



# The Courier

## MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

October 2021

Court Street United Methodist Church

### Reflections of Autumn

The autumn of life is a strange mixture of nostalgia, blessings, and potential. It yields the harvest of seeds we've sown throughout life and braces us for colder days to come. When life's autumn arrives, we look back and better understand the way God led us; but we still have work to do—the best and fullest. It's a good transition time. “Autumn” only occurs once in the Bible. In Jude 1:12, false teachers are compared to “autumn trees without fruit,” implying that autumn should be a fruitful season, the most abundant of the year. How can we take advantage of the “autumn of life”? The seasons come and go, so focus on the God who remains unchanged and unchanging. “*LORD, you have been our dwelling place in all generations. Before the mountains were brought forth, or ever You had formed the earth and the world, even from everlasting to everlasting, You are God*” Psalm 90:1-2. There are a lot of unwelcome change in our world. Moral and societal changes bother us most when we turn on our television or glance at the magazines. We're painfully aware our kids are growing up in a world far different from the one we knew as children. And personal changes—children leaving home, the passing of dear friends, and the slow, steady decline in our vitality and health. Sometimes we feel outdated at work. But amid all the changes, one thing, one person, never changes—our eternal God. His life is always the same. His character is always dependable. His truth, ways, and purposes do not change. He's the same yesterday, today, and forever. The world may fade, the stars may fall, the seasons may change, and winter may come. But the God who has been our help in ages past is our hope for years to come. In Him we have permanence, stability, joy unshakable, and life unending. Autumn is a good time to focus on your commitment to God. Some of the saddest words in the Bible are in Jeremiah 8:20, “*The harvest is past, the summer is ended, and we are not saved.*” If you've never made a commitment to Jesus Christ, do it now, while there is still time. If you are a follower of Christ, remember to remain close to Him during the shifting seasons of life. During autumn, we all know that winter lies ahead, but if winter comes, can spring be far behind?

~ *Pastor Bill Burleigh*

October is  
*Pastor*  
APPRECIATION MONTH

A Prayer for Our Pastors

O LORD JESUS CHRIST, You committed to Your disciples the task of **spreading the Good News** in Your day; now in our day fill our ministers with the **power of Your Holy Spirit** that they may perform their ministry boldly and joyfully; in Your name, O Lord. Amen.

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### **OCTOBER 10<sup>TH</sup> is Pastor Appreciation Sunday!!!!**

Pastor appreciation month is October, but according to Google; October 10<sup>th</sup> is pastor appreciation Sunday and the best gift you can give is the gift of your attendance in church. We know pastor Bill and our new associate pastor Jesse will be pleased to see you!

~We have awe-inspiring pastors at Court Street! Thank you for all that you do for our church and our community.

~ *The Members of Court Street*



*Musical Musings*  
**The Hymnal Advantage**

Excerpts from an article by Dominic Pino on [NationalReview.com](http://NationalReview.com)

**Having a common songbook unites congregations and strengthens the church.**

One of the reasons for the diversity in church music is that no specific instructions were given in Scripture on how churches should conduct worship. We have the Psalms, which Jews sang for centuries before Jesus was born, and Jesus quoted and referenced them repeatedly. Luke records songs of Mary, Zechariah, and Simeon in his narrative of Christ's birth. We know that singing was part of the Apostles' lives; Matthew 26:30 tells us they sang a hymn after the Last Supper. We know the early church sang hymns as well; Paul mentions hymns in his instructions to the Corinthians on worship. Singing was there right from the start. But God did not see fit to tell us exactly what to do. He could have given us much more specific instructions on instrumentation or style, but He chose not to. He chose instead to give us flexibility. Christ commanded us to make disciples of all nations, and in each nation, music is tightly intertwined with culture. The scriptural flexibility in worship has allowed Christians from all parts of the world to worship the same God in their own ways. It's a beautiful testament to God's providence and grace that He gave His people freedom to use their creative abilities in service to Him instead of prescribing a strict set of musical regulations.

That freedom comes with a responsibility, however. In 1 Corinthians 14, we read, "Everything must be done so that the church may be built up," and "Everything should be done in a fitting and orderly way." Think of those directives as the flip side of flexibility: Worship should strengthen the church, and things can't be so loose that people get lost. Strength and unity often go together, especially in service to the one true God. The purpose of structuring worship, then, is to reconcile the freedom of flexibility with the responsibility of ensuring order and unity. There are many different ways of doing that. One of the most common has been to publish a hymnal. There are real advantages to having a common songbook, however, and they don't have anything to do with musical style. Hymnals are normally put together by committees with members in different areas of expertise. There will be musical experts, publishing experts, design experts, and theological experts. They work toward a common goal for the hymnal. For denominational hymnals, it's putting together a songbook that conforms with that denomination's teachings. For nondenominational hymnals, it can be any number of purposes, theological or musical. Either way, the hymnal was created for some purpose, and churches can choose the one that fits their understanding of congregational worship. Hymnals also ensure a certain degree of familiarity throughout the congregation with the songs being sung. It's difficult to worship God and learn a brand-new piece of music at the same time, especially for people who aren't musically inclined to begin with. Songs in hymnals are also written to be sung along with, not performed by professionals, so they should be easier to follow for those of us who don't take singing lessons. By having a common body of songs to pull from, churches can ensure that congregants have at least some idea of what's coming and will be able to participate in worship more easily. That commonality doesn't have to transform into monotony. The Episcopal hymnal, for example, contains 720 songs. That means you could sing three different hymns every Sunday for over four and a half years without repeats. If your church uses a hymnal and is overly repetitive in song selection, that's not the hymnal's fault.

A good hymnal allows for plenty of variety while also offering familiarity and staying within secure boundaries for theological soundness. The question of whether to use one is not primarily about musical style. There are hymnals now with contemporary songs in them, and there's nothing wrong with that. God is sovereign over all time and the entire universe, and He isn't partial to songs written by Englishmen in the 1700s. The advantage of using a hymnal is in reconciling the flexibility God gave us with the responsibility for order in worship so that the church is strengthened, and God is glorified. Churches should pause before throwing that idea away over differences in musical taste. Amen to that!

**OCTOBER'S ADULT BIBLE STUDY CLASS**

October 3: **"The Church's Activities"**

October 10: **"The Church as One Body"**

October 17: **"The Church as a Discerning Body"**

October 24: **"The Need for Spiritual Renewal"**

October 31: **"Covenant Renewal"**

**Join us every Sunday after worship service in the Refectory.**

**Children's Sunday School meets on the main floor off the Bishop Early Hall.**

**ALL SAINTS SUNDAY** will be celebrated on November 7<sup>TH</sup> during worship service. We will be honoring those who have passed since November 2020. Please contact the church office to place a name in the bulletin of a friend or family member that you would like to have remembered. Email: [621courtstumc@gmail.com](mailto:621courtstumc@gmail.com) or call 845-3427 by November 3<sup>RD</sup>.



**SANDUSKY SAINTS LITTLE LEAGUE FOOTBALL** would like to thank the members of Court Street for their generous donation of \$500 to help pay for new pads for their uniforms. Coach Jackson from James Crossing said whenever my kids need something; Court Street and pastor Bill are always ready to help! You are a blessing to this community! Check out the Sandusky Saints FB page: <https://www.facebook.com/SanduskySaints>

**THANK YOU** to the congregation of Court Street UMC for your donations to Liberty Christian Foundation. I am touched by your goodness and lifted by your kindness. ~ *Yomi Adamson*

**THANK YOU** to all the members who came back last Sunday to help clean up the music room in preparation for the Chancel Choir's return! A big THANK YOU to Anne Langley, Dennis Pruitt, Mark Roper and Karen Speer as well as the Handbell angels: Harriette Cash, Susan Leazer, Jay Kelly and Ray Pulliam who polished all the bells. The choir room looks the best it has in years! ~ *Randall Speer*

### CONFERENCE NEWS

**CHARGE CONFERENCE** is scheduled for Saturday November 13<sup>th</sup> from 9am – noon. Hopefully it will be in-person, but due to Covid-19 infections in our area, a decision will be made by the middle of October. Together we will enjoy a morning of worship, fellowship, and learning, along with tending to the business of all the local churches' annual Charge Conferences and our District Conference. This is joint conference of the Danville and Lynchburg Districts. Stay Tuned for more information.

**Songs of the Psalms**  
November 6, 2021 (Rain date: November 13th)

Outdoor performance at  
Brookhill Church, 2 p.m.  
1043 Cifax Rd. Forest, VA  
Please bring your own chair.

Suggested Donation  
\$10 Adults  
\$5 Children

*Ecclesia*  
SCHOOL OF THE ARTS



## \*Birthdays and Anniversaries\*

October Birthdays		November Birthdays	
Jeb Haley	October 01	Gina Wright	November 01
Charles Sweeney	October 05	Chiswell Logan	November 06
GiGi Sweeney	October 05	Landen Larkin	November 10
Addison Johnson	October 08	Phyllis Coleman	November 11
Libba McCraw	October 09	Megan Straw	November 12
Caroline McCraw	October 09	Nada Sweeney	November 12
Leah Jackson	October 09	Cornell Thompson	November 18
Pat Haley	October 10	Jodi Center	November 19
Karen Hudnall	October 13	Julia McConnell	November 21
Susan Leazer	October 16	Rosemary Heusted	November 23
Irby Hudson	October 22		
Charles Thaxton	October 22		
Robin Hudson	October 23		
Jesse Jackson	October 23		
Anne Quillian	October 28		
Karl Speer	October 29		
	<b>October Anniversaries</b> Christine & Karl Speer    October 10  <b>November Anniversaries</b> Meg & David Case Sr        Nov 26		



**ADDRESS CHANGES**  
 Marianne Virnelson ~ 293 W 31st Street, Baltimore, MD 21211

- PRAAYER CONCERNS**
- All Men and Women serving in the Military
- Travis Dean Burleigh – 7425 Snowy Owl St., N. Las Vegas, NV 89084  
son of Shelley and Rev. Bill Burleigh
  - Robert Allen Tyree – stationed at Fort Bragg, 1404 Brookville Ln., Lynchburg, VA 24502  
Grandson of \*Mary Tyree
- SICK (Church members\*)
- Anne Burleigh ~ 2608 Plum Branch Road, Concord, VA 24538  
mother of Rev. Bill Burleigh
  - Phillip Burleigh ~ brother of Rev. Bill Burleigh
  - \*Susan Cobbs ~ 1062 Grand Oaks Drive, Forest, VA 24551
  - \*Noel Draper - 501 VES Road Drinkard 619, Lynchburg, VA 24503
  - Susan Dwyer – sister of Rev. Bill Burleigh
  - \*Christopher Lilly – 1705 Rivermont Ave. Apt 8, Lynchburg, VA 24503
  - \*Dane Peterson - 901 Jefferson Street – Apt. 3E, Lynchburg, VA 24503
  - \*Bill Phillips – Liberty Ridge, 30 Monica Blvd #223, Lynchburg, VA 24502
  - \*Phil Ripley – C/O Julie Strong 1356 John Anderson Dr., Ormond Beach, FL 32176
  - \*Alicia Speer – 1815 Rivermont Ave #68, Lynchburg, VA 24503
  - \*Robert Tyree – 1404 Brookville Lane, Lynchburg, VA 24502  
son of \*Mary Tyree, brother of \*Debbie Chaffin
- \* Church members



**Gifts to the church**

To the General Fund in Memory of:

**Herman Wood** by:  
 Adult Sunday School Class

Update on Capital Campaign:	
Campaign Goal	\$300,000
Promised as of 9/26/21	\$278,981
Balance needed to reach goal	\$21,019
Received to Date	\$241,466
Received since last update	\$50.00
<b>Elevator fund</b>	<b>\$10,328</b>

Court Street UMC  
621 Court Street  
Lynchburg Va. 24504



In worship, praise and ministry, we respond to God's call by reaching out to all people with light, hope, and a vision of God's love.

COURT STREET UMC WEBSITE: [www.courtstreetmethodist.com](http://www.courtstreetmethodist.com)

EMAIL: [621courtstumc@gmail.com](mailto:621courtstumc@gmail.com)

PHONE: 434-845-3427

Please contact the church office at:

621courtstumc@gmail.com or (434) 845-3427 on or before Wednesdays to have events and notices posted on the church website.

