the heart.



*There are special people in our lives who never leave us, even when they are gone. We do not remember days, we remember moments. Don't cry because it's over, smile because it happened. The best and most beautiful things in the world cannot be seen or touched, they must be felt with the heart.*

### IN LOVING MEMORY OF MITCHELL GEE



November 23, 1957  
August 14, 2023

Memorial Service held at  
Toledo Presbyterian Church  
August 24, 2023 7pm