



# The Gleaner March 2024

## From the Pastor

I don't really have an article this month so much as a plea, and the plea is that each of us be in prayer for one another, not just for people within TPC, but also those without.

It is with sadness that we note the passing of two people in the past couple of weeks, Texann Merzoian and Corky Summers. Also please keep Dorothy Winters in your prayers, as she is in hospice and knows that her time remaining is short. Pray for the families of these people, for their comfort and peace in the passing of their loved ones, and that God will use this time of mourning to speak to their hearts in a special way that brings them closer to himself. Pray for those who are caregivers, that they can care for their loved ones with compassion and love, knowing that each of us, all too soon, may need the same.

The greatest good we can do is not feats of goodness for the sake of being good in the eyes of God and others, but to engage in feats of prayer for our families and fellow believers before the throne of the living God. Pray that he might have mercy upon whom he would have mercy.

Have confidence that our Heavenly Father HEARS our prayers, and that he answers according to his will. Sometimes the answer is 'no', sometimes 'yes', sometimes 'wait', but regardless, know that God works all things together for good for those who love him and are called according to his purpose. Your purpose, dear friends, is to be prayer warriors, continually interceding for others. There is no greater work than to stand in the gap before the lord of hosts. Let it be said of the people of Toledo Presbyterian Church that "they were people of prayer".

**Pastor Tony**

*"Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your request to God." Philipians*



## Mission Report

### Toledo Neighbor's

A survey has been developed to help better understand the needs of the community. Three questions were asked: Is this your first time coming to Neighbor's Hall? How many people are you shopping for? What is your zip code? After surveying visitors over a three week period, it was determined that more than 500 people were fed and half had the Toledo zip code. Heather plans to have a detailed report on survey results available at the next Board Meeting. Last Saturday (Feb 27,2024) 95 people came by. We had plenty of help. There were 3 students from the High School helping to stock the shelves, tubs, and coolers. The students also help carry groceries out to waiting cars. The community room was set up and a number of our neighbors were able to grab a cup of coffee, snacks, and visit. Socks and toques have been donated along with some jackets. Special thanks to Becky and Tana for their generous gift of cat food.



### Rowdy Rooster Bistro & Thrift

<https://rowdy-rooster-bistro-and-thrift-store> Take a look at their site. All proceeds go to supporting the Winlock/Vader Foodbank and Pantry. The menu is posted along with some great photo. The Food Bank distribution dates are posted on the small bulletin board in the back of the Sanctuary.

**Worship Committee:** I can add that Melody Young will be our guest Pastor on March 3rd. Karen and Tony will be away on a much deserved mini vacation for Tony's Birthday.

**Upcoming Events:** Big Toledo Meeting March 19, 2024 6:00pm at the HighSchool

**TPC Potluck/Brunch:** There is another luncheon coming our way on March 24, 2024.

Brenda who makes excellent Italian food (she had a deli at one point and aren't we lucky?) wants to do a special lunch for us.

## Important Dates

March 3 Communion by Intinction

March 10 Daylight Savings

March 12 Session Meets

March 19 Spring

March 24 Palm Sunday

March 29 Good Friday

March 31 Easter Sunday

## Celebrations

### Birthdays

Tony 3/3

Jim B 3/6

Georgia 3/8

Chris & Harley 3/12

Greg 3/13

Loren 3/17

Sal 3/22

### No Anniversaries

### **More on the Unreached People of Colombia**

As you read in the February Gleaner, it's easier to pray for a people with which you are knowledgeable so this month we'll talk about the crime rate. As you know, at one time Colombia was considered one of the most dangerous countries in the world. Colombia's high crime rate is due to being a center for the cultivation and trafficking of cocaine. From the mid 1960's to early 2000's, the civilian population was caught and often targeted by warring drug cartels and left-wing guerrillas such as the Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia [FARC]. Massacres, disappearances, cases of torture, forced displacement, assassinations, "disappearances", kidnapping and extortion were common. Eventually, the government signed a peace agreement with FARC. Crime rate started to decline, especially the murder rate which is still among the highest in the world. Since the beginning of the crisis in Venezuela and the mass emigration of Venezuelan refugees, desperate Venezuelans have been recruited into gangs in order to survive. Venezuelan women have resorted to prostitution in order to make a living. Please remember that the people of Colombia are considered an Unreached People Group. This means that less than 5% of the population profess to be Christian and less than 2% are Evangelical Christians. I hope you saved your Prayer Points from the February Gleaner. These people desperately need the Gospel Of Jesus Christ. Please turn your light on and pray each day for this people group. John 9:4, "We must work for the works of Him who sent me while it is day; NIGHT IS COMING, WHEN NO ONE CAN WORK". Our work is to be prayer warriors. Next month we'll explore the medical care available. Blessings, Sandy

## Treasurer's Report for February 2024

As noted in a previous report, I won't be providing actual dollars and cents here but if you're interested you will find printed reports on the bulletin board in the elevator lobby along with a copy of the latest approved Session meeting minutes.

Let's just say we're nicely ahead of the budget for this time of the year. The bell tower fund has about 1400 dollars in it. If you're interested in helping to fund that project, make a note on the memo line of your check and note it on your offering envelope. Remember too that you can make an offering to the church on the website. There's a big blue box that says, "Make a Donation". Tap it and follow the prompts.

Let me say a word or two about food bank donations. Session has approved budgeting 85 dollars per month to the Toledo Neighbor's Program and 80 dollars per month to the Winlock/Vader Food Bank. If you want to contribute to that effort, note "food bank" on the memo line of your check or offering envelope. Those monies will be saved for a period of time and then sent as a special gift to one of our local food banks as approved by Session.

I leave you with these two things: always know you can ask me or one of the finance committee about anything financial and also know you can ask about serving with the finance committee. Your brother in Christ, Tom

Below are pics from 2nd Annual Congregational Lunch by Karen and Tony.

We are so blessed.



## **Operation Christmas Child** *Great News Of Great Joy*

*You might have heard last Sunday the wonderful news contained in the article below, but just in case.....*

The news is just in—11.3 million shoeboxes were collected the year (that number does not include the online shoeboxes that were ordered) and are in the process of distribution. Ten million of those boxes came from the United States. 400,000 of those boxes were delivered to the children in the war torn county of Ukraine. This monumental effort to bless the children, and their families, in need around the world with great joy and the Good News of Jesus Christ would not be possible without a global effort and giving churches like ours. Thank you so for your support and I know that God will continue to bless our efforts to spread the gospel.  
Blessings, Sandy



### **The Greatest Journey**

(From Franklin Graham's January update newsletter)

"As I write this, more than 11 million Operation Christmas Child shoebox gifts are just beginning their journey— Crossing oceans, mountains and deserts—to delight children in more than 100 countries around the world." We had the privilege to participate in this wonderful endeavor by prayerfully packing our boxes and by praying and praises Him for using each box to His glory. The Bible tells us that God's Word will not return in vain.

As children receive their gifts, they are eligible to start another journey; The Greatest Journey of many of their lives. Over the past 30 years, more than 50 million children have been have been reached through the program and 25 million have prayed to receive Jesus Christ as their Lord and Savior.

The Greatest Journey consists of 12 discipleship classes which are led by a trained volunteer teachers. O.C.C. provides materials in 91 languages. Each child receives a workbook and at the completion of the course, each child receives a New Testament in his/her own language. 36 million New Testaments have been awarded.

(Continued on next page.)

For many, these are the first books of their own and are very precious to them and not only because they contain the Word of God but also because they are their own. As with all of Samaritan's Purse evangelistic outreaches, support does not go away at the completion of the program. Many of the graduates go on to become pastors, Sunday School teachers and trained volunteers to lead the TGJ program.

In Mongolia, many children grow up in a culture that is animistic- a doctrine that organic development is due to a spirit or a phenomena of nature that inanimate objects. Munkhbold, a student, was so excited when he learned that he was so special in God's eyes because he was created in God's image. The first lesson TGJ is from Genesis 1:27: *"So God created man in His own image: in the image of God He created them; male and female He created them"* . It is often hard for us to fathom the joy that these children receive the Word of God telling them they are special. Often we take this for granted.

Please continue to pray that the O.C.C. shoeboxes and the GREATEST JOURNEY will continue to reach the hearts of the children in many countries that welcome these programs. These children are the future spiritual leaders in their individual countries. Pray for the night is coming. Blessings, Sandy

Below: Prayers for Josiah and Judah as we wish them good bye and to thank them and their parents, Jennifer and David, for sharing their son's talents with us.



## The Determining Factor

And if Christ is not risen, then our preaching is empty and your faith is also empty. 1 Corinthians 15:14

According to the Pew Research Center, Christians who attend church only at Christmas and Easter are sometimes called "Chreasters." They also note that online searches for "church" peak during those two holidays with Easter being the dominant season. \*See footnote

Easter is by far the oldest of the two observances since "the Lord's Day" (Revelation 1:1) --- the day of Christ's resurrection---was observed as a day for meeting and celebration soon after the Resurrection. And well it should have been, for the apostle Paul wrote that the resurrection of Christ is the determining factor in Christianity. Without the Resurrection, our preaching and our faith are all in vain. (1 Corinthians 15:14, 17-19). Without the Resurrection, the faith that has changed the world is without foundation. No wonder Easter is the most-attended service at churches every year.

As you celebrate the Resurrection this Lord's Day, praise God that your faith and hope are not in vain---because He is risen!

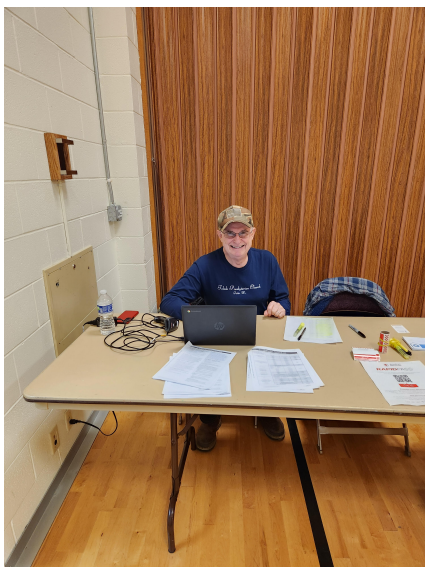
### Turning Point

*The Resurrection is that central miracle around which Christian faith is gathered.* Calvin Miller

\*footnote: Noble Kuriakise, "When Easter and Christmas Near, More Americans Search Online for "Church," Pew Research Center, April 18, 2014.

Material taken from "Turning Point Magazine and Devotional" Published by David Jeremiah  
Submitted by Becky Vango

1 Peter 1:3: "Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! In his great mercy he has given us new birth into a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead."



*Another successful blood drive was held in February thanks is large part to Kathy and the volunteers who process those who donate and those who give blood. Thanks to all, for your help in making the drives turn out so well.*

