

SEPTEMBER 12, 2021

# CROWN HILL NEWS

## EVENTS

### EMPTY BOWLS Drive Thru Soup Fundraiser



to benefit  
**A WHOLE COMMUNITY, INC.**  
AWC provides farm-fresh produce  
to food pantries, meal sites and  
low-income neighborhoods

**Tuesday, Sept. 28th**  
**3 - 6:30 pm**

at Buehler's Wooster Milltown  
in the back parking lot  
3540 Burbank Road (follow the signs)

#### Dinner Includes

- Your choice of soup (16 oz.):  
(Chicken Noodle, Chili,  
Clam Chowder or Vegan Chipotle)
- Dinner Rolls
- Pumpkin Donut  
(food donated by Buehler's)

**\$10 Per Dinner**

Optional pottery bowls available  
for an additional \$10  
(donated by local potter Jack Rogers)



 Open Arms Hispanic Ministries Presents:

Music provided by  
Renacer of  
Goshen, IN



### Songs & Salsa

Sunday October 10, 2021 at 6pm

Salem Mennonite  
Church  
3363 Zuercher Rd  
Dalton, OH 44618

Tortilla chips served  
with a variety of  
flavorful salsas and  
dips



Free will offering benefits  
Open Arms Hispanic Ministries

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

DAN HOOLEY WILL BE PREACHING AT CROWN HILL ON SEPTEMBER 26TH WITH A CARRY-IN MEAL TO FOLLOW.

ON SEPTEMBER 14, THERE WILL BE A REGULAR WSC MEETING AT 9AM. LUNCH WILL BE A POTATO BAR; ELDINA NUSSBAUM WILL HOST. OFFERING WILL SUPPORT LOCAL MEAT CANNING.

#### AUGUST 22 OFFERING:

\$1755 GENERAL, \$6640 COMPASSION FUND

#### AUGUST 29 OFFERING:

\$3275 GENERAL, \$8400 COMPASSION FUND, \$100 FOOD PANTRY

## PRAYER REQUESTS

- CONTINUE TO PRAY FOR THE PEOPLE OF AFGHANISTAN & HAITI, INCLUDING VULNERABLE WOMEN AND CHILDREN, AND THE MANY PARTNERS WITH WHOM MCC WORKS. PRAY THAT HOPE WOULD NOT BE EXTINGUISHED DURING THIS SEASON OF UNCERTAINTY AND FEAR.
- PRAY FOR ALL WHO HAVE LOST LOVED ONES AND ARE RECOVERING FROM ALL THE DAMAGE OF RECENT HURRICANES AND TROPICAL STORMS.
- PRAY FOR DISCERNMENT AS WE ARE IN THE PROCESS OF GETTING TO KNOW DAN & JULIE HOOLEY.
- 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.
- PRAY FOR OUR PEOPLE IN NURSING HOMES: PATT (& EARL), SUZAN, MARTHA, CAROLYN & ANN
- PRAY FOR OUR SHUT-INS: PETE STAUFFER, PAUL TROYER, ELMER RICHARD, MARY NUSSBAUM, ILA ZIMMERLY FRED'S MOTHER DORIS HOFFMAN.
- PRAYER FOR BOB LEPLEY AS HE GOES IN FOR KNEE SURGERY ON SEPTEMBER 14, FOR JOAN GASSER AS SHE IS BEING SCHEDULED FOR KNEE REPLACEMENT AND FOR SANDY HANZIE AS SHE CONTINUES TO STRENGTHEN AND RECOVER FROM HER SURGERY.

WHO'S THAT?



**THIS PHOTO COMES FROM THE  
1975 CROWN HILL MENNONITE  
PICTORIAL DIRECTORY.  
IF YOU THINK YOU KNOW WHO  
THIS IS, THE BEST WAY TO  
FIND OUT IS TO ASK HER IF  
YOU'RE RIGHT!**

## PASTORAL LETTER

I RECALL A TIME WHEN I WAS IN A MEETING WITH A GROUP OF ADULTS AND WE WERE GOING AROUND THE ROOM AND SHARING OUR FAITH STORIES. THIS WAS A GROUP OF ADULTS WHO HAD GROWN UP IN THE CHURCH AND WERE NOT NEW TO THE FAITH. THIS IS ALWAYS A POWERFUL EXERCISE TO HEAR STORIES OF GOD'S FAITHFULNESS AS WELL AS THE DIFFICULTIES THAT ALL OF US HAVE FACED THROUGHOUT THE COURSE OF OUR LIVES. THERE WERE TEARS SHED AND RELATIONSHIPS WERE DEEPENED AND I BELIEVE GOD WAS GLORIFIED.

AS I HAVE REFLECTED ON THAT EXPERIENCE THERE IS ONE THING THAT STANDS OUT TO ME. IN THE MIDST OF THE VULNERABILITY AND THE TRUST THAT WAS SHOWN THAT EVENING, THERE WAS ALSO A PATTERN THAT EMERGED FROM EVERYONE THAT SHARED. AS EVERYONE SHARED THEIR FAITH JOURNEY IT SEEMED THAT THE ULTIMATE MEASURING ROD WITH WHICH EVERYONE GAUGED THEIR SPIRITUAL WALK WITH THE LORD BOILED DOWN TO ONE THING: DEVOTIONS. SOME SHARED HOW AT AN EARLIER STAGE IN LIFE THEY FELT THEY WERE DOING BETTER IN THEIR FAITH BECAUSE THEY HAD A REGULAR ROUTINE OF PRAYER AND BIBLE READING. OTHERS TALKED ABOUT HOW THEY FEEL ASHAMED AND THAT THEY ARE A "BAD CHRISTIAN" BECAUSE THEY WERE NOT TAKING ENOUGH TIME TO PRAY AND READ THE BIBLE. OTHERS HUMBLY SHARED HOW THEY FOUND VITALITY IN THEIR SPIRITUAL LIFE THROUGH THEIR DAILY BIBLE READING AND PRAYER. OVER AND OVER AGAIN AS FOLKS SHARED ABOUT THEIR FAITH JOURNEY IT SEEMED THEY WERE REALLY JUST SHARING WHETHER OR NOT THEY WERE IN A GOOD ROUTINE WITH THEIR DEVOTIONAL LIFE.

NOW, BEFORE I GO ANY FURTHER IN THIS LETTER, LET ME AFFIRM THAT I BELIEVE PERSONAL DEVOTIONAL PRACTICES TO BE A CORE ASPECT OF CHRISTIAN DISCIPLESHIP. THAT BEING SAID, I THINK IT IS DANGEROUS TO ALLOW BIBLE READING AND PRAYER TO BE THE SOLE CRITERIA FOR HOW WE EVALUATE OUR SPIRITUAL JOURNEYS. JESUS AFFIRMS THAT THE TWO GREATEST COMMANDMENTS ARE TO "LOVE THE LORD YOUR GOD WITH ALL YOUR HEART AND WITH ALL YOUR SOUL AND WITH ALL YOUR STRENGTH AND WITH ALL YOUR MIND" AND, "LOVE YOUR NEIGHBOR AS YOURSELF." THE PROPHET MICAH PUT IT THIS WAY, "WHAT DOES THE LORD REQUIRE OF YOU? TO ACT JUSTLY AND TO LOVE MERCY AND TO WALK HUMBLY WITH YOUR GOD." THESE PASSAGES AFFIRM THAT A HUMBLE, PERSONAL, LOVING WALK WITH THE LORD IS A VITAL PART OF THE CHRISTIAN FAITH.

THESE PASSAGES ALSO MAKE IT EXCEEDINGLY CLEAR THAT OUR CHRISTIAN LIFE MUST BE MORE THAN JUST OUR PERSONAL DEVOTIONS. WE ARE CALLED TO BE LOVING OUR NEIGHBORS, TO LOVE MERCY AND ACTING JUSTLY. AS WE SAT AROUND THAT ROOM THAT EVENING I DIDN'T HEAR STORIES OF JUSTICE, MERCY AND LOVING NEIGHBORS AS VITAL PARTS OF THE FAITH STORIES BEING SHARED. I DON'T THINK THAT MEANS THESE THINGS WEREN'T HAPPENING, RATHER IT MEANT THAT WE DID NOT SEE LOVING NEIGHBORS AND DOING JUSTICE AS EQUALLY IMPORTANT ASPECTS OF OUR FAITH JOURNEYS. JAMES, THE BROTHER OF JESUS PUTS IT THIS WAY, "RELIGION THAT GOD OUR FATHER ACCEPTS AS PURE AND FAULTLESS IS THIS: TO LOOK AFTER ORPHANS AND WIDOWS IN THEIR DISTRESS AND TO KEEP ONESELF FROM BEING POLLUTED BY THE WORLD."

PERSONAL DEVOTIONAL PRACTICES ARE A CORE PART OF WHAT IT MEANS TO LIVE A CHRISTIAN LIFE. HOWEVER, WE MUST BE CAUTIOUS ABOUT OVER EMPHASIZING THESE PERSONAL PRACTICES AT THE EXPENSE OF LOVING OUR NEIGHBORS AND LOVING MERCY AND PURSUING JUSTICE. THE NEXT TIME SOMEONE ASKS YOU TO SHARE YOUR TESTIMONY, I ENCOURAGE YOU NOT TO JUST GIVE A REPORT OF YOUR DEVOTIONAL PRACTICES, BUT EXPAND YOUR STORY INTO THE RELIGION THAT JAMES CALLS PURE AND FAULTLESS.