

OCTOBER 3, 2021

CROWN HILL NEWS

Zip Code	Households	Headcount	City	State
44270	38	111	RITTMAN	OH
44691	31	84	WOOSTER	OH
44667	18	42	ORRVILLE	OH
44217	6	15	CRESTON	OH
44230	5	8	DOYLESTOWN	OH
44287	4	12	WEST SALEM	OH
44677	4	7	SMITHVILLE	OH
44203	3	12	BARBERTON	OH
44266	2	9	RAVENNA	OH
44281	2	2	WADSWORTH	OH
44645	2	6	MARSHALLVILLE	OH
44301	1	3	AKRON	OH
44310	1	5	AKRON	OH
44312	1	2	AKRON	OH
44313	1	4	AKRON	OH
44606	1	7	APPLE CREEK	OH
44618	1	2	DALTON	OH
44646	1	4	MASSILLON	OH
44654	1	5	MILLERSBURG	OH
Totals:	123	340	19 Zip Codes	

OVER THE PAST COUPLE OF MONTHS THERE HAS BEEN A SLIGHT INCREASE IN PATRONS TO OUR FOOD PANTRY WHICH REVERSES THE TREND WE HAVE SEEN OVER THE PAST 4-5 YEARS. THIS IS DUE TO A LARGE INCREASE IN NEW FAMILIES. ON ANY GIVEN MONTH THROUGHOUT THE PAST COUPLE OF YEARS WE WOULD SEE AROUND 10 NEW FAMILIES THAT HAD NEVER BEEN TO OUR FOOD PANTRY BEFORE. IN SEPTEMBER WE HAD 37 NEW FAMILIES! THAT MEANS ABOUT 30% OF THE PEOPLE THAT CAME IN SEPTEMBER WERE NEW.

UPCOMING EVENTS

- OCTOBER 3 AT COMBINED SERVICE AT CROWN HILL MENNONITE CHURCH WITH MEAL TO FOLLOW. AT 10AM OUR TWO SUNDAY SCHOOL CLASSES WILL MEET (THIS IS NOT A COMBINED SUNDAY SCHOOL WITH OTHER CHURCHES). ALSO AT 10AM THERE WILL BE A COMBINED CHOIR PRACTICE AT CROWN HILL. ANYONE IS WELCOME TO JOIN THE COMBINED CHOIR--THERE ARE NO REHEARSALS BEFORE SUNDAY MORNING. THE CHOIR WILL SING TWO SONGS THAT WILL EITHER BE FAMILIAR HYMNS OR EASY TO LEARN NEW SONGS. THE COMBINED WORSHIP SERVICE WILL START AT 11:00AM WHERE WE WILL CELEBRATE COMMUNION TOGETHER (OCTOBER 3 IS WORLD COMMUNION SUNDAY). LUNCH WILL BE SERVED AFTER THE SERVICE. IF THE WEATHER IS BAD THE COMBINED SERVICE WILL BE CANCELED AND WE WILL HAVE A REGULAR CHURCH SERVICE STARTING AT 9:30AM.
- OCTOBER 6 FROM 4:30-6:30 DAN HOOLEY WILL BE AVAILABLE TO MEET WITH INDIVIDUALS OR GROUPS. YOU DO NOT NEED TO SCHEDULE AHEAD. AT 6:30 HE WILL BE JOINING THE PRAYER MEETING IN THE FELLOWSHIP HALL.
- OCTOBER 10, CONGREGATIONAL VOTE ON DAN HOOLEY'S CALL TO CROWN HILL
- 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. MYRNA RAMSEYER IS HOSTESS. 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 RECOVERS FROM THE SURGERY ON HER ANKLE AND IS MOVED TO A NEW LOCATION FOR REHABILITATION.
- PRAY FOR DISCERNMENT AS WE ARE IN THE PROCESS OF GETTING TO KNOW DAN & JULIE HOOLEY.
- PRAY FOR OHIO CONFERENCE GIFTS DISCERNMENT AS THEY SEEK TO FILL THE CONFERENCE MODERATOR AND A STEWARDSHIP MINISTRY.
- 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 ESPECIALLY FOR ANN AS SHE HAS TESTED POSITIVE FOR COVID.
- PRAY FOR OUR SHUT-INS: PETE STAUFFER, PAUL TROYER, ELMER RICHARD, MARY NUSSBAUM, ILA ZIMMERLY, BRADY MURRY AND FRED'S MOTHER DORIS HOFFMAN.
- PRAYER FOR BOB LEPLEY & SANDY HANZIE AS THEY RECOVER FROM KNEE SURGERY AND FOR JOAN GASSER SHE CONTINUES TO MEET WITH DOCTORS ABOUT NEXT STEPS FOR HER KNEE.

THE LEADERSHIP TEAM WANTS AS MANY OF OUR PEOPLE AS POSSIBLE TO PARTICIPATE IN THE VOTE TO AFFIRM DAN'S CALL TO CROWN HILL. IF YOU ARE A PART OF CROWN HILL, BUT ARE NOT ABLE TO BE IN ATTENDANCE ON OCTOBER 10TH PLEASE SEND IN YOUR VOTE TO THE CHURCH OFFICE: 9693 BENNER RD, RITTMAN, OH 44270.

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I AFFIRM CALLING DAN HOOLEY TO SERVE ON THE PASTORAL TEAM AT CROWN HILL MENNONITE. PLEASE CIRCLE YOUR VOTE: YES NO

IF YOU VOTE NO, PLEASE GIVE A BRIEF EXPLANATION SO THE LEADERSHIP TEAM UNDERSTANDS WHERE YOU ARE COMING FROM. THANKS!

The Gift Of Suffering & Pain

Recently I was listening to a lecture that Eugene Peterson (author of *The Message* along with dozens of other books) delivered to a crowd of seminary students. He referenced what he has heard Christians from the developing world observe about North American Christians: "What they notice mostly is the greed, the silliness [and] the narcissism. They appreciate the size and prosperity of our churches, our energy [and] the technology. But they wonder at the conspicuous absence of the cross [and] the phobic avoidance of suffering." There is a lot to unpack in this quotation, but I want to focus on that last phrase: "The phobic avoidance of suffering."

Phobic is defined as having an extreme or irrational fear of or aversion to something. What Christians from around the world notice in us (North American Christians) is that we have an irrational fear of suffering & pain. This makes sense. No one wants to suffer. No one wants to experience pain whether it be physical, interpersonal, emotional or otherwise. If we were to arrive at the proverbial fork in the road and are told that if we go to the left we will endure much suffering and pain while going to the right will be a journey of much wealth and comfort...which would all of us choose? The choice is obvious, we don't want to seek out suffering and pain.

While we are not called to have a martyr complex and seek suffering, neither are we called to have a phobic avoidance of it. The main reason we should not avoid suffering and pain is that these are the most effective tools for developing mature followers of Christ. We can study the scriptures intensely, we can pray fervently, we can serve loyalty, we can witness holistically but until we have walked our own "valley of the shadow of death" we will not know the depths of Christ's work in our lives. In this way, suffering is a gift. Pain is a gift.

However, going through suffering and pain does not ensure spiritual maturity. There are untold millions of people who have experienced horrendous suffering yet are not mature followers of Jesus. The work of transforming our hardships into spiritual maturity is exactly that: work. It's much easier to avoid this work by ignoring the pain, by minimizing the pain, by lying to yourself and others about the significance of the pain, by putting our primary energy on blaming others instead of seeking healing. There is no shortage of avoidance techniques that we will employ!

Richard Rohr, who is a popular writer on Christian spirituality, has this famous quote: "Every pain that is not transformed is transmitted." Another popular saying is, "Hurt people hurt people." What these quotes tell us is that if we do not do the work of addressing our pain we ultimately pass that pain on to others--often to those that are closest to us. Doing the work of transforming our suffering and pain into Christian maturity is not only a gift to ourselves, but it is a gift that will keep on giving to all those we come in contact with.

If you are desiring to take that next step in Christian discipleship, maybe the path before you is to look inwards and examine where your deepest woundedness is. Perhaps it is a painful relationship, perhaps a physical disability, perhaps a disappointment or perhaps a persistent sin. Whatever it may be, Jesus is inviting you to see this painful thing as a gift. Jesus is inviting you to stop avoiding it and walk towards it. In Psalm 23 David did not avoid the valley of the shadow of death, he walked through it. He did not avoid his enemies, he trusted God to prepare a table and overflow his cup in their presence. Through embracing our pain, and receiving our suffering as a gift we can experience the goodness and love of the Lord that will follow us all the days of our lives.