

OCTOBER 17, 2021

# CROWN HILL NEWS

THIS  
SUNDAY!

## UPCOMING EVENTS

- **OCTOBER 17 AT 4:30PM, COOKOUT & SINGING AT THE ZIMMERLY SCHOOL HOUSE**
- **OCT 19 AT 9:00AM, WOMEN SERVING CHRIST WILL MEET. BESIDES QUILTING AND KNOTTING , THERE WILL BE OTHER PROJECTS. ESTHER LEPLEY IS HOSTESS AND WILL PROVIDE TACO SALAD. PROJECT: MCC FOR NEEDS IN HAITI.**
- **OCTOBER 24 WILL BE CROWN HILL'S FALL MISSION SUNDAY. OUR SPEAKER WILL BE FROM LOVE INC. OF WAYNE COUNTY.**

## PRAYER REQUESTS

- **PRAY FOR WIN RAMSEYER AS SHE WORKS ON REHABBING HER ANKLE AT THE BATH MANOR SPECIAL CARE CENTRE, 2330 SMITH RD, AKRON, OH 44333. CARDS FROM THE CONGREGATION WOULD CERTAINLY MEAN A LOT TO WIN!**
- **PRAY FOR BEULAH MILLER AS SHE RECOVERS FROM SURGERY**
- **PRAY FOR PAT WEBB AS SHE IS SCHEDULED FOR AN OPERATION THIS WEEK.**
- **PRAY FOR OHIO CONFERENCE GIFTS DISCERNMENT AS THEY SEEK TO FILL THE CONFERENCE MODERATOR AND A STEWARDSHIP MINISTRY POSITION.**
- **PRAY FOR AUSTIN ZUERCHER IN COSTA RICA WHO WE SUPPORT THROUGH EMM.**
- **PRAY FOR KAITLYN & SPENCER AS THEY ARE EXPECTING A CHILD IN NOVEMBER**
- **PRAY FOR LEADERS EVERYWHERE (EMPLOYERS, POLITICIANS, THE CDC, SCHOOL ADMINISTRATORS & BOARDS, NURSING HOME ADMINISTRATORS, PASTORS, ELDERS ETC) THAT ARE CONTINUALLY FACED WITH DECISIONS ABOUT HOW TO RESPOND TO THE ONGOING PANDEMIC.**
- **REMEMBER OUR PEOPLE IN NURSING HOMES AS THEY ARE ONCE AGAIN NOT ALLOWED TO BE VISITED BY THEIR LOVED ONES: PATT (&EARL), SUZAN, MARTHA, CAROLYN & ANN.**
- **PRAY FOR OUR SHUT-INS: PETE STAUFFER, PAUL TROYER, ELMER RICHARD, MARY NUSSBAUM, ILA ZIMMERLY, BRADY MURRY AND FRED'S MOTHER DORIS HOFFMAN**



## Who's that?

This photo comes from the 1975 church directory. If you think you know who this is, the best way to find out is to ask them if you're right!



# Pastoral Letter

GOD IS A GOD WHO BRINGS BEAUTY OUT OF CHAOS. THIS IS THE STORY OF CREATION IN GENESIS AND IT IS THE STORY OF OUR PERSONAL LIVES. IT IS ALSO THE STORY OF OUR MOST RECENT COMBINED SERVICE.

FOR MONTHS WE HAD BEEN PLANNING AND PREPARING FOR ANOTHER COMBINED CELEBRATION ON OCTOBER 3RD. ALL THE PLANS WERE IN PLACE, BUT AS WE GOT CLOSER TO THE 3RD THE WEATHER FORECAST GOT WORSE. FINALLY WE HAD TO MAKE THE DECISION TO CANCEL AND POSTPONE THE SERVICE TO THE 10TH. EVERYONE DID THEIR BEST TO ADJUST TO THE CHANGE IN DATE, BUT UNFORTUNATELY WOOSTER AND SALEM MENNONITE COULD NOT PARTICIPATE ON THE 10TH AS WELL AS A NUMBER OF THE YOUNG MEN FROM THE CONGOLESE CHURCH WHO HAD A SOCCER GAME AGAINST ANOTHER CONGOLESE COMMUNITY IN BUFFALO, NY.

ON SUNDAY MORNING THE 10TH, EVERYTHING SEEMED TO BE GOING ACCORDING TO PLAN UNTIL AROUND 10:50AM (TEN MINUTES BEFORE THE SERVICE WAS TO START) WHEN WE GOT WORD THAT ONE OF THE MINIVAN'S COMING DOWN FROM AKRON GOT A FLAT TIRE ON RT 76 THAT COULDN'T BE REPAIRED (MORE ON THAT LATER). SO WHEN THE 12 PASSENGER VAN ARRIVED WE UNLOADED IT AND SENT IT BACK TO PICK UP THE FOLKS STRANDED ON 76. WE WEREN'T SURE IF THE 12 PASSENGER VAN HAD ENOUGH FUEL FOR THE TRIP SO THE DRIVER STOPPED AT THE GAS STATION ON THE WAY UP, AND UNFORTUNATELY LOCKED HIMSELF OUT OF THE VAN! THEN WE HAD TO FIND TWO VOLUNTEERS TO GET THEIR CARS TO RESCUE THE FOLKS STRANDED ON 76 AND FIGURE OUT A WAY TO UNLOCK THE 12 PASSENGER VAN! ON TOP OF ALL THIS A COLD WIND WAS BLOWING IN MAKING EVERYONE LOOK FOR JACKETS OR BLANKETS WHEREVER WE COULD FIND THEM AND SOME FOLKS MOVED THEIR CHAIRS WHEREVER THEY COULD FIND SUNLIGHT. ELDINA AND I RIFLED THROUGH THE CHURCH LOOKING FOR ANY SORT OF BLANKET WHEREVER IT COULD BE FOUND!

MEANWHILE, GOD WAS AT WORK IN THE MIDST OF THE CHAOS FORMING A BEAUTIFUL WORSHIP SERVICE FOR THOSE OF US THAT WERE THERE UNDER THE TREES AND THOSE WORSHIPPING FROM HOME VIA YOUTUBE. WE BEGAN A HYMN SINGING OF SORTS, BUT WITH THE ADDED BEAUTY THAT COMES WITH DIVERSE STYLES OF MUSIC. TIM YODER LED US IN A COUPLE OF WELL KNOWN HYMNS THAT MANY OF THE ENGLISH SPEAKERS KNEW BY HEART. THEN A GROUP FROM THE CONGOLESE CHOIR MEMBERS LED A COUPLE OF SONGS THAT ALL THEIR PEOPLE KNEW BY HEART. THEN BILL & TIM COLLABORATED TO TEACH EVERYONE A NEW SONG IN BOTH SWAHILI AND ENGLISH. WE CONTINUED ON THIS WAY UNTIL ALL OF OUR PEOPLE WERE SAFELY GATHERED TOGETHER FOR WORSHIP.

A MOMENT IN THE SERVICE WHERE I SAW GOD'S HAND AT WORK WAS THROUGH THE PRAYER BLANKETS PUT TOGETHER BY ILA ZIMMERLY'S BIBLE SCHOOL CLASS YEARS AGO, OTHER BLANKETS THAT GRACE MARTIN HAD MADE FOR BABY CRIBS, AND STILL OTHERS THAT CROWN HILL'S WOMEN SERVING CHRIST HAD WORKED ON OVER THE YEARS. AS I SAT BEHIND A NUMBER OF CONGOLESE WOMEN WHO HAD THESE ASSORTED BLANKETS DRAPED OVER THEIR SHOULDERS, I WAS NEARLY OVERCOME AT THE SIGHT. HERE WAS A GROUP OF WOMEN FROM CONGO MAKING USE OF THE BLANKETS THAT A GROUP OF WOMEN FROM WAYNE COUNTY OHIO HAD CREATED FOR THIS VERY PURPOSE. ALL OF THESE WOMEN FROM THE AKRON SWAHILI CHURCH HAVE EXPERIENCED THINGS THAT WE CAN ONLY IMAGINE. FOR THOSE THAT WERE OVER 20 YEARS OLD, THEY HAD EXPERIENCED WAR (AND ALL THE UNSPEAKABLE EVILS THAT GO ALONG WITH WAR) THAT FORCED THEM TO LEAVE THEIR HOMELAND AND SEEK SAFETY IN A REFUGEE CAMP IN TANZANIA. FOR THOSE UNDER 20, THEY WERE MOST LIKELY BORN IN TANZANIA, NEVER KNOWING THEIR HOME COUNTRY OR ANYTHING OTHER THAN LIFE IN A REFUGEE CAMP. THEY ALL MADE THE JOURNEY THROUGH THE US REFUGEE RESETTLEMENT PROGRAM AND ENDED UP IN AKRON, OHIO. A PLACE THAT WOULD BE AS FOREIGN TO THEM AS A TANZANIAN REFUGEE CAMP WOULD BE TO US. I COULD THINK OF NO BETTER PLACE FOR THESE BLANKETS TO BE THAN RESTING ON THE SHOULDERS OF THESE WOMEN WHO HAD MADE THE TRIP TO CROWN HILL TO BLESS US WITH THEIR PRESENCE.

TO END OUR SERVICE TOGETHER WE FORMED A BIG CIRCLE AROUND THE MAPLE TREES. SIDE BY SIDE, WE ATE THE BREAD AND DRANK OF THE CUP, REMEMBERING GOD'S PROMISES IN OUR LIVES. WE REMEMBERED THAT WE WERE ALL A PART OF GOD'S FAMILY, NO MATTER WHERE WE CAME FROM, WHAT LANGUAGE WE SPOKE OR WHAT COLOR OUR SKIN. WE REMEMBERED THAT IT WAS ONLY THROUGH CHRIST'S BODY BROKEN FOR US AND CHRIST'S BLOOD SHED FOR US, THAT WE CAN BE A PART OF THIS COMMUNITY OF SINNERS MADE CLEAN. IT IS ONLY THROUGH CHRIST THAT THE CHAOS OF OUR LIVES CAN BE TRANSFORMED INTO BEAUTY.