

Taking Flight

On the evening of August 10th, the crowd at Wade Oval was somewhat settled on our blankets and lawn chairs until intermission. At that point a Zumba instructor took the stage and had all 300 of us up and moving. Her manta for the next 15 minutes of motion was "Let's go, let's go, let's go!" And we responded in our various ways; some dancing, most swaying, and little kids ecstatic to be in motion.

I know that God invites us to rest and be still, but God also invites us to go... go into the world, go to your neighbor, the stranger, the child with the good news of God's love.

There is a healthy balance in our journey of faith. We are called to grow and go. And sometimes our growth prompts our venturing, and often our venturing prompts our growth.

So how are you sensing God prompting you to take flight?

Maybe there has been hesitancy and doubt that has halted you. Maybe voices from your past are rattling in your memory discouraging you from a venture or task that is on your heart.

The One who calls you, is also the One who emboldens and equips you.

Susanne and I are noticing so many ways that we as a church are taking flight and venturing into new and bold expressions of witness and service. Please let us know how God is prompting you. We want to cheer you on and help you discern direction.

In this Knox News, enjoy and join in on all the ways we are going and growing together.

Tom

Psalm 32:8

I will instruct you and teach you in the way you should go; I will counsel you with my eye upon you.

Isaiah 41:10

Fear not, for I am with you; be not dismayed, for I am your God; I will strengthen you, I will help you, I will uphold you with my righteous right hand.

You're not alone.

God cares about you. So do we.



CALENDAR OF EVENTS

SEPTEMBER CALENDAR

September 6

Men's Bible Study 7am—Trinity Hall

September 7

Wednesday Morning Bible Study Resumes 9:30am—Trinity Hall

September 8

Toddler Time 10am—Fellowship Hall

September 11

Rally Day 11am—Trinity Hall & North Lot

September 12

First Day of Preschool

Session

7pm-Zoom

September 15

Tea Time for Peace 6:45pm—Trinity Hall & Gallery

September 18

New Member Class 11am—Gallery

September 19

Deacons

7pm—Lounge

September 24

Guatemala Trip Meeting 9am—Fellowship Hall & Gallery

September 27

Community Meal 5:30pm—Drive-thru

Stephen Ministers 7pm—108/109

SEPTEMBER HYBRID WORSHIP

September 4

Communion Sunday

Rev. Dr. Tom MacMillan Psalm 65:5-8, 66:1-5 God is Surprising

September 11

Healing Prayer

Rev. Dr. Tom MacMillan
Psalm 139:1-6
"Love takes off the masks that we fear we cannot live without." James Baldwin

September 18

Rev. Dr. Tom MacMillan Romans 10:8-15 How would you answer, "Who am I?"

September 25

Rev. Dr. Tom MacMillan Acts 2:42-47, 4:32-37 How will we answer, "Who are we?"

COFFEE HOUR

Coffee Hour for the month of September will be following worship on Sundays, September 18 and September 25 in Trinity Hall.



NEW MEMBER CLASS

Thinking about becoming a member of John Knox Church? On Sunday September 18, immediately following the worship service (11am), there will be an information session in the Gallery. It will be a time where you can find out more about John Knox, our history, our future, and the various ministries in which we serve. We will also get to know the attendees better as we share our histories and stories.

We will serve lunch, and ask those attending to RSVP with the church office at info@johnknoxpc.org. Hope to see you there!

SPIRITUAL GROWTH



Come one, come all and sign up for the JKPC Social Supper Scramble!

Let's connect with one another. Spiritual Growth Committee invites you to this unique small-group dinner experience! Have dinner with a small group of people from John Knox, enjoy and get to know each other! These dinners are for all ages, for singles, couples and families. We will "scramble" you for a social supper where you will get to spend time with people in our John Knox family.

Sign up here by September 19 to either host or attend. Spiritual Growth will then randomly assign you to a group to have dinner together on the night you have selected. These dinners will comprise of 8-12 people that will take place Saturday Oct 1 and Sunday October 2. Then you will be given an item to bring (main, side, salad or dessert.) Dinners will happen simultaneously at different locations hosted by those who sign up. Even if you put that you are available on both nights, you will only be assigned to one dinner. You will receive your assigned location and meal to bring prior to the event.

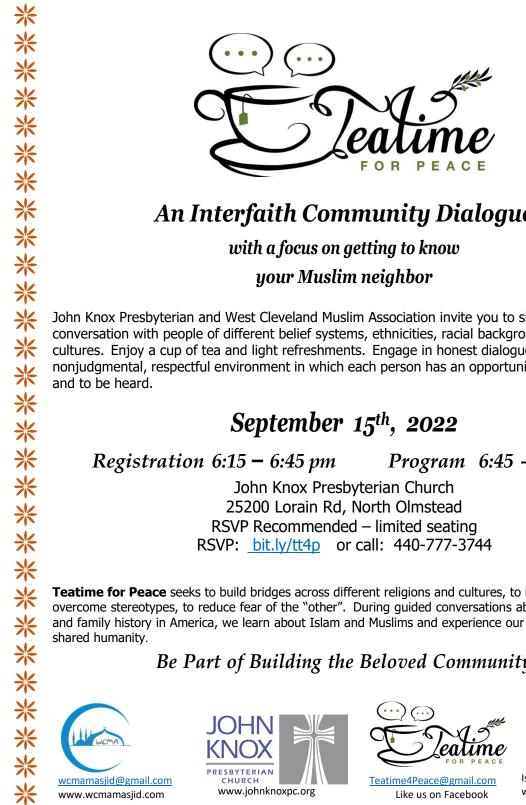
Spiritual Growth Committee invites you to connect with God and one another through these offerings this fall:

Men's Tuesday Morning Bible Study led by Rev. Tom MacMillan. Beginning Sept 6, Tuesdays, 7am, Trinity Hall. Join for a light breakfast and teaching from Tom.

Women's Small Group. Brand new to John Knox, facilitated by Sally Schwarz, this is a come as you are and come when you can women's group that will be held each Tuesday evening at 7 pm in 108/109 beginning October 4. More information to follow!

Wednesday Morning Bible Study with Rev. Lou Will. Each Wednesday morning at 9:30 am beginning Wednesday Sept 7 (see additional write up for more information.)

BE THE BRIDGE



An Interfaith Community Dialogue

with a focus on getting to know your Muslim neighbor

John Knox Presbyterian and West Cleveland Muslim Association invite you to share in conversation with people of different belief systems, ethnicities, racial backgrounds, and cultures. Enjoy a cup of tea and light refreshments. Engage in honest dialogue in a nonjudgmental, respectful environment in which each person has an opportunity to listen and to be heard.

September 15th, 2022

Registration 6:15 - 6:45 pm

Program 6:45 -8:45 pm

John Knox Presbyterian Church 25200 Lorain Rd, North Olmstead RSVP Recommended – limited seating RSVP: bit.ly/tt4p or call: 440-777-3744

Teatime for Peace seeks to build bridges across different religions and cultures, to heal divisions and overcome stereotypes, to reduce fear of the "other". During guided conversations about faith, values, and family history in America, we learn about Islam and Muslims and experience our commonality and shared humanity.

Be Part of Building the Beloved Community









BE THE BRIDGE



Vote! It's Your Right.

People have died defending this right. Don't take it for granted! Voting is more than just electing a candidate, it's choosing the right policies and people who have your best interests in mind when making decisions that will affect our community, state, and nation. When you vote, you are taking an active role in deciding issues regarding health care, immigration, equal opportunity, voting rights, infrastructure, jobs, education, social security, neighborhood safety, taxes, and so much more.

To register or update your voter registration address go to: https://olvr.ohiosos.gov/

Deadline for registration or updates is October 11, 2022 for the November 8, 2022 general election.

To request a mail-in ballot:

https://www.ohiosos.gov/elections/voters/absentee-voting/

You can request your ballot for each individual election beginning on January 1 or 90 days before the date of an election, whichever is earlier, but you must complete and submit a separate application for each election in which you want to vote. Your request must be received by your local county board of elections by noon the third day before the election (usually a Saturday). However, you should submit your request as far in advance of the election as possible to ensure there is sufficient time for the board to mail you a ballot and for you to timely return that ballot.

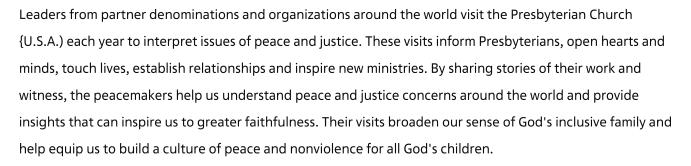
CAMEROONIAN PEACEMAKER

NTA WILLIAM NCHE

September 22-28, Rev. Nta William Nche will be joining us at John Knox. Speaking engagements will be announced at a later time.

Nta William Nche is an ordained pastor from the Momo Division Northwest Region of Cameroon and serves as the National Peace Coordinator with the Presbyterian Church in Cameroon. With his deep

knowledge and experience with peace work, he has been instrumental in efforts to stop the armed conflict in the Northwest and Southwest regions of Cameroon. He has participated in Cameroon's National Dialogue, served as chairman of the steering committee of the All Anglophone General Conference and presently serves as founder of Peace Action Cameroon and as interim coordinator for Together 4 Peace Cameroon. He holds a master's degree in Peace, Conflict and International Relations from the Pan African institute for Development West Africa, Buea. He is married and the father of four children.



Since 1984 more than 350 International Peacemakers from 60 countries have been hosted through the Presbyterian Peacemaking Program. The International Peacemakers Program is made possible by your generous gifts to the Peace and Global Witness Offering.

WORLD COMMUNION SUNDAY

WORLD COMMUNION SUNDAY OCTOBER 2, 2022

Did you know World Communion Sunday (originally called World Wide Communion Sunday) is a gift of the Presbyterian Church to the larger ecumenical church? The first celebration occurred at Shadyside Presbyterian Church in Pittsburgh, PA, in 1933. It was an attempt to bring churches together in a service of Christian unity. Today, World Communion Sunday is celebrated around the world.

This year World Communion Sunday is October 2, and we will welcome Jan Ridgeway, Executive Director of Garden Valley Community Center as our guest speaker. John Knox has long supported Garden Valley, and we will be receiving updates on how that ministry continues to grow and serve the community. Jan will share her thoughts on the second great commandment Jesus left with us, "love thy neighbor," and how that commandment is a call to obedience.

In addition to providing the morning message, Jan has graciously agreed to take us into a deeper discussion following the service. So plan to stop by Coffee Hour that morning to pick-up a beverage and snack then join us for an in-depth conversation on "Love Thy Neighbor: A Call to Obedience."

SAVE THE DATE

HALLOWEEN HAPPENINGS FRIDAY, OCTOBER 14 6:30 pm - 8:00 pm

Hope you are working on your costumes and plan to join us for an evening of "Fall Fun" and fellowship. All ages are welcome to attend on Friday evening, October 14, from 6:30 – 8:00PM.

The evening will bring with a special magic show featuring Mr.

Robert. Then stay for s'mores and meet new friends. Visit the Pumpkin Patch, and have Mr. Robert fashion a special balloon creation just for you. We promise you will be glad you came.

So put on your favorite Halloween costume, bring your friends, and enjoy all that is offered.

Please contact Connie Smith <u>connie928smith@gmail.com</u> or 440-779-1206 if you would like to help or donate items for the evening.



SERVICE & OUTREACH

FOOD PANTRY NEWS

A warm thank you to the John Knox community for your continued support of our food pantry. We have provided food to so many people in need in North Olmsted as well as many other areas of Northeast Ohio. Your gifts of nonperishable foods and your financial donations have really helped! If you are interested in volunteering in this ministry, please email the office, info@johnknoxpc.org.

During the month of September, the food pantry request will be for protein, jelly, and reusable plastic bags! These items are much needed and often are overlooked when making purchases to donate to food pantries.

Thank you for continuing to support this very important ministry.

Canned Chicken

It's simple to toss this non-perishable item into soups and casseroles or add it to a sandwich or cracker. Its versatility and high protein content make it a popular item.

Canned Fish (Tuna and Salmon)

Canned fish has vitamins, omega-3 fatty acids and protein, and it makes for a quick and easy meal.

Canned Meat (SPAM and Ham)

Grab some SPAM or canned ham and drop it into a food donation bin. It's shelf-stable, doesn't require much prep or equipment to eat, and delivers a quick hit of protein to keep individuals feeling full for longer.

Peanut Butter

Kids and adults like it, and it's high in protein, making peanut butter one of the most popular items requested.



COLLEGE CARE PACKAGES

COLLEGE CARE PACKAGES

The Deacons' College Care Package Ministry will begin at the end of September. Information on the procedure of signing up and what items are needed to be purchased will be announced at a later date. However, we do need current college addresses of our students as soon as possible to determine the number of packages we need to assemble. This information can be emailed to Sue Twining at s.twining@yahoo.com or Susanne Bendoraitis at sbendoraitis@johnknoxpc.org. Addresses can also be dropped off in the church office with Athena. Our young people look forward to these packages from their John Knox Family! Thank you so much for your continuous support! If you have any questions contact Sue Twining by email or 440-333-1913.

PROGRAMS RESUMING

MEN'S BIBLE STUDY

Men's Bible Study will return on Tuesday, September 6, at 7:00 AM in Trinity Hall. Join a small group of men willing to meet weekly over donuts and/or breakfast to discuss not only the Bible, but share stories, build friendships, and be encouraged. No registration is required.



WEDNESDAY MORNING BIBLE STUDY

If you are looking to continue growing in your understanding and guidance of Scripture, join with friends each Wednesday morning from 9:30-11:00 am.

Our kickoff date is September 7, and we will be exploring a very unique Gospel—the Gospel of John. It is very different than the synoptic Gospels (Matthew, Mark, and Luke), and is the last one to have been written and included in the New Testament.



We meet in Trinity Hall, and fresh and delicious coffee (courtesy of Bob Coican) is always available (plus occasional 'goodies').

A brief reflection is offered, joys and concerns are shared, and our time together is opened with prayer. Then Pastor Lou gets things started in each session, but it is the subsequent conversation by all which generates deeper understanding, and includes time for small group discussion as well.

'Icing' on the cake is the warm fellowship by all who join in this endeavor each week. We all learn from and appreciate each other's perspectives; might you add yours to the 'mix'?

Join us on this journey, as we seek to grow in our faith and understanding in following our Lord, and rejoicing in the gift of each other!

TODDLER TIME RETURNS SEPTEMBER 8

Toddler Time is a playgroup for children of all abilities, ages newborn to 5 and their caregivers. The group meets every Thursday from 10:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m. in Fellowship Hall. A variety of toys and play equipment



suitable to this age group is available. In nice weather we have toys available in our enclosed courtyard. At the end of every session we have a short circle time which includes playing instruments, singing, and listening to a story. There is no charge to attend this group. For more information please contact Beckie Tweedle at rtweedle@johnknoxpc.org.

STEPHEN MINISTERS

WOULD YOU BE MY FRIEND

Then -

When I try to share with you Things that interest me or Make me glad or sad -

Please listen;

Listen Strongly.

Ask what I mean, Encourage me when I hesitate.

Let me know you care,

Listen gently.

Don't give me advice or sympathy.

Just help me think my own way through aloud.

Listen trustworthily.

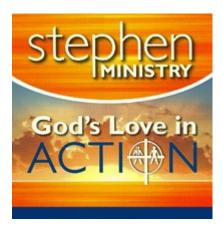
lf,

when I have bared my heart, you hold in sacred trust what you have heard --

YOU ARE INDEED MY FRIEND

-Esme James

Our John Knox Stephen Ministers will listen and be a friend who cares. Call Rev. Dr. Tom MacMillan or Rev. Susanne Bendoraitis about becoming a friend to one of our Stephen Ministers or email Marilyn Rep, our Stephen Ministry Coordinator, at joyannlofter@sbcglobal.net.



A BLESSING FOR ORDINARY DAYS

Lord, here I am.

How strange it is, that some days feel like hurricanes and others like glassy seas and others like nothing much at all.

Today is a cosmic shrug.

My day planner says, rather conveniently, that I will not need you, cry for you, reach for you.

Ordinarily, I might not think of you at all.

Except, if you don't mind, let me notice you.

Show up in the small necessities and everyday graces.

God, be bread. Be water. Be laundry.

Be the coffee cup in my hands and the reason to calm down in traffic.

Be the gentler tone in my insistence today that people pick up after themselves for once.

Be the reason I feel loved when I catch my own reflection or feel my own self-loathing fluttering in my stomach.

Calm my mind, lift my spirit, make this dumb, ordinary day my prayer of thanks.

"Earth is so thick with divine possibility that it is a wonder we can walk anywhere without cracking our shins on altars." —Barbara Brown Taylor

MISSION

GUATEMALA

Medical and water teams will leave on October 1 at 6:00 am and will return on October 10. Please take a moment and lift us in prayer that we have open hearts and share God's caring heart with those we serve.

It has been 3 years since a medical team has been in the communities of Alta Verapaz, and they do not have any systems that bring pure water unless they purchase it. Economically, this is very difficult. Our \$40 systems will significantly improve the children's lives. In addition, our medical, dental and eye teams expect to provide their skills to about 1000 individuals, and the medicines we bring the doctors and dentists will have an immediate impact on the peoples' health. Thank you for your willingness to support our efforts through your prayers and gifts.







JKPC Support at Work in Ikiliwindi, Cameroon

In November 2016, John Knox Presbyterian Church commissioned a delegation of six (6) members on a discernment mission trip to Cameroon. The trip led to the creation of a partnership with the Presbyterian Church of Ikiliwindi. Plans were to send adult and youth mission teams every other year to Cameroon for purposes of evangelization and collaboration in areas of mutual interests. However, due to the ongoing crises in the English-speaking regions of Cameroon, mission trips were suspended, until such a time when it will be safe.

One of the areas of mutual concern that was identified was the low supply of portable water during the dry season. At the time of our visit, the water catchment and filtration systems in Ikiliwindi were severely deteriorated. To address the issue, a Water Committee was created that conducted feasibility studies and recommended the construction of a new water tank/catchment and a solar-powered generator that will cyclically pump and hold enough water to supply the whole village of Ikiliwindi year-round – a population of approximately 25,000 residents.

It is a blessing to note that John Knox Presbyterian Church is participating in this venture of providing water to God's people in this part of Africa.



Please pray for successful completion of the project, since the contractors have faced delays caused by the rainy season and a death of the family of the lead contractor.

John Knox Church

CHILDREN & YOUTH MINISTRY

JOIN US FOR RALLY DAY!

Help us celebrate the beginning of the program year Sunday, September 11, following worship with an all-church picnic in Trinity Hall. Hot dogs, hamburgers, veggie option, sides, beverages, dessert, and paper products will be provided. Activities will include cornhole, giant lawn games, cupcake walk, and rock painting for our Little Library kindness garden.

COMING UP:

September 25 - Welcome to the Table: Communion Prep and Pizza Party

Reverend Susanne will lead our communion orientation in the Sanctuary after worship. Afterward, 2nd graders, those that have not yet had their orientation, and their families will break bread together in Trinity Hall. Please RSVP to <u>itinline@iohnknoxpc.org</u>.

October 2 - World Communion Sunday First Communion and Bible Presentations

November 30 - Pancakes and Pajamas Breakfast for dinner, games, and decorate gingerbread houses

December 19 - Night in Bethlehem



TWICE A MONTH FUN * MISSION * FAITH IN EVERYDAY LIFE

JKPC YOUTH

 \Box

YOUTH GROUP FOR 6TH-12TH GRADE LOOKING FORWARD TO SEEING YOU THERE! Q'S? SBENDORAITIS@JOHNKNOXPC.ORG

IMPORTANT YOUTH GROUP DATES:

Sept 11 - Rally Day Picnic After Church

Sept 25 - Youth Group Fun 4-6pm

Oct 9 - Maple Side Trip After Church 11:30am-4 pm.

Oct 23 - 4-6 pm Pumpkin Carving and Spooky Fun

Nov 13 - Leaf Raking w/pizza after Church

Nov 27 - Hanging of the Greens Service

Dec 4 - Christmas Party & White Elephant Gift Exchange

Dec 19 - Volunteer at Night in Bethlehem 5-9pm w/ pizza and games

Youth Sunday School for those in 6th grade and above begins Sunday, September 18, at 10:00 AM in the youth room. Our Re:Form curriculum empowers youth to explore faith and ask questions about the Bible, Jesus, and hot topics. Through funny and thought provoking videos and a companion journal, students will engage with faith topics and everyday life. Questions? Contact Susanne.



JOHN KNOX PRESCHOOL

It's hard to believe classes will be started soon for the 55th year of John Knox Preschool! This year we are back to offering classes five days a week, and we still have a few openings available if you or anyone you know is interested.

We have been blessed to receive Pandemic Grant funds that have allowed us to stay open over the past several years. While we have received the third phase of the funds, they are restricted to a variety of uses so not all areas of our expenses can benefit. We have set up a few fundraisers for the year, and we hope you will join us as several of them have businesses donating back to us when you visit them.

Our first fundraiser is with Dean's Greenhouse in Westlake. They will donate 20% of purchases made from September 7th- the end of October. All you need to do is provide them with the flyer we created either on paper or on your phone when you make your fall decoration purchases. Don't forget to give them the flyer when you check out so they know to credit us with your purchase. We are also continuing to collect used toner and ink cartridges that we turn in to Staples and receive Staples Rewards. This allows us to purchase all the school supplies needed for each child along with supplies we use throughout the school year. You may place any used ink and toner cartridges in the labeled box located outside the preschool rooms (Room 133 & 134) down handprint hallway.

A few years ago we joined AmazonSmile in which Amazon gives us quarterly donations based on a percentage of what people purchase from them if you select the preschool as your charity of choice. Look under AmazonSmile and select JOHN KNOX PRESBYTERAIN CHURCH, NORTH OLMSTED as your charity of choice. Note that it is under the church and not the preschool and the location is North Olmsted since there are several John Knox churches listed. If you have already selected us, Thank you! You may get a notification a few times a year to reselect your choice. You may continue to select us. We will be adding more FUNdraising events as the year goes on. If anyone has any questions about the preschool-enrollment, events, etc., please contact us at johnknoxpreschool@att.net, www.jkpreschool.org, or at 440-777-5878.

Dean's Greenhouse Fundraiser

Mum's the word but don't let that stop you from telling others about the JOHN KNOX PRESCHOOL fall fundraiser!

From September 7, 2022 through the end of October

<u>Dean's Greenhouse</u> will donate 20% of your total purchases to the preschool.

Looking for those beautiful fall mums, crunchy cornstalks, sweet smell bales of straw or perfect pumpkins then look no further than

Dean's Greenhouse located at 3984 Porter Road in Westlake.

Present this flyer at checkout either on paper or on your phone and the preschool will get credit from your purchase.

Print as many as you wish to give to friends and family and shop as many times as you want, just present a flyer each time.

Thank you for supporting John Knox Preschool!

WITH GRATITUDE...

Dear Scholarship Committee,

Good evening and thank you very much for granting me this special opportunity to be a recipient of this scholarship. This will go a long way to ease my studies for this semester. I am most grateful and I pray that the good Lord will continue to bless the sponsors of good will. I appreciate JK Presbyterian Church for this wonderful gift.

Sincerely

Rose Akpo

Dear John Knox Family,

Thank you all so much for the scholarship money. It means so much to me that there is a group of people who continue to support me and my future endeavors. I hope to see you all soon. Thank you again!

John Campbell

2022 JKPC Scholarship Recipients

Dear John Knox Scholarship Committee,

Words cannot express how grateful I am for the extremely generous scholarship that you have awarded me. This will dramatically help me pay off school loans and chase after my dreams post graduation. Always proud to be a member of JKPC and think that it is very unique how much our church invest into the youth and the future. I am honored to have received this award and can't thank you all enough.

Thank You!

Kyle MacMillan

THE RESULTS ARE IN! (message from Independence Presbyterian Church)

The total number of pairs of shoes we collected were (drum roll please...) 1,875! That is 75 BAGS of shoes! Just imagine how many people will be able to benefit from your generosity! You are all so thoughtful, thank you for spreading the word and bringing in shoes! Thank you!

NEW BASKETBALL COURT!

great, and the youth are going to love it!

Thank you to Chris Myer and the Building and Grounds Committee for painting a free throw line and a 3-point line by the basketball hoop in the north lot. It looks





KNOX NEWS

September 2022 Volume 116



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PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

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